

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter

The next meeting

*Thursday February 27, 7:00 p.m.
Woman's Club
1531 J Street
Eureka, California*

Pre-Meeting No Host Dinner 5:15

*Gallagher's, 139 2nd Street
Old Town Eureka
Call Nelda, 707-443-8049
For a reservation so there will be enough
seating*



*Eureka Chapter
American Rhododendron Society*

*Rhododendrons
in the Redwoods*

February 2020

Plant Hunting for Quarryhill Botanical Garden

The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet on Thursday, February 27 2020. The meeting and program will be held at the Eureka Woman's Club 1531 J Street in Eureka beginning at 7:00 P.M.

This month's program will be "Plant Hunting for Quarryhill Botanical Garden" given by our guest William A. McNamara, Executive Director, Emeritus. Bill says, "Quarryhill's plant hunting expeditions have been, thank goodness, without many serious obstacles or dangerous encounters. Ours have included roads that were closed from avalanches or bad vehicle accidents, inclement weather, and steep mountains. The most dangerous aspect on all of our journeys has been the driving, especially the drivers penchant for passing on blind curves. One of the first phrases I learned in Mandarin was *Qing man man kai* (please drive slower). "

Quarryhill Botanical Garden started in 1987 in the Mayacamas Mountains near Glen Ellen, Sonoma County, California with the mission of making a world class garden using wild collected seed and plant material.

Bill has traveled with horticulturists from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the Howick Arboretum, and others. Bill has botanized extensively in the wilds of Asia. For the past thirty-two years, he has ventured into the mountains of China, Japan, India, Nepal, Vietnam, Bhutan, and Myanmar in search of plants for Quarryhill Botanical Garden. He has received many national and International awards for his work.

He says, "I've pulled off far too many leeches from my bleeding ankles in Sichuan and Yunnan. While crossing a slippery log bridge on a mountain at 10,000 feet I fell into the icy stream below completely drenching myself. I've fallen out of a few trees and fought off monkeys with my walking stick."



Submitted photo; Bill McNamara in Sichuan,

Come share an evening with Bill McNamara as he tells of his travels.

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.

WORD OF THE MONTH – MARCESCENT

By; Bruce Palmer

June Walsh suggested the word for this month, **MARCESCENT** (mahr-SES-uhnt) . It appears to be derived from the Latin *Marcidus*, meaning withered, wasted or weak and *-escere*, to develop. **Marcescent** can be applied to leaves that persist on a plant until new growth



**FIGURE 1
MARCESCENT LEAVES ON
RED OAK**

pushes them off. Our Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*) shows **marcescent** leaves this winter (see figure 1). None of my botanical glossaries mention this application of the word. Instead, the usual use of **marcescent** appears to apply to flower parts. Any parts of the flower that wither but persist as the ovary and receptacle develop into various seed pods (as in the genus *Rhododendron*) or fruits (berries as in the genus *Vaccinium* – blueberries) are said to be **marcescent**. Judging from our photos of the rhodies in our yard, **marcescence** is not common among rhododendrons. It does appear,

though, that the big-leaved fragrant rhodies, the Maddenias, show **marcescence**. The absence or near absence of a calyx is a characteristic of most *Rhododendrons*, but the *Maddenias* have a definite calyx under the tubular petal structure. When the petal tube and the stamens fall off, both the calyx and the style remain; they become **marcescent**. Figures 2 and 3 below show a flower from *Rhododendron* ‘Southern Cloud’ soon after the petal tube has fallen off and later on when the style and calyx are withered (**marcescent**). Whether **marcescence** has an important function for plants is not clear. Nevertheless, **marcescence** is an interesting and intriguing phenomenon.



**FIGURE 2
CALYX AND STYLE PERSISTING
ON
R. ‘SOUTHERN CLOUD’**



**FIGURE 3
MARCESCENT CALYX AND
STYLE ON
R. ‘SOUTHERN CLOUD’**



Rh. 'Cherry Cheesecake'

Plant of the Month

By; Don Wallace

Rhododendron 'Cherry Cheesecake' is a new hybrid created by Briggs Nursery in Washington State. It is an improved version of the registered *Rhododendron* "Hachmann's Charmant". This new version has more chromosomes resulting in thicker stems and leaves, and bigger flowers that last longer. The scrumptious flowers feature a white background with ruffled dark pink and red edges, then a deep red flare on the upper lobe. The combination is like no other! The plant is quite hardy, and can take winter temperatures down to minus 15 F. This hardiness also means it will take more heat as well. R. 'Cherry Cheesecake' has excellent dark-green shiny foliage on a plant that will grow to 4-5 feet tall and a bit wider. It can grow in full sun or shade in our area. The bloom season is April into May. We think this one deserves a standing ovation!

Help Wanted

Wild Weeders and Grateful Deadheaders needed at Humboldt Botanical Garden. Eureka Chapter members Ellen Gill, June and Tim Walsh work every Tuesday from 10 to noon taking care of the Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden. We don't just weed, if you have a special skill we will find a way to use it. If you can join us at that time we would welcome you! If you are available at another time email June at RhodyHostel@Suddenlink.net

Docents are needed! A new docent training class will begin February 15th at Humboldt Botanical Garden and continue for 10 weeks to graduation April 18th.

Contact Eureka Chapter President Max Abrahamsen at rudyabe@aol.com

American Rhododendron Society

75th Anniversary

20/20
VISION



ARS75.org

Looking forward, reflecting back

Portland-Vancouver, April 29-May 3, 2020

ARS Spring International Convention Update

<https://ars75.org/register-now/>

Registrations have now surpassed 200.

Plant sale [vendors](#) are now listed at the website.

The [Post-Tour](#) is SOLD OUT, with a wait-list being taken for a second bus. The current tally on all tours is available on the [registration page](#). room availability at the Heathman Lodge is already getting tight, so please [reserve](#) a.s.a.p.

The Winter edition of JARS is out with a full convention insert and printed registration form; otherwise online registration and print options are available at the convention [website](#).

***Good morrow, Benedick. Why, what's the matter,
That you have such a February face,
So full of frost, of storm and cloudiness?***
–William Shakespeare (1564–1616)

Pruning Rhodos with Chainsaw?

The Redwood Coast Woodturners is a wood turning club. They meet at Almquist Lumber on Boyd Road in Arcata on the second Sunday of every month at 1:00 PM. The Woodturners are looking for unusual woods, fruit tree woods are especially welcome finds, so too, are exotic woods like Rhododendron. If you have wood from your chainsaw they look forward to trying some fun projects. Contact: Sue Cook lscookcool@aol.com



Illicium simonsii in bloom now at Humboldt Botanical Garden. See what Bill McNamara has to say about this beauty.

[https://quarryhillbg.org/
illiciumsimonsii.html](https://quarryhillbg.org/illiciumsimonsii.html)



Winter Bloom at Humboldt Botanical Garden
Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden

Eureka Chapter/American Rhododendron Society
2050 Irving Drive
Eureka, CA 95503-7022

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. Htglanderg@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

February 27, 2020

Bill McNamara, Plant Hunting for
Quarry Hill Botanical Garden

March 26, 2020

Bruce Palmer, Plant Hunting with Joseph Rock

April 23, 2020

Terry Henderson, Propagating Rhododendrons

April 24-26, 2020

48th Annual Eureka Chapter Rhodo Flower Show and Sale

April 29—May 3, 2020

75th Annual ARS Convention Portland

May 28, 2020

Eureka Chapter Member Mini Show,
Let Us See Your Bloomers!

June 7, 2020

Member Garden Tour
and Potluck Picnic

All programs subject to change

In winter I get up at night
And dress by yellow candle-light.
In summer, quite the other way,
I have to go to bed by day.

—Robert Louis Stevenson (1850–1894)



Helleborus
At HBG



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