

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter

The next meeting, IN-PERSON!

Thursday October 26, 2023 at 7:00 P.M

Eureka Woman's Club

1531 J Street, Eureka CA



Eureka Chapter
American Rhododendron Society

Rhododendrons
in the Redwoods

October 2023

Joe Bonino visits SF Botanical Garden

*The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet on Thursday, **October 26, 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.*

Eureka Chapter members Joe and Julie Bonino visited the San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum on May 1, 2023. Joe says "It was a slightly overcast sky morning that made picture taking easier. Then we had some intermittent rain. Then the sun started to peek through at the end of our visit in the early afternoon." He was also reminded of one of the benefits of belonging to Humboldt Botanical Garden is many botanical gardens have reciprocal entry agreements and the would have gotten in free, though being senior citizens the entry fee was nominal.

San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum (this name was adopted in 2004) is located in the heart of Golden Gate Park. The Japanese Tea Garden, the McLaren Rhododendron Dell, Conservatory of Flowers, deYoung Art Museum and California Academy of Sciences are all withing easy walking distance. Golden Gate Park was designed and preliminary work began in the 1870s. Strybing Arboretum was endowed and began to take shape in 1926 with 55 acres and finally groundbreaking in the 1930s. Today there are more than 8,000 different kinds of plants from around the world.

Joe will give us a tour through his photographs.

Joe standing in the temperate Asian garden



William Gaede Family
Rhododendron Pavilion



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



R. 'Huntington'

Plant of the Month: R. 'Huntington'

By Don Wallace

This is a new hybrid by the master hybridizer Frank Fujioka. At Singing Tree Gardens Nursery we were given cuttings of this plant that Frank wanted us to test, and it is excellent! The blood red flowers are frilly and completely cover this low grower in late April. Our plants are at least 15 years old, and are about 2 ft tall and 3 ft wide. A great choice for those with a small garden. The plant seems to hold its foliage well, making a lush and

handsome grower. So far we haven't found any faults with this one. We are guessing from the parents that it is hardy to 5 deg F. 'Huntington' can grow in full sun, or partial shade.

October is Membership Renewal Time Renew your membership and get a FREE plant!

In the September newsletter you should have found a self-addressed STAMPED envelope to send your membership payment. Please make any contact, address, email or phone number corrections to the information on your enclosed renewal letter. If you have lost track of your form and envelope you can go to <https://eurekarhody.org/membership/join/> where you can download a membership form and mail it.

Thank you to those of you who have sent your renewal.

All NEW and renewing members will receive a free Rhodo, first paid/first choice! Plants will be at Walsh's Rhody Hostel for your browsing pleasure. Plants will be available for purchase as well. Call or email for an appointment 707-498-2337, rhodyhostel@suddenlink.net.

Check out the inventory here <https://eurekarhody.org/plantsale/>

You may come shop for your free plant and buy extra plants at \$12 each 1-gal plant. You may also ask us to hold a plant for you, give us your 1st, 2nd, 3rd choices. These plants are super full and lush, ready to beautify your garden or give as gifts, too.

Listen! the wind is rising, and the air is wild with leaves,

We have had our summer evenings, now for October eves!

—Humbert Wolfe, English poet (1885–1940)

Ask Dr. Rhodo

I know that **NOW** is the best time to plant Rhododendrons and Azaleas, before the rain sets in, and I want to be in my big chair reading the latest plant hunters' tales in the American Rhododendron Society *Journal*. But, I have a small suburban lot so I can't get many **BIG** rhodos, what do you suggest? Here' is my wish list:

1. A really short rhododendron to go next to my back door that would give me color, but not make me feel closed in. Something under 2 feet would be great. This is a sunny location.

Dr. Rhodo's answer: There are fewer rhododendrons that stay under 2 ft tall over time. Most all of these have very small leaves, giving the appearance of an evergreen azalea, but are in fact rhododendrons. For your sunny location I would suggest *R. 'Ginny Gee'* or *R. sargentianum 'Maricee'*. Both of these have little leaves and will stay under 2 ft tall in 10 years. *R. 'Ginny Gee'* has light pink flowers and blooms in April-May. 'Maricee' has white flowers and blooms in March-April.

2. A colorful shade rhododendron that is anywhere from 3 feet to 7 feet tall. Also, how would I trim the front so it doesn't take over my space, and still get flowers?

Dr. Rhodo's answer: your request for a rhododendron growing between 3 ft and 7 ft. tall might encompass hundreds of varieties. So, I am suggesting one that stays around 4-5 ft tall. *R. 'Nancy Evans'* is very colorful, opening red, then turning butter yellow. The plant might grow 5-6 ft wide, but you can prune the plant just after blooming, and often it will make more flower buds on the shoots generated by the pruning.

3. In the back sunny corner, it would be great to grow a rhododendron as a tree. Are some varieties better for this than others? And, when do I start shaping it?

Dr. Rhodo's answer: Many rhododendrons could lend themselves to be grown as a tree, but one of our favorites is *R. 'Dame Nellie Melba'*. A friend in Arcata has an old one in her yard that is about 20 ft tall and 15 ft wide, but looks like a tree. When it flowers, it is magnificent! I would not start shaping it until it has been in the ground for 4-5 years.

Editor's note: *Several of the rhododendrons suggested by Dr. Rhodo are available in the inventory of plants that renewing members get for FREE, they may also be purchased by members for \$12 each.*



Members work at Sequoia Park's Anderson Rhodo Dell. Jim and Abby Wasetis, Gayle Teeter and Nelda Palmer

10/9/2004

To the Thawing Wind

Robert Frost

Come with rain, O loud Southwester!
Bring the singer, bring the nester;
Give the buried flower a dream;
Make the settled snowbank steam;
Find the brown beneath the white;
But whate'er you do tonight,
Bathe my window, make it flow,
Melt it as the ice will go;
Melt the glass and leave the sticks
Like a hermit's crucifix;
Burst into my narrow stall;
Swing the picture on the wall;
Run the rattling pages o'er;
Scatter poems on the floor;
Turn the poet out of door.

Hospice of Humboldt, Garden Workday

On October 4th Eureka Chapter members were joined by Humboldt Master Gardeners, Succulent Club members and Garden Club members to plant azaleas and companion plants at the Hospice of Humboldt garden. The garden is surrounding the in-patient building and rooms. It can be viewed from the rooms, the room's patios and by the many Hospice staff, neighbors and community members who make this beautiful garden in the redwoods part of their daily walking routine.

This garden was first planted in 2018 with many donations of time, money and product by Eureka Chapter members, Gardner and Bloome, and Log Cabin Nursery. Your continuing donations keep this garden flourishing.

The garden is regularly maintained by Charles Cunningham, Master Gardeners and Eureka Chapter members.





Coconut and White Chocolate Haystacks

5 egg whites (save the yokes for an omelet for breakfast)

1 -14oz. package of flaked coconut

1 Cup sugar

1- package of Guittard or Ghirardelli white backing chips

1 tsp McCormick Real vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 260 degrees

Let eggs warm to room temperature, separate the whites from yokes do not let any yoke get into the whites, beat with electric mixer until whites are VERY stiff then beat for extra 30 -45 seconds just to be sure.

Beat in the sugar slowly about 1/5th at a time, the mixture should be very stiff.

Fold in the package of coconut, also about 1/5th at a time until blended into the egg white mixture.

Add 1 tsp of vanilla and gently mix well.

Add the package of White baking chips and fold in until well distributed.

Use large spoon (I use my large gravy ladle) to put on parchment paper lined cookie sheet (2) in large globe about 9-11 per cookie sheet. Put one cookie sheet on upper shelf and one on lower shelf of oven, bake and watch when the cookies on the top shelf just start to brown, move the cookies from the lower shelf to the top shelf and top shelf cookies to lower shelf. Watch carefully and don't let them get overly brown, just barely. Remove pans from oven and allow to cool approximately 5 minutes. Using a metal spatula set cookies on a rack for about ten minutes, then carefully onto a serving plate and then cover immediately with plastic wrap so they do not dry out

Editor's note: These cookies were gobbled up in no time at the September potluck and many asked for the recipe. Thank you Marilyn and Doug Batt for the cookies and the recipe.

Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall.

-F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940)



Humboldt Botanical Garden, Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden. Blank slate and beginning to plant October 2008.

Irrigation Project at Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden at Humboldt Botanical Garden

On September 19th volunteers from the Humboldt Master Gardeners, the Temperate Woodland Garden Wild Weeders and Grateful Deadheaders and Eureka Chapter Rhody members gathered for a People Pulling Pipe Party. We removed the drip irrigation system that had been installed in 2009. The failures of the system are too numerous to list. With the wonderful planning and construction techniques implemented by Eureka Chapter members Darci Short, Frank Bickner, Steve Davidson and Tim Walsh a new overhead sprinkler system is being designed and installed. This project has been funded by many generous donations from Eureka Chapter members.



Yipes, this IS not the worm you want!

The below information is provided by the Humboldt Del Norte Master Gardeners

https://ucanr.edu/sites/hdnmastergardeners/Jumping_Worm/

The jumping worm, *Amyntas agrestis*, is an invasive earthworm that has been recently reported in a yard in Arcata. The local extent of this invasive organism is currently unknown. It is typically introduced and spread via potted plants, potting mixes, or mulch.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has labeled the jumping worm as an A-rated pest, meaning it can cause economic or environmental harm if it becomes established in the state.

The jumping worm can be distinguished from other earthworms by a milky-white band (the clitellum) wrapping all around and flush with its body near the head as well as its characteristic “jumping” when disturbed.

Have you seen it? Complete this survey, <https://surveys.ucanr.edu/survey.cfm?surveynumber=41375>, and we will follow up with you.

In nurseries, any jumping worms that are present are likely to be found underneath pots sitting on the ground or on landscape fabric. In forests and gardens they tend to be near the surface, just under accumulations of leaf litter or mulch.

The Cornell Cooperative Extension has outlined some ways that individuals can help control their spread, including:

- Not using them intentionally for bait or gardening.
- Pouring a mixture containing a gallon of water and one-third cup of ground yellow mustard on to your soil, which will force worms to the surface for removal.
- Covering damp soil in the late spring or summer with transparent polyethylene for two to three weeks or until the soil temperature reaches 104 degrees Fahrenheit for a minimum of three days. (may not be effective in Coastal Humboldt)
- Picking them out of the soil and putting them in a bag, then throwing the bag away or leaving the bag in the sun for at least 10 minutes and then tossing it.



The jumping worm, *Amyntas agrestis*. The distinctive white band (clitellum) around its body near the head is circled. Photo by T. Potterfield, Flickr.



Eureka Chapter/American Rhododendron Society

2050 Irving Drive, Eureka CA 95503-7022

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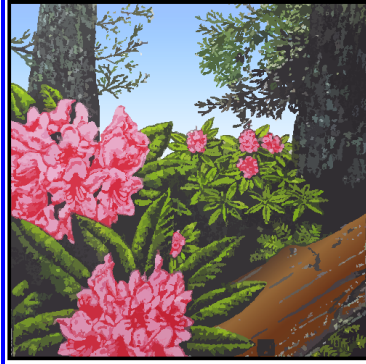
Submissions from members are encouraged and should be sent to June Walsh, Newsletter Editor, by email RhodyHostel@suddenlink.net

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 Garden**, 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!

2023

October 26	Joe Bonino	San Francisco Botanical Garden
November	Enjoy Family and Friends	Thanksgiving
December 7	Don Wallace	Pruning, and Holiday Potluck

2024

January 25	Dr Benjamin Crain	Palau Orchid Conservation Project
February 22	Steve Hootman	Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, Plant Hunting
March 28	Atsuko Gibson	Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, Propagation
April 25	Mark Akimoff	Illahe Rare Plants, Chilean Andes Plant Hunting
May 23	Members' Mini Show	
June 2	Members' Garden Tour and Picnic	

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