

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter



Eureka Chapter
American Rhododendron Society

Rhododendrons
in the Redwoods

Pre-Meeting No Host Dinner
5:15 p.m.

Gallagher's Irish Pub
1604 4th St. Eureka

Call Lynne, 707-362-1796

Reservation required so there will
be enough seating

The next meeting

Thursday April 25

7:00 p.m.

Eureka Woman's Club,
1531 J Street, Eureka CA

April 2024

Mark Akimoff—Illahe Rare Plants

The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet on Thursday, April 25, 2024. The meeting and program will be held at the Eureka Woman's Club, 1531 J Street in Eureka beginning at 7:00 p.m.

We will be returning to our very popular pre-program No Host Dinner. Plan to meet at Gallagher's Irish Pub at 1604 4th Street in Eureka at 5:15 p.m. Your reservation is required by Tuesday 23rd. Please call Lynne Sarty 707-362-1796 to reserve your seat!

Mark Akimoff will be our guest speaker, his early interest in plants was fostered by spending summers with his grandparents who both had indelible green thumbs with a beautiful garden and fruit orchard. Having grown up in a horticultural family, Mark started working with plants at a young age as a nursery hand for his uncle who grew palm trees for the landscape industry on Kauai. Mark would go on to study biotechnology at Montana State University until he decided to move back to Oregon to study horticulture at Oregon State University. In 2001, Mark graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture Science.

After graduating from OSU, Mark was hired as the propagator for the legendary Rae Selling Berry Botanic Garden where he mentored under Jack Poff and many of Portland's horticultural legends. Mark would go on to have a successful 25-year career as a professional horticulturist that spanned large scale wetlands, riparian and environmental restoration projects for government, estate gardening and groundskeeping to teaching horticulture at the community college.



While Mark's personal interests in plants runs wide, propagation has always been a specialty, especially of rare and difficult plants. Mark's passion for rock gardens and alpine plants often has him exploring in the high country for wildflowers. In the gardens at Illahe Rare Plants, ("Ill-a-hee") Mark trials dryland and xeric plants looking for the best plants to better help gardeners create a garden that is able to thrive in a changing climate. **Mark will have some his special and rare plants for sale. Check out the Illahe plant catalogue;**

<https://www.illaherareplants.com/catalog>

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.

Eureka Chapter Life Member Evo Fanucchi 2024 Rhododendron Parade Grand Marshal

Evo Fanucchi (Born in 1920, yes 104 years young) began working at the age of 14 delivering newspapers in Old Town Eureka and started bartending at Roy's Club on his 21st birthday. During WWII Evo served in the U.S. Navy. Roy's Club was a fixture in Old Town for 76 years with Evo and his wife Catherine operating the restaurant initially with his brother Roy and then together since 1991. Roy's Club, under Evo and his wife Catherine's management, thrived as a hub for the community. Evo and Catherine welcomed many Eureka Chapter pre-meeting dinners to Roy's Club through the years.

Now, as the Grand Marshal for the April 27, 2024 Rhododendron Parade, Evo Fanucchi stands at the forefront, leading the procession through the streets of Eureka. The parade's theme "the Roaring Twenties" serves as a fitting tribute to Evo's roots and the era that shaped his early years. Evo's role as the Grand Marshal of the Rhododendron Parade is a well-deserved honor for a man who has dedicated a lifetime to the betterment of Old Town Eureka.

Editor's note: In 1984 Catherine Fanucchi was one of the founding members of the Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. She served as treasurer for many years. Evo and Catherine became Life Members of the Eureka Chapter in 2022.



Evo and Catherine in front of the now closed Roy's Club in Old Town Eureka at 2nd (Two Street) and D Street.

Volunteers needed! Eureka Chapter will have a one day plant sale on Saturday April 27th during the Rhododendron Festival.

Help is needed to unload and set up plants for sale, clerks for sales, plant helpers, clean up crew after sale. Say yes if Ibbby calls you. Or even better email Ibbby ibbygerner@gmail.com or June at 707-498-2337.



Plant of the Month:

R. 'Loderi King George'

By Don Wallace

Rhododendron 'Loderi King George' is huge plant with enormous fragrant trusses of white kissed with pink. It blooms in April and will grow to be 6-8 ft. tall in 10 years. Great for screens and hedges. You will find 'Loderi King George' in many older landscapes in the Pacific northwest and it continues to be one of our most requested plants each year for its size, fragrance and hardiness.

This variety is becoming rare in the trade because it is notoriously difficult to root by cuttings. Fortunately for modern science, we were able to procure some by tissue culture. It may take a few years to start blooming, but once it does, stand back, as it is a fast grower that gets big. This variety is one of the 'super fragrant' kinds that perfumes the air and can be detected well before you are next to it. If you have the room, plant it close to your outdoor deck, or other place you frequent, to enjoy the fragrance.

**The 2024
Eureka Home & Garden
Show
April 20th & 21st**

**Redwood Acres Fairground
10am - 6pm each day**

www.eurekahomeandgardenshow.com

Don Wallace and Singing Tree Gardens Nursery will have a display garden at the Eureka Home and Garden Show April 20th and 21st.



Gail Ledbetter's *Rhododendron*
'Countess of Sefton'



John and Susan Winding
Honored with Bronze Medal

Since joining the American Rhododendron Society in 2005 you have actively participated in activities to grow the society. Your participation as sole cashiers for the 2017 Convention in Eureka was invaluable. You made the arduous trip around washed-out roads and stood out in the rain and wind to cashier for the plant sale. You continue to actively support the activities of the Eureka Chapter by helping with plant

sales and setting up the meeting room for member meetings.

The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is proud to present the Bronze Medal to Susan Winding and John Winding, this 28th day of March 2024.



Gail Ledbetter
Honored with Bronze Medal

Since joining the Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society in 1991 you have actively participated in many Chapter activities. You have shown many of your beautiful trusses and flower arrangements at the Rhododendron Show and have participated in the Members' Mini Show. You have opened your garden for members to visit. Most importantly you have done that which nobody else wants to do; the real work of tak-

ing the minutes for the Board of Directors.

The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is proud to present the Bronze Medal to Gail Ledbetter, this 28th day of March 2024.



Eureka Chapter Life Member Tom Martin and his *Rhododendron* 'Dame Nellie Melba'

March 2024

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 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

2024

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|------------------------|--|---|
| April 25 | Mark Akimoff | Illahe Rare Plants, Alpines of New Zealand |
| May 23 | Members' Mini Show | Let Us See Your Bloomers! |
| June 2 | Members' Garden Tour and Picnic | |
| July and August | Weed, Water, and Wander | |
| Sept 26 | Molly Barker | Mendocino Coast Botanical Garden |

All programs subject to change...what in life isn't?



HELP WANTED!

Your newsletter editor has held this job since 2003 and **NEEDS** to pass the torch.

If you are interested in becoming the vital link to Eureka Rhody members by being the newsletter editor, please call June 707-498-2337 or email RhodyHostel@suddenlink.net .

Eureka Chapter board members Ibbey, Beth and Ellen anticipating the pre-board of directors' meeting dinner which had 7 desserts for the 14 board members in attendance. It is truly surprising that any work got done!

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 p.m. all members are welcome, call or email June Walsh 707-498-2337 RhodyHostel@suddenlink.net