

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter

The next meeting

Thursday February 23 , 7:00 p.m.
Woman's Club
1531 J Street
Eureka, California

Pre-Meeting No Host Dinner 5:15
Roy's Club , 218 D Street
Eureka, **Call Nelda, 707-443-8049**
Reservations are required so there will be
enough seating



February 2012

Bugs, Beetles, Butterflies

Thursday February 23rd Pete Haggard author with Judy Haggard of "Insects of the Pacific Northwest" will be the Eureka Chapter's guest speaker. The meeting will begin at **7:00 p.m. at the Woman's Club, 1531 J Street in Eureka.** Pete will give a program on the fascinating insect life in Humboldt County and our own backyards. He and Judy will also bring their book "Insects of the Pacific Northwest" to sell and sign (your editor's copy is very thumb worn). **Pete invites you to bring any crawlies you would like to have him identify.**

Pete is retired from the Humboldt County Agricultural Commissioner's Department,

he is also the Garden Chair of the California Native Plant Society and very active in the local chapter. He is a member of the Humboldt Botanical Garden and has given numerous talks on garden culture and care, native plants and insects to HBG docents and Master Gardener classes. He is also the chairman of HBG's "Plant Health Committee" on which a number of Eureka Chapter members participate.

For last three years has been surveying native bees that use his garden in McKinleyville (35 species and counting), he will be bringing his "bee boxes" which include bee imposters.

Pete is an entertaining and enlightening speaker whose presentation you will not want to miss.

"Insects of the Pacific Northwest", a Timber Press Field Guide , will be available for purchase and author signing at the break.



Pete's photo of a stink bug feeding on leaf eating larva

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. Top photo is of R. "Washington State Centennial" by Tim Walsh

The President's Musings for February President, Bruce Palmer

We're still behind on rain, but at least we are getting some. I'm forced to stay indoors today, so I've started thinking about our speakers. Red Cavender's talk on *Rhododendron occidentale* was great; understandable and quite informative. I have been noticing something about many of our speakers, though. They often use unfamiliar terms. I thought it might be worthwhile to discuss a couple that Red used. He showed a rhodie with two different sizes of leaves and called it a **chimera**. A chimera is an organism that shows very different characteristics in different parts of its body. The classic example among animals is the calico cat. A sex-linked gene causes some female cats to develop patches of skin that show distinctly different colors and patterns in different parts of the body. A current fascinating example in plants is a lab experiment where potato cells were introduced into a tomato and what resulted was a tomato plant that has potato tubers on its roots. A second word was **tetraploid**. We've discussed this before in "The Word" but it's worth revisiting again briefly. An organism typically has chromosomes (to control characteristics) in pairs. This is called diploid. Sometimes the sets of chromosomes are multiplied. In animals this condition is uniformly fatal, but in plants it isn't. What results when chromosomes are present in more than pairs is larger sized leaves, flowers and fruits. A tetraploid has four chromosomes of each kind and the leaves, flowers and fruits tend to be twice as large as normal. That's a distinct advantage in agriculture, where we have developed, mostly by chance, such crops as larger ears of corn and larger tomatoes.

We won't be hearing about tetraploids this month when our own Pete Haggard gives us a talk about insects, but his talks are always very interesting. He's an authentic expert on this subject and a very good speaker. He's written the definitive local book on the subject, *Insects of the Pacific Northwest*, published by Timber Press. Don't miss the meeting on February 23.

Why a calico cat in a Rhodo newsletter? Read above and find out!



"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago; the second best time is now"

-old Chinese proverb

On February 10th Tim and June Walsh worked with Humboldt Botanical Garden's gardener Terry Kramer and volunteer David Lemm plus the muscle power of the Sherriff's Work Alternative Program (SWAP) inmates to plant Big Leaf Rhododendrons, Magnolias, Illicium and Schefflera in the Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden. Beginning now the Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden is a glory to behold. *Rhododendron* "Leonardslee" and *Magnolia* "Caerhay's Belle" as well as *Camellia reticulata* and *sasanqua* are blooming. Soon the *R. maddenii* will bust forth with their fragrant white bells beginning with *R. forsterianum*.



Rh. 'Fastuosum Flore Pleno'



Plant of the Month

R. 'Fastuosum Flore Pleno'

Rhododendron 'Fastuosum Flore Pleno' also known as 'Fastuosum plenum' is one of the few double to semi-double flowering rhododendrons. Bred in 1846 by Geber Francoisi, of the Francoisi Brothers nursery in Ghent, Holland, 'Fastuosum Flore Pleno' is a cross between R. catawbiense and R. ponticum. Not all of the flowers are double, and the doubling happens when the stamens (male reproductive parts) turn into petals instead, sometimes resembling crumpled tissue. Each floret is a light lavender color with a

greenish-yellow to brownish-gold flare on the upper petals. The flowers last longer than most as it is sterile, so will not get pollinated and then fade.

The plant has excellent dark-green foliage, and will make a very sturdy, handsome plant in the garden. Although it grows well in full sun, it probably is best looking in partial shade. It makes flower buds easily, so reliably makes a show every year even with little care. R. 'Fastuosum Flore Pleno' won the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit in 1993. *By Don Wallace*

Eleanor Philp has gone to the Big Rhody Garden in the sky.

She was the grand lady of photography and the main repository of the Noyo Hybrids. Our dear friend, nursery-person and photographic artiste, Eleanor Philp passed away this last weekend with her family at her side. Eleanor's first husband was Jim Drury, by all accounts a great hybridizer and nurseryman. Jim passed away way too early but we were fortunate that Eleanor met and married an all-around great school teacher / Rhody guy and English sports car nut, Bruce Philp. Bruce and Eleanor spent many happy years together spreading the gospel of great plants and great photography.



Eleanor brought her wealth of knowledge to the Eureka Chapter at least 3 times that I can recall with beautiful photographic programs. She was an ARS Silver Medal Award winner in 2002 and there was almost nothing that she didn't know when it came to Rhododendrons and photography! One of the best "good-doers" for our area is the hybrid named "Jim Drury", a super-floriferous, early, DEEP red hybrid that she brought to all of us.

A most generous person, willing to share her deep knowledge of our favorite genus, Eleanor is a huge loss to all of us and she is missed, but her legacy will not pass with her!

Tim Walsh



Eureka Chapter is published monthly except during July and August. Submissions from members are encouraged and should be mailed to June Walsh, Bulletin Editor, 2050 Irving Drive, Eureka, CA 95503-7022. Membership information and applications are also available from June Walsh. 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.

Eureka Chapter

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

Future Programs

February 23, 2012, 7:00 PM
March 17, 2012, 11:00 AM
March 22, 2012, 7:00 PM
April 26, 2012, 7:00 PM
April 27th
April 28 & 29
May 4 to 7, 2012
May 5 and 12, 2012
May 24, 2012, 6:00 PM
June 10, 2012
June 24, 2012
September 21 to 23, 2012

Peter Haggard, What bugs are those?
Bruce Palmer, What's in a name? at **HBG 442-5139**
Steve Hootman, Rhododendron Collecting in the Wild
Rhodo 101
Entries accepted for Flower Show
Rhododendron Festival Flower Show and Plant Sale
ARS Annual Convention, Asheville, North Carolina
Humboldt Botanical Gardens Plant Sale
Members' **Mini Show** and Potluck
Members' **Garden Tour** and Potluck picnic
Humboldt Botanical Gardens, Garden Tour
Western Regional ARS Conference, Nanaimo, BC

Programs are subject to change.

March 11th Daylight Savings Time begins (DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME IS LIKE CUTTING OFF ONE END OF A BLANKET AND SEWING IT ONTO THE OTHER END)

Eureka Chapter Officers and Board Members September 2011 to June 2012

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