AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter

The next meeting
Thursday September 24, 6:00 pm POTLUCK
Woman's Club
1531 J Street, Eureka CA
Eureka, California

September 2026

The Garden of Dr. Ned Brockenbrough

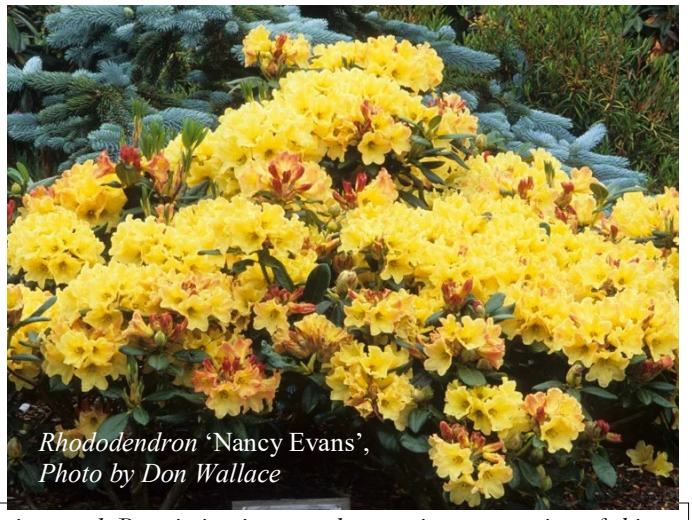
The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet on Thursday, September 24, 2026 . The meeting and program will be held at the Eureka Woman's Club 1531 J Street in Eureka.

Beginning at 6:00 pm we will have a potluck. Please bring a main dish, side, veg or dessert to share. BYOB. Coffee and tea will be provided. The program will begin at 7:00 pm. All are welcome, members are invited to bring guests.

Don Wallace will share a video that Eureka Rhody member and friend Marc Colombel made of a garden visit he had with rhododendron hybridizer Ned Brockenbrough.
Dr. Ned Brockenbrough (frequently misspelled as "Bro*ch*enbrough") is a legendary physician and rhododendron hybridizer based in Bellevue, Washington. He is best known as one of the most prominent hybridizers of rhododendrons in the Pacific Northwest.

Many Eureka Rhody members will have his plants in their gardens. His 1989 introduction, *Rhododendron* 'Horizon Monarch' received the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit in 2002. *R.* 'Nancy Evans' and *R.* 'Horizon Monarch' are among the best yellow hybrids for the elusive floral pot of gold. In an interview with a young journalist from Lakeside School's (*R* 'Horizon Lakeside') *Tatler* , Ned Brockenbrough said that "the creation of a new rhododendron hybrid is a testament to patience. The intricate process requires years, sometimes over a decade, of dedicated cultivation to stabilize the plant's desired characteristics. The journey begins with the propagation of seeds, a method that tests the breeder's perseverance, as it can take upwards of two years for the first buds to appear. But you don't sit around waiting. You grow other rhododendrons, and pretty soon you're surprised that you got to see flower buds on one of them, and then you can be excited when it blooms in the spring. That's one thing about hybridizing: You always have something to look forward to."

Come along for a walk through Ned's Lake Washington garden.


Rhododendron 'Nancy Evans',
Photo by Don Wallace

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September is Membership Renewal Time

You will find enclosed in this newsletter a self-addressed STAMPED envelope to mail your membership renewal payment. Our Membership Chief is Ellen Gill, who will need your encouragement to complete her work on your behalf. Please make any corrections to the information on your renewal letter. It is especially important that we get good email addresses as you will receive a digital copy of the Journal of the American Rhododendron Society delivered to your email box.

Your renewal letter also lists some opportunities to make donations to projects that the Eureka Chapter and the American Rhododendron Society sponsor. Last year you and your fellow members made donations of nearly $4,000. The **Eureka Woman's Club**, **Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden at Humboldt Botanical Garden, Hospice of Humboldt**, the **Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, Cal Poly Humboldt Library 3D herbarium** and various **American Rhododendron Society** funds all benefited from your generosity. **Thank you!**

Plant of the Month
Rhododendron 'Horizon Lakeside'

By Don Wallace

This relatively new hybrid yellow rhododendron was created by Dr. Ned Brockenbrough of Belleview, Washington. The cross, ('Nancy Evans' x Lem &#39 'Cameo') x 'Skipper', is a blend of some of the best genetics available, and has resulted in a real prize winning plant.

'Horizon Lakeside' grows slightly wider than tall, reaching 4-5 feet in 10 years. The plant has nice dark green leaves, and always sets abundant quantities of flower buds. The flowers are large and butter yellow with a rich-red distinctive eye that really makes a show. This hybrid blooms in late April, so could be planted with some of the purples to create a wonderful color splash in the garden. 'Horizon Lakeside' will perform in full sun as well as partial shade.

When attending the ARS conference in San Francisco a few years back I was lucky to be able to attend a lecture by Marc Colombel, from France. Marc has been using this plant as a parent with great results. I have taken his lead and have been doing the same. I hope to develop a new hybrid that is even better, but as it goes with hybridizing, the luck is in the draw.

Delights from your Eureka Chapter Board meetings

Your Eureka Rhody board meets most months on the first Wednesday to share a potluck meal before we get down to work. All members are welcome to attend the potluck at 6pm and the work at 7pm.

This being zucchini season Treasurer Jeff Clark brought this to the September 2, 2026 Eureka Rhody Board meeting:

3 fairly large zucchini
6 medium tomatoes (heirloom are more interesting)
Olive Oil
8 Thyme sprigs
Salt and Pepper
1.5 cups seasoned breadcrumbs (or so)
2 garlic cloves
4 oz soft goat cheese

Slice the zucchini and tomatoes about 1/4" thick and layer them standing up on end in a 9x13" pan (or something similar). I usually do 2 rows of Zucchini then a row of tomato slices then more zucchini and around the middle of the pan do 2 rows of tomatoes. Once the rows are finished, drizzle lightly with olive oil, then sprinkle with salt and pepper, then pull the leaves off the thyme and sprinkle over. Put in a pre-heated 350-degree oven and bake for half an hour. Here's where you have a choice:

1. cool, cover and refrigerate until you get home from work the next day and go on with the recipe
2. Just go on with the recipe

To make bread crumb topping put the breadcrumbs, garlic and goat cheese (broken into chunks) in the food processor and process. Once everything looks crumbly, add olive oil through the feed tube to moisten. Lightly pack onto the vegetables and bake until browned on top if you haven't refrigerated it over night, if you have, it'll take about 45 minutes to heat through and brown the bread crumbs.

Eureka Chapter/American Rhododendron Society
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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@gmail.com
Membership information and applications are available from Ellen Gill. 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. FEIN 68-0227798

www.EurekaRhody.org

Eureka Chapter American Rhododendron Society — *Rhododendrons in the Redwoods*

Future Programs

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held at the Eureka Woman's Club at 1531 J Street Eureka, CA. The public is welcome to attend, invite a friend.

September 25, 2026	**Potluck** and a video visit to the garden of northwest hybridizer, Dr. Ned Brockenbrough
October 22, 2026	To Be Announced
November	No meeting, Enjoy Family and Friends Thanksgiving
December 3, 2026	**Holiday Potluck**, Ann Wieland and Steve Durham, spring 2026 garden visits around Vancouver Island
January 28, 2027	Marie Antoine, Tales from the Redwood Tree Tops
February 25, 2027	Eureka Rhody's Frank Bickner, Humboldt Geography Moving and Shaking!
March 25, 2027	Will Clausen, Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, Ericaceae of the Pacific Northwest
April 22, 2027	Mini Show, NOTE that this is a month earlier than in the past
April 30 and May 1, 2027	Humboldt Botanical Garden Spring Plant Sale
May	Member Garden Tour
May 27, 2027	To Be Announced
June 6, 2027	Tour of Stagecoach Hill at the height of bloom

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

Eureka Chapter Officers and Board Members

For board members' contact information, board meeting dates and location, call or email June Walsh 707 -498-2337 RhodyHostel@gmail.com