

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter

The next meeting, IN-PERSON!

Thursday January 25, 7:00 p.m.

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



Eureka Chapter
American Rhododendron Society

Rhododendrons
in the Redwoods

January 2024

Orchid Conservation in Palau

*The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet on Thursday, **January 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. Dr. Benjamin Crain will be our guest speaker, he will talk about conservation of orchids in Palau. We are helping him become familiar with the *Vireya Rhododendrons* of the tropics, too.*

Originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Dr. Benjamin J. Crain has diverse interests in numerous aspects of biodiversity conservation. He is particularly intrigued by geographic, demographic, and ecological underpinnings of rare and endangered species in global diversity hotspots. His passion for these subjects has led him to work on several ecology and conservation projects across the U.S. and internationally. Academically, Dr. Crain received his bachelor's degree in geography, conservation biology, and environmental studies from the University of Wisconsin. He later completed his master's degree at Humboldt State University where he focused on rare plant conservation in California. Subsequently, Dr. Crain moved to the Caribbean to complete his PhD on rare tropical orchid conservation at the University of Puerto Rico. His most recent research program focuses on the ecology and conservation of orchids in the Republic of Palau.

Professionally, Dr. Crain has taken on a number of diverse roles over the course of his career. He has taught botany courses at Humboldt State University, the University of Puerto Rico, and the University of Tennessee. He has also had exciting opportunities to work at several public museums and gardens including Olbrich Botanical Garden, Shedd Aquarium, the San Francisco Zoo, and the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. At present, he remains a research associate with the North American Orchid Conservation Center at the Smithsonian and he is the co-chair of the IUCN's *in situ* orchid conservation committee.

His passion for combining science and education in non-traditional settings has led him to his new role at the Humboldt Botanical Garden where he looks forward to working with the exceptional gardens, visitors, and staff to promote awareness of, and interest in plant diversity, while supporting plant ecology and conservation in an incredibly unique setting.

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.



Submitted photos: Orchids in Palau and Benny making field notes.

Since taking on his new job at Humboldt Botanical Garden, Benny has planted orchids in the Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden including the native *Goodyera*, commonly called Rattlesnake Plantain or Ladies Tresses. The greenhouse also has many of his exotic orchids of many genera.



Plant of the Month: *Rhododendron* 'Roy Hudson'

By Don Wallace

Rhododendron 'Roy Hudson' was hybridized by the late Howard Keegan in 1970. It is a cross of *R. burmanicum* x *R. nuttallii*, probably as an attempt to create a hardier *R. nuttallii* plant. Several other rhododendron hybridizers have made this, or similar crosses and they are all nice plants. *R. 'Roy Hudson'* has smaller flowers and leaves than *R. nuttallii*, as one would expect, as *R. burmanicum* has small leaves and small yellow flowers.

The flowers of 'Roy Hudson' have a "creamy" appearance, coming from the *R. burmanicum* influence. The fragrance is light, but on a warm day is easily noticed. This cultivar will appreciate a partially shaded, or morning sun, location in the garden, and will grow to 4-5 ft. tall and 5-6 ft. wide.

Roy Hudson was the Director of Strybing Arboretum in Golden Gate Park in the late 1960's into the 1970's. He was especially interested in the maddenii rhododendrons. I received my cuttings of *R. 'Roy Hudson'* from Eleanor Philp who owned Trillium Lane Nursery in Fort Bragg. *R. 'Roy Hudson'* has won Top Award Trophies, including Best of Show, at both the Noyo Chapter's show as well as the Siuslaw Chapter's show.



Rh. 'Roy Hudson'

Winter in the Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden

By June Walsh

From the cold, rainy day in March 2008 when we planted the 28 *Magnolia denudata* tree Allée in the Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden we have known that winter would hold special promise for this garden. Over the next 8 years we have added many winter flowering trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants.

Two spectacular *Camellia* species offer hybrids that give us the huge flowers of *Camellia reticulata* and the diminutive blooms of *Camellia sasanqua*. *Camellia sasanqua* 'Brooksie Anderson' shows off lovely small clear pink blossoms all along its arching branches from November through January. From January through April *Camellia reticulata* 'Buddha' is covered with 6" wide deep-orchid pink flowers, some of which will mature into hard plum sized fruits bearing three coffee bean-like seeds.

We also have a *Camellia sinensis* (*Thea sinensis*) which is the most widely grown camellia in the world, being the plant from which all true tea is derived. Don't look for bold flowers but appreciate this plant as you have a hot cup of tea on a winter morn.

In February our most glorious *Magnolia* 'Caerhay's Belle' will burst forth with 12" lipstick pink, scented blooms on naked branches. As my husband Tim says "the great thing about 'Caerhay's Belle' is that it blooms in February to give us a bright lift on a winter day. And the sad thing about 'Caerhay's Belle' is that it blooms in February when the wind and rain can strip the flowers off overnight!" It tends to keep blooming for several weeks so rainy windy days won't rob it of all its blossoms.

Next will bloom the Allée of 28 *Magnolia denudata* beginning in March. The Chinese have cultivated this tree since at least 600AD and call it Yulan. *Magnolia denudata*, like many Asian magnolias is a precocious bloomer meaning that the flowers appear before the leaves, creating a very dramatic scene in late winter to early spring. If our winter is very mild the flowers and leaves come at the same time somewhat reducing the effect of clouds of lemon-scented white flowers.

We have had to wait a few years to see *Magnolia rostrata* bloom. It was planted in 2012 as a gift from the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden. In the Spring of 2023 it rewarded visitors and volunteers with several very large fragrant flowers. It is endangered in its native Southern China and Burma and very seldom grown in public gardens.

Not to be missed are the early flowering and fragrant *Rhododendron taronense* and *Rhododendron* 'Forsterianum' both have waxy white flowers which hold up well to rain and scent the air with dianthus and clove perfume.





Magnolia sprengeri 'Diva'



Magnolia 'Caerhay's Belle'



Eureka Rhoddy Treasurer
Jeff Clark
cleaning up
Camellia blossoms

These plants are part of our collection of Maddenii series rhododendrons which have been sourced and gifted by the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way Washington where they must be grown in the Rutherford Conservatory and in cool greenhouses. Here in coastal Northern California we can grow them outside exceptionally well.

Beginning in March come see our *Toona sinensis*, Chinese Toon tree, with its brilliant flamingo-pink new growth. The green form of this tree is widely grown in Asia from the Korean peninsula, through China to Indonesia and is used for food and timber. We like our tree's amazing pink plumage in contrast to the green.

Along the perpetually wet central bed you will find several species of *Primula* (primroses). Follow the stairs into the forest to see the *Hellebores* that were donated by the family of Stan Baird, PhD.

Make a date to come walk through Humboldt Botanical Garden on a winter day to see the runnels awash with rain water along the Dedekam Ornamental Terrace then into the Lost Coast Brewery Native Plant Garden where volunteer Curator Mark Moore has added many new native plants to the collection. Then wander up to the Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden either from the lower Water Fall Trail or the main road. Winter is a great time to visit.

Humboldt Botanical Garden is a member of the Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society.

June and Tim Walsh are Charter members of Humboldt Botanical Garden and UCCE Master Gardeners. June is the leader of the Tuesday Wild Weeders and Grateful Deadheaders volunteers who care for this slice of heaven.

***Sun comes, moon comes,
Time slips away.***

***Sun sets, moon sets,
Love, fix a day.***

–Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809–92)

How did the months get their names? Check the link:

<https://www.almanac.com/how-did-months-get-their-names>

2024 is a Leap Year, what better reason is there for holding a LEAP Party, February 29, 2024?

Another Party Date 2028! Who will you invite?

“Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant.” -Robert Louis Stevenson, novelist, essayist, and poet (1850-1894)

Hip replacement for Eureka Chapter Life Member Evo Fanucchi...at 104

For over 50 years, Evo Fanucchi tended bar at the family restaurant – Roy’s Club Italian Food in Old Town Eureka, a Humboldt County landmark that opened in 1919. After his brother passed in 1991, Evo took over sole ownership and moved to the “back of the house”, assuming duties as cook.

When the well-loved restaurant served its last plate of chicken parm in 2017, Evo had logged more than 76 years in the restaurant business. That’s a lot of time on his feet. And knees. And hips. So much so, Evo needed both hips replaced in his 80s. Now, at the tender age of 104, Evo is recuperating after another hip surgery, this time a “redo” of his right hip back in September that he had done at St. Joseph Hospital in Eureka.

“When I had the first surgery in San Francisco, they said my hips would last for another 20 years,” quipped Evo from his home in Eureka, where, up until his surgery, he was still active in his garden. “We didn’t know I would need them longer.”

Since that original surgery, Evo began to experience pain in his right leg, and it became clear that something needed to be done to maintain his quality of life. He and his wife Catherine wondered if another surgery was an option at his age.

“A lot of doctors would not take him on because of his age,” said Catherine, Evo’s wife of 51 years. “Dr. Ziegler, our family physician, said that Evo was low risk, however. That’s when we went to see Dr. Haight.”

Dr. Haight is Holly Haight, M.D., a Stanford trained joint replacement specialist for Providence Medical Group in Humboldt County. Dr. Haight arrived in February and has made a huge impact on knee and hip replacement patients in Humboldt County in her short time here.

“When Evo came to me with a hip replacement that was clearly wearing out, I said NO,” remarked Dr. Haight. “A revision is a much larger operation, and for someone who is in their 100’s, it seems that the risk is not worth the benefit.”

According to Dr. Haight, she met with Evo and Catherine on multiple occasions explaining that “lots of things can go wrong with any kind of surgery” and that “someone who is over 100 the risk is high, even if they are healthy.”

But Evo plowed ahead and even called upon Dr. Ziegler to reach out to Dr. Haight. It was an “impassioned, two-page letter” from Dr. Ziegler, along with Evo and Catherine’s persistence, that ultimately led Dr. Haight to agree to do the total hip revision. After several more “long discussions”, Dr. Haight agreed.

“They understood (the risk) and were willing to accept (it),” said Dr. Haight.

“Dr. Haight is very intelligent,” said Evo. “She was concerned about the length of surgery time, but everything worked out fine.”

So fine, in fact, Evo was back climbing stairs the day after surgery and says that his mobility is improving every day. His secret to his long and active life?

“I wake up every day at 5am and look forward to my physical therapy, my friends who come and visit me, and getting out to my garden.”

Not a bad recipe for a rich and flavorful life.

Re printed from Redheaded Black Belt December 6, 2023

Editor’s note: Catherine Fanucchi is a founding member of the Eureka Chapter and has often shared her garden.



SAVE THE DATE !
ARS 2024 Spring Convention
Bellingham, Washington
May 2-5, 2024

For more info Visit <https://www.ars2024.org/>

Four Points by Sheraton, Bellingham
Hotel and Conference Center
714 Lakeway Drive, Bellingham, WA, USA, 98229
Phone: +1 360-671-1011

Highlights:

Pre-Tour: May 1: Private Gardens around Seattle

Convention: Tours * Seminars * Workshops * Banquets

Post-Tour: May 5: Gardens around Vancouver, Canada

Time to check your Passport!

The Life & Death of Hirsutum

Now its Resurrection as Rhododendra

Many of us couldn't believe the wealth of information and photos that became available on Hirsutum. It was too good to be true. It required a continuing web presence and constant maintenance. In 2021, it lost its web presence and had lost maintenance in 2015. It was just announced that Canadian web-guru John Verwolf has created **Rhododendra** which is a functional replacement for Hirsutum. The new website is at <http://www.rhododendra.com/>



On June 4, 2009, a website, Hirsutum.info, was created by Herman van Ree in the Netherlands. The goal of the Hirsutum project was to collect as much information and as many photos as possible concerning rhododendrons. This included species, hybrids, azaleas, vireyas and azaleodendrons. It was amazing how quickly this website grew. The actual ambitious goal of posting photos and information was being carried out by one person, Marjo Schlenter, Herman's wife.

It eventually grew to over 20,000 entries. I was skeptical at first that such a site would last for very long. However, it grew and grew and became the go-to site for rhododendron information. Finally, on July 19, 2012, after seeing Hirsutum grow, I made available to Herman and Marjo, 2,000 of my photos at <http://rhodyman.net/hirsutum.html>. Hirsutum listed over a 1,200 hybridizers and had over 10,000 photos contributed by over 150 photographers from around the world. The major contributors were Garth Wedemire from Canada, Everard Daniel from England, Herman van Ree, and Tijs Huisman from Holland. Valley Forge Chapter's Jim Willhite was also contributing photos and was the major contributor from the US.

Then in 2015, Herman van Ree announced he was discontinuing his involvement with the Hirsutum website. The website continued to be available, but with no new information. Then, in 2021, the website stopped working altogether. There were some archives of the Hirsutum site that saved some pages, but since Hirsutum was database driven, only a portion of the information was available in the archives.

On November 13, 2023, Ken Webb announced "they have a guy on Vancouver Island who is working on rebuilding the Hirsutum Website." His name is John Verwolf. Rhododendra is the name of his new website, <http://www.rhododendra.com/>. He still has to add information about hybridizers and botanists from the old Hirsutum website and he is going to build a public input system so that users can add information as they collect it. However, for all intents and purposes, Rhododendra is up and running and has most of the functionalities that Hirsutum had.

Thank you John Verwolf!

Steve Henning, American Rhododendron Society District 8 Director



Left , Camellia sasanqua 'Kogyoku' December bloom

Center, Dessert offering at Holiday Potluck

Right, 57 Eureka Chapter Holiday Potluck Happy members and guests



Jim Wasetis is Honored with Bronze Medal

You have been a member of the Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society since the 1980s, for over 40 years, offering your services when needed. You developed and hosted the Eureka Chapter's first web presence to bring us into the modern world. The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is proud to present the Bronze Medal to Jim Wasetis, this 7th day of December 2023.



Abby Wasetis is Honored with Bronze Medal

You have been a member of the Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society since the early 1980s. The first rhododendron enthusiasts in Humboldt County named their group the Dr. Anderson Rhododendron Club for your dad, which in 1984 became the Eureka Chapter. You have been one of the cheerful voices calling members each month to remind them of upcoming meetings and events. The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is proud to present the Bronze Medal to Abby Wasetis, this 7th day of December 2023.



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

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!

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	
July and August	Weed, Water, and Wander	
Sept 26	Molly Barker	Mendocino Coast Botanical Garden

All programs subject to change

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 707-443-0604