

Eureka Chapter

The next meeting
Thursday October 22, 7:00 p.m.
Via ZOOM!



Eureka Chapter
American Rhododendron Society

Rhododendrons
in the Redwoods

October 2020

Zoom in with Bruce Palmer and Joseph Rock

*The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet on Thursday, **October 22, 2020**. The meeting and program will be held via Zoom beginning at 7:00 P.M. You may join the meeting as early as 6:30 for some socializing and help with Zoom if needed.*

Join Zoom Meeting

Topic: Eureka Chapter October Meeting

Time: Oct 22, 2020 06:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Click Here: <https://zoom.us/j/98354223137>

Meeting ID: 983 5422 3137

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,98354223137# US (San Jose)

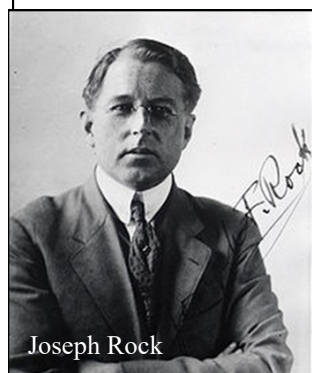
Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 983 5422 3137

Eureka Chapter's own Bruce Palmer began his career as a science and math teacher at Ferndale High School in Humboldt County California in 1960. In 1968, he had the opportunity to start the biology program at the University of Hawai'i's new Maui Community College. Bruce taught lower division biology courses there for 25 years, retiring in 1993 as Chief Academic Officer (Dean of Instruction) of the college.

Bruce and Nelda moved back to Humboldt County at that time. Since Bruce's retirement, he has remained active in his field by volunteering at the Humboldt Botanical Garden, being an active member of the Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society, and by writing a column on biological terms for the Eureka Chapter's monthly newsletter and word articles for the *Journal of the American Rhododendron Society*. Bruce was the recipient of the University of Hawai'i Regents' Medal for Excellence in Education in 1975 and the American Rhododendron Society's Gold Medal in 2015.



Joseph Rock

The first half of this talk begins with plant collection by the Egyptians then works forward through the Greek and Roman periods and onward with information about the dark ages and the age of exploration, culminating with Joseph Rock in 1900. The second half deals with the life and accomplishments of Joseph Rock and his importance to the success of the American Rhododendron Society.



Bruce Palmer

President Max's message:

Our Chapter has joined the bandwagon of the ARS Chapters seeking new ways to entertain our members in lieu of having the normal social gatherings. While the Board is digging underground with Zoom or YouTube or PowerPoint or emails; new systems to educate, posting stunning plant photos or having an informative video interview, I am reminded that this is all about that beautiful rhododendron in the redwood understory. While we get lost in the preparations, the rare species and the million hybrids there from, could care less. In fact, my guess is the plants feel a sort of relief from the normal attention we give to their magnifi-



cent colors, unexpected scents, and beautiful textured leaves all from the soil up. As the bystander on the corner of 16th and J Street is heard crying: "A rhododendron is a rhododendron, lest we forget". So, while this Chapter's board works to prepare for change, we do it for you – the best and most loyal membership that has followed us for over thirty years! We salute the great plants, the great members, and 'cheers' to new ways in which to entertain everyone while we safely remain indoors and talk on our cell phones or watch the real life on a laptop! It is our hope this new season provides you with a sense of enjoyment to help offset all the challenges before us. Remember, we can always go outside and plant another rhody!

Max Abrahamsen
Eureka Chapter President

ZOOM Practice Sessions

In case you may not have experienced a Zoom meeting online or would like a little more practice ahead of the October 22nd chapter meeting, please join us for a practice session or consider joining the meeting with a friend who can Zoom with you. Casual attitude and attire!

Zoom tip: Show yourself in the best light! Face the light, with your back to the darker side of the room.

Zoom tip, too: Turn your volume up BEFORE you join the meeting.

Topic: Eureka Chapter Zoom Tutorial

Time:

Oct 18, 2020 06:30 PM

Oct 20, 2020 06:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96853687159>

Meeting ID: 968 5368 7159

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,96853687159# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 968 5368 7159

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/abHm021TOI>

Word of the Month– Phytoncide

By Bruce Palmer

Late last year we discussed immunity as applied to plants. Plants have so many immune responses to pests and other plants that the topic deserves more discussion. The general term for a substance that a plant secretes to protect itself is **PHYTONCIDE**. The term derives from the Greek *phyto*, plant and *-cyde*, killer. It sounds as if it means that the substance kills plants, but Wikipedia's short (11 lines) treatment of **Phytoncide** has the meaning as “exterminated by the plant”, translated from Russian in 1928.

In addition to those we discussed in the previous article, there are a number of **phytoncides** that are used on animals and people, including digitalis (derived from foxgloves) for heart problems and colchicine (derived from a species of crocus) for gout. Perhaps the best known is Pyrethrin, an insecticide derived from the Dalmatian Carnation, now grown commercially mostly in the mountains of Kenya.

As plant enthusiasts, we should concentrate on **phytoncides** secreted by plants that affect other plants. The term for the effect of **phytoncides** is **allelopathy** (Greek *allelon*, each other or mutual, and *pathos*, to suffer). Allelopathic is used mainly in horticulture and agriculture and presents a semantic problem in biology because alleles (an old term, dating to 1900) are variations of gene expression at a specific location on a chromosome.

Many plants secrete **phytoncides** to inhibit the growth of competing plants, often both of the same species and of others. In agriculture there are a number of plants that do this to protect themselves from



Eucalyptus spp. Showing lack of undergrowth

competition. If you want an orchard that you don't have to weed, plant Black Walnuts (*Juglans nigra*). Walnuts secrete a **phytoncide** Juglone from leaves, nut hulls and roots to prevent germination of nearby plants. In nature there are abundant examples. Let's look at two. On Maui, where Nelda and I lived for twenty-five years, two examples of introduced trees stand out. Several species of *Casuarina*, the Australian Pine or Ironwood, were introduced to stabilize beach sand. They did so with a vengeance but nothing else will grow under them. More than sixty species of *Eucalyptus* were introduced to Hawaii to be used as windbreaks and for fuel in sugar processing.



Casuarina spp. Showing lack of undergrowth

You may have noticed this phenomenon among the eucalyptus trees between Highway 101 and the railroad beside the Green Diamond mill. Nothing much seems to grow under the trees except other eucalypts.

As has been said before, all of these substances are by-products of metabolism. Plants don't have kidneys, livers or sweat glands to get rid of toxic waste, so they have to resort to other methods of waste disposal. A final example related to **phytoncide** effects on humans might be instructive. If you are addicted to tapioca pudding, this might get your attention. Tapioca is derived from the roots of the Cassava or Manioc plant (*Manihot esculenta*). Cassava starch is the third largest source of starch worldwide, behind rice and maize but ahead of wheat. Manioc plants will grow anywhere in the tropics and require very little care. There is one problem: the roots are poisonous if eaten raw. One of the waste products stored in their tubers is cyanide. The tubers must be boiled before they are safe to eat. Luckily, tapioca has to be cooked and processed to produce those delicious little spheres we love so much, so it arrives in your kitchen free of its **phytoncides**.



Plant of the Month ***Rhododendron 'Aurora'.***

Rhododendron 'Aurora' was created by Lionel de Rothschild (1882– 1942) in the 1920's. This rare and unusual rhododendron is a parent of the famous 'Naomi' grex of hybrids. The 'Naomi' hybrids being both lovely and fragrant were created by crossing another hybrid R. 'Kewense' with the species *R. thompsonii*. 'Kewense' is the same cross as the famous 'Loderi group', with such cultivars as 'Loderi King George' and 'Loderi Venus'. 'Aurora' is not as fragrant as the Loderi rhododendrons, but it does have slight fragrance, and has a beautiful flower. The plant grows 5-6 feet tall and 7-8 feet wide in 10 years and has handsome rounded leaves. Blooming takes place in May. Hardy to 5 deg F.

By Don Wallace

Fall is Membership Renewal Time

...Renewing, Joining or Re-joining time if you are a lapsed member.

If you are a renewing member you will have received with your September newsletter a self-addressed STAMPED envelope to enclose your membership payment. Our Membership Chief is Ellen Gill, who will need your encouragement to complete her work on your behalf.

NEW MEMBERS GET A FREE PLANT, too! If you receive this newsletter by email and are not a member, please consider JOINING the Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society today. I have included a membership application form for you, just click the link below.

The Chapter still has a few plants left from the Spring sale at \$7 each, a life time gift for your family and friends.

Become a member ON LINE, for NEW members only.

<https://eurekarhody.org/membership/>

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Remembering Long-time Eureka Chapter Member Mary Alice Hoyle

MaryAlice Hoyle (formerly MaryAlice Comstock) passed away on September 16, 2020. She is survived by her husband of 14 years, Burton Hoyle, her daughter Michelle Cox, two sons, Michael and Mark Phlegar, 3 granddaughters, Jenny, Jessica and Treasure and 4 great grandsons.

MaryAlice was born August 21, 1929 and raised in Chicago, IL with one brother. MaryAlice not only had a wonderful smile, but she was blessed with musical ability and talent. She was a singer in the Episcopal Church choir in the Chicago area and because of her good voice the choir leader saw to it that she was well trained.

One of her first jobs in Chicago was ushering in some of the large downtown theaters. She became an expert on the actors and singers in those early years. Her husband Burt recalls that: "her favorite movies were those by TCM

(Turner Classic Movies) and even after all these years she could tell me the names of the actors."

MaryAlice moved to California in the 1960's where she sang and danced in the Music Circus in Sacramento. Another one of her earlier careers was selling real estate in Santa Rosa, CA. Later, after moving to Humboldt she was a volunteer financial advisor at the Humboldt Senior Resource Center.

Moving to Humboldt she met and married Rodger Comstock in February 1974. This was about the same time that she met her current husband, Burton Hoyle. Burton, along with his first wife, True Dolson Hoyle, met Rodger and MaryAlice at the downtown Arcata Rotary club in the 1970s and accompanied them for years in this area. Tragically both True and Rodger died of Parkinson's disease within three years of each other.

MaryAlice married Burton J. Hoyle on June 9th, 2006 at the Arcata Presbyterian Church. Burton, a retired research scientist from the University of California Davis, was 89 and MaryAlice was 79.

In Arcata MaryAlice was in every singing group she had time for, including the Humboldt State University choir, the Merry Melody Makers of the Senior Center, Church choirs and others. She always sang God Bless America at the Veterans Annual meeting.

MaryAlice loved deep sea fishing in small boats and clamming on the mud flats in Humboldt bay followed by parties at the King Salmon restaurant.

As an active Rotarian she was in many projects and a regular blood donor. Next to Fishing she loved dancing, gardening, her cats and building one of the best rock gardens in the area. She had truckloads of rock delivered and covered the entire yard at her residence in Hillside with pathways, waterfalls, and a pond with fish. She installed the rock herself and wore her fingers to the bone doing so! Unfortunately, the fence around the yard keeps the garden from being seen from the street.

She was a charter member of the Humboldt Botanical Gardens and a member of the American Rhododendron society and several other garden clubs. She had many other plants around the house.

Burton recalls: "We had 14 good years together at the end our lives. We would hike the beaches and look at real estate. Towards the end she developed severe memory loss and could not remember my name. But she

developed small ways to let me know that she still loved me. She had a special smile for me and a kiss, right to the end when I was 101 years old."



Photo of Burt and MaryAlice as newly weds!

Editors Note: When MaryAlice and Burt married 14 years ago I had the opportunity to send them a happy anniversary card every year. Both MaryAlice and Burt had big smiles everytime I saw them sitting in the front row at Eureka Chapter Rhododendron meetings.

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. 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

All in-person meetings and programs are suspended as we deal with the health concerns of Covid 19. We will be bringing you some online programming and live meetings using ZOOM and will keep you posted. Please check www.EurekaRhody.org for updates, informative articles, old newsletters and hopefully a program or two.

The Eureka Chapter Telephone-tree callers will be on the phone to keep you up-to-date with anything new. Tell them thank you for their calls!

ZOOM Programs

October 22, 2020	Bruce Palmer, Plant Hunter Joseph Rock
November	No meeting, Enjoy a virtual feast with family and friends
December 3, 2020	Presentation to be announced
January 28, 2021	Steve McCormick and John Stephens, Rhodos in Finland
February 25, 2021	Glen Jamieson, Travels up the Salween River, Yunnan
March 25, 2021	Presentation to be announced
April 22, 2021	Presentation to be announced
May 27, 2021	Mini Show
June 6, 2021	Members' Gardens Tour and Bring-your-own-Picnic

All programs subject to change

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