

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter

Pre Meeting Dinner  
Pachanga Mexicana  
5:15 p.m.  
1802 5th St. in Eureka  
Reservation required  
Call Lynne 707-362-1796

The next meeting,  
Thursday February 27th  
7:00 p.m.  
Eureka Woman's Club,  
1531 J Street, Eureka CA



Eureka Chapter  
American Rhododendron Society

Rhododendrons  
in the Redwoods

February 2025

Exciting NEW Herbarium at Cal Poly Humboldt

*The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet on Thursday, February 27, 2025. The meeting and program will be held at the Eureka Woman's Club, 1531 J Street in Eureka beginning at 7:00 p.m.*

Cyril ("sir-elle") Oberlander, our February guest speaker, is dedicated to fostering lifelong learning, and curating a vibrant learning environment to positively transform lives, libraries, and learning. Cyril is currently serving as Library Dean at Cal Poly Humboldt since July 2014. He previously served at libraries; SUNY Geneseo, University of Virginia Libraries, Portland State University, and as a consultant to public, academic, and special libraries. Current projects: **3D Digital Herbarium**, and discovering Humboldt with Google Maps among other projects.

Eureka Chapter member Joe Bonino told your newsletter editor about an exciting program being developed at Cal Poly Humboldt's library, a **3D Herbarium**. You may wonder what is an **Herbarium**, and how can it be exciting?

Cyril is an engaging and enthusiastic presenter, and the **3D Herbarium** is an exciting new way to see plants.

**herbarium** (*plural herbariums or herbaria*)

A collection of dried plants or parts of plants.

A building or institution where such a collection is kept.

The term herbarium was first used as a collection of dried medicinal plants cataloged within a bound book. Italian Luca Ghini (1490-1556) is credited to be the first person to press and preserve plants under pressure, then bind the specimens within a book.

*(continued on page 2)*



Choisya ready to be photographed for 3D herbarium



Cyril Oberlander, Library Dean

CAL POLY HUMBOLDT

Photos provided by Cal Poly Humboldt

According to Wiki, “Herbarium specimens are the basis for identification and foundation for nomenclature. They provide the comparative material that is essential for studies in taxonomy, systematics, ecology, anatomy, morphology, conservation biology, biodiversity, ethnobotany and paleobiology.”

The Royal Botanical Garden at Kew in England is the largest herbarium in the world. It houses extensive botanic collections of 7,000,000 specimens. The Kew collection has Herbarium entries of the first *Rhododendrons* carried to England from China by plant hunters like Frank Kingdon Ward, Ernest Wilson, Robert Fortune and Pere David.

In 2002 Tim and I, visited our now departed friend Dr. George Argent, at the Royal Botanical Garden Edinburgh. As it was Tim’s birthday, George asked if there was something special George could do for Tim, Tim’s request and George’s gift was to visit the RBG Edinburgh Herbarium to see the *Rhododendron occidentale*. So, into the climate-controlled Herbarium stacks he took us and with the help of a student he took down the pressed and dried specimen of *Rhododendron occidentale*.



The Cal Poly Humboldt Library 3D Digital Herbarium is transforming how we learn Botany from a 2D to a 3D Digital Interactive Herbarium.

This library project inspires learners to explore botany, make research fun, and build a 3D infrastructure to advance learning by doing and real-world engagement. Cal Poly Humboldt Library is leveraging new and immersive digital technologies.

The 3D Digital Herbarium project involves photogrammetry and developing engaging interactive 3D models of plants and connecting digital herbarium to enrich how we learn botany.

Learn more;

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/articles/the-mystery-of-the-missing-herbarium>

[library.humboldt.edu](http://library.humboldt.edu)

Herbarium sheet of *Rhododendron occidentale* from Oregon State University . It was collected May 30,1982 at Babyfoot lake off Highway 199 in Josephine Co, Oregon



Longtime Eureka Rhody Chapter member **Gayle Teter** passed away in September 2024. Gayle served as a board member, a convention organizer, she showed her beautiful blooms at the Rhody Festival show and at the member Mini-Show. She shared her lovely jewel-box

garden on many member garden tours. When a plant got too big for her meticulous garden plan she called Chapter members to come get the plants that she had dug up and readied to rehome. She was ready with her shovel and pruners for various Chapter projects. We will miss her big smile and warm embrace.





## Well Earned Bronze Medals awarded at January Meeting

Past Eureka Chapter President Max Abrahamsen (pictured on the left) made Bronze medal presentations to sisters Mollie Smith and Annalee Veach. They have worked independently and as a team since they joined the Eureka Chapter.

### Mollie Smith (pictured in the middle)

Since joining the Eureka Chapter in 2014 you have actively participated in Chapter activities. When the chapter was still mailing 100-plus printed newsletters to all members you stepped forward and volunteered to print, collate and staple the newsletters. You printed all the handout materials for the 2017 International American Rhododendron Society's Convention hosted by the Eureka Chapter, including informational flyers, convention schedules and speaker information.



The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is proud to present the Bronze Medal to Mollie Smith, this 23rd day of January 2025.

### Annalee Veach (pictured on the right)

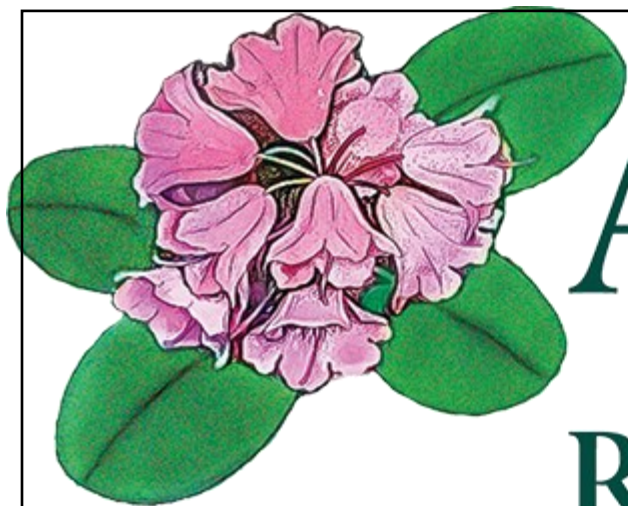
Since joining the Eureka Chapter in 2014 you have actively participated in Chapter activities. You have served on the Board of Directors, helped set up before meetings and clean up after meetings. You acted as the Eureka Chapter's contract manager, liaison and house mother for our meeting

venue the Eureka Woman's Club. You have braved the wet and cold to offer rhododendrons to the public during the annual Rhododendron Festival plant sale.

The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is proud to present the Bronze Medal to Annalee Veach, this 23rd day of January 2025.

*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.*

[www.EurekaRhody.org](http://www.EurekaRhody.org)



# ARS 2025

## Emerging Trends for Rhododendrons

Wolfville, Nova Scotia • June 5-8, 2025

<https://ars2025.org/> June 5-8, 2025. Wolfville is near Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Use this link for program, registration, accommodations and speaker profiles as well as tours.



### Plant of the Month

#### *Rhododendron decorum*

By Don Wallace, 2017 American Rhododendron Society Silver Medal honoree

#### *Rhododendron decorum*

is a fragrant and hardy species from the Fortunea subsection that grows large flowers with white, light pink, or some white or light pink with yellow in the throat. The flower petals will sometimes have a 'crepe paper' like texture, making a positive I.D. easier. The plant can grow to 10 ft tall and when in full bloom, is a sight to behold!

Fragrance is the main reason it is planted, and the sweet

honeysuckle perfume can be detected before you are in front of the plant. There are many forms out there, and some better than others. The 'Schick' form is one of the best in my opinion, but others may have their favorites too. The species was first described in 1887 by Franch, and is native to Sichuan and Yunnan China, and North Burma. The blooming starts in late May.

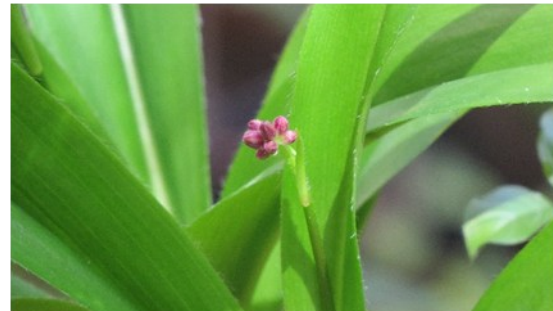


## Word of the Month—BOLT

By **Bruce Palmer**, 2015 American Rhododendron Society Gold Medal Honoree

Reprinted from April 2021 (\*note the Covid info in this article)

This month's word is BOLT. Bolt has myriad meanings, but in botany the nearest is probably derived from the Old French *buleterer*, to separate. I hit upon this word because, harking back to my youth in Shasta County, from a distance I mistook a bolting truss of *R. 'Loderi King George'* for a buckeye. I was quickly corrected but realized that bolting is something not yet covered in the Word. Bolting is typically applied to herbaceous plants, but the process is widely applied by flowering plants including shrubs and trees. Currently in our yard the plant showing bolting most obviously is *Clintonia andrewsiana*, a beautiful, red-flowered lily endemic to the California coast from Monterey County to Del Norte County.



*Clintonia andrewsiana*

Plants in general make many more molecules than they require for maintenance. In late summer and early fall they store the components for making proteins and chlorophyll in the spring. This is most obvious in deciduous trees. As the temperature drops and the days shorten, the color of leaves turns from green to various shades of yellow, orange and red. What is happening is that the trees are dismantling chlorophyll because photosynthesis is no longer efficient. They save nitrogen and magnesium in their stems and roots for constructing chlorophyll the next year. The bright colors left behind are the accessory pigments that were in the leaves all along but were obscured by the chlorophyll.



*R. 'Countess of Haddington'*

In late winter and early spring, as the temperature moderates and the days lengthen, the plant hormones gibberellin and auxin respond, causing stems to lengthen, leaf buds to grow and flower stalks to bolt and then bloom forth to attract pollinators. Often, the new leaves are colored bright red to prevent sunburn as they harden and the concentration of chlorophyll increases to obscure the red pigments.

\*At this point I can't resist digressing from flowers to vaccines. If you have not already gotten your vaccine, you should make an appointment and bolt right out and get one. I notice that some of us are reluctant to get the new RNA-based vaccines, thinking they were developed too rapidly, coming like a bolt out of the blue. That is not accurate. The concept that fats and oils (lipids) form tiny bubbles when immersed in water and can absorb proteins, DNA and RNA dates back at least forty years. The idea of using this fact to control the actions of bacteria and viruses has been applied for more than ten years. China discovered the genome of the corona virus and released it publicly in December, 2019, making it possible to construct the new vaccines for widespread testing immediately. The idea is new and scary, but there is no way the new vaccines can harm you in any major, permanent way.

So here we are again, noticing the trusses bolting at the beginning of the rhodie blooming season. We can't have a flower show again this year, but we can enjoy the captivating displays in our yards and perhaps share their beauty online.



## Eureka Chapter By Laws changes.

Please review the Eureka Chapter By Laws here: [https://eurekaohody.org/files/ECARS\\_Bylaws-Feb2025-rewrite.pdf](https://eurekaohody.org/files/ECARS_Bylaws-Feb2025-rewrite.pdf)

The membership will vote to update the By Laws at the February meeting.



January 2025 Steve Hootman collected the seed cone of the very rare *Magnolia rostrata* at Humboldt Botanical Garden. This plant came to HBG from the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden as a 1-gallon plant in 2012.



Humboldt Botanical Garden Temperate Woodland Garden in winter color 2025. And as naked-yet-to-be-planted ground in 2008.

**"There's no such thing as foul weather, only inappropriate clothing." attributed to Gertrude Jekyll**



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](mailto:RhodyHostel@suddenlink.net)

Membership information and applications are available from Ellen Gill, [rhody4erg@gmail.com](mailto:rhody4erg@gmail.com)

Eureka Chapter is a member of the **Humboldt Botanical Garden**, 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.



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## Future Programs

*The Eureka Chapter meets at the Eureka Woman's Club, 1531 J Street, Eureka CA.*

*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!*

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|--------------------------|--|
| <b>February 27, 2025</b> | <b>Cyril Oberlander, Cal Poly Humboldt's<br/>3-D herbarium project</b> |
| <b>March 27, 2025</b>    | <b>Emily Aune, Hendrick's Park in Eugene, OR</b>                       |
| <b>April 24, 2025</b>    | <b>Marc Colombel, From Brittany, France!</b>                           |
| <b>April 26, 2025</b>    | <b>Eureka Rhody Plant Sale</b>   |
| <b>May 2-3, 2025</b>     | <b>Humboldt Botanical Garden, Plant Sale</b>                           |
| <b>May 22, 2025</b>      | <b>Member Mini Show; Let us see your bloomers!</b>                     |
| <b>June 8, 2025</b>      | <b>Member Garden Tour</b>  |

*All programs subject to change, but what in life isn't?*

## 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 7p.m. all members are welcome, call or email June Walsh [RhodyHostel@suddenlink.net](mailto:RhodyHostel@suddenlink.net) or 707-443-0604