

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter

The next meeting

Thursday January 27th , 7:00 p.m.

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



Eureka Chapter
American Rhododendron Society

Rhododendrons
in the Redwoods

January 2022

Mendocino Coast Botanical Garden

The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet on Thursday, January 27, 2022. The meeting and program will be held via Zoom, see above for the Zoom link for the program beginning at 7:00 P.M.

Long time Eureka Chapter Associate member Dennis McKiver will be our guest speaker via Zoom. Dennis's program will be a photo "Tour of the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens".

Dennis and his wife Valerie are members of the Noyo Chapter ARS. They moved to the Mendocino Coast in 1998 where Dennis worked as a Fish and Wildlife Warden. In 2001 they bought a house on 1 acre north of Fort Bragg on Forest Lane. Forest Lane was noted for its rhododendrons as there were 3 rhododendron hybridizers on Forest Lane and everyone in the neighborhood had rhododendrons growing in their yards. They had several large 20-year old rhododendrons growing on their property and were soon talked into joining the ARS Noyo Chapter. Dennis got a little carried away collecting and growing both hybrid and species rhododendrons and now has over 1000 different hybrid and species rhododendrons and azaleas growing on their property. Dennis has been the Noyo Chapter President, Vice President and Board Member. Dennis learned a lot about rhododendrons studying extensive rhododendron collection at the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens. He volunteers at the Botanical Gardens giving garden tours of the rhododendron collection and gives rhododendron growing classes. Dennis Retired from being a Fish & Game Warden in 2014 and now spends most of his time growing his rhododendrons and volunteering at the Botanical Gardens when he is not fishing.



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* 'Cupcake'

By Don Wallace

Created by the Thompson Nursery in Waldport, Oregon, this yak hybrid is terrific! Every spring around mid to late April this compact rhododendron covers itself completely with light pink flowers. The leaves are dark-green with a light dusting of indumentum on the undersides that add interest. Because the leaves are held for 3 years, the appearance is lush and full.

One can expect this plant to be 3 ft tall and wide in 10 years, but remember it is a slow grower and will only extend about 3 inches of growth each year. The cross is *Rhododendron degronianum* ssp. *yakushmanum* x *Rhododendron* 'Medusa', which is the same cross as Frank Fujioka's hybrid *Rhododendron* 'Silver Skies'. The plants look quite different in bloom, so is a good example of how two parents will make very different offspring.

Winter Fertilizing for Rhododendrons and Azaleas

By Don Wallace, Owner of Singing Tree Gardens Nursery

For rhododendrons, we recommend a late winter feeding, around Valentine's Day, to give your plants the necessary energy for the upcoming bloom. This works well for us, but we are in a maritime climate that has mild winters. This schedule would not make sense if you have snow, so in that case I would feed just after blooming. Using dry granular slow release

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**Valentine's Day
Late Winter Feeding**

Results:

- *Bigger Flowers
- *Brighter Colors
- *Longer Lasting Bloom
- *Stronger Plants



WORD OF THE MONTH: LENTICEL

By, Bruce Palmer

Features in the bark of deciduous trees are more visible in winter. I noticed the prominent **LENTICELS** in the bark of one of our flowering cherry (*Prunus* 'Akebono' –left illustration) a few days ago and thought that would be a good word for this month. **LENTICEL** is from the Latin *lenticella*, a small window. **LENTICELS** are not always as obvious as they are on cherry trees, but they are present in the bark of woody plants in general. We've seen in previous monthly words that stomata on the undersides of leaves allow and control the movement of oxygen, carbon dioxide and water into and out of leaves. Generally speaking, woody stems do not photosynthesize but the live cells in woody stems do carry on respiration. That means that oxygen and water need to get into the stems and carbon dioxide and water need to get out. The bark acts as a protective layer that should prevent the flow of any liquid or gas in either direction. That would be fatal to the living cells in the outer layers of the stems. Woody plants have developed soft, spongy areas in the bark, **LENTICELS**, that allow gases to pass through between living cells and the exterior, thus solving the problem. Rhododendrons have **LENTICELS**, but often they are not as obvious as those in cherries. The bark of *Rhododendron* 'Alice Eastwood' in our yard shows **LENTICELS** in abundance (right illustration). It shows also the second meaning of the word **LENTICEL**, little lens. Most **LENTICELS** are lens shaped, though it isn't always obvious. That may be why they were assigned that name originally.

LENTICELS are not confined to the bark of woody plants. Fruits such as apples and pears, tubers such as potatoes and storage roots such as carrots have living cells, so they require gas exchange with the environment and have **LENTICELS**. The **LENTICELS** on the potato in the center illustration are not clearly lens-shaped, but there is a row of seven of them at the bottom right of the photo that are. To carry on respiration in the stems of woody plants, a nice solution to the problem of needing to be nearly impervious to the outside environment while needing gas exchange for the living cells has been solved by the presence of **LENTICELS**. Neat, effective solution!



LENTICELS IN THE
BARK OF A FLOWERING
CHERRY, *Prunus*
'Akebono'



LENTICELS IN THE SKIN
OF A POTATO



LENTICELS IN THE
BARK OF *Rhododendron*
'Alice Eastwood'



Mary Lou at Stagecoach Hill 2017

Eureka Chapter member Mary Lou Goodwin passed away October 23, 2021. Mary Lou was a founding member of the Eureka Chapter and judged at many flower shows over the years. She was born and raised in Fortuna and belonged to many local Humboldt organizations including the Eureka Sequoia Garden Club. Through that affiliation she was instrumental in the California State Parks acquisition of Stagecoach Hill Azalea Management Area. She continued her interest and support of Stagecoach Hill through work parties to release the Azaleas (*Rhododendron occidentale*) from grass, berry vines and spruce seedlings. It was here that her husband of 29 years proposed marriage. During the Eureka Chapter's 2017 International Convention, Mary Lou was host to the tour groups visiting Stagecoach Hill.

Over the years Mary Lou and the Eureka Sequoia Garden Club planted trees at Humboldt

Botanical Garden including flowering trees, conifers and native trees.

Mary Lou will be missed by her many friends and family. Read her full obituary here:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/times-standard/name/marilyn-goodwin-obituary?id=31208913>

XV. 2.



Cardamine hirsuta L. 38.

Reichenbach Del.

Revisiting *Cardamine hirsuta*; a weed! It is originally from Europe, the Caucasus and North Africa. It is an invasive weed in our Humboldt County gardens. Though it is an annual which generally flowers in fall through winter, here in Coastal Humboldt it flowers and shoots its seeds ALL year. It is a member of the Brassica family and can be eaten as a bitter herb. It has many common names; pop weeds, bitter cress, hairy bitter cress and some unmentionable names. Like many Brassicas it has seeds that burst explosively, casting the seeds far from the parent. If you want to rid your garden of these evil-doer invaders you need to remove the weed before it goes to seed (ha, fat chance!). Remove the pulled plants to the garbage, as the plant's seeds will continue to ripen after being pulled and our home compost bins are generally not hot enough to kill seeds. Some sources suggest using *Cardamine hirsuta* as a winter cover crop! This gardener has not found much that is very effective but patience and diligence...don't turn you're back!

Revisited from Eureka Chapter Newsletter March 2020

January is Membership Renewal Time...for those who haven't renewed yet!

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

If you are a lapsed member you will have a self-addressed STAMPED envelope in this newsletter to enclose your membership payment. Our Membership Chief is Ellen Gill, who needs your renewal and encouragement to help her 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. We have included a membership application form for you, just click the link below.

The Chapter still has a few plants left from the 2021 Spring sale at \$8 each, a plant is a great lifetime gift for your family and friends.

Become a member, use this link to print a membership application form to mail with your payment.

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

New Arrivals Early Plant Sale

This is the best time to plant Rhododendrons and Azaleas!
The days and nights are cool, the rain comes to give the soil a good soaking. It is not too hot to dig holes!

Members Only Sale

**By Appointment,
Call Tim and June
707-498-2337**

**2027 Irving Drive, Eureka CA
(Humboldt Hill)**

**Ask about the
Special Members Only prices!!!**



Rhododendron 'Noyo Dream' at Humboldt Botanical Garden

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

Until the Eureka Chapter is ready to welcome its members and guests back to the Eureka Woman's Club for in-person meetings, 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

January 27, 2022	Dennis McKiver, Mendocino Coast Botanical Garden
February 24, 2022	Kristian Theqvist, Gardens of Finland
March 24, 2022	Kathy Lintault, Growing Camellias
April 28, 2022	Don Wallace, Fragrant and Fancy!
April 29 to May 1, 2022	Rhododendron Show Canceled...again!
May 26, 2022	Mini Show, Pending
June 5, 2022	Members' Gardens Tour and Bring-your-own-Picnic
July and August	No meetings, enjoy your gardens and WEED!
<i>All programs subject to change</i>	

*To me every hour of the light and dark is a miracle,
Every cubic inch of space is a miracle,
Every square yard of the surface of the earth is spread with the same,
Every foot of the interior swarms with the same.*

-Walt Whitman (1819-92)

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, RhodyHostel@suddenlink.net