

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter

The next meeting

*Thursday January 24, 7:00 p.m.
Woman's Club
1531 J Street
Eureka, California*

Pre-Meeting No Host Dinner 5:15

Bayfront Restaurant
1 F street, Eureka
To RSVP Call Nelda
707-443-8049 to assure seating



Eureka Chapter
American Rhododendron Society

Rhododendrons
in the Redwoods

January 2019

Atsuko Visits Azaleas in Japan

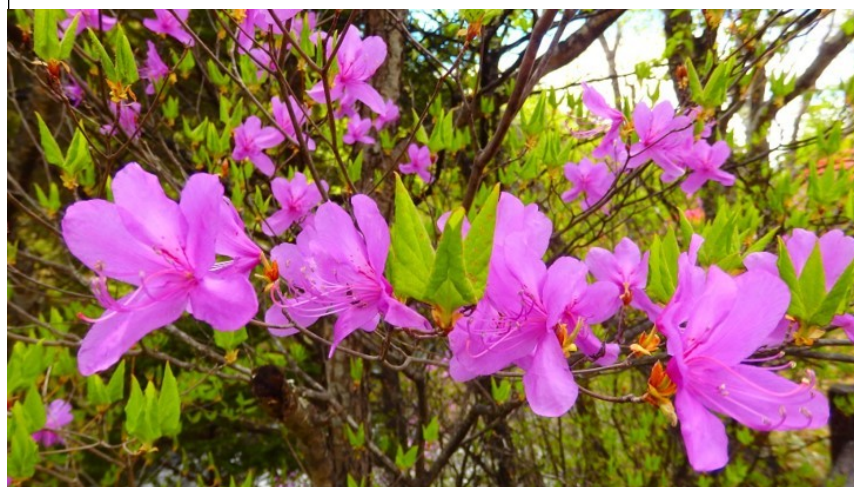
The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet on Thursday, January 24, 2019. The meeting and program will be held at the Eureka Woman's Club 1531 J Street in Eureka beginning at 7:00 P.M.

Atsuko Gibson is an assistant curator at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden (RSBG) in Federal Way Washington. She has a degree in horticulture from the University of Arkansas and has interned at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. She has been with the RSBG since 2010.

Atsuko will talk about Japanese Azaleas. She will describe hiking through *Rhododendron quinquefolium* forest in Tochigi prefecture of Japan North East of Tokyo in the Kanto District. She will talk about the many interesting and rare plants she saw along the way. She will also describe seeing a *Rhododendron kaempferi* grove and *Rhododendron wadanum* growing along the river. In addition, the visit to Mt. Takao in Tokyo to see *Dendrobium moniliiforme* in bloom.

Picture provided by A. Gibson Shown right

And below: 200+ year old *Rhododendron quinquefolium*



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.



Rhododendron 'Taos'

photo by Dennis McKiver

Plant of the Month:

Rhododendron 'Taos'. By Don Wallace
Taos is a sweet little addition that made its way from the Fort Bragg area near Mendocino California. We are always looking for what's new and exciting in rhododendrons and Taos certainly has us excited! From a promising lineage, 'Taos' is a *Rhododendron cili-calyx* hybrid in the maddenii family. If you delight in the opportunity to discover the next generation like we do, find a spot for this little gem. 'Taos' has smaller leaves and will branch vigorously. This plant takes well to pruning, making it appealing to the adven-

turous gardener who enjoys guiding a young plant to a desired shape. We expect it will be roughly 5 feet in 10 years and offers fragrance in springtime. Dennis McKiver, from the Noyo Chapter grows this variety in Fort Bragg and says it does well in the shade, and blooms 2-3 times a year. His plant just finished a full bloom in November-December and has started setting new buds for the spring bloom as well.



There are many species and hybrid rhododendrons and azaleas in the Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden at Humboldt Botanical Garden. There is another rhododendron garden at Humboldt Botanical Garden waiting for you to explore. It is along the creek just to the east of the Sun Valley Floral Farm Greenhouse. As you walk along the path in front of the greenhouse, before you cross the Bridge's bridge, take a right turn, there you will find many species and a few hybrid rhododendrons. The one pictures here is *Rhododendron protistum* which was acquired from the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden. This picture was taken in January 2018.

Described in the RSBG catalog: *Rhododendron protistum* (syn *giganteum*) BASE#9635 One of the largest of all rhododendrons, this big-leaf species has immense leaves and flowers. The latter are rose to crimson-purple, appearing in late winter to early spring. Grown from seed collected in the wild. The real thing, forms a large tree eventually (in mild climates). (+15)

Eureka Chapter, Friends and Donors Create a Garden at Hospice of Humboldt

In April 2018 Eureka Chapter member Charles Cunningham brought a proposal to the Eureka Chapter Board to help Hospice of Humboldt improve the garden area outside the in-patient rooms www.hospiceofhumboldt.org/. Hospice of Humboldt built a new administration building and the Ida Emmerson Hospice House in Eureka in 2015. After much consideration and several on-site visits and consultation with Rodney Ward the Hospice Plant and Safety Manager, the Eureka Chapter board decided to hold a meeting with the Eureka Chapter membership to describe the proposed project. The meeting was held August 30, 2018 at Hospice with a visit to the proposed work area. Joe Rogers, Hospice of Humboldt Chief Executive Officer talked about the history of Hospice in Humboldt County beginning in 1978, he explained how Hospice helped 550 patients and their families with end-of-life care. Most patients are cared for in their own homes but increasingly Hospice has seen a need for in-patient care, thus planned and built the Ida Emmerson Hospice House. At the close of the August meeting the Eureka Chapter decided to move forward with a garden plan that would serve Hospice's patients and families and be an asset to the public using the forest paths.

Don Wallace of Singing Tree Gardens drew a proposed garden plan, Charles Cunningham contacted many businesses for donations of materials, Eureka Chapter members donated funds and plants. The University of California Extension Service Master Gardeners were invited to participate and the California Conservation Corps (CCC) agreed to supply volunteers.

The plan was to start installing Phase 1 of the garden after the first rains in early November 2018 but the rains failed to come. Materials and plants were stockpiled until more favorable conditions developed. Finally after several rain events in late November a date was set for December 7, 8 and 9, 2018 for planting to begin. Diane Larkin called Eureka Chapter members to volunteer, June Walsh contacted the Master Gardeners and the California Conservation Corps.

Friday morning December 7th it rained. Volunteers showed up and worked in the rain through clearing skies in the early afternoon. We worked from 9 to 3 moving materials and preparing for the Saturday crew to plant.

Saturday from 9-3:30 we had 24 volunteers including 4 Master Gardeners and 4 CCC workers. Holes got dug, plants got planted, mulch got moved by machines and strong young CCC workers and not so strong senior citizens. Wheelbarrows and tarps were employed to move soil conditioner, compost, plants, mulch and fertilizer. Volunteers brought lunch which was enjoyed by all and kept the team nourished to finish the day.

On Sunday we were back at it at 9 with 12 volunteers including 3 Master Gardeners and 4 CCC, we finished at 3, completely pooped but gratified to look around to see the results.

A space that began as bare ground under young growth Redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) was transformed by rhododendrons, dogwoods, various ornamental companion plants, summer bulbs and rare trees for a temperate woodland garden.

As we were working we noted how many members of the public use the paths in the Hospice forest and were encouraged by their approval to move forward. Phase 2 and 3 will be planned for the next 2 years.



**Hospice of Humboldt, July 2018, Before
The Eureka Chapter began fund-raising and
requests for Garden improvement materials
including plants and mulch.
From the first visit, plans were drawn, materials
gathered and plants were purchased and dug.**



Hospice of Humboldt, December 2018, During and After.
Work was done by members of the Eureka Chapter American Rhododendron Society, UC Master Gardeners of Humboldt County, California Conservation Corps and Rodney Ward of Hospice.



**Thank you to all the donors and volunteers who made the
Hospice of Humboldt Garden project possible.**

Eureka Chapter: Max Abrahamsen, Bruce and Nelda Palmer, Ellen and Tom Gill, Steve Durham, Joe Bonino, Laurie Ervin, Charles Cunningham, Diane Larkin, Sue and John Hemmann, Ann Wieland, Lynne Sarty, Don Wallace, Tim and June Walsh, Maria Krennek

UC Master Gardeners: Reed Cross, Maria Krennek, Bill Peer, Tim and June Walsh

California Conservation Corps: Hannah Carroll, Paris Soeung, Brittany Walker, Kunal Mehta, Julian Lopez, Rachel

Others: Rodney Ward of Hospice and Duncan McNiell of Gardner and Bloome

In-Kind Donations received:

Gardner and Bloome: 3 pallets of Soil Building Conditioner and 10-50 lb sacks of Rhododendron, Azalea and Camellia Fertilizer

Humboldt Redwood Company: 110 yards of redwood Gorilla hair/shredded redwood bark delivered on site

Singing Tree Gardens: Plants and garden design

Tom Gill: Backhoe work

Tim Walsh, Bobcat and Material hauling

Shafer's Ace Hardware: Forklift to move pallets

Almquist Lumber: 8 yards Shredded Redwood bark

Wes Green Landscape Materials: 5 yards Compost

Greenlot Nursery: Plants

Additional donations were received from: Karen Angel, Laurie Ervin, Paula and Verne Trinoskey, Bill Troiano, Randy Evans, Max Abrahamsen, Bruce and Nelda Palmer, Tim and June Walsh, Jim Bauml and Stacy Schaefer, Larry and Ann Wieland, Jim and Gay Morrison, Don and Peggy Bollinger, Steve Durham and Patricia Girczyc, Jean Guthrie,

WORD OF THE MONTH: YAK

By; Bruce Palmer



Rhododendron yakushimanum

because they are so hardy. Most can survive freezing to 20 degrees below zero Fahrenheit. That is probably because the native habitat for *R. yakushimanum* is an area near the top of the only mountain on the small island of Yakushima in the south of Japan and because the margins of their leaves curl under and protect them from frost damage.



**YAKUSHIMA ISLAND
IN FAR SOUTH JAPAN**



**MT. MIYANOURU ON YAKUSHIMA IS-
LAND WITH YAKS IN FOREGROUND**

This month we will learn about native Japanese Azaleas from Atsuko Gibson. The talk should be quite interesting. Japan is home to a few other native Rhododendrons as well, though most rhodie species are from the Himalayas, primarily in China. It might be useful to explore some things about ***Rhododendron yakushimanum***, commonly referred to as **YAK**. You've probably heard Don Wallace refer to some of the raffle plants as "Yak hybrids", and you may have wondered what that means. Hybrids of *R. yakushimanum* are more common than most other hybrid rhodies, perhaps be-

cause they are so hardy. Most can survive freezing to 20 degrees below zero Fahrenheit. That is probably because the native habitat for *R. yakushimanum* is an area near the top of the only mountain on the small island of Yakushima in the south of Japan and because the margins of their leaves curl under and protect them from frost damage.

Currently there is some tendency to call **YAK** a subspecies of *R. degronianum* (*Rhododendron degronianum* ssp. *yakushimanum*). The two species are both from Japan and are nearly indistinguishable. *R. degronianum* is from the island of Honshu and was described and named after M. Degron, Director of French posts in Yokohama in 1869. Because *R. degronianum* was named much earlier (1869) than *R. yakushimanum* (1921), some taxonomists feel that their similarities make **YAK** a subspecies. That opinion is not shared by everyone.

Kenneth Cox, Scottish author of the most usable recent book on rhodies, says: "...will continue to be called *Rhododendron yakushimanum* whatever botanists think, and they should have left things as they were." (*Rhododendrons and Azaleas – a Colour Guide* – available from the Rhododendron Species Foundation).

Whether **YAKS** belong in a unique species or not, their hybrids will continue to be popular. Most of us have some of them in our gardens and their trusses will bring us great enjoyment in a couple months.

Author provided pictures and text.

Eureka Chapter/American Rhododendron Society
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Eureka Chapter Newsletter is published monthly except during July, August and November.

Submissions from members are encouraged and should be sent to June Walsh, Newsletter Editor, by email RhodyHostel@suddenlink.net
Membership information and applications are available from Ellen Gill. Htg1anderg@suddenlink.net

Eureka Chapter is a member of the **Humboldt Botanical Gardens**, 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



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Future Programs

January 24, 2019
February 28, 2019
March 28, 2019
April 25, 2019
April 26, 27, 28, 2019
May 23, 2019
June 2, 2019

Japanese Azaleas in the Wild
Plant Exploring in China
Exploring Soils
Gardens of Seattle
Rhododendron Show and Sale
Member's Mini Show, Let us See Your Bloomers
Members' Garden Tour and Potluck Picnic

Atsuko Gibson
Glen Jamieson
James Cassiday
Don Wallace

*Chill airs and wintry winds! my ear
Has grown familiar with your song;
I hear it in the opening year,
I listen, and it cheers me long.*

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807–82)



Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden at Humboldt Botanical Garden
Winter blooms;
Left: *Illicium simonsii*
Right: *Helleborus* 'Heronwood Red'



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