American Rhododendron Society

Eureka Chapter

The next meeting, IN-PERSON!

Thursday March 23, 2023 7:00 p.m.

Eureka Woman's Club

1531 J Street, Eureka CA

Eureka Chapter American Rhododendron Society — *Rhododendrons in the Redwoods*

March 2023

"Iceland – Land of Ice and Fire"

The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet on Thursday, March 23, 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.

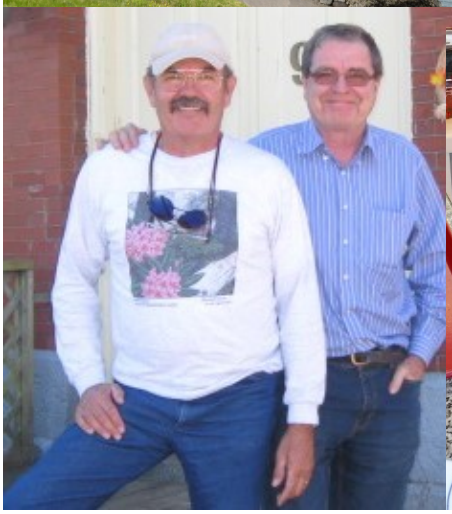
Dr. Glen Jamieson has a B.SC in Agriculture from McGill University and a M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Zoology from UBC. He worked for Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) as a research scientist for 31 years, both in the Maritimes (5 yr) and at the Pacific Biological Station in Nanaimo, BC (26 yr). He retired from DFO in 2008, and became editor of the Journal of the American Rhododendron Society in 2009. He joined the ARS in 1995, and has explored for plants in Yunnan, China (2005); Borneo (2008); Ecuador and Peru (seven trips between 1998-2014) and in Sikkim, India (2015). He has travelled to over 70 counties and with his wife Dorothy, lives and maintains a garden in Parksville that is periodically on his local chapter's (Mount Arrowsmith; MARS) garden tour, where he also has an extensive vireya collection, possibly the largest in Canada. He is the editor creator of the online journal *Rhododendrons International.*

Glen says of his program, "Iceland, the Nordic, most sparsely populated European country, has become a very popular tourist destination in recent years. For two weeks in June 2022, Dorothy and I circumnavigated the island by car, visiting all the main tourist sites and many interesting remote locations. This presentation will showcase our travels, illustrating the country's history, scenery, communities, biodiversity, rhododendron gardening, and food".

Iceland is one of the most geologically active countries in the world, the island of Iceland is the only location above sea level on the Mid-Atlantic Rift, a long valley on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge that is about 50 to 75 miles (80 to 120 km) wide. This rift contains the zone of seafloor spreading, at an estimated rate of 1 to 10 cm (0.5 to 4 in a year), in which molten magma from beneath Earth's crust continuously wells up, cools, and is progressively pushed away from the ridge's flanks.

"Iceland – Land of Ice and Fire"




The top three pictures are of Glen's and Dorothy's trip to Iceland. The bottom two pictures are of Glen being tour guide for Tim and June at the Halifax, Nova Scotia conference and Glen repairing the dishwasher at the Rhody Hostel.

We are not the same persons this year as last; nor are those we love. It is a happy chance if we, changing, continue to love a changed person.

William Somerset Maugham, writer (25 Jan 1874-1965)

WORD OF THE MONTH: HORMONE

By Bruce Palmer

Spring is here and our Rhododendrons are beginning to bloom and produce new growth. What causes this activity every year so predictably? Part of the answer is hormones; **HORMONE** is the word for this month. The word derives from the Greek "*hormaein"*, to excite. It's a confusing word because we tend to associate hormones with sex and because **hormones** in vertebrate animals are very different from those in plants. A **hormone** is defined as a secretion that controls a specific activity in a cell. **Hormones** are produced in very small amounts but have profound effects. In vertebrate animals, cells in specialized tissues usually secrete **hormones** and each **hormone** controls specific cell activities in other tissues. In plants the nature of **hormones** is quite different. Typically, they are not secreted in special tissues and are not quite as restricted in their actions as animal **hormones**. Often, they are referred to as **Plant Growth Regulators** rather than **hormones**.

There are five major classes of plant hormones: auxins, cytokinins, gibberellins, abscissic acid (ABA) and Ethylene. These plant **hormones** control plant growth and development by affecting the division, elongation and differentiation of cells, often in response to environmental stimuli such as day length and temperature changes.

Continued next page...

WORD OF THE MONTH: HORMONE, *continued…*

The first plant hormone to be discovered was Auxin (Greek, *"Auxien"*, to increase). Charles Darwin studied the bending of plant stems in response to light, which led to the discovery that a substance secreted by plant cells could be extracted into agar and used to cause bending and stem elongation in other plants. This effect of auxin acts by causing individual cells to elongate. We now know that there are a number of different auxins and that they have many effects, some of which we apply commercially. Indoleacetic acid and some other auxins are applied to stem ends to produce roots on cuttings.

Cytokinins (Greek, *"kytos"*, a hollow vessel, and *"Kinesis"*, motion) were the next group of plant hormones to be discovered. Whereas auxins cause plant growth primarily by causing elongation of cells, cytokinins promote cell division, but few practical commercial applications have been developed for them.

Gibberellins (named from the fungus species that causes rice to elongate and become unharvestable) are plant hormones that have several effects. They break dormancy and cause the germination of seeds. This action is applied in the brewing industry to cause barley seeds to produce maltose at an even rate, making our favorite single-malt scotches more dependable.

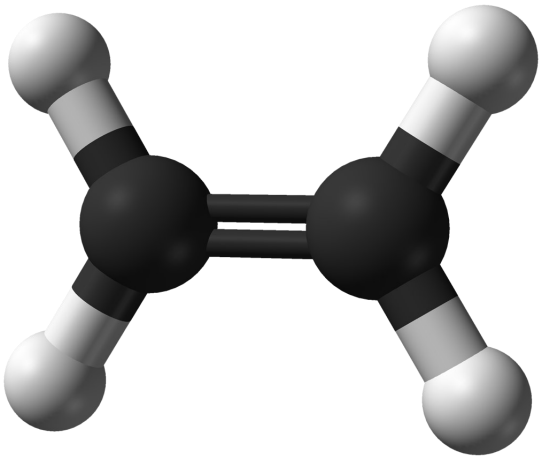
Other plant growth regulators are used commercially, such as abscissic acid (ABA) and ethylene. ABA is chiefly concerned with leaf fall and fruit fall, while ethylene's effects are wider ranging and affect growth, senescence, fruit ripening and stress responses, as well as other activities. The best-known commercial application of ethylene is its use in fruit containers to hasten ripening during transit to market. All of the plant **hormones** work together and separately and in response to day length and temperature to regulate the growth, flowering and fruiting of plants.

Commercial growers have learned to control hormones, day length, temperature, water and nutrients to produce beautiful plants for the trade. Florists' azaleas such as the Kurume group and its more recent successors are produced for sale in closed, controlled "greenhouses" by using specific combinations of temperature, daylength and synthetic growth regulators in specific orders and at specific times.

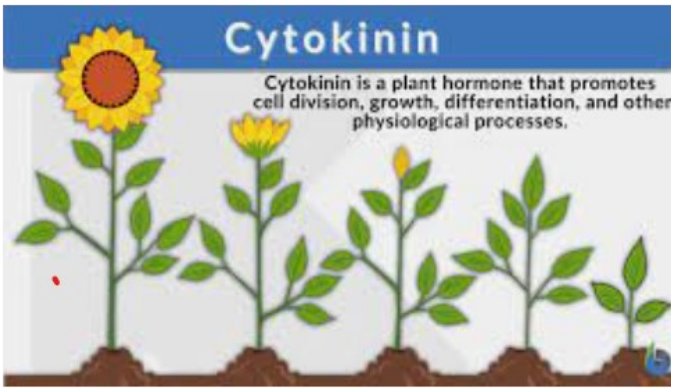
As always with things in science, we don't yet have all the answers about plant hormones. The possible plant growth regulator of current interest is florigen. In the late 1800s, it was proposed that some controlling agent was responsible for flowering time. Early in the twentieth century the name florigen was proposed and the florigen hypothesis formulated. Until recently no substance other than the known hormones was isolated that could be shown to control flowering, but in the mid 1990s it was demonstrated that two genes probably produce RNA molecules that either cause flowering directly or through their proteins. These were declared to be florigen and the discovery was widely publicized as a major breakthrough in botany and horticulture. The florigen hypothesis has yet to be accepted widely enough to be considered a theory, but substances that appear to be florigen are being patented.

In summary, then, if you are giving or receiving a blooming "hothouse" azalea, it is instructive to realize that a variety of artificially controlled factors, including hormones, are responsible for its shape and beauty. The control of the factors is rather complex and has a long experimental history, but they are the same ones that work naturally in our gardens to produce the *Rhododendron* trusses and new growth we prize so highly, especially in springtime. *Continued next page*

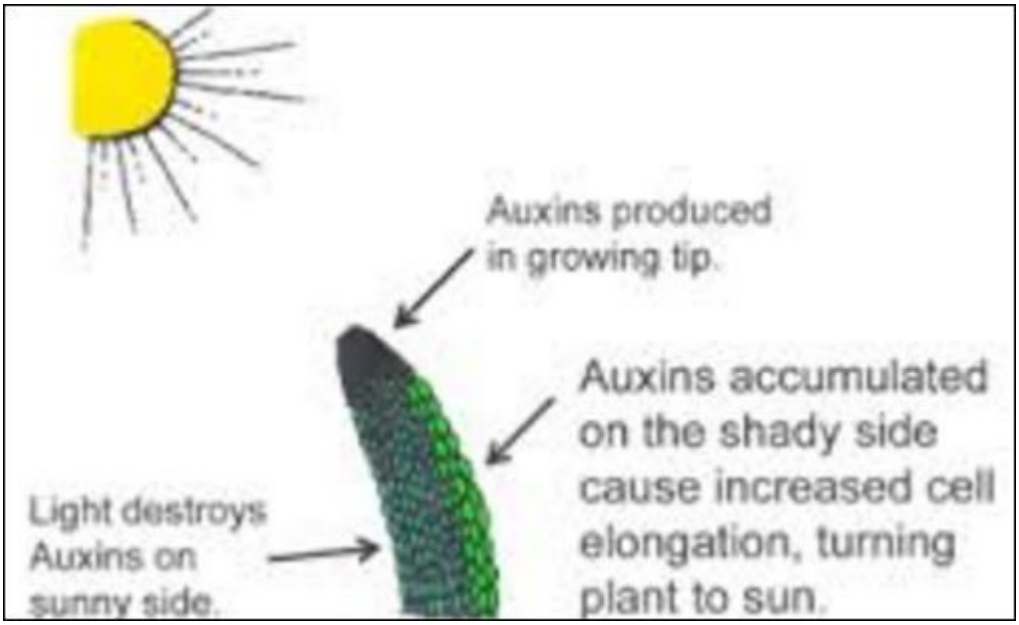
WORD OF THE MONTH: HORMONE, *continued...*



Ethylene controls ripening of fruit and is used in plastic manufacture



Cytokinin controls plant growth, flowering and fruiting



"Auxin lengthens cells and controls bending of stems and roots

Snails, YUM!

As snails and slugs (a snail without a house on its back) become numerous in your garden think about the culinary treat, escargot. You can see the table below to compare snails to other common types of protein. Eureka Chapter member Marc Colombel reports that when he and his family moved to Brittany (France) they brought snails with them! Marc writes;

Hello June,

Helix pomatia is a snail that is eaten in France. We call it the Burgundy snail or white snail. It needs limestone to live.

When we considered living in Brittany, we had brought back from Reims a hundred white snails so that they could multiply and be eaten. But the soil in Brittany is acid, not limestone. They are all dead. We learned that a child had found an empty shell and had shown it to his teacher who was very perplexed by this "anomaly".

About snail eggs I know that some are marketed in France as "caviar", but I have never tasted => $40 for 50 grammes (1.76 oz).

All the best,

Marc

The brown garden snail, *Cornu aspersum* (formerly *Helix aspersa*), is the most common snail causing problems in California gardens. It was introduced from France during the 1850s for use as food. It did not take long for it to populate coastal and inland valley areas of California. https://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7427.html

Escargot Nutritional Information

	Escargot	Beef Meat	Chicken	Salmon
Calories	90.6	272.6	220	205.9
Calories from Fat	12.9	156.6	117.7	110.9
Total Fat	1.4g	17.7g	12.9g	12.3g
Saturated Fat	0.4g	6.5g	3.6g	2.4g
Trans Fat	0g	0.8g	0g	0g
Polyunsaturated Fat	0.2g	0.5g	2.8g	4.4g
Monounsaturated Fat	0.3g	7.7g	5.2g	4.2g
Cholesterol	50.6mg	89.4mg	94.1mg	62.9mg
Sodium	70.6mg	91.2mg	70.6mg	60.7mg
Potassium	382.4mg	381.4mg	203.6mg	383.7mg
Total Carbohydrates	2g	0g	0g	0g
Dietary Fiber	0g	0g	0g	0g
Sugars	0g	0g	0g	0g
Protein	16.5g	27.4g	23.5g	22g
Vitamin A *	2%	0.20%	11.80%	4.40%
Vitamin C *	0%	0%	0.70%	6.20%
Calcium *	0.80%	2.10%	1%	1.10%
Iron *	20%	15.90%	8.90%	1.90%

* Percent Daily Values are based on a 2000 calorie diet.

escargot-world.com

The photo at the top of the page shows snail or slug eggs, the white bits, that had been deposited in a pot of Rhododendron ready for planting out. They were picked out BEFORE the plant was put in the ground.

The glittering leaves of the rhododendrons
Balance and vibrate in the cool air;
While in the sky above them
White clouds chase each other.
–John Gould Fletcher

Plant of the Month: ***Rhododendron 'Noyo Mist'***, *by Don Wallace*

This new hybrid from Phil and Lucy Johnson of Fort Bragg. It is a very nice plant with very fragrant flowers. The hybrid is *Rhododendron* 'Butterhorn' x *Rhododendron* 'Ila May'.

Rhododendron 'Butterhorn' is very yellow, but with little fragrance, while *Rhododendron* 'Ila May' is a *Rhododendron cubittii* hybrid with a ton of fragrance! This new hybrid, *Rhododendron* 'Noyo Mist' not only has fragrance, but also very interesting foliage, making it attractive all year round. Dennis McKiver, who gave me the cuttings says that when the Noyo Chapter members saw this plant at their show, all of the available plants were purchased. I thought it would be nice to share this plant with Eureka Chapter members as the 'Plant of the Month', and bring one to the meeting as a raffle plant.

It's time for the **annual ARS convention**,

this year held jointly with the Azalea Society.

Come to Atlanta!

…for spectacular public and private blooming gardens, banquets, keynote speakers, and supporting sessions! This is a once-a-year chance to mingle with fellow rhododendron members while making new friends and lasting memories.

April 19-23, 2023

Information and registration HERE

(deadline for discount hotel rates: March 31!)

This link will take you to a lovely video highlighting the location and the Gardens for the Atlanta Convention.

https://www.azaleas.org/wp-content/uploads/conventions/2023/ARSASA_Convention_2023.mp4

Eureka Chapter member Paul Wright passed away February 27, 2023.

We have missed Paul and Dolores at our meetings since they moved to Ukiah to seek additional medical care for Paul. They loved to go on the Member Garden tours and participated in the Members' Mini Show and all the potlucks.

Paul will be missed by his many friends. If you would like to send a note to Dolores, please contact June Walsh for her address.

The Ginkgo Tree: A Living Fossil

Reprinted from Potomac Chapter March 2023 Newsletter

The Ginkgo tree, Ginkgo biloba, is a stunning tree in autumn when its leaves turn golden yellow. It is native to China and found its way into Western gardens a little more than 300 years ago. The species is one of several that have remained relatively unchanged for the past 200 million years. Fossilized leaves dating from the Jurassic Period, the age of the dinosaurs, are identical to leaves we see on ginkgo trees today. Flowering plants were just evolving during this era. The most common plants back then were ferns, cycads, horsetails, a few evergreens, and, of course, gingkoes. Taxonomist seem to argue where to put the ginkgo in the grand scheme of things. Some put it in a class by itself but others suggest it is a deciduous conifer.

Ginkgo plants can be either male or female and most people will prefer to plant male trees. The fleshy fruit from a female plant has a very offensive odor, something similar to vomit laced with feces. Once cleaned, seeds are highly prized as a culinary treat. The stunning fall foliage of the ginkgo is a clear, intense yellow that is hard to beat. The tree adapts to most soils and environmental stresses. It has become a popular street tree in many countries.

The plant produces compounds that reject attacks by insects, bacteria, and fungi. It is hardy from Zone 3 (-30 to -40 F) and able to survive air pollution, draught, and fire. In fact, there were several trees near the epicenter of the 1945 atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Even though they were completely charred by the bomb blast, these miracle survivor trees leafed out the following spring.

Ginkgo trees are long lived and many growing in China are estimated to be from 600 to 1000 years old or more. One tree is estimated to be 2500 years old. Ginkgoes can get quite tall, too, typically over 100 ft and some are over 160 ft tall. Many rhododendron hobbyists grow ginkgoes. There are dwarf forms that make excellent rock garden treasures, companion plants, or Bonsai subjects. The cultivar 'Chris's Dwarf', also known as 'Munchkin', only grows a few inches a year. The leaves are one fourth the typical size. It's a cutie!

Editor's note: I have enjoyed the Ginko trees in the many gardens Tim and I have visited in Oregon, Washington, British Columbia and on the east coast, but here in Coastal Northern California try as we may Ginkgoes are not happy. If you can grow this tree you are truly blessed.

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

Membership information and applications are available from Ellen Gill. Htg1an-derg@suddenlink.net

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

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!

March 23, 2023 7:00 — ***Glen Jamieson, Road Trip around Iceland, Land of Fire and Ice***

April 27, 2023 7:00 — ***Don Wallace, Something Exciting about Rhododendrons***

April 29, 2023 — ***Rhododendron Plant Sale, Henderson Center on F Street***

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

April—June, various days, 2023 — ***Members' Garden Tours (more details to follow)***

All programs subject to change

Success is not final, failure is not fatal, it is the courage to continue that counts. - *Winston Churchill*

Photo is from February 23, 2023 at the Walsh Rhody Hostel where there was 5 inches of light a feathers snow.

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 7 pm all members are welcome, call or email June Walsh 707-443-0604 or RhodyHostel@suddenlink.net