

Eureka Chapter

September 23, 2021 The meeting will begin at 7:00 sharp, so please be sure to join the meeting no later than 6:55 p.m.

You may also log in at 6:30 to chat and make sure your link works.

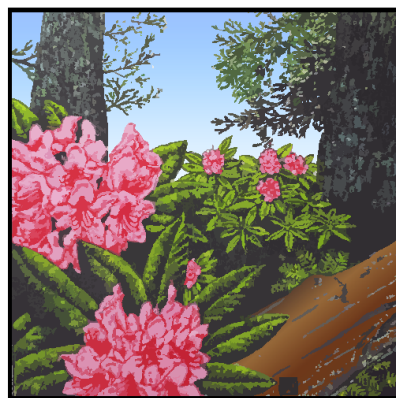
To Join The Zoom Meeting click this link:

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

Meeting ID: 991 2017 0578

Mobile +16699009128,,99120170578#

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



Eureka Chapter
American Rhododendron Society

Rhododendrons
in the Redwoods

September 2021

The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet on Thursday, September 23, 2021. The meeting and program will be held via Zoom. See above...

The Eureka Chapter will welcome Martin Monthofer from Bremen, Germany to give a program about Vireya Rhododendrons. North Coastal Humboldt County is a great place to grow these tropical gems.

In 1993 Martin's dad became interested in Vireya rhododendrons and encouraged Martin's interest. Martin made his first Vireya cross in 1999 and has made 200 crosses to date. He started with cutting material from Rhododendronpark in Bremen and seeds from Bill Moyles of the Cal Chapter. Martin lost his collection of 120 Vireya species and several hybrids in the winter of 2003, because the heating stopped working at -14°C/9F and the greenhouse had -4°C/25F for one night. Martin got his gardener training at Hachmann's Rhododendron Nursery in Barmstedt, Germany and worked at Alpine Nursery of Jürgen Peters in Uetersen, Germany. He began his career at Rhododendron-Park Bremen in 2000. He has taken care of the Rhododendron nurseries, the German yakushmanum collection, the Rhododendron species seeds in the garden, hand pollinations of Rhododendron species, guided tours in German and English in the garden and Botanika, working with Vireyas for Botanika at the Borneo and New Guinea greenhouse. It was great to make the first plantings in this new greenhouse before the official opening time in June 2003. <https://www.rhododendronparkbremen.de/>

Martin leads tours, speaks at many Rhododendron conferences in Europe and has been

a speaker at the Hawaiian Chapter Vireya conference in Hawaii. This program was pre recorded.



Martin's photos:
Left, *Rhododendron laetum*
from New Guinea
Right, *Rhododendron rar-
ilepidotum* from Sumatra

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.



Plant of the Month: *Rhododendron*

'Yummy Yak' this is a great name for a great plant! This cultivar has been in the trade for some time, but not named until now. This low, compact rhododendron hybrid is a cross between the Japanese species *Rhododendron degronianum* ssp. *yakushimanum* and the old yellow flowering *Rhododendron* 'Jalisco Eclipse'. The flowers are a medium pink color, but the plant is named for the lovely foliage and attractive mounding habit. New and a must for the 'yak' hybrid collectors.

By Don Wallace



George Burtchett 1929 to 2021

Eureka Chapter member George Burtchett was a loving family man. He and wife, Kathy, lived in Arcata on a hillside covered in maples and rhododendrons. They added to their collection nearly every year and had plants in raised beds, pots and the area around the house. They both worked on the benches for the botanical garden. Both always had smiles on their faces.

George graduated from University of California Berkeley with a degree in Forestry. He worked as a forester in the Eureka area until he received

his Master's Degree from Humboldt State University in the early 1960s. Bruce Palmer and he shared an algae class and then George began teaching at Arcata High School.

George and Kathy would have celebrated their 16th anniversary in January 2022. Kathy's 4 daughters and George's 2 sons and 2 daughters, made up their family. The 26 grandchildren and 34 greats were added joy for them. Family visits both here and there occurred frequently.

About 5 years ago, I discovered a cousin whom I did not know about lived in Humboldt county. We spent about 4 hours at a coffee shop getting to know the relationship and hearing about all the connections she had made. Her father was the cousin. I was so excited it was all I could talk about for days. At the next Rhody pre meeting dinner I was again going on about this cousin and all the work she had done on the family. At the next table was Kathy and she said: "That's my daughter!" Another shocker and I went into orbit. Anyone who was there that night got an ear full. From then on, Kathy and I have referred to each other as "Cuz". Getting to know Kathy and George has been a real joy. Two more loving and caring people we have not known. We will miss George so much.

Nelda Palmer, (Kathy's "Cuz".)

For full obituary <https://lostcoastoutpost.com/2021/sep/4/obituary-george-william-burtchett-1929-2021/>



Harold Eldon Greer 1945 to 2021

Harold Eldon Greer, 76, passed away unexpectedly on August 10, 2021, while tending to his landscape and his beloved rhododendrons.

For many of us in the Rhododendron world, American Rhododendron Society Gold Medalist and Past President **Harold Greer** has been our long-time guru. His books **“Greer's Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons”** and **“Rhododendron Hybrids”** co-authored with Homer Salley have been our go-to references at shows and plant sales as well as our Sunday morning-coffee reading.

Harold said, "I have been around the Genus Rhododendron for more than 60 years...and have introduced many rhododendrons and azaleas to the trade." From 1954, as a young lad, to 1972 Harold worked with his dad, first selling a few rhodos on the side and later as a full-on nursery. Since 1972, when his dad died, Harold made it his business.

In 2015 he began a new venture at Greer Gardens in Eugene, Oregon, by converting part of his 14 acre nursery into a planned community development he called “an up-scale retirement village and retirement arboretum (for people and plants).”

Harold with his wife Nancy will live on the property.

Harold was a renowned international speaker, well known for his superb photography and his informative and entertaining programs. He spoke many times at the Eureka Chapter meetings. He and President Tim Walsh shared a birthday, May 21st, and were commonly jointly honored by Happy Birthday singing at Conventions. See the complete Obituary on the Eureka Chapter web site.



Tim Walsh, Harold and Nancy Greer at Humboldt Botanical Garden

September is Membership Renewal Time

You will find enclosed in this 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. Please make any corrections to the information on your renewal letter.

Your renewal letter also lists some opportunities to make donations to projects the the Eureka Chapter and the American Rhododendron Society sponsor. Last year you and your fellow members made donations of nearly \$11,000, including \$5000 for the improvement of the irrigation in the **Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden at Humboldt Botanical Garden**. That donation was made by a long time Eureka Chapter member. The **Eureka Woman's Club, Hospice of Humboldt, the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden** and various **American Rhododendron Society** funds also benefited from your generosity. **Thank you!**

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

As soon as it is safe to meet in person the Eureka Chapter is ready to welcome its members and guests back to the Eureka Woman's Club. We hope to continue to Zoom meetings and post the programs on the web at www.EurekaRhody.org.

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

September 23, 2021	Martin Monthofer, Rhododendron Park, Bremen Germany, Vireya Rhododendrons
October 28, 2021	Dennis Bottemiller, Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, the Rutherford Conservatory
December 2, 2021	Holiday Meeting, presentation to be announced
January 27, 2022	Bill McNamara, Botanical Travels
February 24, 2022	Kristian Theqvist, Gardens of Finland
March 24, 2022	Kathy Lintault, Growing Camellias
April 28, 2022	Presentation to be announced
April 29 to May 1, 2022	Rhododendron Show and Sale, Pending
May 26, 2022	Mini Show, Pending
June 5, 2022	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 all members are welcome, call or email June Walsh 707-443-0604