AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter

Pre Meeting Dinner
5:15 p.m.
Gallagher's
Reservation is required call Lynne at (707) 442-7569

The next meeting,
Thursday January 23, 7:00 p.m.
Eureka Woman's Club,
1531 J Street, Eureka CA

Eureka Chapter American Rhododendron Society — Rhododendrons in the Redwoods

January 2025

The Second Golden Age of Plant Hunting

The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet on Thursday, January 23, 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..

Steve Hootman is the Executive Director & Curator of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington where he has worked since 1992. He has participated in or led over twenty expeditions into the remote regions of the world looking for rare and new taxa of rhododendrons and other plants and is considered one of the world authorities on the genus *Rhododendron*. He is also an active collector, authority and promoter of related Ericaceae including genera such as *Vaccinium*, *Agapetes* and *Gaultheria*.

The title of Steve's program is: **The Second Golden Age of Plant Hunting; New Introductions of *Rhododendron* Species Since 1980**.

Steve has given the Eureka Chapter many programs through the years, he has been a mentor to Humboldt Botanical Garden curators and given HBG many tender rhododendrons and companion plants to grow in the garden. These are plants that will not grow for very many years through the occasional freeze at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, but thrive in our cool summer and moderate winter climate. Many of these plants have to be grown in RSBG's Rutherford Conservatory. Steve gave HBG *Magnolia rostrata*, a very rare tree that flowered for the first time in 2023 since being planted from a 1-gal pot in 2014. In 2015, HBG received *Rhododendron species Nova* (meaning new) and which was named *Rhododendron mechukea* in 2020. *Rhododendron mechukae* is a newly discovered species that grows in the temperate forests of Arunachal Pradesh, India and is critically endangered.

Tim Walsh, left, and Steve Hootman, right, at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden.

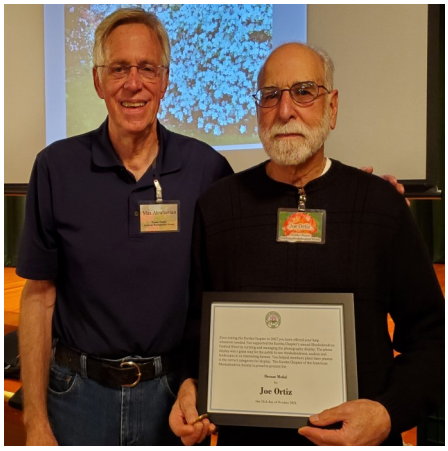
Plant of the Month

Rhododendron arboreum 'Double Flower Form'

By Don Wallace, American Rhododendron Society Silver Medal honoree

Starting around Christmas time, this lovely red flowering rhododendron begins to show its color. Each blossom is a fully double, hose-in-hose flower. The plant grows slowly to 5 ft. tall in 10 years and has lush, attractive medium green leaves.

I was given cuttings of this plant many years ago by the late Peter Schick of Fort Bragg. I remember as if it was last week seeing this interesting rhododendron in his garden. I said I liked it and was then given cuttings. Peter had so many unusual plants in his collection as he was sent seed from plant collectors living all around the world. These plant enthusiasts knew Peter would grow the seed and if something turned out special, he would plant them either in his own garden, or the Mendocino Coast Botanical Garden. As a result, the Mendocino Coast Botanical Garden has benefited greatly from Peter's generosity over the years. The Maddenii collection alone has hundreds of species or hybrids that came from Peter.



Eureka Chapter past president Max Abrahamsen served as Master-of-Ceremonies to award Trish Giddings-Ortiz and Joe Ortiz bronze medals for their service to the Chapter.

Since joining the Eureka Chapter in 2007 you have offered your help whenever needed. You supported the Eureka Chapter's annual Rhododendron Festival Show by curating and managing the photography display. The photo display was a great way for the public to see rhododendrons, azaleas and landscapes in an interesting format. You helped members place their photos in the correct categories for display. The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is proud to present the **Bronze Medal** to **Joe Ortiz t**his 24th day of October 2024.

Since joining the Eureka Chapter in 2007 you have been a willing participant in Chapter activities. You served as Secretary for several years, taking the Board of Director's meeting minutes and writing reviews of the member meetings for the newsletter. You have helped with the setup of the Annual Flower shows. You have placed flowers in the flower shows & the member's mini shows. The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is proud to present the **Bronze Medal** to **Trish Giddings-Ortiz** this 24th day of October 2024.

Word of the Month

By Bruce Palmer

Past Eureka Chapter president and recipient of the American Rhododendron Society Gold Medal
This article was originally published in the January 2013 Eureka Chapter Newsletter

This month's word is **Phototropism**. It's from the Greek *photos*, light, and *trope*, turning. Tim Walsh suggested it. It's a good topic for this month; that's about all that's going on with our rhodies and other plants at this time of year. When the light is on one side of a plant, especially a newly sprouted one, the stem bends toward the light. Charles Darwin was the first to discover that the cause is internal to the plant. Darwin is best known for assembling many of the facts behind evolution, but he contributed findings to a wide variety of biological problems. He and his son Frank put caps on seedlings and discovered that if the tips are kept in the dark the shoots will not grow toward light. Their conclusion was that some substance in the tips of the stems was causing the bending. They were correct. In the early twentieth century, the substance was extracted and named **Auxin** (Greek, *auxien*, to increase). We know now that auxin is produced in the tip cells and tends to migrate to the shady side of the stem. What happens there is that auxin causes enzymes to weaken the cell walls in the shade, allowing those cells to elongate. As the cells in the shade become longer than the ones in the sun, the stem is forced to bend toward the light. We left some Paperwhite Narcissus bulbs in the bag too long this year and they reached out for the light. Here they are, now freshly planted (in a pot from one of Paula and Verne Trinoskeys' yard sales). As long as we orient them so the bent stems are pointed away from the light, they will probably straighten up and bloom normally in a few weeks.

As usual, the story is not that simple. Research over time has shown that there are many types of auxins. Their actions aren't limited to causing stems to bend. Two of the auxins, Indoleacetic acid and Indolebutyric acid, are ones we use in Rootone and similar rooting products to induce cuttings to sprout. The auxins don't act in isolation. Other plant "hormones" have been identified which act in association with auxins and by themselves to cause other plant growth actions. That's a story for another time. The next time you're out in the garden, look closely at your Rhododendrons and other shrubs. Those in the shade are bending toward the strongest light. That's **phototropism**. *Bruce Palmer's photo*

Bruce Palmer is Eureka Chapter Past President and the recipient of the American Rhododendron Society's highest honor the Gold Medal/

A great word to use in your next text message!
zygomorphic

PRONUNCIATION:(zy-guh-MOR-fik)
MEANING:
adjective: Having a single plane of symmetry: divisible into two mirror-image halves along only one axis.
ETYMOLOGY:
From Greek zygo- (yoke) + -morphic (shaped). Earliest documented use: 1875. The term contrasts with actino-morphic structures (from actino- meaning ray), which have radial symmetry.
USAGE:
"The leathery leaves of ***Rhododendrons*** swaying to and fro in the gentle summer breeze, their large, showy, slightly zygomorphic flowers in beautiful bloom."
Michael Condon; *The Chronicles of Throldor*; Lulu; 2010.

Are you interested in WEED management!? With the extensive rain we have had you may have noticed that weeds are growing rampantly and luxuriously in your garden, in your paths, in the street! Check out this web site from University of California for help with tools, methods, controls: https://weedcut-

Remembering Pat Chaney, 1944 to 2024

Full obituary: https://lostcoastoutpost.com/2025/jan/4/obituary-patricia-jane-chaney-1944-2024/

In March 2024, Pat Chaney, shown left in the red jacket, with her friend Sandy Slonim, participated in one of the Eureka Chapter's recent work days at Hospice. Pat was involved in many gardening groups in Humboldt County. She showed flowers and did arrangements for the Rhododendron Festival Show for many years. Pat served on the Eureka Chapter's board of directors and also served as Vice President. She and her husband Ron regularly attended Chapter meetings and garden tours. Pat was always ready for a garden project.

Pat was teacher in many countries as well as here in Humboldt County. She and Ron traveled extensively to 69 countries for academic purposes as well as pleasure.

Pat is survived by her husband of 40 years, Ron Chaney. A memorial service will be held at Paul's Chapel 1070 H Street, Arcata CA. January 18th at 1:00 p.m.

Nature will bear the closest inspection. She invites us to lay our eye level with her smallest leaf and take an insect view of its plain. -*Henry David Thoreau, naturalist and author (1817-1862) Photos of January mushrooms in the Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden at Humboldt Botanical Garden*

The Eureka Chapter has held its meetings at the Eureka Woman's Club for many years. Many of our members have contributed to the building maintenance fund and the Eureka Chapter installed a big screen and new sound system in 2018. The building was built in 1916 in the Craftsman style.

Here is another opportunity to support the Eureka Woman's Club and have fun at the same time.

The cost is $20. You may order online https://www.eurekawomansclub.org/

Or send you check to:

Eureka Woman's Club

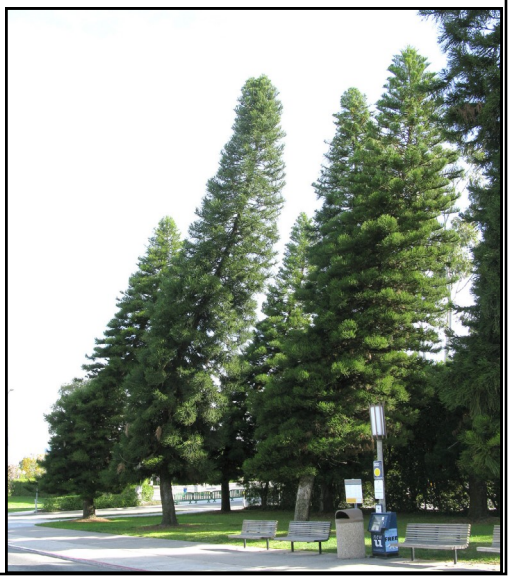
PO Box 778

Eureka, CA 95502

https://cosam.calpoly.edu/news/2017/slanted-cook-pines

https://www.sciencealert.com/the-strange-case-of-the-pine-trees-that-always-lean-towards-the-equator

Eureka Chapter Secretary sent me an interesting article about the recently studied lean of *Araucaria columnaris* (aka Cook Island Pine). The trees originate on the islands of New Caladonia in the equatorial Pacific Ocean. The trees planted away from their home on the equator lean towards the equator. The trees at Cal Poly San Lius Obispo lean south, trees in Melbourne Australia lean north. Perhaps this lean will be named 'Equatorial Tropism'. *Pictures borrowed from the above web articles.*



Eureka Chapter/American Rhododendron Society
2050 Irving Drive
Eureka, CA 95503-7022

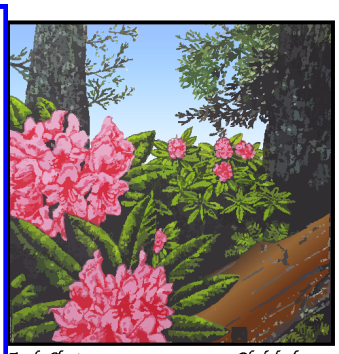
Eureka Chapter Newsletter is published monthly except during July, August and November.

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. Htg1anderg@suddenlink.net

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.



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!

January 23, 2025	**Steve Hootman, The Second Golden Age of Plant Hunting New Introductions of *Rhododendron* Species Since 1980**
February 27, 2025	**Cyril Oberlander, Cal Poly's 3-D herbarium project**
March 27, 2025	**Emily Aune, Hendrick's Park in Eugene, OR**
April 24, 2025	**Marc Colombel, From Brittany, France!**
April 26, 2025	**Eureka Rhody Plant Sale**
May 2-3, 2025	**Humboldt Botanical Garden, Plant Sale**
May 22, 2025	**Member Mini Show; Let us see your bloomers!**
June 8, 2025	**Member Garden Tour**

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

"Anyone who thinks that gardening begins in the spring and ends in the fall is missing the best part of the whole year. For gardening begins in January with the dream."

— Josephine Nuese

Eureka Chapter Officers and Board Members

For board member contact information or if you are interested in attending a board meeting, held the first Wednesday of the month at 7p.m., all members are welcome, call or email June Walsh 707-443-0604