

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter

The next meeting
Thursday March 23, 7:00 p.m.
Woman's Club
1531 J Street
Eureka, California

Pre-Meeting No Host Dinner 5:15
Pho Thiên Long, 307 4th, Eureka
Call Nelda, 707-443-8049
For a reservation so there will be enough seating



Eureka Chapter
American Rhododendron Society

Rhododendrons
in the Redwoods

March 2017

Westonbirt Arboretum

*The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet on Thursday, **March 23, 2017** The meeting and program will be held at the Eureka Woman's Club 1531 J Street in Eureka beginning at 7:00 P.M.*

The pre-meeting no-host dinner at 5:15 will be at Pho Thiên Long, 307 4th Street, Eureka. Pho (pronounced fuh) Funny name great food.

Elaine Sedlack will be our featured speaker this month, the title of her program is "An Autumn Visit to the Maples of Westonbirt Arboretum".

Westonbirt is England's National Arboretum. Administered by the Forestry Commission, it is located in Gloucestershire in southern England in beautiful woodland. This historic estate was initially developed by Robert Holford, the Victorian landowner to whom it first belonged. Here are found the National Collections of both maple species and Japanese cultivars of maples, and fine specimens of other trees as well; altogether 15,000 of them, and these are labeled! These comprise 2,500 different types of trees from temperate climates all over the world. Original planting dates to 1850, with the result that many champion trees can be found here, those that are the largest or tallest known to exist in the UK. This presentation will concentrate on the maple collections that Elaine visited in the fall of 2011, prior to attending the International Maple Society conference in Antwerp, Belgium. The former Curator of Weston-

birt, Peter Gregory, included many photographs of the Arboretum in his revised editions of the late J. D. Vertrees' life's work: "Japanese Maples ; Momiji and Kaede".

Elaine Sedlack is past President and Program Chairperson of the California Chapter of American Rhododendron Society. Other memberships include the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, the International Maple Society, the International Dendrology Society, the Herb Society of America, and the Heritage Roses Group. She has written articles and presented programs for many of the preceding organizations. After 31 years of maintaining and developing the Asian collection, she retired from UCBG in 2015. She currently resides in Oregon with her cat, Samara.

Elaine among the Roses at Humboldt Botanical Garden



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WORD OF THE MONTH

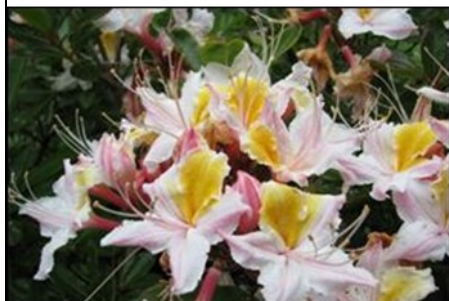
The word this month is a mouthful: **"Phototropism"**. It's from the Greek "photos", meaning "light", plus "trope", meaning "turn". The word seems appropriate this month because this is the time we have to turn our pots of tulips around every other day to prevent them from growing sideways toward the sun. We've all seen what happens when we don't rotate the pots. Charles Darwin, who dabbled in many scientific endeavors, not just evolution, was the first to figure out that some substance must be moving in plants, causing phototropism. In 1926 the Dutch plant physiologist Fritz Went proved that the substance existed in an experiment often repeated in introductory botany courses. He named the substance "Auxin", from the Greek "auxien", to increase. He showed that Auxin lengthens cells in plants and that it migrates from the sunny side of a young plant stem to the shady side, increasing the lengths of the cells on the shady side more than on the sunny side, bending the plant toward the sun. We now know that there are a number of auxins and other plant "hormones" behind lots of plant growth activities. The best known use for auxins is in rooting hormones. Indoleacetic Acid and Indolbutyric Acid are examples of auxins used to root cuttings. Ironically, while auxins promote the formation of roots from the cambium in cut stems, they inhibit growth in the roots of established plants. *By Bruce Palmer*

Bruce Palmer is Past-President of the Eureka Chapter and over the past year has been one of the Convention Committee members preparing for this year's convention hosted by the Eureka Chapter. Editor's note, after this very rainy winter (not complaining) this Word reprinted from March 2006 seemed appropriate as ANY day with sun seems to draw us outdoors to turn ourselves in the sun.

International Rhododendron Convention April 27 – 30, Eureka, California

The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will host the 2017 International Convention which will bring visitors to our remarkable Humboldt County, California. Rhododendron lovers from across the nation, Canada and around the world will attend. The slate of renowned speakers includes Dr. Peter Raven (President Emeritus, Missouri Botanical Garden), Dr. Steve Sillett (HSU professor and Redwood authority) and Steve Hootman (curator/director of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, Federal Way, Washington). There will be tours of redwood forests, private and public gardens, Stagecoach Hill Azalea Reserve and Victorian architecture.

Humboldt Botanical Garden's Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden will be the highlight of one of the tours. The Garden has received tender rhododendrons and other rare plants from the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, where they are grown in cool greenhouses. At HBG, rhododendrons and azaleas are grown outdoors in an environment similar to their native ranges in Asia.



For many travelers, seeing the Redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) is high on the must see, as is the rugged North Coast of California with its *Rhododendron macrophyllum* (Big Leaf rhododendron and Stagecoach Hill, the home of *Rhododendron occidentale* (western azaleas).

More information and registration are at www.EurekaRhody.org



There are some 300 western azaleas at the Stagecoach Azalea Management Area.

Photos by Mary Lou Goodwin

Project azalea

By Heather Shelton, hshelton@times-standard.com

Times-Standard

Posted: 03/08/17, 3:27 PM PST

Volunteers are needed to help spruce up a hillside of western azaleas just north of Trinidad.

The “Stagecoach Hill Azalea” cleaning project is scheduled, weather permitting, for Saturday from noon to 3 p.m. California State Parks — which owns the property — participated in an extensive maintenance program at the site last fall, providing 600 hours of labor to remove invasive plants and trees from the Stagecoach Hill Azalea Management Area.

“Fifty years ago, the California State Parks received the property when \$60,000 was collected by California Garden Clubs, Inc. and others and given to the California Park Foundation, which made the purchase,” said Mary Lou Goodwin, a member of the Eureka Sequoia Garden Club who was at the project dedication in June 1984.

“CSP has provided annual maintenance for the 40 acres of native western azalea,” she said. “Usually, they do a light cleaning with staff taking 10 hours. This year, they did a major cleanup ... Inmates at the High Rock Honor Camp near Weott were hired to do the work. They removed alder trees, ferns, berry vines and other invasive plant material.” The cleanup project was recently expanded, Goodwin said, to ensure the western azaleas (*Rhododendron occidentale*) will be clear of invasive materials and be more beautiful when **the American Rhododendron Society brings four busloads of convention visitors to tour the Stagecoach Hill Azalea Management Area while they are in town in late April.**

To help prepare for the American Rhododendron Society convention, volunteers are being sought to further clean ferns, grasses and berry vines from inside each azalea plant.

“The plants are currently dormant and do not have any leaves,” Goodwin said. “It is important to help the plant bloom and put on leaves by removing all of the foreign plant material.”

Volunteers should wear long-sleeved jackets and bring hand clippers, she said.

“The committee will teach you how to clip and clean the azalea bushes,” Goodwin noted.

The 300 plants will be sprouting leaves and then blooms in April and will be in full bloom in time for Memorial Day, the best time of the year to see these native western azaleas, she said. The management area, Goodwin added, is open to the public, but does not have any fences, water or restrooms.

“The well-marked Loop Trail takes about two hours to walk to see all of the area,” she said.

Here’s how to get to the site: From U.S. Highway 101, take the Kane Road exit just north of Trinidad (near sign post 112.5). Take Kane Road, then take the first dirt road to the left and park at the trailhead parking lot, which is marked.

Last Chance to help Clean up the Stagecoach Azaleas Saturday April 8th from 10am to 1pm



R. 'Yaku Sunrise'



R. 'Yaku Sunrise'

Plant of the Month

By Don Wallace

Rhododendron 'Yaku Sunrise'

'Yaku Sunrise' was created by Ben Lancaster of Camas, WA in the mid 1960's, this outstanding rhododendron is still being propagated and sold today. Ben crossed Vulcan's Flame, a very hardy red, with *Rhododendron degronianum* ssp *yakushimanum* 'Koichiro Wada', a named form of the species. Because the 'yak' blood is so dominant, usually the results of crossing a deep red with 'yak' will be light pink, fading to white. However, this hybrid has more interesting qualities. The flowers have a distinct 'picotee' appearance, with the outside of each flower a rich pink and the inside being white. The pink on the back of each flower colors the edge, making the 'picotee' look. Another nice feature is that the plant buds up well as a youngster, making a lovely bouquet in the garden. Older plants are mounded and will really put on a show. One can expect this plant to be 2 feet tall and 3 feet across in 10

years. The leaves have that 'yak' characteristic of being hump-shaped with the tan indumentum, suede covering, the undersides of each leaf. This is thought to be a natural insect proofing. This plant grows slowly, so will not crowd out other nearby plants in your landscape.

Don Wallace is the owner of Singing Tree Nursery in McKinleyville. His arboretum style nursery will be one of the highlights of the North Tour Friday April 28th and Saturday April 29th during the American Rhododendron Society annual spring Convention, hosted this year by the Eureka Chapter.

Convention Garden Tours will include Founding member Paul Anderson's woodland garden, Verne and Paula Trinoskey's Asian inspired garden, Pat Well's coastal bluff collector's garden and Barbara Morrison's and Ken Magnuson's Jewel box garden. An Architectural tour will include the Carson Mansion, one of Eureka's famous Victorian private homes and an Architectural wonder in Ferndale. If you are interested in one of the Convention tours register on line

www.EurekaRhody.org or Call June at 707-443-0604

RHODODENDRONS IN THE REDWOODS 2017 CONVENTION FLOWER SHOW RULES

All convention attendees and ARS members are encouraged to bring flowers for display. Space is limited, so rules will follow the Eureka Chapter's Members-only flower show.

Entrants are limited to one entry in each class.

All entries should be identified, if possible, by the entrants.

Only single trusses or inflorescences may be entered, no sprays or "hammerheads".

Trusses may be groomed and prepared.

Entry tags and bottles will be furnished by the Convention Committee and must be used.

All entries must be submitted by noon Friday, April 28, 2017.

Judging will be done by popular ballot furnished by the Convention Committee.

Judging will be closed at 4 pm Saturday, April 29, 2017.

Winners will be announced at the Saturday Banquet.

Classes are as follows: Vireyas and Azaleas are listed separately as categories 10 and 11 and are not eligible in categories 1 through 9.

Class 1: Any Lepidote Rhododendron species, regardless of color

Class 2: Any Elepidote Rhododendron species, regardless of color

Class 3: Any hybrid Rhododendron, Red

Class 4: Any hybrid Rhododendron, Pink

Class 5: Any hybrid Rhododendron, White

Class 6: Any hybrid Rhododendron, Purple, Lavender or Blue

Class 7: Any hybrid Rhododendron, Yellow, Orange or Apricot

Class 8: Any hybrid Rhododendron, Bicolor

Class 9: Any Rhododendron truss entered for fragrance only

Class 10: Any Azalea, species or hybrid, regardless of color

Class 11: Any Vireya, species or hybrid, regardless of color

Contact Richard or Paula Grabowski if you plan to show your blooms. We want to make sure that we can accommodate as many of your spectacular flowers as possible!

Paula Grabowski pgrabows46@gmail.com

Richard Grabowski rgrabowski@mckinleyville.net





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American Rhododendron Society
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www.EurekaRhody.org
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 Membership information and applications available from Ellen Gill. Higlanderg@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.

Future Programs

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	
May 25, 2017	Member Only Mini- Show	
June 4, 2017	Members' Garden Tour and Picnic	

"Think of the fierce energy concentrated in an acorn! You bury it in the ground, and it explodes into a giant oak! Bury a sheep and nothing happens but decay." George Bernard Shaw, *The Vegetarian Diet According to Shaw*, (1918)



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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