

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter

The next meeting
Thursday September 22, 2016, 7:00
p.m.
Woman's Club
1531 J Street

Potluck at 6:00
Bring your best!



Eureka Chapter
American Rhododendron Society

Rhododendrons
in the Redwoods

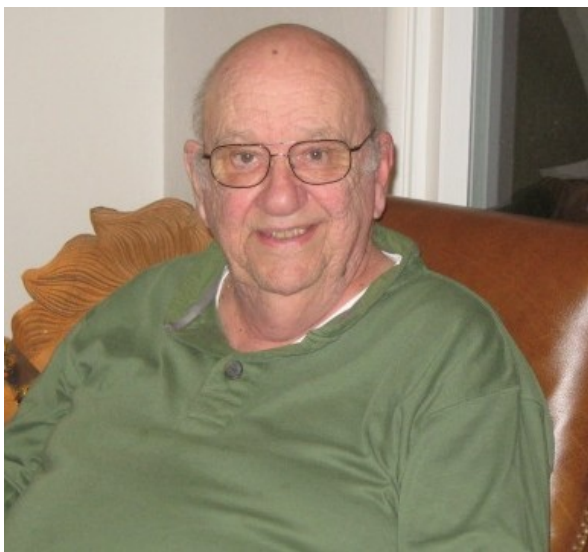
September 2016

All in the Family...Ericaceae

*The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet on Thursday, **September 22, 2016** The meeting and program will be held at the Eureka Woman's Club 1531 J Street in Eureka . Potluck will begin at 6:00 P.M. , the program will begin at 7:00 P.M.*

Bring your best potluck dishes to share, the Chapter will provide dishes, utensils, napkins, cups, coffee and tea...and, you may BYOB.

Past Eureka Chapter President and American Rhododendron Society Gold Medal recipient Bruce Palmer is Professor Emeritus of the Community College system of the University of Hawai'i. He taught introductory biology at Maui Community College from 1968 to 1993. He was also Dean of Instruction at the college for 6 years. Prior to moving to Hawai'i he taught math and science at Ferndale High School in Humboldt County California. Bruce and his wife Nelda have been members of the Eureka Chapter since 1994.



Bruce's presentation is titled, "All in the Family...Ericaceae" Bruce will start with the history of how we came to the artificial groupings of plants, such as "family". Then, the characteristics a plant must have to be in the family Ericaceae. He will describe a few other plants are in the family, where members of the family are worldwide and how they got there. And last how the genera *Rhododendron* and *Erica* evolved so many species in Asia and South Africa respectively. How recent biochemistry and DNA analysis have altered our ideas of family classification. It sounds like a dry talk, but I bet you will all still be awake when the lights come back on!!!!

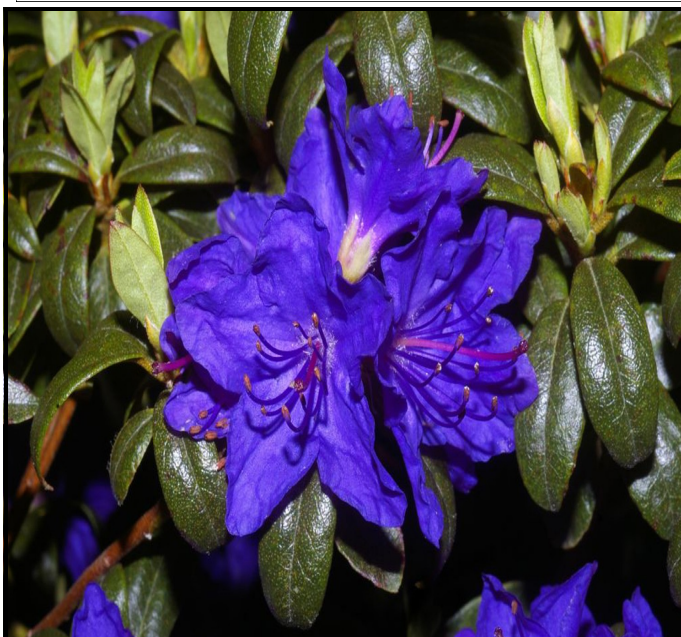
Photos are those of the Newsletter editor, June Walsh, unless otherwise noted. Permission is granted to reprint any portion of this publication provided credit to the author and Chapter is given.

September is Membership Renewal time!
What a great time to *bring a new friend or family member* to a meeting and *get a free plant*. If your friend or family *becomes a member*, they too will get a free plant!
All new members get a free plant.

Please let us know if you are bringing a guest so we will have enough free plants.

A friendship can weather most things and thrive in thin soil; but it needs a little mulch of letters and phone calls and small, silly presents every so often- just to save it from drying out completely".

Pam Brown



Plant of the Month: R. 'Blue Baron'

By Don Wallace

Rarely does a rhododendron that has 'blue' in its name, actually look blue. However, this one really does! A hybrid consisting of the species R. augustinii, R. rusatum, and R. minus, the plant will be low growing with small leaves. The winter foliage color is dark bronze, so it is its least attractive time of the year. After blooming the foliage is a nice bright green. The plant will grow wider than tall, only 2.5-3 ft. An attractive combination would be to plant in mass with yellow or orange flowering rhododendrons.



Imagine the Possibilities.

Mollie Smith

P: 707-445-3095

F: 707-445-8743

mollie@coastal-business.com

Digital
Copiers
Printers
Fax

336 First Street
Eureka, CA 95501

www.coastal-business.com
Eureka Redding Chico

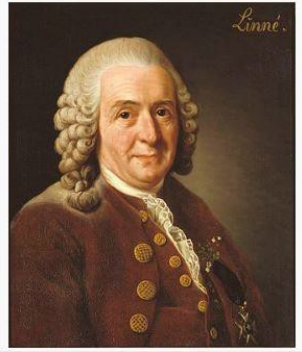
Thank you Mollie Smith and Coastal Business Systems for doing our Newsletter printing for our non-computer users. Mollie has also printed our Convention 2017 color brochures.

WORD OF THE MONTH: TAXONOMY

By Bruce Palmer

We are going to discuss Ericaceae, the family rhododendrons belong to, at this month's meeting. Now might be a good time to revisit **taxonomy**, a word we last covered seven years ago. Looking at the labels on your rhodies, have you wondered how in the world they got such weird names? The answer lies in this month's word, **taxonomy**. **Taxonomy** comes from the Greek *taxis*, arrangement, and *nomos*, name. What it means is a system of artificial rules that attempts to clarify relationships among organisms. We humans need to make sense of nature on our terms even if our ideas don't fit the real world. This practice in the western world dates to Theophrastus, a student of Aristotle, in about 350 B.C. He classified about five hundred plants by their growth patterns and life spans. As time went on other people "improved" the system of classification until by the middle of the eighteenth century it was a total mess. In the eighteenth

Carl Linnaeus (Carl von Linné)



century, Carl Linnaeus, a Swede trained as a physician, began to classify everything, living organisms and rocks included, by a simplified Latinized system of naming. Linnaeus established a system of designating distinct plant types with a two-word Latinized name.. The two parts are referred to as the genus (Greek: *genos*, race) name and the species (Latin: *specere*: to appear) names. His book that detailed this method was called *Genera Plantarum*. Linnaeus named our beloved genus. He took the Greek word for oleander, *Rhododendron* (Greek for rose tree) and applied it to the plants we now know as rhododendrons. One of the rhododendrons Linnaeus had specimens of was what we now know as *Rhododendron ponticum* L., the plant Cottage Gardens in Eureka used for many years as root stock for its grafted hybrid rhodies, resulting in so many of our old red or pink rhodies showing purple flowers on shoots growing from below the graft. His system called for the genus name to be capitalized and the species name

to begin with a small case letter and to have a Latinized ending. The binomial name is followed by the name or an abbreviation of the name of the person who assigned the scientific name, thus L. for Linnaeus.

Since 1867, all of this has been governed by a set of rules called the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature*. Periodic changes take place, but the name *Rhododendron ponticum* has stood the test of time since Linnaeus as the binomial for the rhododendron from Europe named after the Pontic Mountains in northern Turkey. That is probably more the exception than the rule. changes over time. The changes, though, are rules in the International Code.

The changes above genus and species have family level we'll be discussing this month. classifying plants into groups above the genus one feature he used was the number of stamens of family groups. He was accused of being a Under the Linnaean system, deciduous azaleas cause they have five stamens, most rhododendrons with ten stamens and our fragrant Maddenias

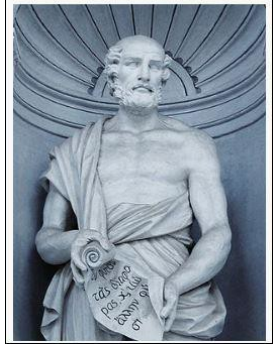
We now know that groupings such as those do not reflect actual relationships in nature. A French scientist, little known today except by dedicated botanists, changed that. Antoine Laurent de Jussieu

Antoine Laurent de Jussieu



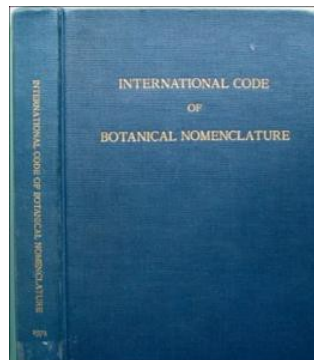
was younger than Linnaeus but their lives overlapped. Jussieu kept Linnaeus' binomial system for genus and species but used multiple natural characteristics for family designations. He republished and revised *Genera Plantarum* and established the naming system for families we use today. The International Code still calls for the name of a plant family to be constructed by "... removing the Latinized ending of a representative genus and adding -aceae". Jussieu was the first to use Ericaceae (after the genus *Erica* – the heathers) as the name of the family to which our rhodies belong. Let's hear it for the obscure French botanist.

Theophrastus



Plant names often go through a series of orderly and are governed by priority

changed significantly over time. It's the Linnaeus devised an artificial system for level. For families, classes and orders, (male parts in flowers) as the determinant sex fiend and a misogynist as a result. would be in the family Pentanthera bedrons would be in the family Decanthera would be in the family Polyanthera.





Eureka Chapter/American Rhododendron Society
2050 Irving Drive
Eureka, CA 95503-7022

www.EurekaRhody.org

Eureka Chapter Newsletter is published monthly except during July, August and November. Submissions from members are encouraged and should be mailed to June Walsh, Newsletter Editor, 2050 Irving Drive, Eureka, CA 95503-7022. Or by email RhodyHosiel@suddenlink.net Membership information and applications available from Ellen Gill. HigLander@suddenlink.net Eureka Chapter is a member of the Humboldt Botanical Gardens Foundation, Eureka, CA and The Rhododendron Species Botanical, Federal Way, WA. Eureka Chapter is a chapter of the American Rhododendron Society a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization.

Future Programs

September 22, 2016	Bruce Palmer	"All in the Family...Ericaceae"
October 27, 2016	Karen Angel	Venezuela's Botanicals and Angel Falls
November 24, 2016	Thanksgiving	Enjoy the company of family and friends
December 1, 2016	Holiday Potluck	Program to be announced
January 26, 2017	Christy Hartsell	Vireya Rhododendrons
February 23, 2017	Jack Olsen	Growing from Seed
March 23, 2017	Elaine Sedlack	From Agapetes to Zenobia
April 27 to April 30, 2017	Eureka Chapter Hosts the Annual American Rhododendron Society Convention	
May 25, 2017	Member Only Mini- Show	
June 4, 2017	Members' Garden Tour and Picnic	

Eureka Chapter Officers and Board Members

For board member contact information or if you are interested in attending board meetings which are held the first Wednesday of the month at 7PM, call or email June Walsh 707-443-0604, RhodyHosiel@suddenlink.net

President., Max Abrahamsen	Vice President, Nelda Palmer	Secretary, Gail Ledbetter
Treasurer, Tim Walsh	Programs, Don Wallace	Past President Eleanor Gayner
Newsletter, June Walsh	Membership, Ellen Gill	Member Show, Margaret Cole
At-Large, Sue Hemmann	At-Large, Diane Larkin	