

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter

Thursday May 25th, 6:00 p.m.

**Woman's Club
1531 J Street
Eureka, California**

Garden Tour and Picnic

**Sunday June 4th
See info on Page 3**



Eureka Chapter
American Rhododendron Society

Rhododendrons
in the Redwoods

**May and June
2023**

**Mini Show and
Garden Tour**

**Members' Mini Show
*Let us See Your Bloomers!***

SHOW US YOUR BLOOMERS

Eureka Chapter Mini-Show and Potluck Party

Thursday, May 25th at 6:00 p.m.

The Thursday May 25th meeting of the Eureka Chapter will be the annual Mini-Show (after missing 2020, 2021 and 2022). YOU get to be the judges! For all the efforts you put into cutting and grooming your entries you will be rewarded with Potluck and Possibly Prizes!

Bring your favorite main dish, side dish, salads and desserts to share with your fellow members. The meeting will start at 6:00 so there will be time to fill out the entry tags for your 'Bloomers' and to place them on the show tables. Everything will be provided, all you need to do is bring your flowers, your sense of humor, your potluck dish and a good appetite.

Photos are those of the Newsletter editor, Max Abrahamsen, unless otherwise noted. Permission is granted to reprint any portion of this publication provided credit to the author and Chapter is given.

Eureka Chapter Mini-Show Rules

Date: Thursday, May 25th

The **mini-show** takes place at the May 25th meeting. Entries are limited to those of members (Life, Regular, Associate, etc.) of the American Rhododendron Society's Eureka Chapter.

All exhibits must have been in the member's garden for at least six months before the show.

Members are **limited to one entry in each class**. Entries must be rhododendron trusses. No sprays or hammerheads will be judged. Entries are based largely on color, but members are encouraged to include the name of the species or hybrid on the entry card for the benefit of other members. Trusses may be groomed and prepared according to the rules for the regular Eureka Chapter Truss Show.

Classes shall consist of the following:

Class 1: Lepidote Rhododendron Species, regardless of color. (These include the Mad-denii and most small-leaved rhododendrons.)

Class 2: Elepidote Rhododendron Species, regardless of color.

Class 3: Hybrid Rhododendrons, Red.

Class 4: Hybrid Rhododendrons, Pink.

Class 5: Hybrid Rhododendrons, White.

Class 6: Hybrid Rhododendrons, Purple, lavender or blue.

Class 7: Hybrid Rhododendrons, Yellow, orange or apricot.

Class 8: Hybrid Rhododendrons, Bicolor.

Class 9: Any Rhododendron truss entered for fragrance.

Class 10: Any Azalea

Judging shall be done by the members and guests attending the show. Each member and guest shall receive a ballot and may vote for one truss in each class by writing the entry-tag number on the ballot. Ties shall be broken by a member randomly selected by the show chair to cast a tiebreaking vote.



Once a winner has been selected in each class, members and guests will vote for the Best of Show on the Best of Show Ballot from among the first-place winners in each class.

Awards:

The Best of Show entry shall receive \$100

All other blue-ribbon winners shall receive \$25 each.



Garden Tour Sunday June 4th

Join the Eureka Chapter for a visit to Stagecoach Hill at 11 a.m. and Singing Tree Gardens Nursery at 1 p.m. at peak bloom Sunday June 4th , 2023

This year we will be visiting the world-famous Stagecoach Hill Azalea Reserve. Many azalea maniacs have come from far and wide and around the world to visit, collect seed, name and number, map, photograph and write articles about this particularly large and varied swarm of *Rhododendron occidentale* (the Western Azalea).

The Western Azalea is the only species of Azalea that is found west of the Rocky Mountains. It was discovered by the expedition of Capt. Beechy in 1827 and called *Azalea calendulacea*. Later in 1855, the plant was recognized as a distinct species *Azalea californica*, but a year later changed to *Azalea occidentale*. We now know it as *Rhododendron occidentale*, (all azaleas are rhododendrons, but not all rhododendrons are azaleas).

Department of Parks and Recreation (California State Parks) acquired the site with generous fund raising by the California Garden Clubs as led by Eureka Chapter founding member Mary Lou Goodwin. The Stagecoach Hill Azalea Project was dedicated June 4, 1984. The Eureka Chapter has visited the site several times over the years and took international convention participants on tour in 2017.

Stagecoach Hill Azalea Reserve is north of Big Lagoon at Kane Road. Carpooling encouraged.

50 min from Eureka

via US-101 N; Take US-101 N

As you drive past Big Lagoon, start watching for Kane Road on your Right.

Kane Road comes to a T and you will see the Stagecoach Hill Reserve sign, turn left. Drive approx. 1/4 mile to the parking area in the Spruce forest. DO Not block any gates!
Stagecoach Hill Azalea Nature Trail, California State Parks Kane Rd, Trinidad, CA 95570

Singing Tree Gardens Nursery at 1:00 p.m.

This is the nursery and display garden of Don Wallace. Bring your own picnic lunch and a chair to enjoy the beautiful surroundings .

5225 Dows Prairie Rd, McKinleyville, CA 95519



Plant of the Month:

Rhododendron 'Linda Cornell'

By Don Wallace

I received this interesting and lovely plant from the Thompson Nursery in Waldport, Oregon many years ago. We love the ball trusses made up of pink buds that open to white, tinted with lavender pink that deepens at the edges. The flower center is made up of transformed stamens that are now petaloid, giving it a double look. Unusual and very pretty. Medium sized dark green leaves set off these outstanding flowers. (Parentage unknown)

Plant Sale Success

Many thanks to all who participated to make the Plant Sale in Henderson Center during Eureka's Rhododendron Festival and Parade a big success.

Lynne Sarty and Ann Wieland set the stage, Jeff Clark and Ibby Gerner cashiered, Tim Walsh, Don Wallace and Terry Henderson sold plants and many others helped set up and take down.

In addition to selling most of the Rhododendrons, Azaleas and companion plants, the Eureka Chapter got 10 new members.



President Tim's Musings

WOW! What a bloom year! I've seen a LOT of blooms over the past 40+ years of gardening, but this year beats them all. It's only a guess, but I think that a winter and spring of exceptional rain after 4 years of drought, has a lot to do with it. In the past few weeks, we have some Rhodies holding 2 or 3 times as many blooms as in years past! The *Rhododendron* 'Loderi Venus' at our front door likely has 4 times as many blooms as in any other year since it was planted nearly 25 years ago. Not only that, but the blossoms are also lasting an exceptionally long time with our "regular" cool spring.

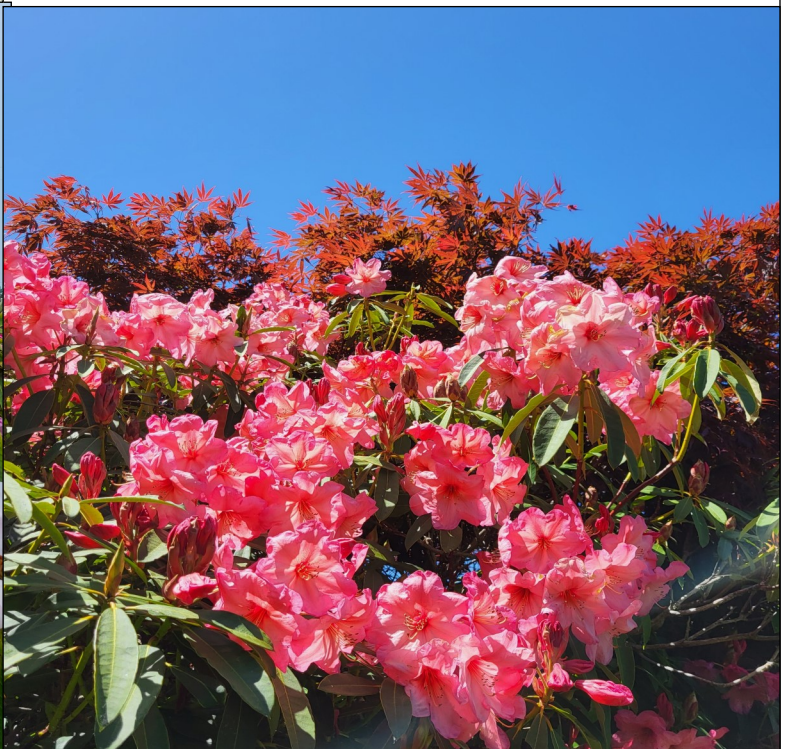
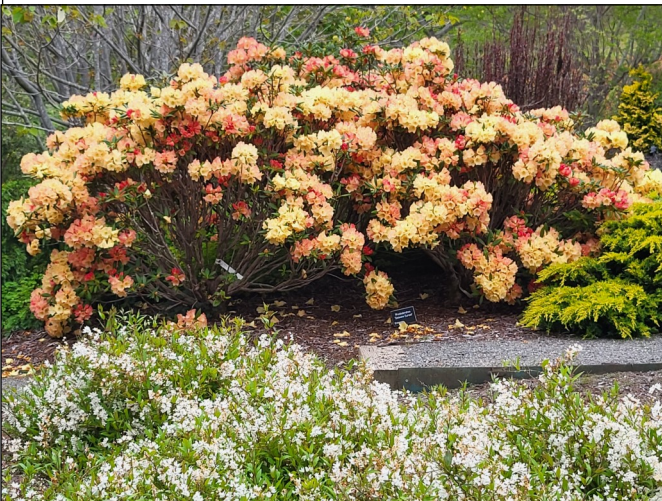
As great as the flowers look, the scents of many of our tender Maddenii and Loderi Rhododendrons are intoxicating. Someday someone will invent "smell-o-vision" and that would lead to a huge increase in our chapter membership!

At our upcoming meeting we would love to see your bloomers! There are several categories (see page 2 of this newsletter), but we encourage you to bring and share some food, drinks and whatever is blooming well in your garden. You could even win some money!

Next, we are having a tour of nature's own best Rhodie garden in early June, Stagecoach

Hill. See page 3 for details. After that we'll head back to Don Wallace's Singing Tree Gardens to have bring-your-own-picnic and a tour of his fabulous display gardens.

Finally, we will be scheduling a rock trip up the Klamath River for some time this summer. This has been a popular one-day trip over the past several years and we look forward to seeing as many of our members and their friends as can make it. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at this exciting time of our gardening year!



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. rhody4erg@gmail.com

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.



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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!

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!

September 28, 2023

Program to be announced

October 26, 2023

Program to be announced

November

Have a lovely Thanksgiving Holiday with Family and Friends

December 7, 2023

Holiday Potluck and Rhodo 101

All programs subject to change as is life!

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