

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter

The next meeting

*Thursday February 23, 7:00 p.m.
Woman's Club
1531 J Street
Eureka, California*

Pre-Meeting No Host Dinner 5:15

***Bayfront, 1 F St, Eureka
Call Nelda, 707-443-8049
For a reservation
so there will be enough seating***



*Eureka Chapter
American Rhododendron Society*

*Rhododendrons
in the Redwoods*

January 2020

Chinese Gardens a Photo Travelogue

The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet on Thursday, January 23, 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.

Long-time Eureka Chapter members Verne and Paula Trinoskey spent late 2018 exploring Chinese gardens which were the inspiration for the first formal gardens in Japan. Although they are the basis for Japanese gardens that we love so well, they are fundamentally different. The Chinese garden style has a long history going back three thousand years. It includes both the vast gardens of the Imperial family and the wealthy, and the more intimate gardens created by scholars, poets, etc. These scholars' gardens are designed to mimic nature and is reflected in the intimate gardens of the Japanese.

A large Chinese garden is enclosed by walls and includes one or more ponds, rock-works, trees and flowers, and an assortment of halls and pavilions within the garden, connected by winding paths and zig-zag galleries. By moving from structure to structure,



visitors can view a series of carefully composed scenes, unrolling like a scroll of landscape paintings, while the choice of plants and rocks can produce a poetic narrative. One feature that stands out in Chinese gardens is the intricate pathways constructed of contrasting pebbles. This talk, which incorporates a few of the hundreds of photos Verne took, may give you gardeners a few new ideas.

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.

Successfully Growing *Rhododendron occidentale* in **MISSOURI!**

By Rick Edwards, Cedar Creek, Missouri
reprinted from Azalea Chapter Newsletter

Well, it's finally fall at last. We had 90s through the first week of October. It turned fall overnight and three days later we had our first light frost. It's time to check out the *Rhododendron occidentale* (occi) seedlings. First, all of them did pretty well even though summer lasted about 3 weeks longer than normal. We had very uncommon hot drying winds the last 4 or 5 days. That did burn several plants around the yard. The larger occi root-cutting plant was severely burned. It lost leaves and several young winter buds were adversely affected. The smaller plant never lost a leaf. Genetics were definitely in play. The larger plant is a white/gold and the smaller plant is the more common pink/white with gold blotch.

The seedlings were moved to a shade/filtered afternoon light area. Not a single plant appeared to be affected by the 'blow dryer' winds. All locations did very well, but it is very apparent the seedlings from extreme southern CA locations did better—they are larger. They have larger diameter stems and longer leaves. I did not measure all of this with a ruler. I am not conducting a scientific study at this time. I am just trying to figure out how to get them to live here in the mid west. I will leave more scientific approaches to those who want to refine, fine-tune, and raise 'super' plants. I hope that growing *Rhododendron occidentale* east of the Rockies becomes simple enough for folks to take it to that 'next level' of expertise.

I had them arranged in a loose order with southern CA locations on the left and moving further north to southern OR as you pan to the right. As you can see, there is a clear cut difference. Although the northern locations did not do as well as the southern locations, they all survived the very unusual heat of our hottest September ever recorded and the longest summer I can remember. So I am still very pleased.

Considering this is a new success from all accounts for growing *Rhododendron occidentale* east of the Rockies from seed, they did great! Throw in the record hot September and extra weeks of 90 degree weather, I have no complaints. But, let's face it, they don't quite measure up to the southern locations. It's hotter down Mexico way than it is in the Northern California Redwoods! One of my goals is to get the pink genes from the Redwoods to the hot genes from down south!

I also purchased some occidentale seed from the ARS seed exchange. It came from Mike Oliver. They also did very well. These are crosses from some of Mossman and Smith numbered discoveries. I have I think 5 pots and two different crosses. You can see some of them in the photos below.



Citizen Science needs YOU!

By David Anderson (Portland Chapter Member and Eureka Chapter Associate Member)

About a year ago I wanted to know what organisms lived in my small city garden in south-east Portland. At that time I started to post photographs of them on the website iNaturalist where I could keep track of what I was seeing. Frankly I had no idea how many organisms were really in my garden, other than the birds, a few butterflies, honey bees and 'yellow-jackets', a few moths, and the occasional skunk, possum, raccoon, neighborhood cats and rats. After a year of recording I am really surprised at the variety of insects and other organisms that take advantage of my small urban garden. There are things like a European moth, buffalo tree hoppers, ichneumonid wasps, quite a few bee species, and a millipede described 100 years ago from Portland and not mentioned for a hundred years!

In addition to all the insects from my yard, I credit iNaturalist with introducing me to both *Rhododendron albiflorum* and *R. menziesii* because it was during hikes around Mount Hood that I saw plants I had not paid attention to that had azalea like leaves. I knew enough about the distribution of *R. occidentale*, our only west coast azalea, to know that I shouldn't be seeing azaleas on Mount Hood. So, what were these plants with azalea type leaves? iNaturalist helped me find out! Now Andrew and I are out hiking around Mount Hood and Mount St Helens looking for our now favorite native rhododendrons and other organisms.

What is iNaturalist, and how does it work? iNaturalist began as a joint Masters final project in 2008 between three people, and eventually a joint initiative of the California Academy of Sciences and National Geographic. As of November 2019 there were over 29 million observations worldwide of biota on iNaturalist, of which twenty million are from North America. To submit observations to the ever-growing database you first need to register. It is free! Once you see something you have never noticed before, and learn what it is, you may never stop looking for something else you have never seen, or to see where else you might find something new and exciting. All of the observations you and the eight hundred and fifteen thousand other observers submit add to our current knowledge of organisms and help scientists and biogeographers. People with curious minds see something and start to ask more questions. Like, where are *R. albiflorum* found around Mount Hood; where else are they seen; what is their elevation range; what insects live on them; how are they doing; and why are they so hard to grow in gardens? The list of questions just keeps on growing, and all because I wanted to know what was in my yard! Curious minds are after all like sponges that keep asking questions and soak in more and more information. It is like travelling to a new place and wondering what is around the next corner.

Photos of organisms can be added to iNaturalist directly from a cell phone, or from a laptop/tablet. Enabling the gps capability of your phone so photos' EXIF information will be geocoded will make listing observations much easier since you won't have to locate it on a map. The program will give you the chance to identify what you have seen by making suggestions, or you can add the identification if you already know it. The program is generally pretty good at the suggestions it gives, but it does have limitations though! Unfortunately it will identify hybrid rhododendrons as our native *R. macrophyllum*. Other iNaturalist users will come along and verify what you have seen.

What can you do? You don't have lacebugs yet on your rhododendrons? Get a photo of them when they infest your garden and help record their range and spread in the region. What insects pollinate your flowers? By recording pollinators you have a record of their occurrence. Do you travel the state? Record where you see our native rhododendrons! Record the insects you see on those plants, they could be pollinators, pests, or something else. And, who knows? You may just take the next grand prize winner in the local chapter's photo contest with your cell phone! It has been done.

One very important reason to report observations is simple. The climate is changing. It is going to be extremely important to monitor environmental changes on our native rhododendrons and other living organisms. In order to monitor our native rhododendron populations we first need to know where they are currently growing and how healthy those populations are. It will take many people looking and recording populations of our rhododendrons in order for us to know how our favorite plants are doing. Check out inaturalist.org and start looking and recording! You will never know what you will find, but first you have to start looking!



Check out www.inaturalist.org

and start looking and recording!

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Map of observations of Mock Azalea
(*Rhododendron menziesii*) reported on
iNaturalist as of 23 September 2019.

Plant of the Month

Rhododendron 'Carnelian Candy'

Here is one of my new hybrids that won best hybrid rhododendron in our show in 2018. It is *R.* 'Naselle' x (*R.* 'Yellow Rolls Royce' x *R.* 'Malemute'). The plant grows to 6-8 feet tall in 10 years, and holds its foliage for 3 years. The flowers are big with creamy centers and coral edging, and blooms in late April. This plant can grow in full sun or partial shade and be happy. It is one of the most handsome shrubs in my collection. *By Don Wallace*



R. 'Carnelian Candy'

*Late lies the wintry sun a-bed,
A frosty, fiery sleepy-head;
Blinks but an hour or two; and then,
A blood-red orange, sets again.*

—Robert Louis Stevenson (1850–94)



Recipes are rarely included in the Eureka Chapter newsletter, but this one was so highly praised, and asked for, after its appearance at the December potluck that I asked Eureka Chapter member Jeff Clark, who brought it, for the recipe. Thank you, Jeff.

Pumpkin Lasagna from Cold Weather Cooking by Sarah Lee Chase

Pumpkin Filling

½ cup unsalted butter
6 leeks, trimmed rinsed and minced
4 cups pumpkin puree
½ cup dry white wine
Salt and pepper to taste

Bechamel Sauce

½ cup unsalted butter
6 Tbl all-purpose flour
2 cups chicken broth
2 cups light cream
1 cup grated parmesan cheese
½ tsp grated nutmeg
3 large eggs, lightly beaten



For Assembly

1 ¼ lbs lasagna noodles (cooked or use the no boil ones)
8 oz thinly sliced prosciutto
¼ cup fresh sage leaves, torn into irregular pieces
1 ½ cups grated parmesan cheese
2 cups walnut pieces, lightly toasted

Preheat oven to 350. Butter a 15 x 10 pan.

Prepare the pumpkin filling: melt butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the leeks and saute, stirring occasionally, until tender, about 15 minutes. Stir in pumpkin puree and the wine cook stirring constantly for 2 minutes. Remove from heat, season with salt and pepper. Set aside.

Prepare the bechamel: Melt butter in a medium saucepan over medium high heat. Add the flour and whisk until smooth, cook stirring constantly for 1 minute. Gradually whisk in the chicken broth and the light cream, cook, stirring constantly until smooth and thick, Stir in the parmesan and season with nutmeg, salt and pepper. Stir ½ cup of the sauce into the beaten eggs in a bowl, then stir the egg mixture into the remaining sauce. Cook a couple minutes longer, stirring constantly. Then remove from heat.

To Assemble: Make a layer of the lasagna noodles (if using no-boil noodles put a little sauce down first), top noodles with half of the prosciutto and a third of the bechamel. Scatter half of the sage leaves evenly over and cover with a layer of noodles. Then put in all of the pumpkin filling and 1 cup of parmesan and 1 cup of walnuts. Make another layer of lasagna noodles and top with the rest of the prosciutto, another third of the bechamel, and the remaining sage leaves. Make a final layer of noodles and top with the remaining bechamel, walnuts and parmesan.

Bake the lasagna in the oven until lightly browned and bubbling, 50-60 minutes. Let cool 10 minutes before cutting. Officially makes 12 servings.

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 23, 2020	Paula Trinoskey, Chinese Gardens
February 27, 2020	Bill McNamara, Plant Hunting, 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 Registration https://ars75.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/reg-form-12419.pdf
May 28, 2020	Eureka Chapter Mini Show, Let Us See Your Bloomers!
June 7, 2020	Member Garden Tour and Potluck Picnic
<i>All programs subject to change</i>	



Nate Hanks, Chemist
House and Garden, Inc.
4700 West End Rd.
Arcata, CA 95521

The Eureka Chapter received a generous donation of Plant Nutrient, from Arcata based House and Garden.

Everyone who attended the Holiday Potluck got a bottle, call June if you, too, would like a bottle.

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