

## Eureka Chapter

*The next meeting  
Thurs December 1, 6:00 p.m.*

*Woman's Club  
1531 J Street  
Eureka, California*

*Holiday Potluck begins at 6:00*

*Bring your favorite Potluck dish,  
plates, utensils, coffee and tea provided.  
BYOB if you like. Be ready for  
Adventure and holiday fun.*



Eureka Chapter  
American Rhododendron Society

Rhododendrons  
in the Redwoods

December 2016

JOIN A POT PARTY, IT'S WHAT WE DO IN HUMBOLDT

### Holiday Potluck

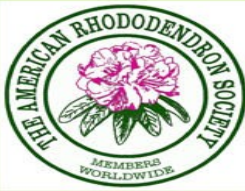
Thursday December 1st at 6:00 PM  
Woman's Club, 1531 J Street, Eureka

The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society meeting and program will be held at the Eureka Woman's Club 1531 J Street in Eureka beginning at 6:00 P.M. Members and guests should bring their favorite potluck Main dish, salad, vegetable, side dish or dessert. The Chapter will provide coffee, tea, juice, plates, napkins, cups and utensils. BYOW (wine/beer) if you wish. The public is welcome.

After the meal we will enjoy learning about Pruning from Don Wallace of Singing Tree Gardens Nursery. Pruning can improve the health and the 'look' of your rhodos and azaleas and release your house's windows from an overburden of bush to let the light in. Don will show examples of correct pruning and really disastrous pruning so that you, too, can learn to do it without guilt or shame. He will also show how 'tip pruning' or 'pinching' can improve the growth habits of some of the particularly leggy plants. He will talk about the best time to prune and the after care of plants you have pruned.

Bring your friends and neighbors, remember if you bring a NEW guest YOU get a plant, be sure to let Tim Walsh know that you are bringing a guest so there will be enough plants. ([timwalsh1@suddenlink.net](mailto:timwalsh1@suddenlink.net) or 707-443-0604)

Rhodos make great Christmas gifts! There will be an impressive selection of rhodos that were chosen for their outstanding foliage. The blooms are great too. Each plant will be \$10 so it will be easy to get several and one for your self, too.



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## Online Shopping and the ARS Store How to Help Fund the ARS With Your Shopping

Reprinted From the Willamette Chapter Newsletter

Anytime you shop online for just about anything, please consider first going through the American Rhododendron Society Online Store. The ARS Online Store is reached by this link: <http://ARSStore.org> . On this site you will find a very wide range of merchants who have agreed to give the American Rhododendron Society a referral fee of 4% to 25% on each sale "referred" by [www.ARSStore.org](http://www.ARSStore.org) . Just use a link from the ARS Online Store to go to a merchant's site and buy something as you normally would. You get the same low price and help the ARS, too! You can login to Amazon Prime from the [www.ARSStore.org](http://www.ARSStore.org) also...it is a big win all around.

### Basics of Using Amazon on ARSStore.org:

- 1) **Go to ARSStore.org and from there click on the Amazon logo.** Amazon sells just about everything. As long as you go to Amazon from [www.ARSStore.org](http://www.ARSStore.org) the ARS gets a referral fee.
- 2) **Do NOT use Amazon Smile!** Due to the possibility that the ARS would lose most of the over 5.6% it typically receives on each purchase and also the probability that the wrong one of the 55 different ARS 501(c)(3) numbers could be used, use of Amazon Smile is too risky. Let's only use [www.ARSStore.org](http://www.ARSStore.org) and not Amazon Smile and get over 5.6% rather than hoping we get 0.5%.
- 3) **Don't worry about privacy.** Amazon reports to the [www.ARSStore.org](http://www.ARSStore.org) manager on every item purchased because the commission the ARS receives depends on the price and from which department it was purchased. Amazon states the department and amount and the ARS commission but does not disclose who ordered the product, so there is complete privacy.
- 4) **Every purchase, no matter how large or how small, contributes. Please remember to use the [www.ARSStore.org](http://www.ARSStore.org)**

*"The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just on the body, but the soul."* -Alfred Austin

Photo by G. Schmidt of Pat Wells Garden, which will be on Tour for the ARS Convention April 28 and 29, 2017







### Plant of the Month: *R. John Paul Evans*'.

This rhododendron was named after a doctor who lived in the Oakland hills and hybridized many *R. maddenii* rhododendrons in the 1960's. It is a named form of the species *R. nuttallii*, so it has to be an exceptional plant to have been registered. The plant has thicker stems, larger leaves and grows bigger than the other *R. nuttallii* hybrids available. The flowers are larger as well, and can cover this grand shrub in late April making a spectacular display. Pristine white flowers open in clusters of 4-5 with a yellow throat, typical of the species. The fragrance is noticed more on warm days than when the air is cool. The leaves are very heavily textured, adding to the interest of the plant. It can be grown in full sun in our area, but would also love a shaded site. Adding generous amounts of bark to the planting hole will insure a strong root system is developed. Heavy mulching is also a good idea. Keep in mind that this is a tender plant and will be damaged by hard frosts.

I remember one year hearing that we would be having a very hard frost in a few days' time, so threw a large blue tarp over our old *R. 'John Paul Evans'* thinking this would save the flower buds. The frost passed, and the buds looked unscathed. However, when bloom time arrived the buds never opened...they just fell on the ground. My lesson: if I had just put a small electric heater under the plant until the temperatures warmed again, all would have been saved.



### *Volunteers needed for April 27 to 30, 2017*

The Eureka Chapter will host the ARS Annual Convention next spring. We will need all Chapter members to volunteer to make this a great event for all the people who will be visiting us, from across the US, Canada, France and Scotland...just to name a few.

Dian Larkin is the volunteer coordinator, when she calls **PLEASE** say "yes!"

**Volunteers will be needed to host tours, introduce speakers, cashier at the plant/art sale, welcome visitors at the registration desk, help sell plants, sell raffle tickets, gather items for the silent auction, & ready info/welcome packets.**

*Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come.* Alfred, Lord Tennyson



## WORD OF THE MONTH: STIPE

By Bruce Palmer

The word for this month is **STIPE**. Stipe is a term not applied in the Rhododendron world, but a good one for this month anyway. The word was suggested by Steve Cole as he and Margaret were leaving the chapter meeting last month. Stipe comes from the Latin *stipes*, a log or tree trunk. The word stiff comes from the same root by way of Old English and German. Stipe is one of those rather vague biological terms used when no other descriptive word works. You have undoubtedly fig-



ured out by now that I don't carry all this extraneous information around in my head. I have a number of botanical glossaries, some of which I have carried around for years. My oldest glossary is a battered Xerox copy (remember when Xerox was the latest thing and none of us had personal copiers?) whose author I no longer know. That glossary defines stipe best: "The stalk of a structure, without regard to its morphological nature. The term is used only when more precise terms...cannot be used...". Stipe is more precise than stem or stalk but less so than petiole, a leaf stalk, which we covered in this column several years ago.

Stipe is particularly pertinent this month because the mushroom season is in full swing. Stipe is used to describe the stem of a mushroom because there are no specialized tissues inside. Some mushroom stipes can be particularly delicious. June Walsh's gigantic double Porcini (*Boletus edulus*) (see photo on left) must have yielded a lot of good flavoring for her excellent cooking. The cells use chitin for support, like some animals (mollusks) and unlike most

plants, which use cellulose.

The term stipe is applied also to seaweeds that have stems. The Bull Kelp (*Nereocystis leutkiana*) shown as a small specimen in the photo on the right, has a stipe that can reach 118 feet in length. The stipe is hollow and has a large bulb at the top filled with carbon monoxide as a floatation device. The Bull Kelp is an annual, growing all of that length in one year, by far the fastest growing plant in existence (if it is a plant, but that's a current taxonomic nightmare best not discussed here). For those of you who haven't tried pickling Bull Kelp, rings from the stipe make excellent pickles using a standard pickle recipe after rinsing the rings in fresh water for several days.

It's a small world factoid: When I was looking through my pressed seaweed collection, I ran across a specimen of a Sea Palm collected by George Burtchett. It turns out that we were in the same National Science Foundation sponsored program in the summer of 1965 and were in a marine botany class together at Humboldt State. We never made the connection all these years later until I found the specimen in my collection.

There are a few other cases in which stipe is used to describe a stalk or stem. Fern fronds have stipes, as do palm fronds. Sometimes the stalk supporting a flower ovary is called a stipe. So, while stipe is an inexact designation, it is quite useful in a number of areas in botany. Let's hear it for the stipes on our boletes and other edible fungi as the mushroom season proceeds.



Immature bull kelp showing long, thin stipes

From left, Vivian Ziegler and Eureka Chapter friends, Barbara Mason, Norma Goerlitz and Ursula Lowther at Humboldt Botanical Garden's "All Happy Now".



Vivian with son Joel at Stagecoach Hill Azalea Reserve.



## Remembering Eureka Chapter Member Vivian Ziegler 1920 to 2016

Vivian Ziegler passed away at her home in Arcata on October 18, 2016. Her husband Bill, also a Rhodo-Phile predeceased her in 2002. Vivian and Bill had a lovely garden with artfully placed plantings of rhododendrons and companion plants which featured on several member garden tours.

Vivian was born and raised in Humboldt County to Swedish immigrants. Her memories of family stories and Humboldt history articles have been published in the *Humboldt Historian*, with

more articles to be published posthumously. Contributions in Vivian's memory may be directed to Hospice of Humboldt County, the Humboldt County Historical Society, the Humboldt County Library Foundation, and the Humboldt Botanical Gardens Foundation.



As the rains come so do the Mushrooms. Alexandre Dumas' cartoon and quote is a good reminder to hunt mushrooms only with knowledgeable Fungi-philes if you plan to eat these natural treasures. Otherwise photograph to your heart's content.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT



"I confess, that nothing frightens me more than the appearance of mushrooms on the table, especially in a small provincial town."

-ALEXANDRE DUMAS, LE GRAND DICTIONNAIRE DE CUISINE





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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](mailto:RhodyHosiel@suddenlink.net) Membership information and applications available from Ellen Gill. [Higlander@suddenlink.net](mailto: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.

[www.EurekaRhody.org](http://www.EurekaRhody.org)

## Future Programs

December 1, 2016	Holiday Potluck	Don Wallace, Pruning for Health and Beauty
January 26, 2017	Christy Hartsell	Vireya Rhododendrons
February 23, 2017	Jack Olsen	Growing from Seed
March 23, 2017	Elaine Sedlack	Westonbirt Arboretum, England's National Arboretum
April 27 to April 30, 2017	Eureka Chapter Hosts the Annual American Rhododendron Society Convention, See web for more info at <a href="http://www.EurekaRhody.org">www.EurekaRhody.org</a>	
May 25, 2017	Member Only Mini- Show	
June 4, 2017	Members' Garden Tour and Picnic	



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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.

## Eureka Chapter Officers and Board Members

For board member contact information or if you are interested in attending a board meeting which are held the first Wednesday of the month at 7PM, call or email June Walsh 707-443-0604