

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter

The next meeting

Thursday February 23, 7:00 p.m.
Woman's Club
1531 J Street
Eureka, California

Pre-Meeting No Host Dinner 5:15

Marcelli's, 1323 5th Street Eureka,
Call Nelda, 707-443-8049
Reservation required
Family Style Fixed Price \$25



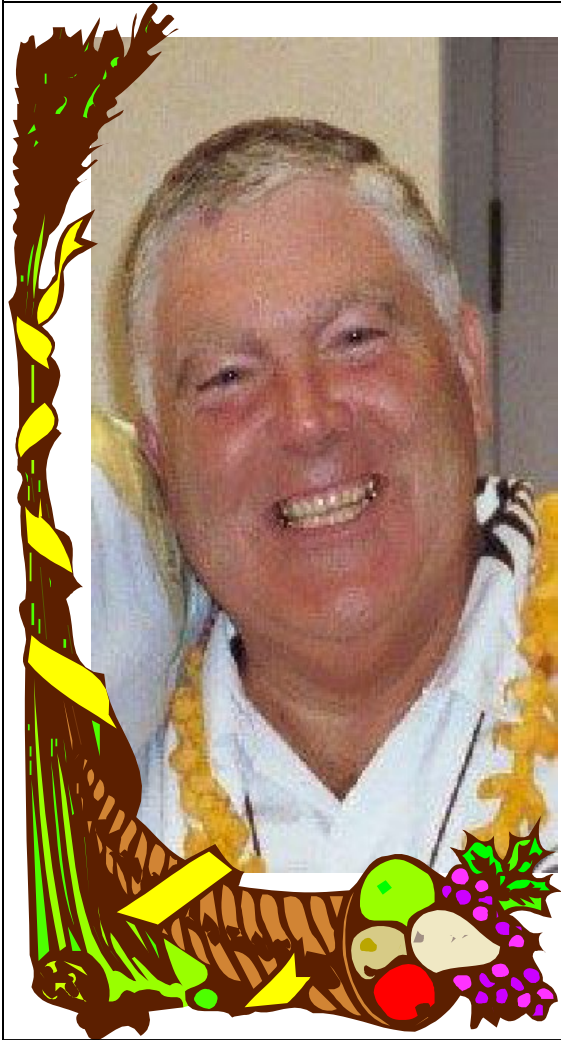
Eureka Chapter
American Rhododendron Society

Rhododendrons
in the Redwoods

October 2019

Mike Bones' Travels in Europe, in search of the Perfect Rhododendron

The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet on Thursday, **October 24, 2019**. The meeting and program will be held at the Eureka Woman's Club 1531 J Street in Eureka beginning at 7:00 P.M.



Mike Bones has been a frequent speaker at the Eureka Chapter, always bringing his fresh enthusiasm to his programs. He has been growing Rhododendrons for 57 years and has run Bones' Rhododendron Nursery for more than 40 years. Since retiring from his career of 30 years in the Oregon State Parks system he had a part time job of greeter at the Indian casino in his home town of Florence, Oregon. His stipulation for working at the casino as greeter was that he wear his signature shorts, being very proud of his legs. Mike now spends his time as a Rhododendron Ambassador for Florence.

Mike has served the Membership Committee chair for the American Rhododendron Society. Mike and his wife Kathy have put the Siuslaw Chapter in Florence, Oregon on the rhodo map; they have been the royalty of Florence's spring Rhododendron Festival. Local interest in rhododendrons has grown as has the Siuslaw Chapter with his energetic support and enthusiasm.

He took an extensive tour of Europe in May 2018 visiting botanical gardens, private gardens, production nurseries and public parks in Sweden, Finland, Germany and Denmark. His program will revisit many of the gardens and production nurseries he toured on his nearly month long adventure.

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.

American Rhododendron Society
 75th Anniversary
20/20
VISION
 ARS75.org
Looking forward, reflecting back
Portland-Vancouver, April 29-May 3, 2020



You're invited to the celebration!



World-renowned Keynote Speakers
 Kenneth Cox • Jens Nielsen • Steve Hootman • Juliana Medeiros
 Lionel de Rothschild • Steve Krebs • Valerie Soza • & more!
**Tours to the Northwest's
 Outstanding Gardens & Nurseries**

**April 29-May 3, 2020, Hosted by ARS District 4
 Heathman Lodge, Vancouver, WA.**

20/20 Vision international speakers to include:

Kenneth Cox from Glendoick in Scotland
 Lionel de Rothschild from Exbury in England
 Jens Nielsen, plant explorer from Denmark
 Steve Krebs and Juliana Medeiros from the Holden Arboretum
 Steve Hootman from the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden
 Valerie Soza from the University of Washington
 and more.

Garden tours to include:

Crystal Springs Botanical Garden
 Cecil & Molly Smith Garden
 Portland Japanese Garden
 Lan Su Chinese Garden
 Iseli Nursery
 Woodburn Nursery
 The Stewart Garden (formerly Dover Nursery)
 Sebright Gardens

Plant sale, photo contest, poster session, special clinics, plus:

Around the Sound pre-tour
Willamette Valley and Oregon Coast Excursion post-tour

ars75.org

Registration opens December 2, 2019



Plant of the Month

By Don Wallace

Rhododendron formosum 'Edinburgh Form' - is native to northeast India, this wonderfully fragrant member of the Maddenii group of species rhododendrons is worth having in your collection. The fragrant flowers are white with some pink and yellow as well, and completely cover the plant in April.

You can expect this species to be 5 feet tall and 7 feet wide in 10 years. We love the red tinted new growth which contrasts nicely with other green shrubs nearby. *Rhododendron formosum* 'Edinburgh Form' is hardy to 10 degrees which ensures that this one will be around for a long time here in Humboldt County. Occasional pruning is recommended to keep the plant bushier.

October is (still) Membership Renewal Time

... Joining or Re-joining time if you are a lapsed member.

Last month Members' newsletter had a self-addressed STAMPED envelope to enclose membership payments. If you used the envelope for your water bill call June 707-443-0604 who will send you a replacement.

If you are a member, we will be continuing our very popular program;

BRING-A-GUEST-GET-A-PLANT

(new guests only for free plant)

Bring family and friends, you will get a plant and your guest will have a great time. Last month the plants stayed in the nursery...if you brought a guest let June now and your free plant will be delivered to the October meeting.

NEW MEMBERS GET A FREE PLANT, too! If you receive this newsletter by email and are not a member, please consider JOINING the Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society today.

Become a member ON LINE, for NEW members only.

<https://www.rhododendron.org/joincc.asp>

Renew your membership ON LINE, you will find your member number on your address label.

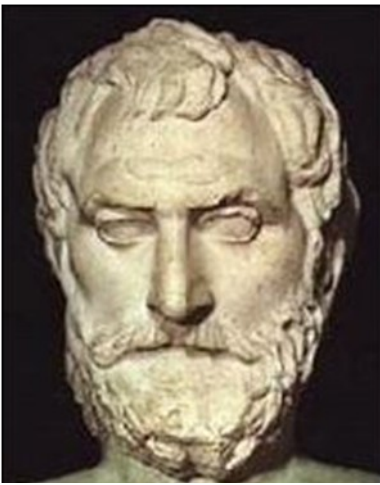
<https://www.arsoffice.org/renewal/renew.asp>

WORD OF THE MONTH – IDEA

By Bruce Palmer

During the summer, Public Television ran a series on the history of Greece. One concept caught my imagination, **IDEA**. The word **IDEA** comes directly from the Greek (the Greeks would pronounce it eedayah). According to *Webster's New World College Dictionary*, **IDEA** means “form or appearance of a thing as opposed to its reality”.

What this has to do with Rhododendrons is a long and tangled tale. After the decline of Egyptian and Persian civilizations a Dark Age ensued that may have been more profound than the Dark Age we are familiar with following the fall of Rome. Finally, around 600 B.C., Western civilization came alive again in what is now mostly Greece and Turkey. One of the earliest western philosophers we know about, Thales of Miletus, in about 600 B.C., had the temerity to suggest that not all things in nature were controlled by the Gods. Some events could be explained by humans using “form or appearance as opposed to reality”, **IDEAS**.



**THALES OF
MELITUS 600 B.C.**

Fast forward to about 300 BC and we have the first **ideas** related to botany. Theophrastus, a student of Aristotle, became the “Father of Botany” by classifying the then-known plants by their economic and medicinal uses. The Romans, great copiers of Greek **ideas**, copied the work of Theophrastus. After the fall of the Roman Empire (about AD 500), no new **ideas** were published for a thousand years. Instead, the works of Theophrastus were copied, first by the Arabs then by the Europeans. Finally, in the late fifteenth century, Europe came out of its slumber and new **ideas** arose. With the invention of the printing press and the age of exploration, botanists were able to publish accurate descriptions and illustrations (**ideas**) of what the plant world was all about.

Carolus Linnaeus (Karl Linné), in the eighteenth century, used his **ideas** for classifying plants and gave us the genus name *Rhododendron*. Botanists who assign scientific names (taxonomists) have been using that **idea** ever since to describe our favorite genus. Unfortunately for those of us who live in this part of California, the name of our native rhodie, *Rhododendron macrophyllum*, was changed when I was taking a taxonomy class in the 1950s. Formerly it was named *Rhododendron californicum*, but a person in Washington state discovered that it had previously been named *R. macrophyllum* so Linnaeus’ **idea** of priority dictated that the name we have today must be used.



Rhododendron macrophyllum
SYNONYM:
Rhododendron californicum

Our **ideas** about rhododendron species and relationships are changing constantly. The current texts place the thousand or so rhodie species in 8 or 9 subgenera, but DNA evidence from the late 1990s suggests that there are only 4 subgenera. That kind of evidence is probably nearer to “reality” than our previous **ideas** were. Still, our **idea** that there are nearly a thousand separate species of rhododendrons in the Himalaya probably fits the definition: “form or appearance of a thing as opposed to its reality”. It should be much harder to hybridize between species than it is if the species we assign names to were real. The **idea** of assigning names to plants to distinguish one from another helps us understand them better, though, so let’s continue to celebrate form or appearance of our rhodies until we have something better.



**CAROLUS
LINNAEUS
1701-1778**

At membership renewal time we give you the opportunity to make gift contributions to several American Rhododendron Society projects and a few projects close to the Eureka Chapter's members' interests. Last year Eureka Chapter members made additional gifts of over \$1000!

Eureka Chapter: General Fund, this fund pays for the newsletter printing and postage for those who get their newsletter by snail instead of email, supplies and food for potlucks, meeting room rental.

American Rhododendron Society: *General Fund*, this fund pays for ARS support, the Journal, the web site.

***Research Foundation*,** this funds scientific research projects. Information derived from the projects yield practical benefits for growing or enjoying rhododendrons, or yield new insights into the biology, geographical distribution or history of rhododendrons.

***Endowment Fund*,** income from this fund is used to provide grants to worthwhile projects and activities in accordance with the Society's mission. Humboldt Botanical Garden's Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden has been a recipient of this fund.

Seed Exchange: helps support the collection and dissemination of seed.

Humboldt Botanical Garden, Moss Temperate Woodland Garden: donations to this fund are used for maintenance, irrigation and new plantings.

Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden: Located in Federal Way, WA is one of the largest collections of Rhododendrons from around the world. Scientific research, plant collection and protection of the environments in which rhododendrons grow.

Hospice of Humboldt: Starting in December 2018 the Eureka Chapter planted a rhododendron garden and installed irrigation near the inpatient rooms. This fund is for the next phases of the garden.



HARRY J. LOWTHER III 1930-2019

Long time Eureka Chapter member, Harry Lowther passed away on October 1, 2019, at home in Eureka with his family and wife, Ursula, with him.

Harry was born in Detroit, Michigan, and was a history teacher in Los Angeles. Harry published many books, short stories and poems.

To honor Harry donations may be made to Calvary Lutheran Church in Eureka , Eureka Chamber Music Series, or [American Cancer Society](#) .

Editor's note; Tim and I often saw Harry and Ursula at the Eureka Chamber Music concerts. Harry would sit quietly while Ursula greeted all her rhody friends (of which there were many in attendance) and friends they knew in the community. Harry and Ursula were hosts for the Eureka ARS 2017 Convention for the Architectural tour of the Ingomar Club's Carson



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. HtgIanderg@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.

www.EurekaRhody.org



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Future Programs

October 24, 2019	THE very famous, Mike Bones
November	Feasting, Family and Friends
December 5, 2019	Holiday Potluck
January 23, 2020	Paula Trinoskey, Chinese Gardens
February 27, 2020	Bill McNamara, Plant Hunting for Quarry Hill BG
March 26, 2020	Bruce Palmer, Plant Hunting with Joseph Rock
April 23, 2020	Terry Henderson, Propagating Rhododendrons
April 24-26, 2020	48th Annual Eureka Rhodo Flower Show and Sale
April 29—May 3, 2020	75th Annual ARS Convention Portland OR.
May 28, 2020	Member Mini Show, Let Us See Your Bloomers!
June 7, 2020	Member Garden Tour and Potluck Picnic

All programs subject to change

The ideals which have lighted my way, and time after time have given me new courage to face life cheerfully, have been Kindness, Beauty, and Truth. - Albert Einstein, physicist, Nobel laureate (14 Mar 1879-1955)



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 7PM, call or email June Walsh 707-443-0604