

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter

The next meeting
Thursday March 24, 7:00 p.m.
Woman's Club
1531 J Street
Eureka, California

*There will be **no***
Pre-Meeting Dinner
This Month
Stay tuned for next month



Eureka Chapter
American Rhododendron Society

Rhododendrons
in the Redwoods

March 2016

DIRT IS WHAT WE SWEEP UNDER THE RUG

*The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet on Thursday, **March 24, 2016** The meeting and program will be held at the Eureka Woman's Club 1531 J Street in Eureka beginning at 7:00 P.M.*

Gisele "G" Schoniger is Manager and Organic Gardening Educator at Kellogg Garden Products. In her 33 years in the Garden Industry, Gisele has accumulated a wide range of experience and knowledge. She earned her degree in Ornamental Horticulture from California Polytechnic University in San Luis Obispo. She has owned an Interiorscape company, worked for the State Department of Agriculture, practiced as a horticultural therapist with senior citizens and launched an outstanding sales career by helping establish top-selling organic gardening products. Gisele will share her wealth of gardening wisdom as an educator to the industry and consumers all across the West. Her workshops are **upbeat, educational and entertaining**.

Ms. Schoniger's program will be: **"Soil as a Living Organism"**. If you've heard that a successful garden starts with good soil, you've been given good advice! Soil is a complex ecosystem, which supports all life on earth. But what is "good" soil and how do you know if you

have it? Learn the basics of how to build and care for healthy soil in your landscape using natural and organic materials. Not only will you be rewarded with abundance of crops and beautiful landscapes, but also the feeling of making a difference in the garden-at-large, on this this beautiful earth we all share.

She promises that you will be thrilled to have come to hear her program and to take away new knowledge.



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April 29, 30 and May 1, 2016 Rhododendron Show and Plant Sale

By Mary Marking

We are making a few changes to the show this year since the Bonsai Society will be with us again. Because of lack of participation there will be no Class 4 Rhododendron Plants, Class 5 Azalea Plants or Class 10 Education. This will allow for all the space to be better utilized.

There will be bottle tags available at the March and April meetings. It would be very helpful to have your tags made out before you bring them to the show. You can use address labels or name stamps for your name. If you don't know the name of your flower there will be people at the show to help you.

Volunteers are still needed, so see Diane Larkin at the meeting to sign up.



The glittering leaves of the rhododendrons

**Balance and vibrate in the cool air;
While in the sky above them
White clouds chase each other.**

—John Gould Fletcher (1886–1950)



Charles and Carol Ollivier, and Carol's son Sean

Charles Ollivier, husband of Carol, died suddenly on February 16th at home in McKinleyville with Carol and his son beside him. Charles was born in 1936 in France, his family moved to the United States in 1951. He attended Arcata High and Humboldt State University. He worked for various mills but got the most satisfaction from working as a longshoreman for 36 years and acting as union president for 16 years. He also served as a Humboldt Bay Harbor Commissioner and North Coast Railroad Authority. Charles received a Certificate of Special Recognition from the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors for his community service.

Charles loved all things French! While his and your Editor's spouses would talk about Rhododendrons he and I would talk about cooking.

Charles is survived by his wife and best friend of over 40 years, Carol, his children, and grandchildren and many other family members and friends.

Notes of commemoration may be sent to;

1970 Ollivier Road
McKinleyville, CA 95519

WORD OF THE MONTH: LENTICEL

By Bruce Palmer

Features in the bark of deciduous trees are more visible in winter. I noticed the prominent **LENTICELS** in the bark of one of our flowering cherries (*Prunus* ‘Akebono’ –left illustration) a few days ago and thought that would be a good word for this month. **LENTICEL** is from the Latin *lenticella*, a small window. **LENTICELS** are not always as obvious as they are on cherry trees, but they are present in the bark of woody plants in general. We’ve seen in previous monthly words that stomata on the undersides of leaves allow and control the movement of oxygen, carbon dioxide and water into and out of leaves. Generally speaking, woody stems do not photosynthesize but the live cells in woody stems do carry on respiration. That means that oxygen and water need to get into the stems and carbon dioxide and water need to get out. The bark acts as a protective layer that should prevent the flow of any liquid or gas in either direction. That would be fatal to the living cells in the outer layers of the stems. Woody plants have developed soft, spongy areas in the bark, **LENTICELS**, that allow gases to pass through between living cells and the exterior, thus solving the problem. Rhododendrons have **LENTICELS**, but often they are not as obvious as those in cherries. The bark of *Rhododendron* ‘Alice Eastwood’ in our yard shows **LENTICELS** in abundance (right illustration). It shows also the second meaning of the word **LENTICEL**, little lens. Most **LENTICELS** are lens shaped, though it isn’t always obvious. That may be why they were assigned that name originally.

LENTICELS are not confined to the bark of woody plants. Fruits such as apples and pears, tubers such as potatoes and storage roots such as carrots have living cells, so they require gas exchange with the environment and have **LENTICELS**. The **LENTICELS** on the potato in the center illustration are not clearly lens-shaped, but there is a row of seven of them at the bottom right of the photo that are. To carry on respiration in the stems of woody plants, a nice solution to the problem of needing to be nearly impervious to the outside environment while needing gas exchange for the living cells has been solved by the presence of **LENTICELS**. Neat, effective solution!



LENTICELS IN THE BARK
OF A FLOWERING
CHERRY, *Prunus* ‘Akebono’



LENTICELS IN THE SKIN
OF A POTATO



LENTICELS IN THE BARK
OF *Rhododendron* ‘Alice East-
wood’



Rh. 'Noyo Brave'

Plant of the Month
***Rhododendron* 'Noyo Brave'**

By Don Wallace

Here is another 'Noyo' hybrid. The first one named was *Rhododendron* 'Noyo Chief', by Dr. Bowman of Fort Bragg. Then Cecil Smith, a member of the Portland Chapter crossed R. 'Noyo Chief' with *R. degronianum* ssp *yakushimanum* 'Koichiro Wada'. The best seedling was selected and named 'Noyo Brave'. Cecil then made another cross using R. 'Koichiro Wada' as the seed parent and R.'Noyo Chief' as the pollen parent. He then selected and named R. 'Noyo Maiden' from that batch of offspring. It is hard to find R.'Noyo Maiden' in the trade, as it has less redeeming qualities. There

are many hybrids with 'Noyo' in the name, so it can be confusing. I have chosen R. 'Noyo Brave' as the plant of the month because it has been the trade for so many years due to its excellent quality. The plant stays nice and compact and will only grow to 3 ft. tall x 4 ft. wide in 10 years. The foliage is dark-green, shiny, and thicker than most other rhododendron leaves. There is a thick layer of brown suede indumentum on the undersides of the leaves, adding character. The flowers are quite striking, held in trusses of 18-20 florets, pink with lighter centers. The plant can be grown in full sun or some shade and flowers in early March.

Editors note: Humboldt Botanical Gardens Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden has a fine selections of 'Noyo' named hybrids including 'Noyo Brave' in bloom NOW.

HELP WANTED—YES YOU!

The Eureka Chapter will host the 2017 Convention of the American Rhododendron Society April 27 through 30, 2017.

We will need many volunteers from registration table hosts to plant sale clerks, banquet ticket takers, tour hosts, speaker introductions and jobs we haven't thought of yet. Even if you don't know what you think you can do we can find a job for you! Please be generous with your time during the this major event for the Eureka Chapter and The American Rhododendron Society.

Call June Walsh 707-443-0604.

MORE HELP WANTED!!! Rhodo-Geeks

By June Walsh

At Humboldt Botanical Garden many people visit the Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden and comment on how beautiful a 'rhododendron' garden can be even when not in bloom. Much of that beauty is thanks to a few dedicated Wild Weeders and Grateful Deadheaders!

Rain or shine the Wild Weeders/Grateful Deadheaders meet at **10 AM every Tuesday** at the Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden at Humboldt Botanical Garden. Right now there are early Rhodies blooming that need deadheading. Camellias are blooming and need to have their spent blooms picked up. Some herbaceous plants are in serious need of clean-up and there are blackberries that need to be 'rogued out' (a term we learned in Scotland). If you enjoy weeding, the garden can fulfill your passion. If you enjoy meditation, there are pathways that need to be raked after all the foot-traffic from Wednesday through Sunday open hours.



Noyo hybrids blooming at Humboldt Botanical Garden

Bring your hand tools, gloves, hat, sun-screen and a sense of humor. We will sit down and look at the glory of our accomplishments at noon for a sack-lunch.

You can earn your Humboldt Botanical Gardens membership by volunteering 100 hours per year.

If you have any questions please give me a call 707-443-0604.

Linguistic Gymnastics and Rhododendrons

What do those funny species names mean? Why should I know them when I want a white rhodo? To me the answers are growing in my garden, some were the correct plant, but most likely because I did not know the correct binomial (two-name) of the plant I wanted, I got a Hawthorne (*Crataegus*) instead of a Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus*).

Rhododendron...rhodo (red) + *dendron* (a tree)

Rhododendron arborescens... (becoming tree like)

Rhododendron decorum... (beautiful)

Rhododendron arboreum... (tree like)

Rhododendron ferrugineum... (rusty shoots and underside of leaves)

Rhododendron maddenii... Named for Major Madden of the Bengal Civil Service, Himalaya.

Rhododendron crassum... (thick)

Rhododendron polycladum... (with many branches)

Rhododendron oreodoxa... glory of the mountain

And one of my favorites because so many people blink, then say "please repeat that"

Rhododendron campylogynum... with a curved ovary



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2050 Irving Drive
Eureka, CA 95503-7022

Eureka Chapter

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

Future Programs

March 24, 2016, Gisele Schoniger, Soils and Soil Amendments

April 28, 2016, Jack Olsen

April 29 to May 1, 2016 Eureka Chapter Rhododendron Show and Plant Sale

May 6 (Members only), 7 and 8 (Public) Humboldt Botanical Garden Plant Sale

May 15th Memorial for Jerry Reynolds, Eureka Chapter President, Humboldt Botanical Garden in the Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden

May 26, 2016 IN-House Mini Show...win BIG BUCKS when you show us your bloomers

June 5, 2015, Member Garden Tour and Potluck 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.



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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