

Eureka Chapter

April 2021

The next meeting
Thursday April 22nd,
6:55 p.m.

Zoom *see page 2 for details*



Eureka Chapter
American Rhododendron Society

Rhododendrons
in the Redwoods

The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet on Thursday, April 22, 2021. The meeting and program will be held Via Zoom beginning at 6:55 P.M.

Atsuko Gibson will be our guest Zoom presenter for our April meeting. She is the Nursery Manager and Assistant Curator at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington. Originally from Japan, Atsuko has a degree in horticulture from the University of Arkansas and has interned at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. She propagates species rhododendrons from seeds, cuttings, and by grafting while managing the 2-acre nursery at the RSBG.

Many of you may have visited the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden during the peak bloom season from March to May to see the species rhododendrons in bloom. However, there is a lot more to see throughout the year. Species rhododendrons start blooming in December and some bloom through the summer until as late as September. All year long there are Vireyas in bloom in the Rutherford Conservatory! Atsuko will talk about the seasonal changes in the garden and the companion plants that add additional color to the garden.

In addition to rhododendrons there is a fantastic meadow of *Meconopsis* blue poppies and the giant *Cardiocrinum giganteum* lilies. There is also a Stumpery filled with ferns and delicate ground covers. (Submitted Photo of Atsuko Gibson with Giant Lily)



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.

Come Zoom to the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden WITH Atsuko Gibson

Topic: The RSBG Through the Seasons

Time: **Thursday April 22, 2021 6:55 PM** Pacific Daylight Time

You may join us as early as 6:30 p.m. to know that you have a good connection with the meeting, get settled in and have a chance to visit with other guests before the presentation. Bring a rhody to share on your screen.

The meeting will begin at 7:00 sharp, so please be sure to be joined in no later than 6:55 p.m.

To Join The Zoom Meeting click this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/99120170578>

Meeting ID: 991 2017 0578

Mobile +16699009128,,99120170578#

Dial Option: +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Links to this meeting and more are available at

www.EurekaRhody.org



Annual Plant Sale On-line and in Person

The Sale inventory may be viewed at <https://eurekarhody.org/plantsale/>

April 23, 24, 25

Members Only 10 AM- 2 PM, non-members may buy membership on site before shopping,

2027 Irving Drive, Eureka CA (Humboldt Hill)

Special *Members only* prices!!!

April 26 to May 15

By Appointment, Call

Tim and June

707-498-2337 or

email plantsale@eurekarhody.org



Rhodo 'California Gold'
With *Omphalodes cappadocica*

*April is here! Blithest season of all the year;
The little brook laughs as it leaps away;
The lambs are out on the hills at play.
—Eben E. Rexford (1848–1916)*

Plant of the Month: *Rhododendron stenopetalum* var. 'Linearifolium'

By Don Wallace

Very thin strap-like leaves and flower petals characterize this unusual rhododendron species. The species *Rhododendron stenopetalum* is native to Japan, but this form 'Linearifolium' is not found growing in the wild, so is considered a cultivar. The plant will grow 3ft tall and the same wide, and has a soft and fluffy appearance. Often flowering in late spring and again in autumn. There are several cool hybrids from this cultivar that are worth growing. 'Koromo Shikibu' makes a cloud of pink when in full bloom, and is one of the most spectacular. 'Purple Dragon' has larger flowers, and will make a shrub 5 ft tall x 8 ft wide over time. This one flowers almost year-round. I received 'Pink Spider' from Chip Lima in Scotland as a cutting a few years ago, and now have some plants. I haven't seen a large specimen of this one yet, but the flower is quite flashy.



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April 23, 24, 25, Members Only 10 AM- 2 PM, non-members may buy membership on site before shopping, 2027 Irving Drive, Eureka CA

April 26 to May 15, By Appointment, call Tim and June Walsh 707-498-2337

or email plantsale@eurekarhody.org

Need directions? Call 707-498-2337

*Again rejoicing Nature sees
Her robe assume its vernal hues,
Her leafy locks wave in the breeze,
All freshly steep'd in morning dews.
– Robert Burns (1759 – 96)*



Contests for Shutter-bugs and a Virtual Nova Scotia Rhodo Convention

1. Next Generation (NG) Photo Competition. A photo contest in the "student" category. Submissions must be received by May 25, 2021. Cash awards. See Competition rules, eligibility and sponsored cash awards can be found on ARS website:

<https://www.rhododendron.org/index.htm> (short announcement)

https://www.rhododendron.org/next_gen_photocontest.htm (rules)

2. ARS 2021 Photo Contest. Photos must be taken before 7/31/21 and submitted by no later than midnight, July 31, 2021 to: Glen Jamieson at ars.editor@gmail.com. Dave Banks sent an email with the rules for the photo contest. I cannot find them posted anywhere on the ARS website, so here are the rules:

2021 ARS Photo Contest Rules

The Contest is open only to ARS members in good standing as of the contest closing date. Judges and their immediate family (spouse, parents, siblings, and children) and household members are not eligible. By participating in the Contest, each entrant fully and unconditionally agrees to and accepts these Official Rules and the decisions of the Judges, which are final and binding in all matters related to the Contest. There are no prizes except bragging rights, and the Editor of JARS has the right to publish runner up and winning entries.

All photos submitted must have been taken prior to July 31, 2021, and not have been entered in a JARS photo contest previously, a change made last year, and is being continued on a trial basis at the request of some ARS members. Entries must be received by midnight PST, July 31, 2021. All entries should prominently feature either rhododendrons, azaleas and/or vireyas in the composition. Competition categories:

- 1) Flower, truss or spray;
- 2) Plant in bloom;
- 3) Landscape or plants in the wild or in gardens;
- 4) Foliage;
- 5) People, Insects, or Animals; and
- 6) Other, for creative or artistic effects of any kind that involves these plants. This could involve the use of software products like PhotoShop.

Photo Guidelines:

- 1) The Photo must be in .jpg, .jpeg, or .gif;
- 2) Images submitted should be sent by email and be of modest size, about 1024 to 1280 pixels in length and 480 to 768 in width, which would correspond to a dpi of at least 300 for a 3 x 5 in (7.6 x 12.7 cm) photo;
- 3) Cropping of digital images and minor adjustments to exposure and color balance is permitted for entries in all categories. Advanced image editing features available in software products like Photoshop should not be used except for entries in category six;
- 4) The Photo caption and/or description must not exceed 200 characters in length. Provision of some details about the camera and settings for each entry is also desirable, and for submissions in category 6, include a brief explanation of how the image was created;
- 5) The Photo cannot have been submitted previously in an ARS contest (chapter contest submissions are acceptable); and 6) The number of entries by any individual per category is restricted to two.

3. ARS Annual Convention June 3 - 6, 2021. Virtual and Live. "Rhodos Down East: Exploring the North Atlantic Region". Register at [2021 ARS Convention in](#)

Word of the Month—BOLT

By Bruce Palmer

This month's word is **BOLT**. **Bolt** has myriad meanings, but in botany the nearest is probably derived from the Old French *buleterer*, to separate. I hit upon this word because, harking back to my youth in Shasta County, from a distance I mistook a **bolting** truss of R. 'Loderi King George' for a buckeye. I was quickly corrected but realized that **bolting** is something not yet covered in the Word. **Bolting** is typically applied to herbaceous plants, but the process is widely applied by flowering plants including shrubs and trees. Currently in our yard the plant showing **bolting** most obviously is *Clintonia andrewsiana*, a beautiful, red-flowered lily endemic to the California coast from Monterey County to Del Norte County.



Clintonia andrewsiana
FLOWER STEM BOLTING



R. 'Countess of Haddington'
BOLTING TRUSS

Plants in general make many more molecules than they require for maintenance. In late summer and early fall they store the components for making proteins and chlorophyll in the spring. This is most obvious in deciduous trees. As the temperature drops and the days shorten, the color of leaves turns from green to various shades of yellow, orange and red. What is happening is that the trees are dismantling chlorophyll because photosynthesis is no longer efficient. They save nitrogen and magnesium in their stems and roots for constructing chlorophyll the next year. The bright colors left behind are the accessory pigments that were in the leaves all along but were obscured by the chlorophyll.

In late winter and early spring, as the temperature moderates and the days lengthen, the plant hormones gibberellin and auxin respond, causing stems to lengthen, leaf buds to grow and flower stalks to **bolt** and then bloom forth to attract pollinators. Often, the new leaves are colored bright red to prevent sunburn as they harden and the concentration of chlorophyll increases to obscure the red pigments.

At this point I can't resist digressing from flowers to vaccines. If you have not already gotten your vaccine, you should make an appointment and **bolt** right out and get one. I notice that some of us are reluctant to get the new RNA-based vaccines, thinking they were developed too rapidly, coming like a **bolt** out of the blue. That is not accurate. The concept that fats and oils (lipids) form tiny bubbles when immersed in water and can absorb proteins, DNA and RNA dates back at least forty years. The idea of using this fact to control the actions of bacteria and viruses has been applied for more than ten years. China discovered the genome of the corona virus and released it publicly in December, 2019, making it possible to construct the new vaccines for widespread testing immediately. The idea is new and scary, but there is no way the new vaccines can harm you in any major, permanent way.

So here we are again, noticing the trusses **bolting** at the beginning of the rhodie blooming season. We can't have a flower show again this year, but we can enjoy the captivating displays in our yards and perhaps share their beauty online.

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

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

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

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|--------------------|---|
| April 22, 2021 | Atsuko Gibson, Four Seasons at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden |
| April 23, 24, 25 | 10 AM- 2 PM, Plant Sale, Members Only, non- members may buy membership on site before shopping, 2027 Irving Drive, Eureka CA (end of the street) |
| April 26 to May 15 | Plant Sale, By Appointment, Call Tim and June 707-498-2337 or email plantsale@eukekarhody.org |
| May 27, 2021 | Mike Stewart, Dwarf and Small Leaf Rhododendrons |
| May and June 2021 | Members' Gardens Tours. The tours will be held over several weekend days, one garden per day so that we may limit the number of people in the gardens all at one time. These tours will be for members only and their guests. We will keep you posted on the dates and locations. |
- All programs subject to change*