

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter

Pre Meeting Dinner, 5:15 pm

Kristina's, 250 w 5th St, Eureka

Reservation is required

call Lynne at (707) 362-1796

The next meeting,

Thursday April 23, 7:00 pm

Eureka Woman's Club

1531 J St, Eureka



Eureka Chapter
American Rhododendron Society

Rhododendrons
in the Redwoods

April 2026

Joe Bonino visits Descanso Gardens

The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet on Thursday, April 23, 2026. The meeting and program will be held at the Eureka Woman's Club 1531 J Street in Eureka beginning at 7:00 pm.

April's meeting presentation will be given by Eureka Chapter member Joe Bonino who joined the Eureka Chapter in 1986. When Joe and his wife, Julie, owned the Iris Inn B&B they hosted the visiting Rhododendron Festival Show flower competition judges several times.

Joe has been retired from Humboldt State University (now Cal Poly Humboldt) Payroll Department since 2018. Since retirement he has missed his springtime walks around campus at lunchtime. He could never get enough of gawking at all of the large rhododendrons blooming. Joe especially waited patiently every year for the 16 foot tall *Rhododendron sinogrande* next to Siemens Hall to bloom.

Joe's Descanso Gardens program will be about the history of Descanso Gardens and its ongoing efforts to make itself attractive to the next and future generations. Joe's brother-in-law is a docent at Descanso Gardens.

Descanso Garden's main plant display is camellias from the 1940s. Read the history here, <https://www.descansogardens.org/about/mission-and-history/>



Camellia sasanqua at
Humboldt Botanical Garden



Joe Bonino at Descanso Gardens

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Plant of the Month *Rhododendron* 'Else Frye'

By Don Wallace

This is perhaps the most loved FRAGRANT rhododendron in our gardens. The deeply bullate, fuzzy leaves are dark green and cover the plant well. Then when it blooms, passersby exclaim, "where is that delicious nutmeg aroma coming from?". Simply put, it is a must! Plant *Rhododendron* 'Else Frye' near your home, maybe just off the deck so you can enjoy the perfumed air wafting all around

your yard. The flowers are a pleasing mixture of white, yellow, and pink. Created by Dr. Bowman of Fort Bragg CA, in the 1960's, it is a form of the species *R. ciliicalyx* ssp *ciliicalyx*. The plant will grow to be 3-4 feet tall and 6 feet wide in 10-15 years.

Editor's note: Rhododendron 'Else Frye' holds pride of place at Humboldt Botanical Garden's Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden planted next to the Eureka Chapter bench.

How the Woolly Bear Caterpillar Became Famous

In the fall of 1948, Dr. C. H. Curran, curator of insects at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, took his wife 40 miles north of the city to Bear Mountain State Park to look at woolly bear caterpillars.

- Dr. Curran collected as many caterpillars as he could in a day, determined the average number of reddish-brown segments, and forecast the coming winter weather through a reporter friend at *The New York Herald Tribune*.

Dr. Curran's experiment, which he continued over the next eight years, attempted to prove scientifically a weather rule of thumb that was as old as the hills around Bear Mountain. The resulting publicity made the woolly worm the most recognizable caterpillar in North America.

The caterpillar Curran studied, the banded woolly bear, is the larval form of *Pyrrharctia isabella*, the Isabella tiger moth.

- This medium-size moth, with yellowish-orange and cream-colored wings spotted with black, is common from northern Mexico throughout the United States and across the southern third of Canada.
- As moths go, the Isabella isn't much to look at compared with other species, but its immature larva, called the *black-ended bear* or the *woolly bear* (and, throughout the South, *woolly worm*) is one of the few caterpillars most people can identify.

Woolly bears do not actually feel much like wool—they are covered with short, stiff bristles of hair.

Reprinted from *Eureka Chapter Newsletter* Oct 2017 and an article from *The 1999 Old Farmer's Almanac*



A Garden is Never Complete!

Eureka Rhody members memories from the initial planting of the Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden at Humboldt Botanical Garden 2008 to 2010. Eureka Rhody members will visit in June for our member garden tour to see the progress of 18 years of work and growth.



Eureka Chapter Election Season

Eureka Chapter By-Laws

Section B: Elections.

1. Nominations.

A. Nominating Committee.

The President shall appoint, in March of each year, a Nominating Committee consisting of three of the regular members.

B. Slate of Candidates.

The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of nominees for office derived from Article V, Section A.1 above to the general membership at the **regular April meeting**. The committee shall solicit nominations from the floor at that time.

2. Elections.

The nominating committee shall present the list of candidates resulting from the April meeting action to the general membership at the May meeting for election at that meeting. In the event that more than one member runs for an office the committee shall prepare a written ballot for secret balloting. If only one candidate runs for an office, the committee may ask for a voice vote.

You may nominate yourself or others for any of these positions at the April meeting.

Position (You will vote for these positions at the May meeting)

President	Steve Durham	Vice President	Open
Past President	Steve Lemke	Secretary	Beth Powell
Treasurer	Jeff Clark		

Directors-at-Large

Ibby Gerner	Ellen Gill	Wyatt Ledbetter
Lynne Sarty	Charles Cunningham	Don Wallace
Ann Wieland	Tim Walsh	

Committees (these volunteers are appointed by the President)

Finance	Jeff Clark/ Steve Lemke/ Tim Walsh
Hospitality	Charles Cunningham
Membership	Ellen Gill
Mini Show	Lynne Sarty/Ann Wieland
Newsletter	June Walsh, until replacement volunteers
Programs	Don Wallace
Publicity	Jeff Clark
Volunteer Coordinator	Ibby Gerner
Web Site/Social Media	Cathy Bonser/Wyatt Ledbetter/Darci Short

“Our memories are card indexes consulted and then returned in disorder by authorities whom we do not control.” -Cyril Connolly, critic and editor (10 Sep 1903-1974)

Hospice of Humboldt Garden Work Day

Since a cold wintery day in December 2018 Eureka Rhody volunteers have planted, weeded and cared for a garden behind the patient facility at Hospice of Humboldt. What began as a post construction site has become a garden that can be viewed from the patients' rooms and is a peaceful place for the community to take a walk among the flowering trees, rhododendrons and redwoods.

Eureka Rhody members and Master Gardeners met in March to have a planting day under the supervision of Eureka Rhody member Charles Cunningham.



Eureka Chapter/American Rhododendron Society

2050 Irving Drive, Eureka CA 95503-7022

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

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

Membership information and applications are available from Ellen Gill at rhody4ers@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.

www.EurekaRhody.org



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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!

<i>April 23, 2026</i>	<i>Joe Bonino</i>	<i>Descanso Gardens tour</i>
<i>May 1 and 2, 2026</i>	<i>Humboldt Botanical Garden Plant Sale,</i> <i>Friday Members Only 3-6, Saturday Public 9-3</i>	
<i>May 28, 2026</i>	<i>Member Mini-Show and Potluck, Let Us See Your Bloomers!</i>	
<i>May 30, 2026</i>	<i>Eureka Home and Garden Show, Rhody Plant Sale</i> <i>Redwood Acres Fairgrounds, 10 am—5 pm</i>	
<i>June 7, 2026</i>	<i>Member Garden Tour and Potluck Picnic</i>	
<i>July and August</i>	<i>Try to keep up with weeds, sit on the porch and enjoy summer</i>	
<i>September 24, 2026</i>	<i>The NEW Rhodo year begins with a potluck, friendships to</i> <i>renew and new things to learn.</i>	

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

"A friendship can weather most things and thrive in thin soil; but it needs a little mulch of letters and phone calls and small, silly presents every so often—just to save it from drying out completely". Pam Brown

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 pm all members are welcome, call or email June Walsh 707-498-2337 RhodyHostel@gmail.com