

## AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

# Eureka Chapter

*The next meeting*  
**Thursday May 27th,**  
**6:55 p.m.**

**Zoom** *see page 2 for details*



Eureka Chapter  
American Rhododendron Society

Rhododendrons  
in the Redwoods

## May and June 2021

## Natures Carpet - Dwarf Rhododendrons

***The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet on Thursday, May 27, 2021. The meeting and program will be held Via Zoom beginning at 6:55 P.M.***

Mike Stewart is a past President of the American Rhododendron Society, and is the Past President of the Rhododendron Species Foundation and Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington. The Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden holds the largest collection of species rhododendrons in the world. (*Editor's note, The Eureka Chapter is a member of the RSBG*)

Mike and his wife Maria, have recently retired as owners of the Dover Nursery. For the past 40 years, they propagated and grew over 1,200 different hybrid and species rhododendrons, shipping each spring to garden centers throughout the US and Canada. Mike received the American Rhododendron Society's highest award, the Gold Medal, for his many contributions in the areas of rhododendron cultivation, preservation, and for the information that he provides to the public.



His presentation *Natures Carpet - Dwarf Rhododendrons from the Higher Elevations* will focus on lepidote species rhododendrons from around the world. He will discuss the growing conditions, range of area found, and where these lepidote plants fit into the rhododendron classification. The program will be complimented with pictures taken in the wild, and the mountainous regions in Asia where they were discovered.

*(Submitted photo)*

*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 with Mike Stewart

Topic: *Natures Carpet - Dwarf Rhododendrons from the Higher Elevations*

Time: **Thursday May 27, 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**

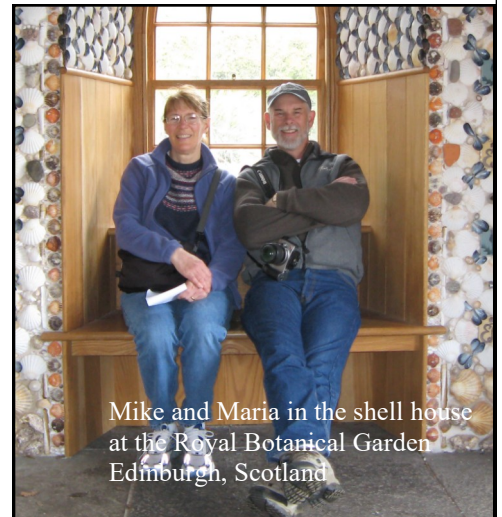
**Mobile** +16699009128,,99120170578#

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

**Links to this meeting and more are available at**

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

If you need a pre-meeting Zoom practice session call June 707-443-0604



Mike and Maria in the shell house  
at the Royal Botanical Garden  
Edinburgh, Scotland

### Plant of the Month: *Rhododendron* 'Wine and Roses'



Lovely rose-pink flowers adorn this new unique rhododendron hybrid by Ken Cox of the Glendoick Nursery in Scotland. The undersides of the leaves are a rich wine-red-purple color, contrasting nicely to the flowers. Grows best in a bit of shade and is hardy to zone 6. The plant has a mounding habit and will be 4 ft tall and wide in 10 years. If planted up on a mound, the undersides of the leaves will be more noticeable. New and very collectible.

*By Don Wallace*



## President's Message

Eureka Chapter President Max Abrahamsen

Welcome! As we wind down this year's activity, I will be concluding my final year as President of the Eureka Chapter! It has been extremely rewarding with so many good memories, activities, mingling with members and guests and helping maintain our Chapter as one of the largest and best. I sincerely thank the board of directors, board committees and all our wonderful, supportive members!

What a memorable year for everyone and everything! This will be our last Newsletter for the 2020- 2021 year. This year caused us to lace up the boots and dive-in to keep everyone informed and entertained. We spruced up our technology skills and went mostly virtual, and it worked! The Eureka Chapter remains a winner!

Here is a summary of our accomplishments this fiscal year:

- Membership - We began the year with 104 members...we now have 111!
- Better Communications. Our new Social Media Committee has mastered Zoom for 7 virtual programs this year. We have successfully established excellent, colorful, informative monthly emails (using the Mail Chimp app) to our members and non-member list.
- Volunteers continue to manage the Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden at the Humboldt Botanical Gardens; we also have a group that installed and maintains a variety of rhododendrons with an overhead irrigation system and maintenance program at Hospice of Humboldt.
- Garden Tours - we have had 4 successful member garden tours, with two more scheduled for June. Thank you so much to those who opened their gardens to our members.
- Plant Sale - this year's plant sale was a huge success. Thank you, Tim & June Walsh and our volunteers for staging the event at the Walsh residence. We still have a small inventory of plants for sale!
- Sphere of Influence - Zoom has broadened our outreach to members from chapters throughout North America, Canada, Finland and France. Our virtual programs typically exceeded 40 online participants, which is equivalent to our regular programs held at the Woman's Club.
- Rekindled friendships. The challenges of this year have brought us closer together with our partner Chapters and the ARS.

Please be reminded that we are seeking new board members for the upcoming year (September 1, 2021 – August 31, 2022). We are working on a new slate of candidates and very interested in filling the President and Vice President positions. Let us know if you are interested in joining.

Spread the word, please! Also, the upcoming year will address going back to 'regular' operations – meaning live programs, plus continuation to utilizing Zoom. We will keep you posted regarding the status of resuming programs at the Eureka Woman's Club.

My best wishes to all!

Max

### **REMAINDER TAG SALE!**

The Eureka Chapter still has plants remaining and they are on sale! You will not have seen 'Martin 241' before, and YOU SHOULD, WOW! We also have a few 'Bruce Brechtbill' and it's an amazing plant! Think of R. 'Unique', which is all around town in a fine cream-colored bloom, in a "unique" pinkish color...gorgeous! The pictures below are just a sample of what is available.

Keep in mind that your gift of a Rhododendron to a friend, relative or child, will likely outlive all of us!!! That means that, just like you, they'll only get BETTER with age!!!

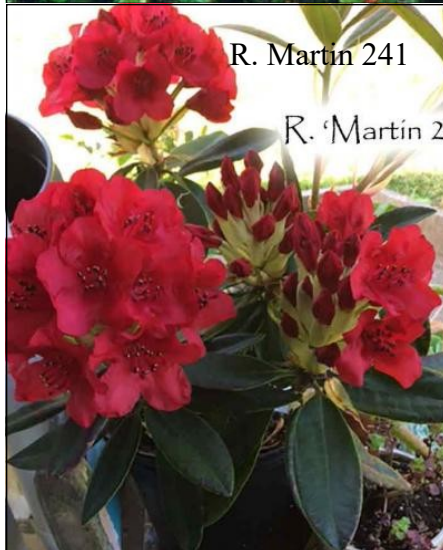
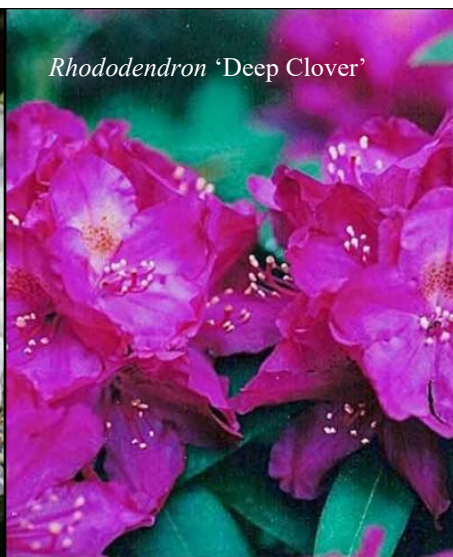
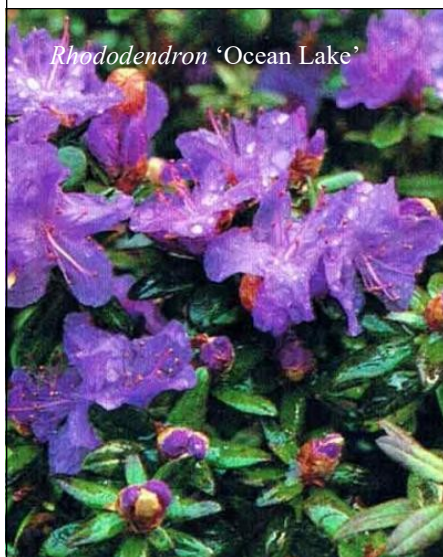
Members pay \$8 each (\$7 each for 5 or more.)

Non-members pay \$10 each (\$8 each for 5 or more!...) this may be the best investment you'll ever make...and that is advice from a retired stockbroker!

So, call us at 707-498-2337 or leave an email message at

<https://eurekarhody.org/plantsale/> to schedule a visit...you'll not be disappointed!

All photos care of Singing Tree Gardens Nursery, <https://www.singtree.com/>



## WORD OF THE MONTH

*By, Bruce Palmer (this is a reprint from May 2007)*

This month's word isn't a single one. Instead it is a partial explanation for why there are so many technical terms to dissect, especially in the descriptions of flowers. We can blame Karl von Linne, the eighteenth century Swedish scientist, for the obscure words. He set up the system of classification we use today, known as binomial nomenclature. He decided to simplify a system of naming organisms that had gotten out of hand. In Linne's time each distinct species was named with a lengthy Latin description known as a polynomial. Latin was used because it was the Lingua Franca among European scientists and clergy of the time. Catnip is an example. Before it was assigned a two-word name it was designated *Nepeta floribus interrupte spicatus pedunculatis*, a Latin description of the plant's flowering parts. Linne started naming each distinct organism with two names, genus and species. He kept the idea of Latinizing the names (he renamed catnip *Nepeta cataria*) and became so tied up with the concept that he Latinized his name to Carolus Linnaeus. We know him simply as Linnaeus. Any plant whose genus name or binomial name is followed by L. or Linn. was named by Linnaeus. The genus *Rhododendron* L. is an example, as is *Rhododendron ponticum* Linn.

Linnaeus felt it was necessary to keep the idea of descriptions, so he set up a system of distinguishing one species from another with Latinized words. For reasons we may never know, Linnaeus decided that, in flowering plants, the best way to distinguish one species from another was to compare the reproductive structures. Some biologists speculate that he may have been obsessed with sex. In any case, flowering plant species are still distinguished from each other mainly by their flower parts. It is an exact method for identification but it makes it quite difficult for us to key out a plant in any botany field manual if we don't have a flower.

Coming down our road recently and spotting the only *Rhododendron macrophyllum* along it, I thought it might be a good example to use. English language field guides have Anglicized most of the original Latin descriptions of the flower parts, but many obscure words remain. Using just the corolla (Latin: corona, a crown), the petals as a group, for example, we find that Jepson's 1951 Manual of the Flowering Plants of California describes the corolla as "turbinate-campanulate...its broad lobes undulate...". It sounds like a mess, but if you have the flower in front of you, it works. -ate after each of the words is from the Latin -atus, meaning possession or likeness. Turbinate comes from the Latin turbin, that which spins or whirls around, a top. Campanulate means bell-shaped from the Latin campana for bell. Looking at the flower, it seems to taper from a bell shape to a top shape, so that portion of the description fits nicely. If you look at the edges of the flower petals, they are indeed Undulate, from the Latin undulus, wavy or the later French unda\*, a wave. So, without looking at the rest of the flower description, this part will distinguish *R. macrophyllum* from other similar species. All these descriptive words can be a pain, especially when, as in this case, several texts have differing descriptions, but they certainly help when we try to identify a particular *Rhododendron*.

An interesting side issue about this particular species is that the 1951 edition of Jepson's manual called it *Rhododendron californicum*, so named by J. D. Hooker in 1855. The name is still listed as a synonym in Hitchcock and Cronquist's *Flora of the Pacific Northwest*. The change is due to another rule of binomial nomenclature, priority, a different interesting topic.

*\*From the editor's correspondence;* As with most science there is always room for clarification, illumination and addendum...David Wilson, Eureka Chapter member and linguaphile comments: "Unda" is good, solid Latin for "wave". "Undula" is a "little wave". French is "onde", an obvious descendant, but a cousin, not a direct ancestor of the English forms, which all seem to come from the Latin rather than the French.

Which gives me an excuse to muse a little. The argument for continuing with Latin botanical forms is still strong. While a relatively few plants are popular and so have acquired different, commonly used names in different languages. [pansy (eng)=pensee (fr)= amor perfeito (port), for example] the vast bulk are known only by name to the well educated who appreciate the ability to talk across borders without going to the dictionary to verify whatever the German (for example) might be for *boletus edulis*, or *amanita phalloides*. Besides, as the article points out, the system works pretty well once you understand a few of the rules.

The argument is the same for all sorts of specialized vocabularies: biological, medical, astronomical terms are complex enough as it is, and would be utterly impossible if they varied from language to language. Latin roots are the easiest to use since they (along with all the Greek stuff that comes to us through Latin) are still far and away the most commonly understood across the world for just about everything we call civilized.



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](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 bringing you some online programming and live meetings using ZOOM and will keep you posted. Please check [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!*

### ZOOM Programs

May 27, 2021

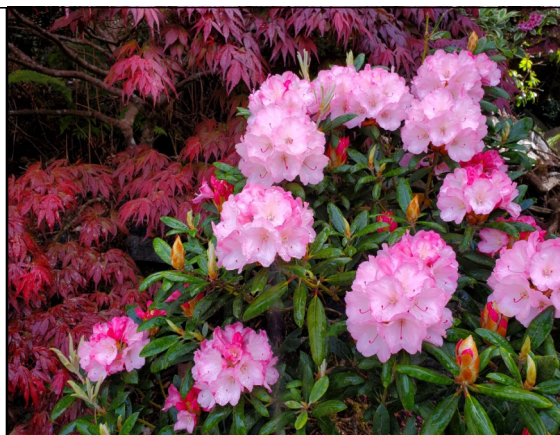
Mike Stewart, Dwarf and Small Leaf Rhododendrons

June 6, 2021

A Member's Garden and Humboldt Botanical Garden Tour  
Full information will be emailed soon.



Membership chair, Ellen Gill, reported that about half of this rhodo was smashed by a falling redwood tree 10 or so years ago and has recovered well.  
*Photo by Tom Gill*



*Rhododendron 'Yaku Prince' and Acer 'Oregon Sunset' At the Walsh's Rhody Hostel. Photo by June Walsh*

### 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