

Eureka Chapter

*The next meeting
Thurs, December 7, 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 7th 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 December 7th beginning at 6:00 P.M. The Chapter will provide Turkey and Ham; Members and guests should bring their favorite potluck side dish, salad, vegetable, or dessert. The Chapter will also provide coffee, tea, juice, plates, napkins, cups and utensils. BYOW (wine/beer) if you wish. The public is welcome.

At 7 PM, after the meal, we will enjoy learning about Rhododendrons!!!! from our own Bruce Palmer. Bruce's program is titled "What's in a name?". The title is a takeoff on Shakespeare's Juliet: "What's in a name? That which we call a rose, by any other name would smell as sweet." It begins with the history of the name Rhododendron then progresses to a discussion of relatives in the family Ericaceae and goes on to analyze how Rhodies are unique.

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 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 or buy 5 get one free so it will be easy to get several; and one for your self, too.



*Over the river and through the wood—
Now grandmother's cap I spy!
Hurrah for the fun!
Is the pudding done?
Hurrah for the pumpkin-pie!*
—Lydia Maria Child (1802–80)



A Benefit of Membership

By Membership Chairman, Ellen Gill

Use your Eureka Chapter ARS Membership Card to shop locally for the holidays and get a discount at these LOCAL Nurseries:

Fortuna Feed and Garden Center	Plants only	10%
Green Lot Nursery	Plants only	10%
Mad River Gardens	Plants only	10%
Pierson's Garden Center	Plants only	10%
Singing Tree Gardens	Plants only	10%

Offers may vary so check first. Thank the nursery for your discount!

Remember plants keep giving year after year, and this is the *best* time to plant them for a good start.

New Sound System at Eureka Woman's Club

The Chapter tested a new improved sound system at the September membership meeting held at the Eureka Woman's Club. After the meeting we asked attendees if they thought the program presenters were easier to hear and understand. It was a universally thought that the sound was much improved and heightened the enjoyment of the program.

The Eureka Chapter has purchased a new amplifier, speakers, wireless microphone and receiver. The system will be donated by the Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society to the Eureka Woman's Club. This gift has been made possible by a gift from the Estate of Jerry Reynolds who passed away in November 2015.

Your newsletter had a list for members to 'vote' for possible uses for a portion of Jerry's gift.

Your #1 choice was to improve the sound system at the Eureka Woman's Club

Your #2 choice was to help improve the irrigation system at the Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden in Humboldt Botanical Garden

*And the dead leaves lie huddled and still,
No longer blown hither and thither,
The last lone aster is gone;
The flowers of the witch hazel wither.*
—Robert Frost (1874–1963)



Plant of the Month: R. 'Bill Massey', one of the HIGHLY FRAGRANT *R. nuttallii* hybrids that is worth growing in your garden. The stature is smaller than almost all of the other forms and hybrids, making it a good candidate for the smaller garden. The large bell shaped flowers have a ruffled edge, a bit of pink in the throat, and a rosy blush. The foliage is a bit different from all of the other hybrids as well, being wider and shorter, making a very attractive shrub over time. The plant has the nickname 'Nutberger' because it is a cross of *R. ciliatum* var. *bergii* x *R. nuttallii*. The hardiness may be improved with the species *R. ciliatum* var. *bergii*, which is hardier than *R. nuttallii*. Developed by Druecker and the Philps of Trillium Lane Nursery of Fort Bragg, CA. and registered in 1978.

In this Season of Giving

Many Eureka Chapter members, along with renewing their membership, made additional contributions to the Eureka Chapter General Fund, the ARS Endowment Fund, ARS General Fund, and the Humboldt Botanical Garden Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden,

Thank you to the members who GAVE a total of \$769. George and Kathy Burtchett, Gayle Teter, Tim and June Walsh, Ibby Gerner, Diane Larkin, Harold Johnson, Karen Rochames, Philip and Barbara O'Hay, Ellen Gill, Catherine Fanucchi, Steve and Margaret Cole, Steve Lemke, Sue Silva, Jim and Gay Morrison, Jean Guthrie, Phil Merklin and Bette Watkins, Gene Schnell, Maria Krenek and David Anderson.

If you would like to volunteer your time the Eureka Chapter can use help setting up before our meetings and clean up after our meetings. Many hands make light work! Call June 707-443-0604 if you would be available to help.



Word of the Month– Revolute

By Bruce Palmer

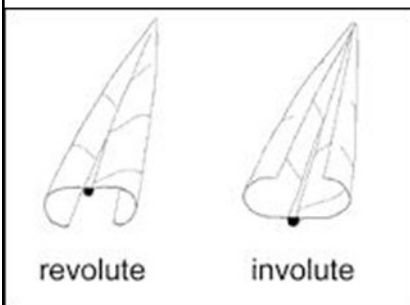
The cold season is upon us. We rarely get seriously freezing weather, but the leaves of some of our rhodies are beginning to curl at the edges and droop. What's going on – are they dying? No, they will be fine come spring. Those with **Revolute** leaves are putting up their defenses against winter temperatures. **Revolute** derives from the Latin *revolvere*, to roll back. If you cut a rhododendron leaf bud in half the chances are good that you will find immature leaves rolled up tightly with their edges curled outward.

Revolute leaves are a characteristic of lepidote rhododendrons, those without scales on the undersides of their leaves. Most forms and hybrids of *Rhododendron yakushimanum*, commonly known as “Yaks”, show revolute leaves clearly.



[R. 'SILVER SKIES' SHOWING REVOLUTE LEAF EDGES](#)

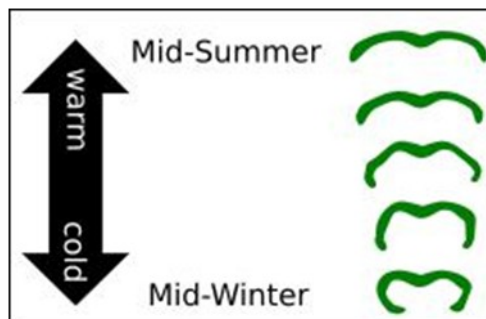
If the leaves in the buds are curled inward instead of outward (see the illustration left), the



rhodie is a lepidote and has very small scales on the undersides of the leaves; its leaves are **Involute** (Latin: *involvere*, to roll in). This is not a frivolous distinction; there are so many rhododendron species that taxonomists use it to distinguish otherwise similar species. Normally in our area the distinction is not very important, but when we get a really cold winter, as we did in the early 1990s, the lepidotes, most of which are wonderfully fragrant, are toast. They have no curling defense against the cold and the leaves die. In Federal Way, Washington

the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden is not able to grow the fragrant rhodies outside, so they ship some tender specimens to the Humboldt Botanical Garden where they thrive and give us an impressive, fragrant display in early spring. If you haven't done so in the past, plan to visit the Humboldt Botanical Garden adjacent to College of the Redwoods in March or early April to enjoy the large collection of fragrant rhododendrons. Meanwhile, if you have a rhodie whose leaves are curled up this winter, don't assume the plant has succumbed to a fungal infection.

Wait until spring and see if the plant comes out of it and is actually quite healthy. This winter, until most of our rhodies bloom, let's enjoy their leaves, whether they are **revolute** or **involute** in their tightly closed buds.



What is this stuff on my rhododendrons?

By Don Wallace owner of Singing Tree Gardens Nursery



Indumentum and Tomentum
on Rhododendrons



Often, I receive phone calls from alarmed customers wanting to know how to get rid of the white dust coating on their rhododendrons. Even after explaining what it is, and that it is sought after among rhododendron collectors, and that it is a natural feature of the plant, I am asked how to "get rid of it". Only when rhododendron collectors become familiar with this feature do they really like it. This, I suppose, is because it is not a trait of the most commonly planted rhododendrons.

The official definition of **Tomentum** by the American Rhododendron Society is: Matted wooly hairs on stems, leaves or seeds. The silver, white or brown fuzz on the top of leaves will usually wipe off. This substance has often been found to prevent insect predation and can help leaves hold in moisture in times of drought. To the seasoned rhododendron collector, this is "*as good as it gets!*".

Indumentum (pl. **indumenta**) is a general term denoting the covering of hairs found on the underside of the leaves of many rhododendrons. On rhododendrons indumentum is commonly a woolly covering on the underside of mature leaves, while a similar surface on the upper side of leaves is called tomentum. The hairs that make up this woolly covering are much finer than human hair, with the thickest still being only 1/10th the thickness of a human hair. There are many types of hairs, resulting in a variety of types of indumentum. The rhododendron, bottom left, is *R. pachysanthum* from Taiwan. The leaves come out this interesting orange/tan color, but turn green by mid summer.

www.singtree.com sign up for Don's newsletters.

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 Walsh, Bulletin Editor, 2050 Irving Drive, Eureka, CA 95503-7022. Rhodyhostel@suddenlink.net

Membership information and applications are also available from Ellen Gill, C/O June Walsh. The 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.



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Future Programs

December 7, 2017

Holiday Potluck

Bruce Palmer, Rhododendrons
“What’s in a name?”

January 25, 2018

Pete Haggard

Pollinators

February 22, 2018

John Stephens and Steve McCormick

Rhododendrons in South America

March 22, 2018

Jason Martinez

Plant Hunting in China

April 26, 2018

Ali Sarlak

Flora of Iran

April 27 to 29, 2018

Meeting and Annual Flower Show and Plant Sale

May 7 to 31, 2018

Rhodo Convention and Tours Bremen Germany ARS2018.org

May 24, 2018

Member Mini Show

June 3, 2017

Member and Guest 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.

Eureka Chapter Officers and Board Members

For board member contact information or if you are interested in attending a board meeting, call or email June Walsh 707-443-0604 RhodyHostel@suddenlink.net