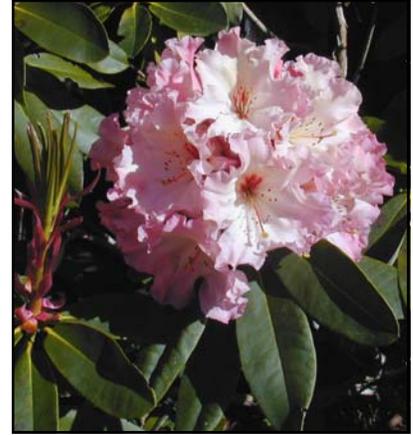


AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter

The next meeting
Thursday, March 23 — 7:30
p.m.
Christ Episcopal Church
15th and H Streets

Pre-Meeting No Host Dinner
Roy's Club 5:15 PM
218 D Street, Eureka
Call Nelda for your reservation
443-8049



MARCH 2006

AN INTRODUCTION TO MUSHROOMS

The highlight of the **March 23rd** meeting will be a presentation by **Joann Olson** a founding member and the treasurer of the **Humboldt Bay Mycological Society**. Joann will talk about the biology of fungi and about how mushrooms make a living. She will describe the features used to identify mushrooms. All this with **lots of pictures of beautiful mushrooms**.

Joann became interested in fungi when she moved to Humboldt County from Southern California in 1973 to attend HSU. She was walking in the woods when she found some incredible purple mushrooms; she has been hooked ever since. Joann teaches classes in mushroom identification through the Society, her particular interest is in the genus *Cortinarius* which is huge and relatively undescribed in North America. She hopes to spend much of her time studying this genus when she retires.

Joann is Clinical Laboratory Scientist for United Indian Health Services where she assists in identification in cases of possible mushroom poisoning for emergency departments in hospitals in Humboldt County.

Come ready to learn more about the fungus among us!



Cantharellus cibarius



Amanita muscaria

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WORD OF THE MONTH

The word this month is a mouthful: "**Phototropism**". It's from the Greek "photos", meaning "light", plus "trope", meaning "turn". The word seems appropriate this month because this is the time we have to turn our pots of tulips around every other day to prevent them from growing sideways toward the sun. We've all seen what happens when we don't rotate the pots. Charles Darwin, who dabbled in many scientific endeavors, not just evolution, was the first to figure out that some substance must be moving in plants, causing phototropism. In 1926 the Dutch plant physiologist Fritz Went proved that the substance existed in an experiment often repeated in introductory botany courses. He named the substance "Auxin", from the Greek "auxien", to increase. He showed that Auxin lengthens cells in plants and that it migrates from the sunny side of a young plant stem to the shady side, increasing the lengths of the cells on the shady side more than on the sunny side, bending the plant toward the sun. We now know that there are a number of auxins and other plant "hormones" behind lots of plant growth activities. The best known use for auxins is in rooting hormones. Indoleacetic Acid and Indolbutyric Acid are examples of auxins used to root cuttings. Ironically, while auxins promote the formation of roots from the cambium in cut stems, they inhibit growth in the roots of established plants. *By Bruce Palmer*

President Paula's Corner: I was working on a description of our garden for the garden tour and began thinking of garden design. I was once told that everyone has a secret garden, a personal Eden. It may be visual but it may be the sound of a babbling brook or the whiff of jasmine on the night air. I know what my secret garden is - that place that stirs something from some distant place within.

When I was about 14, I slid and shimmied down a very steep forest bank (a remnant of the last glacier) to a creek below. I worked my way along the creek clinging to the underbrush. Suddenly after ducking through a tangle of vegetation, I came across a sun-drenched meadow. The grass was a bright spring green and buttercups and other wild flowers ringed its sides. That will always be my private Eden.

The object of landscape design is to capture in some sense your private Eden. To that degree in our garden I have failed. Our garden is not based on specific design but is dictated by necessity. The necessity of finding a place for a new plant that excites me or a piece of sculpture we found on a trip is the driving force. Although I do find myself dreaming of placing it in that sun drenched glade. *By Paula Trinoskey, Eureka Chapter President.*

The Rhododendron Year...March, Now is an excellent time to prune older plants. Begin to collect pollen for later crosses. By mid-month one should begin to apply fertilizer. Pinch early growth or a late frost will. *Editor's note: as these admonishments are very general and seem to be for much colder areas, we have had frost AND snow into April. This year the wild weather seems particularly acute!*

Opportunity Knocks!

In just over one year the Northern California chapters of the American Rhododendron Society will host the Rhododendron world! For those of us who have never had the opportunity to attend a national (really “international”) conference this is a huge and fun event that you are urged to attend! You will be able to put faces and personalities to authors and officers, take tours of many gardens full of ideas and beautiful plants and you’ll learn from the experts. You’ll hear from professional plant hunters, garden designers, photographers and hybridizers and you’ll spend time with the best people anywhere; Rhody Geeks!

Tim and June Walsh met with several of the Bay Area volunteers on Saturday, March the 11th at the Embassy Suites in South San Francisco for a working lunch. This is, at present, the most likely site for the convention for several reasons. It’s a beautiful facility, recently upgraded and totally refurbished and the price (for the San Francisco market) is very reasonable. It’s easily accessible from the San Francisco airport, parking is free (very unusual these days for the Bay Area) and they provide a free cooked-to-order breakfast each morning. The only downside is that they can only seat 280 people for dinner in their main conference room which will limit attendance at the banquet and awards presentations.

Make sure to plan on setting aside April 11 through April 15, 2007 to attend your ARS International Conference in the San Francisco Bay Area. You don’t often have this opportunity this close to home! You are invited not only to attend but also to volunteer to help as well. We will need greeters, plant sale staff, registration desk help, packet stuffers, set up and tear down helpers and just about anything you can think of. You’ll be meeting and working with members of the De Anza, California and Noyo Chapter folks. This is your conference and we want to show the Rhododendron world the hospitality they can always expect when they visit us in this part of the Rhody world!

Opportunity knocks. I hope you are listening! *By Tim Walsh, Vice President and Treasurer*

Noyo Brave, Photo by Don Wallace

Rubicon, Photo by Steve Henning





Eureka Chapter is published monthly except during July and August. Submissions from members are encouraged and should be mailed to June Walsh, Bulletin Editor, 2050 Irving Drive, Eureka, CA 95503-7022. Membership information and applications are also available from June Walsh. Eureka Chapter is a member of the Humboldt Botanical Gardens Foundation, Eureka, Calif, and The Rhododendron Species Foundation, Federal Way, Wash. Eureka Chapter is a chapter of the American Rhododendron Society.

Eureka Chapter

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

Eureka Chapter, American Rhododendron Society Meeting Minutes February 23, 2006

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President **Tim Walsh** at 7:35 p.m. Twenty-seven members and three guests were present. **Guests Jeff Kelly-Day, Rhonda Wiedenbeck and Jack Lewis** were introduced. Trusses were shared by **Dolores Miller, Jerry Reynolds, Jean Timmerman, Nova Cramer, Don Wallace** and **Tim Walsh**. **Don Wallace** described the raffle plants and **Tim Walsh** indicated that there are still some plants left from the lot the chapter bought from Thompson's the previous month. Treasurer **Tim Walsh** reported a balance of \$11,729.58. Tim shared information on the 2007 International Conference to be held in the Bay Area. Tim indicated that, since our chapter will be the lead chapter, we will be using some of our funds as front money for the conference. **Jerry Reynolds** and **Nelda Palmer** discussed the flower show, to be held this year at St. Bernard's School on Henderson Street. Nelda put out sign-up sheets for the show and plant sale and asked people to sign up. Prior to the break, **Jerry Reynolds** and **Don Wallace** led the group in updating the chapter's list of "**Proven Performers.**" The list will be published and will be available to members and the public.

Following the break, because our guest speaker from Florence, Mike Bones, was unable to attend, Tim Walsh filled in with an excellent series of Rhododendron-related slides from various locations around the world. **Jean Timmerman** won the door prize. The raffle was held, Tim thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bruce Palmer, Secretary

Future Programs

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| April 27 | Get ready for the Flower Show, Fran Jackson, Vireyas from Hawaii |
| April 29 | Flower Show and Plant Sale , St. Bernard's Catholic School, Eureka |
| April 30 | Rhododendron Spring Garden Tour |
| May 12-15 | International ARS Conference, Rockville, Maryland |
| May 25 | Program to be announced |
| June 22 | Potluck at Tom and Aileen Martin's, Tom's Tufa Troughs (hands-on) |