

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter

The next meeting, IN-PERSON!
Thursday September 22, 7:00 p.m.
Woman's Club
1531 J Street, Eureka CA



Eureka Chapter
American Rhododendron Society

Rhododendrons
in the Redwoods

September 2022

China's Gift to the West

*The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet on Thursday, **September 22, 2022**. The meeting and program will be held at the Eureka Woman's Club 1531 J Street in Eureka beginning at 7:00 P.M.*

Eureka Chapter's September 22nd guest speaker, Bill McNamara, has botanized extensively in the wilds of Asia, in company with horticulturists from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the Howick Arboretum, and others. For the past thirty-three years, he has ventured into the mountains of China, Japan, India, Nepal, Vietnam, Bhutan, and Myanmar in search of plants.

In 1987 Bill began working with Quarryhill Botanical Garden, a private research garden in Glen Ellen, California. He was promoted to Director in 1994 and made Executive Director in 2007. He retired from Quarryhill in 2019. Bill was made a Field Associate of the Department of Botany, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, and an Honorary Researcher of the Scientific Information Center of Resources and Environment of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 2000. In 2001 he became an Associate Member of the joint Chinese-American Committee for the Flora of China. In 2006, Bill was made an International Advisor for Curtis's Botanical Magazine. Bill received the prestigious Garden Club of America's Eloise Payne Luquer Medal in 2009. In 2010 he received the Scott Medal and Award from the Scott Arboretum and was made an Honorary Consultant of the National Plateau Research Center of China. He was the recipient of the California Horticultural Society Annual Award in 2012 and in 2013 he received the Award of Excellence from the National Garden Clubs. In 2017 he received the highly acclaimed Veitch Memorial Medal from the Royal Horticultural Society and the celebrated Liberty Hyde Bailey Award from the American Horticultural Society. In 2018 Bill was made an Honorary Member of the Garden Club of America. *Continued on page 2*

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Bill has a master's degree in Conservation Biology. He has had numerous articles published, and lectures widely. He also holds a third-degree black belt in Aikido and practices Taiji.

The arrival of new ornamentals from another country or region has always stirred excitement among gardeners and plant lovers. For temperate plants, China has by far been the major source of this excitement in the last few centuries. The height of this took place during the "golden age of plant hunting" in China in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It began with French missionaries and later "professional" plant hunters from Europe searching for new ornamentals for nurseries and wealthy patrons. Much of this ended in the mid twentieth century due to wars and revolutions. A resurgence of interest began again in the nineteen-eighties with several expeditions to remote regions of China. Though goals, ways, and means have changed somewhat, much remains the same in these new efforts to adorn our gardens with novel ornamentals from afar.

Human beings have been moving plants around the globe for thousands of years. Usually this has been of great benefit to us, though it has not been without problems. However, today this is a great urgency to get plants and their seeds to botanic gardens and seed banks due to the severe, yet little mentioned, extinction crisis.



Bill McNamara Modern-Day plant collector and advocate for saving plants and their native habitats. Submitted pictures



Plant of the Month: 'Neon' – This rhododendron hybrid comes to us from the late Nolan Blansit of Cottage Grove, Oregon. When I first saw this cultivar it was 100 feet away down in a shady garden, and it just glowed! I asked Nolan what he called it, and his name was perfect... 'Neon'. I have since marveled at this hybrid with its attractive foliage, and more than special flowers. The plant will grow to 4 ft tall and 5 ft wide in 10 years and can take full sun, however a bit of shade will result in a better plant. This cultivar is not terribly hardy...best conclusion would be to 0 degrees, but for Humboldt County it is fine. I will bring a budded plant to this coming meeting. Be the first in your neighborhood to have a 'Neon' rhododendron! Exotic!

By Don Wallace

The Word-of-the Day

From Wordsmith wsmith@wordsmith.org

“Rose-colored”

PRONUNCIATION: (ROZ-kuhl-uhrd)

MEANING:

adjective:

1. Optimistic or cheerful, especially naively or to an unrealistic degree. Often used in the form “to see through rose-colored glasses”.
2. Of a bright pink or red color.

ETYMOLOGY:

From Latin *rosa* (rose), from Greek *rhodon* (rose). Yes, a rhododendron is a rose tree, literally speaking. Earliest documented use: 1526.



September is Membership Renewal Time

*In this newsletter you will find a self-addressed **STAMPED** envelope in which to send 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 that the Eureka Chapter and the American Rhododendron Society sponsor. Last year you and your fellow members made donations of nearly \$2,000 for **Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden at Humboldt Botanical Garden**, 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!**

A new fund has been added, The Jerry Reynolds' Journalism Scholarship for Cal Poly Humboldt.



Ann Wieland and Nina Huffman at Cal Poly Humboldt's Journalism Scholarship Awards ceremony, April 2022. Nina is the first recipient of the Jerry Reynolds Journalism Scholarship sponsored by the Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. Eureka Chapter members Ann Wieland, Max Abrahamsen and Steve Lemke worked with the Cal Poly Humboldt Journalism Department to craft a scholarship that would honor Jerry as Eureka Chapter's past president and a member of the Humboldt Journalism Department for many years.

Eureka Chapter/American Rhododendron Society
2050 Irving Drive,
Eureka CA 95503-7022

Eureka Chapter Newsletter is published monthly except during July, August and November.

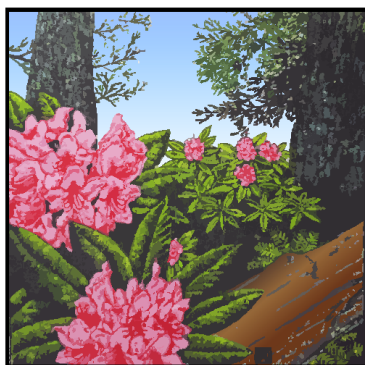
Submissions from members are encouraged and should be sent to June Walsh, Newsletter Editor, by email RhodyHostel@suddenlink.net

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

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

September 22, 2022 7:00 *Bill McNamara, China's Gift to the West*

September 23, 2022 *Bill McNamara, Search for the Rare , Endangered Acer pentaphyllum presentation will be hosted by Humboldt Botanical Garden 707-442-5139*

October 27, 2022 7:00 *Dennis Bottemiller, Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden*

November no meeting, *Give thanks for your family and friends*

December 1, 2022 6:00 *Holiday Potluck and short educational program*

January 26, 2023, 7:00 *Christy Hartsell, Growing Vireya Rhododendrons*

February 23, 2023 7:00 *Tim Walsh, Garden Travels*

March 23, 2023 7:00 *Glen Jamieson, World Travels*

April 27, 2023 7:00 *To be Announced*

April 28, 2023 *Rhododendron Show and Sale, location to be determined*

May 25, 2023 6:00 *Members' Mini Show and Potluck*

June 4, 2023 *Garden Tour, 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, rhodyhostel@suddenlink.net