

## AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

# Eureka Chapter

### Interesting articles to read while in Quarantine:

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Eureka Chapter  
American Rhododendron Society

Rhododendrons  
in the Redwoods

## March 2020

## March 26th meeting has been Canceled

***The Board of Directors of the Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society, under the guidance of President Max Abrahamsen, has canceled the March 26th meeting.***

### **Postpone March Program**

Our octogenarian program speaker, Bruce Palmer, and the demographics of our audience are in the “high risk” category for Covid 19. We are also canceling in consideration of our members who would face a health risk by being exposed to a public gathering. You, Eureka Chapter members, are our community and your health and safety are primary.

In our concern for everyone’s health and safety, the Covid 19 virus national emergency has led us to the inevitable decision to cancel or more positively postpone Bruce’s program. We understand this is a disappointment for many and are sure you understand the dynamics of this global health event.

Eureka Chapter’s ever positive President Max Abrahamsen says, “However, each succeeding moment has something new associated with local postponements or *cancellations* (I do not prefer this word). For instance, the Humboldt Botanical Gardens has suspended its classroom programs, the Birds and Bees and new docent training. Local schools are closing, the Eureka Symphony is canceling its April concerts, etc. On the larger scale, many venues and associations are on hold. We’re all confused and worried. In the big picture, we are simply talking about another Chapter Program”.

### **Status of Rhododendron Show**

In light of many unknowns, the potential severity of the virus, a decision to go forth with the Rhododendron Show and Sale is tougher and much greater in scope. The Eureka Chapter Board will meet on April 1st to make a decision on the status of the April 24– 26th 48th Annual Rhododendron Show and Sale.

**Best wishes for good health to all of our members and friends, until we meet again.**

*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.*



Photo and article by Don Wallace

## Plant of the Month Rhododendron 'Manda Sue'

If you like white flowers with a delicate pink, picotee edge, then R. 'Manda Sue' is for you. This plant will only grow to be 3-4 feet tall and a bit wider in 10 years. The plant is a champ in full sun or some shade, and makes a handsome specimen in the landscape. In some years the flowering is so heavy, the foliage is completely hidden. It is hardy to 0 degrees F. Plant with strong reds or pastel colored rhododendrons for a great show.

To the Thawing Wind

Robert Frost

Come with rain, O loud South-  
wester!

Bring the singer, bring the nester;  
Give the buried flower a dream;  
Make the settled snowbank steam;  
Find the brown beneath the white;  
But whate'er you do tonight,  
Bathe my window, make it flow,  
Melt it as the ice will go;  
Melt the glass and leave the sticks  
Like a hermit's crucifix;  
Burst into my narrow stall;  
Swing the picture on the wall;  
Run the rattling pages o'er;  
Scatter poems on the floor;  
Turn the poet out of door.

## American Rhododendron Society

75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

20/20  
VISION



ARS75.org

**Canceled**  
Looking forward, reflecting back

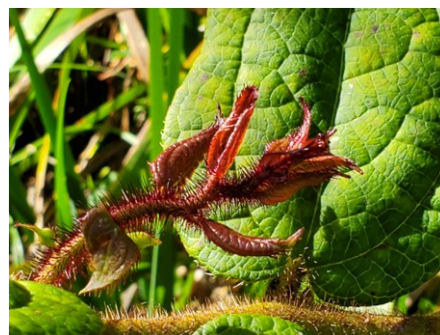
Portland-Vancouver, April 29-May 3, 2020

**Canceled**



### *Gaultheria pseudonotabilis*

This is a cousin to our local *Gaultheria shallon* AKA Salal. It is native to NW Yunnan (Dulongjiang, Gongshan). It has fleshy berries that are NOT tasty. But it is a garden beauty.



XV. 2.



*Cardamine hirsuta* L. 38.

Reichenbach del.

**Revisiting *Cardamine hirsute***, a weed! It is originally from Europe, the Caucasus and North Africa. It is an invasive weed in our Humboldt County gardens. Though it is an annual which generally flowers in fall through winter, here in Coastal Humboldt it flowers and shoots its seeds ALL year. It is a member of the Brassica family and can be eaten as a bitter herb. It has many common names; pop weeds, bitter cress, hairy bitter cress and some unmentionable names. Like many Brassicas it has seeds that burst explosively, casting the seeds far from the parent. If you want to rid your garden of these evil-doer invaders you need to remove the weed before it goes to seed (ha, fat chance!). Remove the pulled plants to the garbage, as the plant's seeds will continue to ripen after being pulled and our home compost bins are generally not hot enough to kill seeds. Some sources suggest using *Cardamine hirsuta* as a winter cover crop! Late summer mulching is suggested to prevent germination. This gardener has not found much that is very effective but patience and diligence...don't turn you're back!

#### Binomial Etymology

*Cardamine* is Dioscorides' (40 –90 AD) name for cress. It is derived from Greek.

*hirsuta* is a diminutive of 'hirsutus', meaning 'somewhat hairy' or 'hirsute'

Revisited from Eureka Chapter Newsletter March 2012

### Wanted! Your Photo Entries for the Rhododendron Show

***This year's show will be April 24th to the 26th so you have the best of spring to start taking your pictures to enter in the show. Here are the rules:***

Entries must be prints, black & white or color. Multiple photographs that constitute one entry should be clearly marked as such.

Group A. Any single photograph that features rhododendrons and/or azaleas as the principle subject.

Group B. Any series or collection of photographs that feature rhododendrons and/or azaleas as the central theme.

1. Photographs are not to exceed 12 inches by 16 inches in size including matting and/or mounting, if used. Frames, glass, canvas, and metal are **not** allowed.

All entries must be picked up by 2:00 pm Sunday, April 26, 2020. The committee will not be responsible for photographs that are left after the show closes.

**Note:** Entrants submit their photographs at their own risk.

## Why do we hate wasps and love bees?

*By Pallab Ghosh. Science correspondent, BBC News, Online edition Sept. 2018*

A new study reveals that wasps are largely disliked by the public, whereas bees are highly appreciated. The researchers involved say that this view is unfair because wasps are just as ecologically useful as bees. The scientists suggest a public relations campaign to restore the wasps' battered image. They'd like to see the same efforts made to conserve them as there currently are with bees. The survey of 750 people from 46 countries has been published in *Ecological Entomology*.

Despised by picnickers, feared for their painful stings - wasps are among the least loved of insects according to this new study. In the survey, participants were asked to rate the insects. The vast majority of responses for bees were positive, whereas it was the complete reverse for wasps. When asked to think of words associated with bees, the most popular for bees were "honey", "flowers" and "pollination". For wasps the most common words that came to mind were "sting", "annoying" and "dangerous".

However wasps also pollinate flowers as well as killing pests and are just as important to the environment as bees. The problem, according to Dr Seirian Sumner, of University College London, who led the research, is that wasps have had a bad press. The public are unaware of all the good things they do so they are regarded as nuisances rather than an important ecological asset. "People don't realize how incredibly valuable they are," she told BBC News.

"Although you might think they are after your beer or sandwich - they are, in fact, much more interested in finding insect prey to take back to their nest to feed their larvae." Dr Sumner also discovered that there is a lack of research into the mostly positive impact wasps have on the environment. She analyzed scientific research papers and conference presentations for bees and wasps over the last 37 years and 16 years respectively.

Of the 908 papers sampled, only 2.4% wasp publications were found since 1980, compared to 97.6% (886 papers) bee publications. Of the 2,543 conference abstracts on bees or wasps from the last twenty years, 81.3% were on bees. This lack of research is stalling efforts to develop conservation strategies for wasps, whose numbers are declining because of loss of habitat and climate change according to Dr Alessandro Cini of the University of Florence, who collaborated on the study.

Wasps, often encountered on picnics, have a poor reputation with the public. Researchers say that wasps carry out as many valuable ecological services as bees. The sting of a wasp is feared, but only one percent of the creatures sting.

### **Here is what you should do if you are attacked by an angry swarm.**

"They usually only sting when they feel threatened", said Natalie Bungay, technical officer at the British Pest Control Association (BPCA).

"The problem is a wasp in distress emits a pheromone that sends nearby colony members into a defensive, stinging frenzy," said Ms Bungay.

"That's right - scare a wasp and it might call for backup."

Although it may be easier said than done, NHS advice is **not** to wave your arms around or swat at wasps but **remain calm** and **move away slowly**.

And in case you had any other creative ideas to give them the slip, wasps will not be fooled by anyone who tries to "play dead".

"Do not seek shelter in a body of water, as the wasps will simply wait for you to re-emerge,"

If you are stung you should pull out any stings left in the skin and wash the area with soap and water, according to NHS advice.

Doctors recommend applying ice to the site for 10 minutes and elevating the area to reduce swelling.

You can also take over-the-counter remedies such as antihistamines and painkillers.

*Editor's note: Having encountered wasps at home and Humboldt Botanical Garden I have found that knowing where they are helps prevent stings. **String trimmers, lawn mowers** and **hedge trimmers** have usually been the culprits to bring on a squadron of wasps. Wasps really don't want to spend their energy on fending us off when they can be hunting bugs.*

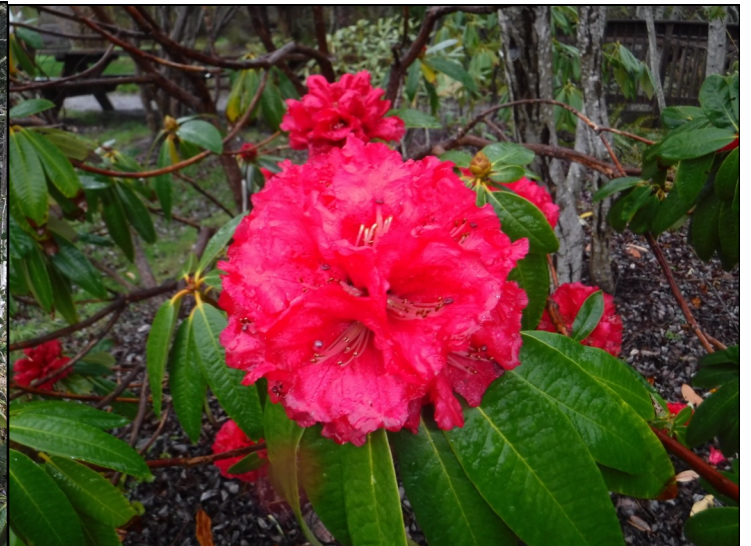


You could make a fine stir fry of wasps as Bill McNamara showed us in February. (Left Photo by Bill McNamara)



Left, *Rhododendron protistum*  
 Lower left, *Rhododendron grande*  
 Lower right, *Rhododendron* 'Rubaiyat'  
 (a selected clone of *Rhododendron arboreum*)

All of these rhododendrons reside and thrive at Humboldt Botanical Garden. The *R. protistum* and *R. grande* came from the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington. The Eureka Chapter is a member of both botanical gardens.



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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](mailto:RhodyHostel@suddenlink.net)  
Membership information and applications are available from Ellen Gill. [Htglanderg@suddenlink.net](mailto: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](http://www.EurekaRhody.org)



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### Future Programs

March 26, 2020

**Canceled**

April 23, 2020

**To be determined April 1st**

Terry Henderson, Propagating Rhododendrons

April 24-26, 2020

**To be determined April 1st**

48th Annual Eureka Chapter  
Rhodo Flower Show and Sale

April 29—May 3, 2020

**Canceled**

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, NO kidding!*

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[www.ARSStore.org](http://www.ARSStore.org)

These vendors send the ARS a small commission based on your purchase which benefits the ARS and does not cost you anything.

### 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