

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter

The next meeting
Thursday May 23rd, 6:00 p.m.
Woman's Club
1531 J Street
Eureka, California

Garden Tour and Potluck
Sunday June 2nd
See full schedule on pages
6 and 7



June Blooms on Stagecoach Hill

May and June 2013
Mini Show and
Garden Tour Edition

Members' Mini Show
Let us See Your Bloomers!

SHOW US YOUR BLOOMERS

Eureka Chapter Mini-Show and *Pizza Party*

Thursday, May 23rd at 6:00 p.m.

The Thursday May 23rd meeting of the Eureka Chapter will be the annual Mini-Show. YOU get to be the judges! For all the efforts you put into cutting and grooming your entries you will be rewarded with **Potluck!** Bring your favorite main dish, side dish, salads and desserts, to share with your fellow members. The meeting will start at 6:00 so there will be time to fill out the entry tags for your '*Bloomers*' and place them on the show tables. Everything will be provided, all you need to do is bring your flowers, *your sense of humor*, your potluck dish and a good appetite.

There will be a Judging Rhodo 101 show-and-tell explaining what to look for in blue ribbon winners as you select your favorite entries. *The prizes are \$100 for the Blue Ribbon winner selected as Best of Show and \$25 for all other Blue Ribbon winners*, so it is well worth scouring your garden for a flower for each of the 9 classes. See page 2 for rules and classes.

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.

Eureka Chapter Mini-show Rules

Show Date: Thursday, May 23

This mini-show takes place at the May meeting. Entries are limited to members (Life, Regular, Associate, etc.) of the American Rhododendron Society's Eureka Chapter.

All exhibits must have been in the member's garden for at least six months before the show.

Members are limited to one entry in each class. Entries must be rhododendron trusses. No sprays or hammerheads will be judged. There is no class for azaleas.

Entries are based largely on color, but members are encouraged to include the name of the species or hybrid on the entry card for the benefit of other members. Trusses may be groomed and prepared according to the rules for the regular Eureka Chapter Truss Show and Plant Sale.

Classes shall consist of the following:

Class 1: Lepidote Rhododendron Species, regardless of color. (These include the Maddenii and most small-leafed rhododendrons.)

Class 2: Elepidote Rhododendron Species, regardless of color.

Class 3: Hybrid Rhododendrons, Red.

Class 4: Hybrid Rhododendrons, Pink.

Class 5: Hybrid Rhododendrons, White.

Class 6: Hybrid Rhododendrons, Purple, lavender or blue.

Class 7: Hybrid Rhododendrons, Yellow, orange or apricot.

Class 8: Hybrid Rhododendrons, Bicolor.

Class 9: Any Rhododendron truss entered for fragrance.

Judging shall be done by the members and guests attending the show. Each member and guest shall receive a ballot and may vote for one truss in each class by writing the entry-tag number on the ballot. Ties shall be broken by a member randomly selected by the show chair to cast a tie-breaking vote.



Once a winner has been selected in each class, members will be given a second ballot to vote for the Best of Show award from among the first-place winners in each class.

Awards: The Best of Show entry shall receive \$100; all other blue-ribbon winners shall receive \$25 each. *Photo, last year's mini show*

Tim Walsb, Max Abrahamsen and Diane Larkin judge the Bloomers!



Az. Irene Koster

Plant of the Month *Azalea 'Irene Koster'*

By Don Wallace

Resembling our Western Azalea, *Rhododendron occidentale*, this hybrid of a Ghent azalea with *Rhododendron occidentale* has many of the qualities that we North Coast gardeners are looking for. The flowers have incredible fragrance, perfuming the air around it and being noticed 20 ft. away from the plant. One might notice that the flowers are similar to *Rhododendron occidentale*, but have some peachy-pink hues that make it unique and very attractive. *Azalea 'Irene Koster'* is vigorous and will grow to 4-5 feet tall in 10 years, and 6-8 feet wide, however over time will be 8 feet tall and 10 feet wide, so give it plenty of room. It is generally deer resistant, especially when flowering...deer do not like fragrant plants

(except roses...go figure). When not in flower, in the summer and fall the plant is handsome with foliage that is larger than the leaves of the Western Azalea. There is some red/gold fall color at the end of the year as well. This deciduous azalea is well suited for mass plantings that will amaze and delight the eye.

We would like to thank all the Chapter members who volunteered to help at the Rhododendron Show and Plant Sale. Without your participation it would not have been possible. Also, to everyone who provided entries, a big thank you. Even with the cold, then hot and windy, weather we had a spectacular display of Rhododendrons and Azaleas. After years of serving as the coordinator for the arrangement class, Carol Dunning is stepping aside. Carol has done a wonderful job all these years not only organizing the arrangement area and also getting the judges for the arrangements. Carol still plans on participating in the shows with her beautiful arrangements. Also, Gayle Teter the volunteer coordinator is retiring. Because of Gayle's work, we always had plenty of volunteers which made the show run so smoothly. A big thank you to both ladies for their work and dedication to our Chapter of ARS. Now it is time to enjoy the Rhodies in our yards and start fertilizing and dead heading for next year. *By Tom and Mary Marking*

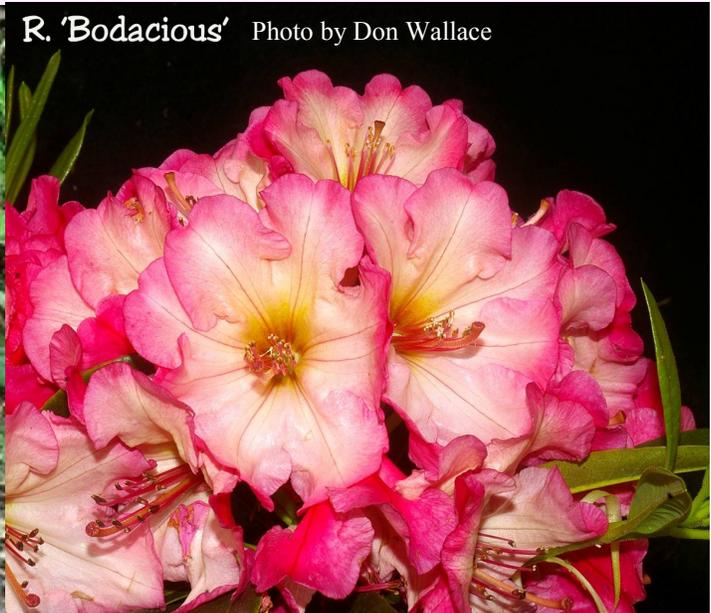
You're
The Best

WORD OF THE MONTH: BODACIOUS

I used this word six years ago, but it bears repeating for our annual members-only in-house flower show. It's "**bodacious**". Yes, it is a legitimate word, used in botany to describe a plant or a part of a plant that is "intrepidly bold or daring". That is a rather redundant definition, but it works. The word probably comes from the Old French "**Boda**", meaning messenger, and the French "**-ieux**" or the Latin "**-ceous**", meaning resembling. I've seen it used most recently to describe the largest flower in the world, a meter-wide flower of *Rafflesia*, a parasitic member of the spurge family (Poinsettias, etc.) that grows in the jungles of Borneo (*Rafflesia is pictured at left below*). This time of year it fits Rhododendrons perfectly. What is a Rhodo plant covering itself with trusses if not **bodacious**? Now for the curve. May 23 is our chapter's members-only Rhododendron flower show. All of our members need to bring their most **bodacious** trusses. We have nine classes and we award real money to winners. We don't have categories for azaleas or sprays. Each member may enter one truss in each category. If you have more, there is a table for display only. We always precede the meeting with a potluck dinner to allow time for members to place trusses. If you don't know if your plant is a species or a hybrid or a lepidote or elepidote, there are folks standing by to help. It's great fun and very educational every year. People attending the meeting judge the entries and pick the winners. This year we have a more streamlined method for counting the votes, so it should take less time. Bring your most **bodacious** culinary dish to share and plan to enter a truss in each of the categories. You too might win \$25 or \$100!



Web Photo of *Rafflesia*, does it stink? You bet!



R. 'Bodacious' Photo by Don Wallace

If spring came but once a century instead of once a year, or burst forth with the sound of an earthquake and not in silence, what wonder and expectation there would be in all the hearts to behold the miraculous change. -Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Eureka Chapter member **Ron Bottemiller** passed away May 4th after a long bout with deteriorating health. Betty, his wife and immediate Past President of the Eureka Chapter, and their children were with him.



Ron was always the smiling face at the show set up and take down, and when Betty brought in her beautiful blooms to the show Ron was right beside her to help. The picture shows Dennis Bottemiller (center), at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, with Betty and Ron Bottemiller. Dennis and Ron who were distant cousins met through their love of Rhododendrons. We hope that Betty and her family know how special it was to be a friend of Ron's.



Rhododendrons of Humboldt Botanical Gardens WIN Silver, Blue, Red and White

Eureka Chapter member Ellen Gill selected, prepared and entered trusses from Humboldt Botanical Gardens Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden for the Rhododendron Show held April 27th and 28th. Two of the twelve entries won the best of class trophies; Best Bicolor Truss for *R. 'Seaview Sunset'* and Best Dwarf Rhododendron Truss for Rhododendron for *R. williamsianum* Bovee Form. Other Blue Ribbon entries included *R. lindleyii*, *R. 'Patricia Marie'* and *R. 'Crater Lake'*. Second place Red Ribbons were *R. 'John Paul Evans'*, *R. 'Arneson's Gem'*, *R. 'Mi Amor'* and *R. 'Silver Skies'*. Thank you, Ellen, for highlighting the beautiful rhododendrons of HBG.



Member Garden Tour and Potluck Picnic

Sunday June 2nd beginning at 10:00 AM

We have of 4 gardens to tour this year followed by a potluck at the last garden on tour. **“Gardens of Humboldt Hill”** is the theme, as all of the gardens are on Humboldt Hill or the flanks of Humboldt Hill. Three of the gardens are in the same neighborhood and very close together. Our last visit and the location for our Potluck will be Humboldt Botanical Gardens. **Members are welcome to bring guests.**

- Driving directions are below on this page.
- This is a progressive tour, please don't jump ahead, the HOST gardeners will also be on tour so will not be in their gardens earlier than the scheduled time.
- Toilets will be available at the Walsh's and Humboldt Botanical Garden (porta-potties)
- Wear sturdy shoes, there is uneven and some steep ground to cover
- If you need assistance let June and Tim know (707-498-2337 or 707-616-8456).

10:00 AM - Geoff and Linda Masaki's garden at 6806 London Drive

We will meet at **Geoff and Linda Masaki's** garden at **6806 London Drive**. To get to London Drive take Highway 101 south from Eureka to Humboldt Hill Road (exit 701). Stay on Humboldt Hill Road about 1 ½ miles to Bret Harte Lane, turn right. You will go up a steep dogleg to Burns Drive, turn right. The first cross street is London Drive where the Masaki's is on the corner on the left.

10:45 AM - Tom and Aileen Martin's garden at 2250 Irving Drive

Next garden will be **Tom and Aileen Martin's**, continue on Burns Drive one block to Irving Drive, turn left and go to the end of the road through the gate and up the gravel drive to **2250 Irving Drive**, keep right and drive around the circular drive way and park heading towards Irving Dr.

11:30 AM– Tim and June Walsh's gardens at 2050 Irving Drive

Next garden will be **Tim and June Walsh's** go back to Irving Drive and continue to the end. 2050 Irving Drive is on the left, park as far as the circle at the end of the street to access one of the 3 Walsh gardens. House garden at 2050, Weenie Dog Gate Garden across the street, Tim's Weed Patch at the end of the road.

1:00 PM - Humboldt Botanical Garden

From the Walsh's go back to Burns Drive and turn left, turn left on Bret Harte Lane, turn left on Humboldt Hill Road. Stay on Humboldt Hill Road take the Highway 101 **South** ramp. Travel about 2 miles and take Tompkins Hill Road (exit 698) toward College of the Redwoods. Watch for Humboldt Botanical Gardens and College of the Redwoods signs on the left. Turn left at the first entrance the North Gate and go up the steep drive to the first left (sign says Humboldt Botanical Gardens Parking). Stay to the left to the parking lot entrance gate. Park in the parking lot and walk through the Garden gate (you will see the big flags) and close the gate behind you!

If you need assistance let June and Tim know (707-498-2337 or 707-616-8456).

10:00 AM - Geoff and Linda Masaki's garden at 6806 London Drive

Geoff says of their garden, "Our place is an example of what two neophytes, who only know which end of a rhody is planted up, can accomplish, although Linda knows a lot more than I do. Our front yard is 3200 square feet and we asked Ryan Scott of Singing Tree Gardens to come up with a plan. For a small fee, Ryan's plan specified the new contours of our front yard and what and where everything should be planted. He made sure the mature heights and widths of everything would work out right and that the types and colors of the plants were what we wanted. The discount we got from Singing Tree Gardens more than paid for Ryan's services. This was about two years ago and we really like the results. In addition, we did the back yard. We needed the dirt from the back yard to make Ryan's contours in the front."

10:45 AM - Tom and Aileen Martin's garden at 2250 Irving Drive

There should be plenty of parking at the Martin's, along with possible wildlife sightings. Spruce tree removal has resulted in a new micro hot spot, which is being terraced for berries and vegetables. There is a miniscule ocean view, the result of the New Year's Eve storm of 2005. The resulting timber blow-down has increased our light. There are many mature rhododendrons, some of which may be in bloom.

11:30 AM- Tim and June Walsh's garden at 2050 Irving Drive

Tim and June have been gardening for nearly 30 years now and they have 3 gardens to show to you. The original plantings around their house are approaching maturity and Tim's stated limitation of "never plant a garden that your wife can't maintain". At one point there were over 400 Rhododendrons on the site and there are other plants besides! June has "her garden" across the street where she maintains a colorful "pottager" with flowers and shrubs mixed in with her veggies. Tim's "new garden" is at the end of Irving Drive, down the hill. The "new garden" is a work in progress (...but then again, aren't all gardens?) and a few of his *Meconopsis* poppies are starting to show some color. There's lots to see so we've allowed a bit more time for these three gardens.

1:00 PM - Humboldt Botanical Garden , North of the Campus of College of the Redwoods, Tompkins Hill Road, *Potluck Picnic and Trophies Awarded*

There are many micro-climates within the Humboldt Botanical Garden. Tucked within a bowl, slightly inland and up in elevation, the Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden is protected from the coastal winds. The temperature at can be as much as ten degrees warmer than the lower, more exposed gardens. The above factors allow temperate plants to thrive on the coast.

There is an extensive Rhododendron Collection with a strong emphasis on the tender Rhododendrons like *Maddenii*, as well as other special plants like *Gaitheria*, *Agapetes* and *Meconopsis* poppy. *Davidia*, *Magnolia*, *Cercidiphyllum*, *Cornus*, *Styrax*, *Maple* and *Stewartia* trees will create the overstory with time. Douglas Native irises were on site before construction and create a sweep of lavender to purple blooms in May. The bed is named in memorial for Eureka Chapter member Raul Ruiz.

Mild temperatures, wet winters and dry cool summers define our temperate climate. Temperate plants from cactus and palms to poppies and tender Rhododendrons thrive up and down the coast and in the Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden.

Many members of the Eureka Chapter have planned, planted, mulched weeded, deadheaded and in general have cared for the temperate woodland garden and its *Rhododendrons* since its inception. There is a bench donated by the Eureka Chapter which overlooks the garden.

Eureka Chapter members Go to Annual ARS Convention



12 Eureka Chapter members attended the Annual ARS Banquet, Right to Left Front row; June Walsh, Trish Ortiz, Nelda Palmer, Kathy Burtchett, Marty Anderson (honorary member of all chapters), Dee Daneri. Back row; Paul Anderson, Joe Ortiz, Tim Walsh, George Burtchett, Bruce Palmer and Susan and John Winding.

Coastal Redwood as Bonsai at Weyerhaeuser Bonsai Collection RSBG, Kubota Gardens entrance, Rhodos at Pioneer Park, Landscape at Lakewold Gardens and The Stumpery at Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden

Stagecoach Hill Azalea Reserve Car Pool Odyssey Saturday June 8th

June can be the best month to see the *Rhododendron occidentale*, the Western Azalea at Stagecoach Hill north of Big Lagoon. Eureka Chapter members friends and the public are welcome to join Tim and June Walsh for a plant hunting trek to Stagecoach Hill on June 8th. Bring a brown-bag lunch for after the trek. For more information about the Stagecoach azaleas see <http://www.pacifichorticulture.org/articles/smith-mossman-western-azalea-garden/>.

10:00 AM Saturday June 8th Meet at McDonald's in the Valley West Shopping center off Giuntoli Lane in Arcata. Coffee and restrooms. We will car pool from there.

Driving directions to Stagecoach Hill Azalea Preserve, a well-hidden secret; return to Giuntoli Lane, turn left then enter Highway 101 North about go 23 miles; not far north of Big Lagoon. Turn right on Kane Road and left at the "T" (in about a half mile). There is a weathered sign for the reserve there. The final stretch is on a poorly maintained gravel road that will take you to a rather undefined parking area in a grove of Sitka Spruce. It all adds to the sense that you have happened upon a very special place. The 40-acre parcel has a modest network of trails that take you through a dense stand of spruce, where you should watch for ground orchids. The dense canopy will open as you emerge onto a Western azalea-covered hillside with spectacular vistas out over the ocean to the west. If we time it right, generally in May through mid June, we will be treated to a diversity of colors, flower sizes and shapes. **NOTE**; the trails through the azaleas can be very uneven!

Our final stop will be at Big Lagoon Park for brown bag lunch, and restrooms. Call June and Tim for questions 707-443-0604 or 707-498-2337.



Stagecoach Hill Azalea

Just another weed! *Epilobium parviflorum*, the common name is Willowherb. The genus name derives from the Greek words "epi" meaning "upon" and "lobos" meaning "lobe", with reference to position of the petals above the ovary. The specific Latin name of "parviflorum" means "small flowers". The tiny flowers are pale pink or pale purple, 0.24–0.28 inches in diameter, with four petals, eight stamens and a 4-lobed stigma. Flowering occurs from June to August. The hermaphroditic flowers are either self-fertilized (autogamy) or pollinated by insects (entomogamy). Fruit is a three-to seven-centimeter long capsule containing very small black seeds, with long feathery white fibers that allow dispersal by wind.

The seeds germinate quickly in newly exposed soils where the plants can soon dominate new beds. It grows best in full sun so is not such a thug in shady areas under trees or dense bushes. The best way to get rid of it is to hand pull or use a scuffle-hoe BEFORE it goes to seed

A web search will yield thousands of web sites selling *Epilobium parviflorum* extract to treat everything from prostate disorders to urinary tract infections. It is edible but has a very bitter taste.



*Hail, bounteous May, that dost inspire
Mirth and youth and warm desire!
Woods and groves are of thy dressing,
Hill and dale doth boast thy blessing.* –John Milton (1608–74)





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

Eureka Chapter

Eureka Chapter is published monthly except during July and August. Submissions from members are encouraged and should be mailed to June Walsch, Bulletin Editor, 2050 Irving Drive, Eureka, CA 95503-7022. Rhodyhos-tel@suddenlink.net Membership information and applications are also available from Trish Ortiz. Ars.trish.ortiz@gmail.com Eureka Chapter is a member of the Humboldt Botanical Gardens Foundation, Eureka, Calif., and The Rhododendron Species Foundation, Federal Way, Wash. Eureka Chapter is a chapter of the American Rhododendron Society.

Future Programs

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| May 23, 2013 | Members' Mini Show and Pizza |
| June 2, 2013 | Members' Garden Tour and Potluck picnic |
| June 8, 2013 (date Change) | Car Pool Tour to Stagecoach Hill Azaleas |
| July and August 2013 | 4th of July and Fun Watering and Weeding |
| September 26, 2013 | Blaine Mainor, Orchids for the People |
| October 24, 2013 | Hawaii Chapter and Vireyas |
| November | Enjoy Thanksgiving with Family and Friends |
| December ?, 2013 | Rhodo 101 and Holiday Potluck |
| January 23, 2014 | Elaine Sedlack, Asian Garden at UC Berkeley BG |
| February 27, 2014 | Gisele Schoniger, Organics for Ericacious Plants |
| March 27, 2014 | Dennis McKiver, Mendo Coast BG Rhodos |
| April 24, 2014 | Jack Olsen, Companion Plants for Rhodos |
| April 25 to 27 | Rhodo Show and Sale |
| June ?, 2014 | Member Tour and Potluck Picnic |

Programs and Program dates are subject to change.

**Nominations for Eureka Chapter Officers and Board Members
 June 2012 to June 2014**

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|--|---|
| President, Bruce Palmer | Publicity, Ellie Gayner |
| Vice President, Jerry Reynolds | Past President, Betty Bottemiller |
| Secretary, Gail Ledbetter | Programs, Don Wallace |
| Treasurer, Tim Walsh | Membership, Max Abrahamsen |
| Director at Large, Nelda Palmer | Show Committee, Tom and Mary Marking |

Nominations from the membership are open from now until the election at the May 23rd Mini Show. Election will be May 23rd, new officers begin their terms June 2, 2013.