

## AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

# Eureka Chapter

*The next meeting, IN-PERSON!*

Thursday April 27, 7:00 p.m.

Eureka Woman's Club

1531 J Street, Eureka CA



Eureka Chapter  
American Rhododendron Society

Rhododendrons  
in the Redwoods

## April 2023

## Something Exciting about Rhododendrons

*The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet on Thursday, April 27, 2023. The meeting and program will be held at the Eureka Woman's Club 1531 J Street in Eureka beginning at 7:00 p.m.*

Don Wallace is the owner of Singing Tree Gardens, a small retail nursery, located in McKinleyville, California. Over the past 20 years Don has planted, propagated, hybridized, and grown from seed many rhododendrons.

Don is the past president of the Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society and participated as one of the Show Chairmen at the Western Regional Conference in Eureka back in 1999 as well as being on the Planning Committee for the 2017 International Convention. Don has been involved in photography for 25 years and travels each year to photograph many gardens up and down the Pacific coast. Currently, Don is active in hybridizing rhododendrons for fragrance, as well as new and exciting colors of flowers. Don is the 2017 recipient of the American Rhododendron Society's Silver Medal.

Don's program title is ***"Something Exciting About Rhododendrons"***, in this program Don will discuss why we all love to collect and plant rhododendrons in our gardens. From the flowers to the foliage, to the fragrance, there are many reasons. He will discuss care, feeding, and pruning as well. There will be images of some of the most beautiful gardens Don has seen over the years. He will end the program showing some of the new hybrids he has created with the parents of each cross for interest.



*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.*



## **Stagecoach Botanical Gardens Tour Sunday April 23rd at 10:00**

Stagecoach Botanical Garden was named by the original owner, Frank Meyer. Frank purchased the 15 acres in the early 1950's which is located north of Trinidad. For probably 25-30 years Frank planted many rhododendrons that today are 30-50 ft tall.

In the late 1980's Frank sold the property to Keith Giglio, a consultant to Yakima, Inc. in Arcata. Keith built the Asian style home there and subdivided the property into a 10 acre and a 5 acre piece.

Keith sold the property to a HSU professor in the 1990's and moved to Colorado. The college professor installed a locked gate and did not allow anyone to come on the property during the time she owned it.

In 2017 the college professor sold the 10 acre parcel with the custom home to Eureka Chapter members Maclyn & Jan Morris. The Morris's are the current caretakers for the garden, and plan on improving it over time. They have graciously offered to host a pot luck lunch in the gardens on Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> starting at 10 a.m.

Parking will be on the ocean side of Stagecoach Road to the south of their entrance. See you there!

**Date: Sunday, April 23, 2023 Time: 10 a.m.**

**Members and Guests are Welcome**

**Potluck, bring a dish to share and bring your own plates and utensils**

**Bring your own chairs. Please pack out what you pack in!**

**1277 Stage Coach Road north of Trinidad. Parking will be on the ocean side of Stagecoach Road to the south of their entrance.**





# Plant Sale April 29th



Rh. 'Coastal Sugar'

The Eureka Chapter will hold a one-day plant sale during the Rhododendron Festival on  
Saturday April 29th  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
in Henderson Center  
at Henderson and F Streets  
Eureka.

Members Only price      \$12 ea.

Non-Member price      \$15 ea.

Membership available    \$40

Free plant with new membership



Stagecoach Hill

*Rhododendron occidentale*

Spectacular  
selection of  
Specialty  
Rhododendrons,  
7 varieties of  
Native Western  
Azaleas including  
several from  
Stagecoach Hill,  
Daphne,  
Heather, Pieris,  
Lewisia,  
Penstemon



# WORD OF THE MONTH - TRUSS

By Bruce Palmer



**R. 'Mi Amor'**

**Truss tightly closed in winter with protective bracts**

flower stems the same length and usually without a flower at the end. That structure in Rhododendrons is not obvious as long as the **truss** is in bloom. Look at what's left when you deadhead, though, and it is clear



**R. 'Red Majesty'**

**Trusses fully open**

Last month we discussed bracts. It would be appropriate to follow on from that, so the word is **TRUSS**. It's from the French *trousser*, to pack into a bundle. We're discussing a flowering structure here, not something that supports a bridge or a hernia. What could be a more appropriate word at this season as our Rhododendrons are reaching their peak bloom? Not all of the members of the genus (*genus* is Latin for kind or sort) bear their flowers in trusses, but a clear majority of the hybrid Rhododendrons and most of the species in our gardens are in the subgenus *Hymenanthus* (Greek: *hymen*, a membrane and *anthos*, a flower). Plants in that subgenus bear their flowers in clusters we call **TRUSSES**. In *Hymenanthus* the trusses are at the ends of branches. What is a **TRUSS**? The term is a rather vague one, not rigorously technical. The RHS *Rhododendron Handbook* defines it as the flower cluster. For the Rhododendron subgenera that have multiple flowers the handbook uses the term inflorescence, a term more widely employed among botanists. Technically, the inflorescences in the genus Rhododendron are racemes (Latin: *racemus*, a bunch of grapes). Raceme is one a number of terms used to describe how flowers are borne on flowering plants. Racemes are single stalks with flowers on the sides, typically with

flower stems the same length and usually without a flower at the end. That structure in Rhododendrons is not obvious as long as the **truss** is in bloom. Look at what's left when you deadhead, though, and it is clear that it resembles the leftover grape stem after you have eaten the grapes. Despite the derivation of the term raceme, Grapes do not bear their flowers and fruits in racemes. Grape inflorescences are cymes (Latin: *cyma*, a cabbage sprout). Cymes typically have multiple stalks, not just one, and they bloom entirely differently. The difference is major. Inflorescence types in flowering plants that bear multiple flowers are separated primarily by whether they are racemose or cymose. In racemose clusters, such as trusses, the flowering begins at the bottom or outside of the inflorescence and progresses toward the top or inside. Cymose inflorescences begin blooming at the top or center and progress outward or downward. Until the last couple decades the difference was considered a major evolutionary distinction, but that isn't so widely agreed upon lately. Nevertheless, trusses aren't at all like grapes. Trusses don't bear edible fruit, but for rhodo enthusiasts they don't need to. Out in our gardens about now, the Rhododendrons are demonstrating why we keep so many of them around and continue to buy or propagate them. Let's get out there and enjoy them at their best from now until late spring or early summer.



**R. 'Countess of Haddington'**

**Trusses opening to reveal flowers**





The rule of thumb for gardens is “sleep, creep, leap.” **The first year the plants sleep, the second year they creep and the third year they leap.** This applies especially to slow-growing plants such as rhododendrons, manzanitas, camellias and other shrubs, but it also can apply to perennials, grasses and vines.



## Plant of the Month:

### Rhododendron ‘Camel Rock’

*By Don Wallace*

I received this new hybrid from the late Nolan Blansit who lived in Cottage Grove, Oregon. All of his creations have A+ foliage, and I have seen none that are not attractive. He told me I could name and register this one, so I call it ‘Camel Rock’ after one of our famous landmarks near Trinidad. The plant is somewhat of a dwarf, only growing to 3 ft tall x 4 ft wide in 10 years. The flowers are a blend of pink and yellow, and usually on every branch end, making a very exciting display. The plant holds its foliage well, making a full and lush shrub.

Eureka Chapter Membership Chair Ellen Gill recited this poem as she was volunteering at Humboldt Botanical Garden with the Wild Weeders and Grateful Deadheaders

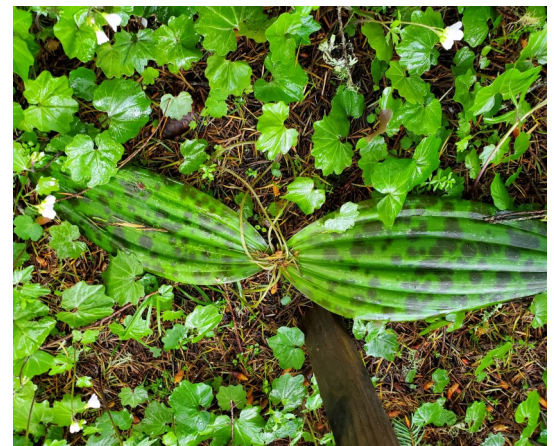
It's not my place to run this train.

Its whistle I cannot blow.

It's not my place to say how far this train is allowed to go.

It's not my place to let off steam or even clang the bell;

But let this train run off the track



Above, Adder's Tongue and Milk Maids,

Below Left to Right

Briggsia speciosa, Trillium and Milk Maids all at HBG in the Moss Family Temperate Woodland

Eureka Chapter/American Rhododendron Society

2050 Irving Drive

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. [Htg1an-derg@suddenlink.net](mailto:Htg1an-derg@suddenlink.net)

Eureka Chapter is a member of the **Humboldt Botanical Gardens**, Eureka, CA and **The Rhododen-**



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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!*

*April 23, 2023*

*Members and Guests Garden Tour of Stagecoach Botanical Garden, See Page 2 for information*

*April 27, 2023*

*Don Wallace, "Something Exciting About Rhododendrons"*

*April 29, 2023*

*Rhododendron Show and Sale, 9 a.m. -3 , Henderson Center at F and Henderson Streets*

*Henderson Streets, check out [www.EurekaRhody.org](http://www.EurekaRhody.org) for details*

*May 25, 2023 6:00*

*Members' Mini Show and Potluck*

*June 4, 2023*

*Garden Tour, 11:00 a.m. Stagecoach Hill Azalea Reserve  
1:00 p.m. Singing Tree Garden, Bring-your-own-picnic*

*July and August...weed, deadhead, prune, mow and mow some more, sit in the sun!*

## Eureka Chapter Officers and Board Members

If you are interested in attending a board meeting which are held the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. (all members are welcome) or for board member contact information call or email

June Walsh 707-443-0604, [RhodyHostel@SuddenLink.net](mailto:RhodyHostel@SuddenLink.net)