

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## Eureka Chapter

September 2020

New Beginnings  
Membership Year 2020/2021



Eureka Chapter  
American Rhododendron Society

Rhododendrons  
in the Redwoods

*The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society has suspended all in-person programs until the Covid-Coast is clear. We hope to bring you alternate programming soon.*

President Max's Message:

To our wonderful membership:

September marks the beginning of our new Chapter year, 2020-2021. It is also the most unusual and challenging year for non-profits, such as our Chapter. The pandemic changes the way we interact with our membership. In lieu of having programs at the Woman's Club, the board has been meeting to provide creative ways in which to provide information and education for your enjoyment.

For Regular \$40 renewing memberships you will pay \$10. The Chapter will pay up to \$30 for all membership levels, so if you renew as a \$75 sustaining member you will pay \$45 and the chapter will pay the remaining \$30. The Chapter will subsidize \$30 cost that is remitted to the American Rhododendron Society for each renewal. We will send this fee to the ARS on your behalf!!!

Let's make this the greatest year, despite all challenges. We proudly look forward to your renewal, and we ask for your patience as we develop creative ways to make your membership the best we can!

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

Thank you!

*Max Abrahamsen*

Chapter President



*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.*

**At membership renewal time we give you the opportunity to make gift contributions to several American Rhododendron Society projects and a few projects close to the Eureka Chapter's members' interests. Last year Eureka Chapter members made additional gifts of over \$1000!**

**Eureka Chapter:** General Fund, this fund pays for the newsletter printing and postage for those who get their newsletter by snail instead of email, supplies and food for potlucks, and meeting room rental.

### **American Rhododendron Society:**

**General Fund:** this fund pays for ARS support, the Journal, the web site.

**Research Foundation:** this funds scientific research projects. Information derived from the projects yield practical benefits for growing or enjoying rhododendrons, or yield new insights into the biology, geographical distribution or history of rhododendrons.

**Endowment Fund:** income from this fund is used to provide grants to worthwhile projects and activities in accordance with the Society's mission. Humboldt Botanical Garden's Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden has been a recipient of this fund.

**Seed Exchange:** helps support the collection and dissemination of seed.

**Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden:** Located in Federal Way WA is one of the largest collections of Rhododendrons from around the world. Scientific research, plant collection and protection of the environments in which rhododendrons grow.

**Humboldt Botanical Garden, Moss Temperate Woodland Garden:** donations to this fund are used for maintenance, irrigation, new plant identification labels and new plantings.

**Hospice of Humboldt Garden Project:** Starting in December 2018 the Eureka Chapter planted a rhododendron garden and installed irrigation near the inpatient rooms. This fund is for the next phases of the garden.

**Eureka Woman's Club:** We have been meeting at the Eureka Woman's Club for quite a few years and have enjoyed the upgraded toilets. Our Chapter has contributed to the wonderful big screen and new audio system. This year the building is scheduled for a complete facelift outside. Old lead-based paint will be scraped and hauled away and new paint will be applied. The Eureka Chapter Board of Directors have approved \$5,000 donation towards this project...More is needed to complete the job.



### **vaccinate**

#### **MEANING:**

*verb tr., intr.:*

1. To administer a vaccine to produce immunity against a disease.
2. To immunize against something.

#### **ETYMOLOGY:**

From Latin vacca (cow), because in the beginning the cowpox virus was used against smallpox. Earliest documented use: 1803.

Check out <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cowpox> for more information



## WORD OF THE MONTH – PIGMENT

By Bruce Palmer

In May 2015 I chose anthocyanin as the word because of its importance in determining flower color and in coloring new leaves in spring and old ones in autumn. Anthocyanins are only one of a number of molecules that absorb and reflect colors in plants, so this month let's discuss some of the other **PIGMENTS** in leaves. The word **pigment** descends to us directly from Middle English and is derived from the Latin *pingere*, to paint.

At this time of year, most of the **pigments** associated with flower and leaf color are absent or not obvious. **Chlorophyll** (Greek *chlros*, green, and *phyllon*, leaf) still shows in plants with evergreen leaves such as most of our rhododendrons (Figure 1 shows *Rhododendron macabeanum* working away last week). The **pigments** we call **chlorophylls** (there are about six different **chlorophylls**, only two of which are present in flowering plants) are still busy absorbing the colors of light at each end of the spectrum to produce chemical energy for the plant in the process we call photosynthesis. Chlorophylls reject green light, reflecting it so that we see green leaves.

**Chlorophylls** don't act in isolation. Accessory **pigments**, sometimes called antenna molecules, capture light energy and transport it to the chlorophyll molecules. **Xanthophyll** (Greek *xanthos*, yellow, and *phyllon*, leaf) is a yellow accessory pigment and **Carotene** (Latin, *carota*, a carrot) is orange. Both are accessory pigments to **chlorophyll**. Both **xanthophyll** and **carotene** are in a group of pigments called **Carotenoids**. They are present in leaves but don't show as long as the leaf is healthy because they are far outnumbered by **chlorophyll** molecules.

Deciduous plants recycle their **chlorophyll** as the days get shorter and colder. As the **chlorophyll** disappears the **pigments** that helped **chlorophyll** capture light remain behind. They give us most of the yellow and orange leaf colors in the fall. Some plants, though, have red leaves in the fall. The red is from **anthocyanins**, produced in the autumn to ward off damage from the remaining sunlight as the plant is reclaiming the last remnants of useful molecules and sending them to the stems and roots for winter storage. Figure 2 shows Japanese maple leaves fallen in autumn. The yellow leaves have mostly **xanthophyll**, the orange ones mostly **carotene**, the red ones mostly **anthocyanin**. The green leaves belong to perennial herbs still working away in spite of cool, short days.

So, here we are in "Rhododendron Central", before the rainy season in what we hope will be a normal rain year. The leaves from the deciduous trees are beginning to show fall color. Our rhodies, though, are still at work producing molecules that can be used in the spring months to give us our fabulous blooms. Judging from the developing buds, it should be a great 2021 flower season.

Modified and Reprinted from January 2016

Figure 1: *Rhododendron macabeanum* carrying on photosynthesis in winter.



Figure 2: Japanese Maple leaves on the ground showing xanthophyll, carotene and anthocyanin



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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. [Htg1anderg@suddenlink.net](mailto: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](http://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 attempting to bring you some online programming and will keep you posted. Please check the Eureka Chapter web site [www.EurekaRhody.org](http://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!*



R. 'Chevalier Felix de Savage'

## Plant of the Month

### ***Rhododendron* 'Chevalier Felix de Savage'.**

This older rhododendron is a hybrid of the species *Rhododendron caucasicum*, is one of the parents of the famous and popular *Rhododendron* 'Mrs. G.W. Leak'. A plant that is hardy to -5 deg F. and also very drought tolerant and maintenance free. The flowers come out in late February or early March among the first to bloom here in our gardens. The distinctive dark strawberry blotch in the upper lobe adds a regal and elegant flair. Almost lost to the trade, at Singing Tree Nursery we have been propagating it to keep it going. *By Don Wallace*

Your Eureka Chapter Board of Directors have agreed to serve until an election can be held. Please thank them for their generosity.

## 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 6PM via Zoom, call or email June Walsh 707-443-0604