

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter

Pre Meeting Dinner, 5:15 pm

Sea Grill, 316 E Street, Old Town

Reservation is required

call Lynne at (707) 362-1796

The next meeting,

Thursday March 26th, 7:00 pm

Eureka Woman's Club

1531 J Street, Eureka CA



Eureka Chapter
American Rhododendron Society

Rhododendrons
in the Redwoods

March 2026

6 Steps to Success with Rhododendrons and Azaleas

The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet on Thursday, March 26, 2026. The meeting and program will be held at the Eureka Woman's Club 1531 J Street in Eureka beginning at 7:00 pm.

The Eureka Chapter will welcome an especially honored guest as speaker this month, Don Wallace. Don has been a Eureka Chapter member since 1989 and served on the Board as President several terms, served as Show Chair and as Program Chair through most of those years. He was on the organizing committees for 1993, 1999, 2007 and 2017 ARS Western Regional and International Conventions.

Don Wallace is the owner of Singing Tree Gardens, a small retail nursery, located in McKinleyville, California. Over the past 30+ years Don has planted, propagated, hybridized, and grown from seed many rhododendrons. Don has been involved in photography for many years and travels each year to visit and photograph many gardens up and down the Pacific coast. Currently, Don is active in hybridizing rhododendrons for fragrance, as well as new and exciting colors of flowers.

Don is the recipient of the Eureka Chapter's Bronze Medal and American Rhododendron Society's Silver Medal. <https://www.rhododendron.org/awards.htm>

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Don's program will be **Six Steps to Success with Rhododendrons and Azaleas** – In this program he will discuss planting, care and maintenance of rhododendrons and azaleas. You will learn about placement, planting techniques, mulching, fertilizing, pruning and irrigation. He will also show photos of some of his new hybrids, and explain which parents he used to achieve these results. If you are new to gardening with rhododendrons and azaleas, you will become more knowledgeable and confident in growing these valuable landscaping plants in your own garden. If you are an 'old hand' growing Rhododendrons, you may learn some new skills!

Editor's note, Don has won many Best of Show ribbons through the years.



Charles Cunningham Earns Eureka Chapter Bronze Medal

Since joining the Eureka Chapter in 2013 you have actively participated in Chapter activities; serving on the board, as Hospitality Host and through the Hospice of Humboldt garden project.



In addition to the Eureka Chapter's meeting programs, your desserts, cakes, and cookies have encouraged members to participate and enjoy the sweet treats.

You brought the Hospice of Humboldt Garden project to the Eureka Chapter in 2018. Its completion and ongoing maintenance has been led by you. The patients and community now have a lovely garden of rhododendrons, azaleas, flowering trees and companion plants to enjoy in all seasons.

The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is honored to present the Bronze Medal to Charles Cunningham, this 4th day of December 2025.



R. taronense 'Evan's form'



March blooming *R. taronense* at Humboldt Botanical Garden in the Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden



Plant of the Month

By Don Wallace

The March Plant of the Month is *Rhododendron taronense* 'Evan's Form'. Imagine a plant that grows low and full, has attractive shiny dark-green foliage, and has scrumptious creamy-peach flowers that smell of gardenias. This describes the 'Evan's Form' of *R. taronense*. Grow it in a half barrel on the deck for your spring party! This plant is the talk of the nursery when it is in bloom and it never needs pruning to stay low and full. Stunning! Hardy to zone 9 and 10.

Editor's note: *Rhododendron dendricola* (formerly *taronense*) Must be grown in the Rutherford Conservatory at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way WA. The native range of this species is China (NW. Yunnan) to NE. Myanmar. Rhododendron Subsection Maddenia

Oh, My Goodness...NOT Tonight, Deer!

Rutgers University Cooperative Extension has published an extensive list of plants rated by their salad potential for deer. The web site <http://www.rcr.rutgers.edu/deerresistance/> is searchable by plant name (common or Latin), by the plant's tastiness, and plant type (annual, perennial etc). Although this research was done in northern New Jersey the list is broad enough for our cooler summers and warmer winters.

Also check out general garden information geared to Humboldt County <https://ucanr.edu/blog/coastal-gardener>COOL!

And for deer resistant plants, <https://ucanr.edu/sites/default/files/2020-04/323397.pdf> . "Deer Resistant" does not mean "Deer Proof", young deer and hungry deer try many plants.

WORD OF THE MONTH: LENTICEL

By Bruce Palmer

Reprinted from Eureka Chapter Newsletter March 2016

Features in the bark of deciduous trees are more visible in winter. I noticed the prominent **LENTICELS** in the bark of one of our flowering cherries (*Prunus* 'Akebono' –left illustration) a few days ago and thought that would be a good word for this month. **LENTICEL** is from the Latin *lenticella*, a small window. **LENTICELS** are not always as obvious as they are on cherry trees, but they are present in the bark of woody plants in general. We've seen in previous monthly words that stomata on the undersides of leaves allow and control the movement of oxygen, carbon dioxide and water into and out of leaves. Generally speaking, woody stems do not photosynthesize but the live cells in woody stems do carry on respiration. That means that oxygen and water need to get into the stems and carbon dioxide and water need to get out. The bark acts as a protective layer that should prevent the flow of any liquid or gas in either direction. That would be fatal to the living cells in the outer layers of the stems. Woody plants have developed soft, spongy areas in the bark, **LENTICELS**, that allow gases to pass through between living cells and the exterior, thus solving the problem. Rhododendrons have **LENTICELS**, but often they are not as obvious as those in cherries. The bark of *Rhododendron* 'Alice Eastwood' in our yard shows **LENTICELS** in abundance (right illustration). It shows also the second meaning of the word **LENTICEL**, little lens. Most **LENTICELS** are lens shaped, though it isn't always obvious. That may be why they were assigned that name originally.

LENTICELS are not confined to the bark of woody plants. Fruits such as apples and pears, tubers such as potatoes and storage roots such as carrots have living cells, so they require gas exchange with the environment and have **LENTICELS**. The **LENTICELS** on the potato in the center illustration are not clearly lens-shaped, but there is a row of seven of them at the bottom right of the photo that are. To carry on respiration in the stems of woody plants, a nice solution to the problem of needing to be nearly impervious to the outside environment while needing gas exchange for the living cells has been solved by the presence of **LENTICELS**. Neat, effective solution!



LENTICELS IN THE BARK
OF A FLOWERING CHERRY,
Prunus 'Akebono'



LENTICELS IN THE SKIN
OF A POTATO



LENTICELS IN THE BARK
OF *Rhododendron* 'Alice Eastwood'

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!

March 26, 2026 Don Wallace 6 Steps to Success with Rhododendrons

April 23, 2026 Joe Bonino Descanso Gardens tour

May 28, 2026 Member Mini-Show and Potluck

June 7, 2026 Member Garden Tour and Potluck Picnic

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



**The glittering leaves of the rhododendrons
Balance and vibrate in the cool air;
While in the sky above them
White clouds chase each other.**

—John Gould Fletcher (1886–1950)

Left, *Rhododendron occidentale* at Stagecoach Hill, spring 2025

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 7 p.m. (all members are welcome) call or email June Walsh 707-498-2337

RhodyHostel@gmail.com