

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter

The next meeting, IN-PERSON!

Sunday June 4, 2023

Tour Stagecoach Hill and Singing Tree Gardens, page 4



Eureka Chapter
American Rhododendron Society

Rhododendrons
in the Redwoods

Summer 2023

May Mini Show Finalists



Here are the results of the Mini Show, for Best of Show see Class 6 below
There were a total of 163 entries which made for a beautiful display. There were 15 different members who won ribbons in the 10 Classes.

Class 1: Lepidote Rhododendron Species, regardless of color. (These include the *Maddenii* and most small-leaved rhododendrons.)

First Place: **Dennis McKiver**, *Rhododendron sargentianum* 'Maricee'

Second Place: **John Winding**, *Rhododendron campylogynum* var *myrtilloides*

Third Place: **Annalee Veach**, *Rhododendron* 'Lady de Rothchild'

Class 2: Elepidote Rhododendron Species, regardless of color.

First Place: **Dennis McKiver**, *Rhododendron niveum*

Second Place: **Bruce and Nelda Palmer**, *Rhododendron griffithianum*

Third Place: **Don Wallace**, *Rhododendron elliotii*

Class 3: Hybrid Rhododendrons, Red.

First Place: **Dennis McKiver**, *Rhododendron* 'Black Magic'

Second Place: **Carla Peterson**, unknown Red

Third Place: **Ann Wieland**, *Rhododendron* 'Francesca'

Honorable Mention: **John Winding**, *Rhododendron* 'Captain Jack'

Class 4: Hybrid Rhododendrons, Pink.

First Place: **Don Wallace**, *Rhododendron* 'Lake Leslie'

Second Place: **Dennis McKiver**, *Rhododendron* 'Lem's Monarch'

Third Place: **Richard and Paula Grabowski**, *Rhododendron* 'Pink Walloper'

Honorable Mention: **John Winding**, *Rhododendron* 'Scented Sunrise'

Class 5: Hybrid Rhododendrons, White.

First Place: **Dennis McKiver**, *Rhododendron* 'Loderi Pretty Dolly'

Second Place: **Don Wallace**, *Rhododendron* 'Emily Allison'

Third Place: **Maria and Bill Lee**, *Rhododendron* 'Sparkling Stars'

Honorable Mention: **Bruce and Nelda Palmer**, *Rhododendron* 'Pawhuska'

Class 6: Hybrid Rhododendrons, Purple, lavender or blue.

First Place and **Best of Show**: **Dennis McKiver**, *Rhododendron* 'Warlock'

Second Place: **Don Wallace**, *Rhododendron* 'Gilbert Grape'

Third Place: **Lynne Sarty**, *Rhododendron* 'Anah Kruschke'

Honorable Mention: **Harold Johnson**, *Rhododendron* 'Black Eye'

Class 7: Hybrid Rhododendrons, Yellow, orange or apricot.

First Place: **Dennis McKiver**, *Rhododendron* 'Golden Rocket'

Second Place: **Richard and Paula Grabowski**, *Rhododendron* 'Wind Song'

Third Place: **Don Wallace**, *Rhododendron* 'Buttery Beauty'

Honorable Mention: **Trish and Joe Ortiz**, *Rhododendron* 'Horizon Monarch'

Class 8: Hybrid Rhododendrons, Bicolor.

First Place: **Richard and Paula Grabowski**, *Rhododendron* 'Pomegranate Splash'

Second Place: **Dennis McKiver**, *Rhododendron* 'Point Defiance'

Third Place: **Tim Walsh**, *Rhododendron* 'Grandma's Hat'

Honorable Mention: **Trish and Joe Ortiz**, *Rhododendron* 'Circus'

Class 9: Any Rhododendron truss entered for fragrance.

First Place: **Don Wallace**, *Rhododendron* 'Scented Sunset'

Second Place: **Ann Wieland**, *Rhododendron* 'Felicity'

Third Place: **Trish and Joe Ortiz**, *Rhododendron* 'Fragrantissimum'

Honorable Mention: **Bruce and Nelda Palmer**, *Rhododendron* 'Patricia Marie'

Class 10: Any Azalea

First Place: **Dennis McKiver**

Second Place: **Melanie Hierholzer**

Third Place: **Steve Lemke**

Honorable Mention: **Richard and Paula Grabowski**



***Rhododendron occidentale* at Stagecoach Hill Azalea Reserve**

Stagecoach Hill and Singing Tree Gardens Nursery Tour Sunday June 4th

There are still plenty of Rhododendrons, Azaleas and wildflowers to see as the summer solstice nears and your summer chores begin in earnest! The Eureka Chapter will enjoy a “last of spring” tour of world famous Stagecoach Hill Azalea Reserve and almost as famous, Singing Tree Gardens Nursery.

Join the Eureka Chapter in visiting Stagecoach Hill at peak bloom Sunday June 4, 2023. Carpooling from Singing Tree Garden Nursery is encouraged. Meet at 10:30 a.m. at Singing Tree Gardens Nursery. We will travel to Stagecoach Hill and plan to be back at Singing Tree Gardens Nursery by 12:30 p.m. There are no health facilities at Stagecoach Hill, there is a rest stop north of Trinidad on Highway 101 north, one at Big Lagoon County Park and on Highway 101 South (also north of Trinidad.) Hopefully they are open.

The tour of Singing Tree Gardens Nursery display gardens and growing grounds will be followed by bring-your-own-picnic and bring-your-own-chair, too! Please take out what you bring in.

Guests are welcome! Family, friends, neighbors and in-laws; all are welcome.

Rhododendron occidentale is found growing in isolated populations from southern California to parts of Oregon and Washington. This species has been found associated with soils having a high concentration of serpentine. The species can grow as large as 15 ft. tall and blooms in late May and into June. It is hardy to -12 F. and is quite fragrant with the perfume being detected many yards away. It is generally unsuccessful in regions of the country with warm humid summers.

One of the largest stands of *Rhododendron occidentale* is here in Humboldt County on Stagecoach Hill just above Big Lagoon. Many collectors from all over the U.S. come every year to photograph this beautiful species. There have been many unique forms found, including ‘Pistil Packin’ Mama’, ‘Leonard Frisbie’, ‘Humboldt Picotee’ and ‘Picotee’.

The only place in the world where the native western azalea (*Rhododendron occidentale*) grows in great profusion and variety is on Stagecoach Hill. A magnificent panorama of Big Lagoon, Sue-meg State Park (formerly Patrick’s Point SP) and the Pacific Ocean can be experienced from Stagecoach Hill as the azaleas are viewed.

Stagecoach Hill is located near Big Lagoon and the California and National Redwood Parks in Humboldt County in Northern California, this two-mile-long hillside contains many beautiful, fragrant and unique azaleas. They are self-hybridizing wild azaleas, no two of which are alike; and they range in size from twelve feet high to dwarfs of only sixteen inches. The colors vary from white, through pinks to red and yellow, and they occur in runny combinations. The petal shapes differ, as do the number of blossoms per stem. Many of the petals are frilled.

Naturalists from all over the world come to Stagecoach Hill to study and marvel at this remarkable colony of self-hybridizing plants.

Rhododendron occidentale is the only azalea with seventy-eight chromosomes (hexaploid). This large number of chromosomes contributes to the tremendous variation in flower, growth, and foliage seen on Stagecoach Hill.

The ever-changing flowers of Stagecoach Hill are truly a symphony of nature. Much wildlife abounds there. Cougar, deer and elk and signs of bear and porcupine are present. Birds are numerous; hawks, doves, bush-tits, grouse and hummingbirds add to the beautiful environment.

Numerous other native plants are to be found: lilies, Brodiaea, orchids. The combination of mild temperatures, high humidity (fog, in addition to rain), and worn-out black soil encourages all forms of this native species deciduous azalea to live and reproduce. After hundreds of thousands of years in the evolutionary development, the azaleas have found a niche in Stagecoach Hill where every conceivable variation of flower size and form, flower color combination, and bud size, shape and color is found. Leaf size, form and color are also varied.

Land clearing for farming and housing has eliminated many concentrations of azaleas along the coast. There is no marketable timber on Stagecoach Hill and no residents on the important areas; this wilderness contains azaleas, Ceanothus, alder and small spruce. The spruce needs controlling so as not to take over the azaleas.

Adapted from writings of Dr. Frank Mossman Journal of the American Rhododendron Society

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@suddenlink.net

Membership information and applications are available from Ellen Gill. rhody4erg@gmail.com

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.



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Future Programs

The Eureka Chapter is ready to welcome its members and guests back to the Eureka Woman's Club for in-person meetings. 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!

June 4, 2023

Garden Tour, 10:30 a.m. Meet at Singing Tree Gardens Nursery to car-pool to Stagecoach Hill Azalea Reserve

12:30 p.m. Singing Tree Gardens Nursery, Bring-your-own-picnic and chairs

July and August...weed, deadhead, prune, mow and mow some more, sit in the sun!

September 28, 2023

Program to be announced

October 26, 2023

Program to be announced

November

Have a lovely Thanksgiving Holiday with Family and Friends

December 7, 2023

Holiday Potluck and Rhodo 101

All programs subject to change as is life!

Photos are those of the Newsletter editor, June Walsh, Tim Walsh and Lynne Sarty unless otherwise noted. Permission is granted to reprint any portion of this publication provided credit to the author and Chapter is given.

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 all members are welcome, call or email June Walsh 707-