

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## Eureka Chapter

*The next meeting*  
**Thursday September 18, 6:00**  
*p.m.*  
**Woman's Club**  
**1531 J Street**  
**Eureka, California**

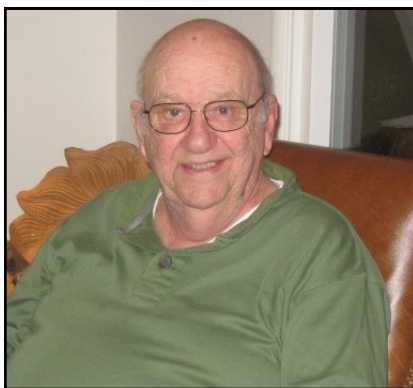
**6:00 P.M. Potluck Luau**  
**Bring your favorite Luau Food**  
**to share; Main Dish, Veg,**  
**Salad, Poi, Dessert, Wine, beer.**  
**The Chapter will provide plates,**  
**utensils coffee, tea and juice.**



Tropical Rhododendron  
Vireya 'Simbu Sunset'

September 2014

Bruce Palmer, Plants of Hawai'i, Luau, Hawai'ian Shirts



*The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will have its season opener meeting on Thursday September 18, 2014. **This is a date Change!** The meeting will be held at the Eureka Woman's Club 1531 J Street in Eureka beginning at 6:00 for the potluck, the meeting and program will begin at 7:00. Past President Bruce Palmer will tell us the fascinating history of the native plants (see WORD on page 3) of Hawaii. We will enjoy a potluck meal of your own luau contributions (to rival the Hawaii Chapter, I am sure), and*

*Best Hawaiian shirt contest. Members who bring a guest will get a free plant. New folks who join will get a free plant, too. Be sure to let us know if you are bringing a guest so we have enough free plants! There will be prizes for the BEST Hawai'ian Shirts, girls and boys!*

*Past President 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 will tell us how the Hawaiian Islands became the repository of so many unique pre-canoe plants and animals. Bruce has written the Word column for this newsletter since 2004 and for the ARS Journal almost as long. He and sidekick Max Abrahamsen have written successful grant applications for Humboldt Botanical Garden to get the signage and garden map hand-outs.*

*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.*

## President Jerry Reynolds' Message

Welcome to a new Eureka Chapter rhododendron year!

I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable summer in between the deadheading and weeding and that you are ready for some interesting and exciting meetings.

Program Chair Don Wallace has lined up some excellent speakers for the 2014-15 year. We will begin Sept. 18 with a look at the “Indigenous Plants of Hawai’i” by our esteemed Past President Bruce Palmer. That meeting will feature a luau-themed potluck and a Hawaiian Shirt Contest.

Other speakers scheduled during the year include Parker Smith, Dr. Paul Anderson, Harold Greer, Mike Stewart and Tim Walsh. You won’t want to miss a single one of these programs, so get them on your calendar or in your Smartphone now.

Our September meeting was moved forward a week because of the Western Regional Conference in Everett, Washington, on Sept. 26-28. A number of our members are going north for that weekend. If you’ve never been to a conference, why not join us? You’ll learn a lot, meet some great rhododendron people, and enjoy a weekend getaway.

And speaking of traveling, I must apologize now for my absence from three of our meetings this year. I will miss the September meeting because of medical appointments in San Francisco and the October meeting because of a long-planned trip to Spain and France. I’ll also be gone in April 2015 for a river cruise along the Rhine and Moselle rivers. You’ll be in the capable hands of Vice President Pat Chaney for those meetings.

We welcome some new members this month. Jonita McClay, Mike and Cheryl Kaska and Joe Bonino all of Eureka, Molly Smith of Bayside, Annalee Veach of Arcata and Tom and Beth Reed of McKinleyville joined the ARS at the end of May. Susan Willan of Eureka added her name in June. The Chapter continues to grow and has become one of the largest in the ARS. So encourage your friends and neighbors to come out for our meetings and to add their names to our growing roster. And remember, fall is the best time to plant Rhododendrons!

### Plant of the Month: *Rhododendron* ‘Persuasion’

*By Don Wallace*

New from Don Wallace, and to appear in the Fall American Rhododendron Society *Journal*, it is a hybrid of *Rhododendron* ‘Royal Purple’ x *Rhododendron* ‘Lem’s Cameo’. This is a vigorous grower that will be 6 ft x 6 ft in 10 years, and can take sun or shade. The foliage is a medium to dark green with the new growth being bronze. The flowers are white with a cranberry-lavender picotee edge, and also has red spotting in the throat. The trusses are very round and full. This plant buds heavily as a youngster, making it a good commercial plant.



R. ‘Persuasion’



## WORD OF THE MONTH: ENDEMIC

By, Bruce Palmer

This month's word is five words. They constitute your homework in preparation for the talk about Hawai'iian habitats and plants on September 18 (a week early because the ARS Western Regional Conference is the following week).

The first word is **ENDEMIC** (Greek, *endemia*, a dwelling in). In botany it means that a plant species lives naturally only in a very restricted area and was not introduced by humans. We don't have many examples in this area. *Lilium occidentale*, sometimes called the Eureka Lily, growing along Highway 101 from Northern Humboldt County to Southern Oregon, might be considered endemic. In Hawai'i, endemic plants were widespread before European contact after 1778. Hawai'i in fact was a much more impressive laboratory for evolutionary experimentation than Darwin's famous Galapagos Islands.

A closely related word is **INDIGENOUS** (Latin, *in* + *gignere*, to be born). Indigenous means that a plant species is found in a few places but is not widespread and was not introduced by humans. Our rhododendron, *Rhododendron macrophyllum*, would be considered indigenous, as would the coast redwood, *Sequoia sempervirens*. Hawai'i has a few indigenous plants, mainly along the seashore.

The third word is **NATIVE** (Latin, *nativus*, born). This is a word that causes problems for biologists. It covers both endemic and indigenous and we use it regularly, especially if we belong to the Native Plant Society. In biology, though, it refers to individual plants, not species, that have established themselves, usually without human intervention. It does not necessarily indicate anything about where they grew originally, even though we use it to indicate origin.

The next word is **EXOTIC** (Greek, *exotikos*, outside). The term means that a plant came from somewhere else, typically having been introduced by humans. Himalayan blackberries, English Ivy and Sudan grass are all local examples. They illustrate what happens all too often when exotic plants are introduced into a new habitat. Hawai'i is rife with examples of plants (such as Himalayan blackberries) and animals (such as mongooses) that have been introduced by well-meaning people and have caused serious environmental problems.

The final word is **UBIQUITOUS** (Latin, *ubique*, everywhere). The Latin derivation says it all. If a

plant is ubiquitous it is found all over the place, whether or not it was introduced by humans. It's a great word but another fuzzy one used widely in biology and elsewhere.

By this time you will have gathered that my talk will not be about the orchids, hibiscus, plumeria and bougainvillea you saw on your last vacation at a destination hotel or condo in Hawai'i. Come to the September 18 potluck and meeting and discover what the Hawai'iian ecosystems and their endemic and indigenous plants are all about.

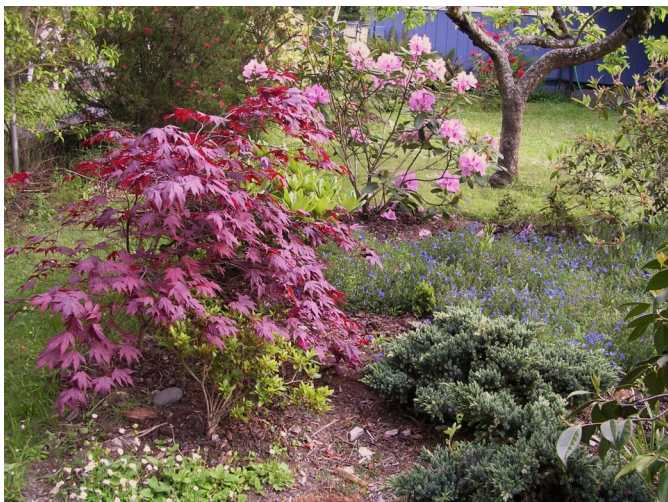
Photo provided by Bruce Palmer, Silversword, 'Ahinbina, *Argyroxiphium sandwicense*, an endemic sunflower relative growing at 8,000 feet on the slopes Haleakala, Maui.



**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!**





## Rio Dell Water Rationing by Marilyn Martino

This summer for a short time we in Rio Dell were denied the freedom to use any water for our yards or anything outside. It was a little scary. I found myself hauling out buckets of bathwater and all wash water for the Rhodies. A friend helped me connect a hose to the washing machine that goes outside into an empty garbage can. All in all, everything needed a great deal of dipping buckets and carrying water everywhere. I'm on a third of an acre, with some 60 Rhodies, plus everything else. And I discovered that even the mature Rhodies get wilted in the summer if spring rains are sparse.

I began making a list of plants that could be sacrificed if necessary, and am giving away some hydrangeas and *Rhododendron sinogrande*, which are very thirsty.

The moratorium on watering was rescinded, but we still can water only two days a week, never on weekends, and are limited in our water units. Now conditioned to save water, I continue to re-use every last bit, still hauling buckets, though with less pressure now.

It is possible to have bathwater flow out into a kind of pond with a pump in it to create pressure for a hose. That would be an option if things worsen. We're into drought years now, so it needs some thinking about how to conserve.

The very best side of this is that with all the individual attention via hauling buckets of water, I paid very close attention to the Rhodies and everything else, and still do, and really enjoy the intimacy. Also, it's amazing how you can actually water so many plants just by recycling one person's indoor wash water. Oh, and my water bill went way down.



*Oh, summer has clothed the earth  
In a cloak from the loom of the sun!  
And a mantle, too, of the skies' soft blue,  
And a belt where the rivers run.*

—Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872–1906)

Photos; Arcata Saturday Farmers' Market Summer Bounty



This is a WEED! *Sagina procumbens* is a species of flowering plant in the pink family known by the common name **birdeye pearlwort**. It can be found throughout the Northern Hemisphere and parts of South America. It is a common weed of many environments. It can be found in wild and disturbed habitat, especially moist areas. It can sometimes be seen growing in lawns or in cracks in the sidewalk. This is a perennial herb forming clumps or mats of hairless green herbage, sometimes vaguely resembling a patch of moss. The leaves are linear and up to 1 or 2 centimeters long. The inflorescence is a solitary flower with four or five sepals and four or five small white petals, but the petals are sometimes absent. Info from Wikipedia.

You will find it in potted plants and the Wild Weeders at Humboldt Botanical Garden find it in the Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden where we attempt to keep ahead of its rampant growth.







### In Memory of Everett Henry Tosten

Everett Henry Tosten passed away August 14, 2014 at Redwood Memorial Hospital in Fortuna, CA. He was born in Eureka on February 24, 1926 and spent his entire life in Humboldt County. Everett attended school in Salmon Creek at the Oakdale grammar school and then South Fork High School in Miranda. Everett served in the US Army during WWII and saw action in the Pacific where he was injured and was awarded the Purple Heart. After discharge, Everett with his brother Gordon went into business together forming Tosten Bros. Logging. In the 50's they also owned and operated the Miranda Variety Store. In the 60's they added the family sheep ranch along with their sister, Meredith and finally, the Tosten Saw Mill.

Everett was one of the kindest and most generous persons and loved by all who knew him. He will be greatly missed. Everett is survived by his wife of 52 years Sue Tosten . (The above is an excerpt from the Times Standard)

Your editor's recollections: Sue has been a force in the Eureka Chapter for many years and right behind her has been Everett. Once when Tim and I visited their beautiful Fortuna garden we asked where the inspiration came from; Everett said Sue was the brains and he was the brawn. Sue and Everett have been on my call-tree list for years, if Everett answered the phone he always said that he would put the "Boss" on and Sue coming to the phone has always said "Now, June Bug how are you?" Those of us who have entered flowers or flower arrangements in the Eureka Chapter Shows know that among the winning silver trophies would be several with Sue's name on them, and we know that Everett was right there helping Sue with her winning entries. In addition to helping Sue with her entries Everett would be there to help fill bottles, set up tables and be a general all-around helper. Sue and Everett would be back to help with clean-up after the shows as well. Having known Everett for many years has been a great gift, he will be missed.

Dan Silva, husband of Eureka Chapter member Sue Silva, passed away on Thursday August 28th after a short hospitalization. As well as membership in the Eureka Chapter Sue is the current President of the Humboldt Rose Society. Dan was an active, personable man who was willing to pitch in and help with a smile on his face and usually a joke or fun comment. He took great pride in a classic Corvette which he was willing to show anyone who noticed. He will be missed.



**Left,** your newsletter editor's vegetable garden harvest  
**Right,** Eucryphia X 'Nymansensis' Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden August and September bloom



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## Eureka Chapter

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.

### Future Programs

**October 23, 2014;** Parker Smith (ARS Silver Medal Honoree) will talk about Designing with Rhododendrons and Azaleas

**December 4, 2014;** Holiday Potluck and Rhody 101...*tell us what topics you would like us to cover...NOW!* So we can begin preparing.

**January 22, 2015;** Paul Anderson (ARS Silver Medal Honoree, ARS Director At-Large) will talk about his recent rhodo trip to Northern Germany and Denmark, lots of pretty pictures of the gardens he visited.

**February 26, 2015;** Harold Greer, the King of Rhodos (ARS Gold Medalist and Past President of ARS) will talk about, well... Rhododendrons!

**March 26, 2015;** Tim Walsh (ARS Silver Medalist, ARS District 5 Director) will talk about the 'WEEDs' of Humboldt Rhodos, the *Maddenii* Rhodos.

**April 23, 2015;** Mike Stewart (ARS Gold Medalist and Past President of ARS) will talk about Plant Explorers and the plants they introduced into our gardens. Mike's programs are always a hot ticket!

**May 21, 2015;** will be our ever popular and fun in-house Mini-Show...you be the judge, win cash prizes.

**June 1, 2015;** Member garden tour and picnic.

Put these dates on your calendar now so you won't miss any of these great programs. Watch for the Eureka Chapter Newsletter for more info.