

Eureka Chapter

March 2021

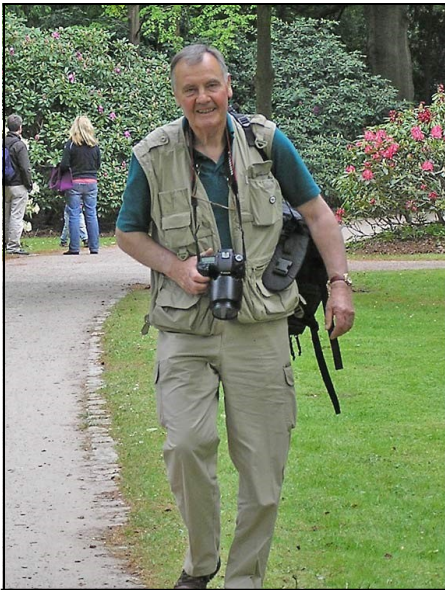
*The next meeting*  
**Thursday March 25th,**  
**6:55 p.m.**

*Zoom see page 2 for details*



Eureka Chapter  
American Rhododendron Society

Rhododendrons  
in the Redwoods



*The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will meet on Thursday, **March 25, 2021** The meeting and program will be held Via Zoom beginning at 6:55 P.M.*

Marc Colombel will be our guest speaker this month. Because of the time difference between his home in Fouesnant, Brittany, France and Eureka, California, USA the program will be prerecorded to be presented at the Eureka Chapter meeting. It will be posted on [www.EurekaRhody.org](http://www.EurekaRhody.org) a few days later.

Marc's program is titled "Propagation by an Amateur for Amateurs". He does such a great job explaining who he is and what he does, I will let his voice carry us-

**France**

My main interest in Rhododendron is hybridization. I did my first hybridizing in 1985 and at the end of 2013 the number is about 900 different crosses. I registered my first hybrid in 1992 and I gave it the name of my house *Rhododendron* 'Kernéostic' because of the huge hundred-year-old *Broughtonii* growing at its gable (shown at left).

1993 was a prosperous year : I published a book "*Rhododendrons : Mode d'emploi*" and I created the Société bretonne du Rhododendron of which I was the President for 14 years. I wrote about 200 articles for the bulletins of the Society. Right from the start I encouraged the members to hybridize. Since about 5 years they began to register.

I opened my first web site in 1996. The goal of this web site is to share my knowledge and to educate visitors with the help of files ([www.rhododendron.fr](http://www.rhododendron.fr), to view click on the flag for French or English).

In 2000 I launched the first rhododendron show in France (there were a lot of flower shows but not one for rhododendrons only). For my action I have been made a Chevalier of the Agricultural Order by the French Government in 2010.

Continued on page 2...



**Come ZOOM to Brittany France  
WITH  
Marc Colombel**

**Topic: Propagation by an Amateur for Amateurs**

**Time: Thursday March 25, 2021 6:55 PM Pacific Daylight Time**

**You may join us as early as 6:30 to know that you have a good connection with the meeting, get settled in and have a chance to visit with other guests before the presentation. Bring a rhody to share your screen.**

**The meeting will begin at 7:00 sharp, so please be sure to be joined in no later than 6:55 pm .**

To Join The Zoom Meeting click this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/99120170578>

**Meeting ID: 991 2017 0578**

**One tap mobile**

+16699009128,,99120170578# US (San Jose)

**By Phone Dial :**

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 991 2017 0578

**Links to this meeting and more are available at [www.EurekaRhody.org](http://www.EurekaRhody.org)**

**If you need a pre-meeting Zoom practice session call June 707-443-0604**

**Marc Colombel, Continued from page 1...**

I am creating a Conservatory for polyploid rhododendrons in Josselin. Each year I give nearly 1 hundred of Polyploid hybrids to this Conservatory. <http://www.rhododendron.fr/josselin/>

**USA, American Rhododendron Society**

My ARS Chapter is the Scottish Chapter, I have been a member for more than 30 years. I received the Silver Medal in 2008. (see presentation below being awarded by Frank Fujioka and Mike Stewart, Walsh photo). I was in Eureka for to give a program for your Convention in 2017.

Because of my Aquarium for cuttings and other knacks, some American people called me the "MacGyver of the rhododendron" (note, the Eureka Chapter had a hands-on project using Marc's propagation technique).

I have written several articles for the American Rhododendron Society's *Journal*.





R. 'Rwain'

Plant of the Month:  
*Rhododendron* 'Rwain'  
By Don Wallace

Since our guest speaker this month is Marc Colombel, it seems appropriate to have one of his new hybrids as the Plant of the Month.

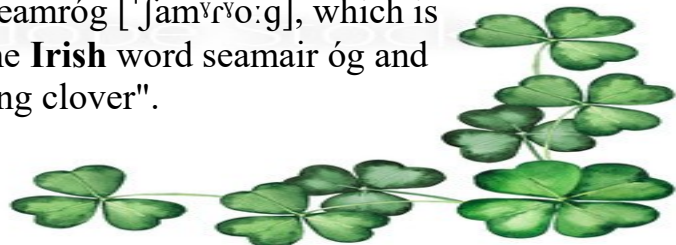
New from Marc Colombel of France, who has been working with tetraploid rhododendron parents to produce

new plants with more chromosomes. The results are good. 'Rwain' has thick leaves and big flowers like one of its parents 'Lem's Monarch', but there is more yellow in the blooms. This addition of yellow adds a nice 'glow' to the trusses. This will become a 5-star plant as more people grow it and report about its assets. We have also noticed that the plant displays lush foliage all the way to the ground, so will become an excellent screening plant. And... (ta-da-da), this plant does not make any seed, so will never need deadheading! How great is that?

A funny fact: I thought the name was a French town or village, but Marc tells me that the name, 'Rwain', is an acronym for *Rhododendron Without An Important Name*.



A **shamrock** is a young clover sprig, used as the symbol of Ireland. ... The name **shamrock** comes from **Irish** seamróg ['jam<sup>v</sup>r<sup>vo</sup>:g], which is the diminutive of the **Irish** word seamair óg and simply means "young clover".



Shamrock  
wood sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*)  
white clover (*Trifolium repens*)  
suckling clover (*Trifolium dubium*)

*We like March, his shoes are purple,  
He is new and high;  
Makes he mud for dog and peddler,  
Makes he forest dry.*

—Emily Dickinson (1830–86)

Pictured, right, *Gaultheria pseudonotoblis* is the Sino-Himalayan relative of our native *Gaultheria shallon* AKA Salal which is a leathery-leaved shrub in the heather family (Ericaceae).



The glory of late winter in the Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden at Humboldt Botanical Gardens.



## Some Thoughts on Botanical Names

By Brenda Macdonald (member of Victoria and Cowichan Valley Chapters, BC Canada)

Since we are all staying at home looking for things to amuse ourselves I thought a little light reading on the derivation of some of the botanical descriptors which are embedded in official names of the plants we grow would be in order. Although often referred to as their Latin names, Greek turns up with alarming regularity. Ignoring those plants named after people (*R. fortunei*, *R. genestrianum*, *R. williamsianum*), one can often get an idea of the shape, colour, habit, or usual location of a plant from its second (or species) name.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Carl Linnaeus developed a simple yet brilliant classification system wherein every living thing was to be given its own unique binomial (Genus and species) name. The system has been refined, expanded and further codified over the years, but the basic structure remains the same: the Genus is the group to which an organism belongs, and the species is the name of that particular organism within that Genus. It is often the species name (the “specific epithet”) which gives us the most information about a plant.

Here are some of the most common descriptors, with an explanation, as well as commonly used English analogs:

### The look of the thing:

| Descriptor                   | Meaning     | English analog        |
|------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| <i>arbozeum, arborescens</i> | tree like   | arboretum, arborist   |
| <i>compactum</i>             | compact     | compact               |
| <i>complexum</i>             | interwoven  | complicated, complex  |
| <i>decorum</i>               | ornamental  | decorative, decorated |
| <i>impeditum</i>             | tangled     | impediment, impede    |
| <i>intricatum</i>            | complex     | intricate             |
| <i>maximum</i>               | largest     | maximum               |
| <i>pendulum</i>              | hanging     | pendulous, pendulum   |
| <i>prostratum</i>            | low growing | prostrate             |
| <i>rigidum</i>               | stiff       | rigid                 |

### How/where it grows:

| Descriptor        | Meaning                  | English analog |
|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| <i>alpicola</i>   | dwells in high mountains | alpine         |
| <i>dendricola</i> | dwells in trees          | dendrology     |
| <i>ripense</i>    | on river banks           | riparian       |
| <i>drumonium</i>  | of woods                 |                |
| <i>dumicola</i>   | dwells in thickets       |                |
| <i>faucium</i>    | of gorges                |                |
| <i>hylaenum</i>   | of forests               |                |
| <i>oresbium</i>   | living on mountains      |                |
| <i>rupicola</i>   | dwells among rocks       |                |
| <i>scopulorum</i> | of crags                 |                |

What the leaves look like: (often in conjunction with ending “phyllum” or “folium”, both meaning “leaves”. Hence, phyllo pastry – having many layers or leaves):

| Descriptor                    | Meaning                        | English analog      |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>barbatum/ semibarbatum</i> | bearded/half-bearded           | barber              |
| <i>cardiobasis</i>            | with heart-shaped base         | cardiac, cardiology |
| <i>detonsum</i>               | shorn                          | tonsure             |
| <i>erosum</i>                 | eaten away                     | erosion, eroded     |
| <i>giganteum</i>              | huge                           | gigantic            |
| <i>hirsutum</i>               | hairy                          | hirsute             |
| <i>lanatum, lanigerum</i>     | wooly                          | lanolin             |
| <i>myrtifolium</i>            | like Myrtus - the myrtle plant |                     |

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| Descriptor                   | Meaning                       | English analog    |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>oleifolium</i>            | like Olea - the olive plant   |                   |
| <i>pentaphyllum</i>          | having five leaves            | pentagon          |
| <i>scabrum, scabrifolium</i> | rough                         | scabrous, scabies |
| <i>scintillans</i>           | sparkling                     | scintillating     |
| <i>serrulatum</i>            | with small teeth              | serrated          |
| <i>thymifolium</i>           | like Thymus - the thyme plant |                   |
| <i>viscidifolium</i>         | sticky                        | viscosity         |



But here is an example of the kind of trouble one gets into when delving into the derivations of the botanical name of a favourite rhododendron.

*R. anthopogon* ssp. *hypenanthum* 'Annapurna' is a named variety grown from a group of smaller-leaved *hypenanthum* seedlings which were promising because of their compact cushion shape and tendency to blossom at a relatively early age. The "limp tissue paper" texture of the small, narrowly flaring blossoms with their short pedicels give the inflorescence an oddly congested look. The leaves are so aromatic they are used as incense in their native Tibet habitat.

*R. anthopogon* ssp. *hypenanthum* appears to be a victim of a taxonomic sinking, since at one time there was an *R. hypenanthum* as well as an *R. anthopogon*. The official difference between the two was apparently the presence or absence of persistent leaf bud scales (yes for *hypenanthum* and no for *anthopogon*), although originally they appear to have been divided more along colour lines: *anthopogon* tending toward the pink, red, and rose scheme, and *hypenanthum* tending to be of yellow and cream hues.

Both these species share the trait of having a ring of hairs in the throat of the flower tube, and one can only assume that this was such a salient feature that the botanists deemed it necessary to immortalize that fact in the naming of the species.

antho, anthum (Gk) flower

pogon (Gk) beard

hypen (Gk) moustache

So now, as a result of this sunk taxon, we have a fairly small and delicate flower with the overwhelming name of Rhododendron Flower-beard Moustache-flower 'Annapurna'. And while Annapurna may denote an ethereal white goddess, such an addendum can do little to overcome the almost overwhelmingly shaggy male aura already in place.

The other interesting thing about this flower is the official description of its shape: hypocateriform. (Initially I was led slightly astray by references to a "hypercratiform" flower shape in both the Coxs' *Encyclopedia of Rhododendron Species* and a handy little reference book by Melva Phillipson entitled *Botanical Features Used in the Identification of Rhododendron Species*, but I am now fairly confident that these two references were simple errors.)

hypo (Gk) beneath, under

crater (L) bowl

form (L) shape

This long word (and its even longer synonym hypocaterimorphous) is simply the way scientist have - not unlike the Germans - of jamming all the meaning of a longer phrase, such as my "narrowly flaring", into a single word.

Continued from page 4,

This long word (and its even longer synonym hypocaterimorphous) is simply the way scientist have - not unlike the Germans \*- of jamming all the meaning of a longer phrase, such as my “narrowly flaring”, into a single word.

I have seen expanded explanations describing “goblet-shaped” or “trumpet-shaped”, but they all describe the same basic shape: a blunderbuss, or a grain of rice you have cooked too long, with a long narrow tube topped by abruptly flaring lobes, more often flattened than not.

A term used more frequently – but apparently not in conjunction with rhododendrons – is salverform. The Phlox flower is a typical salverform flower with its wide, flat, flare atop a narrow corolla tube.

I knew that a salver was the term for the small round silver tray on which household staff would present visitors’ calling cards to the lady of the house, but what I did not know was that the original derivation of salver is from the Latin “salvare”, to save, or “salvus”, safe.

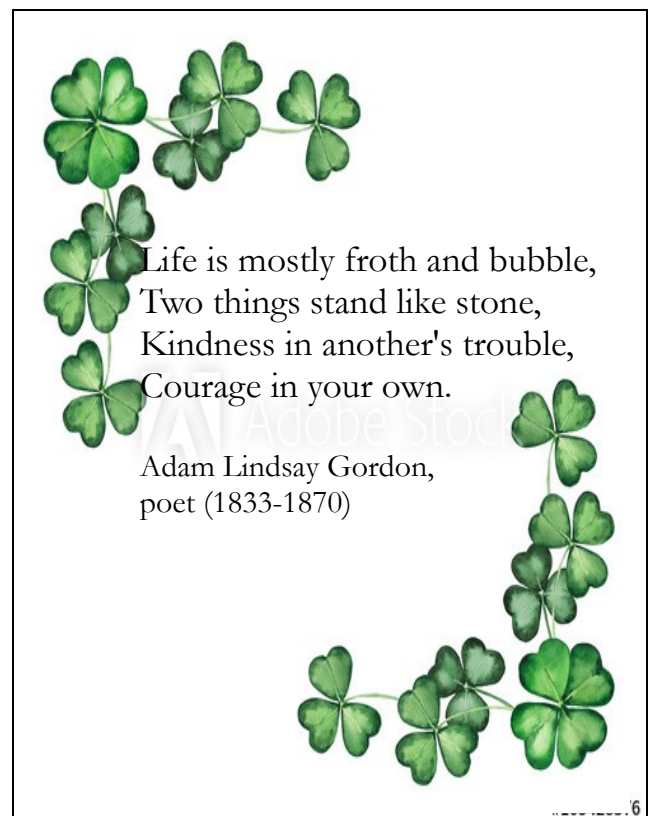
This verb/adjective root was gradually transformed from describing food that had already been tasted (made safe) for incumbent royals (somewhat nervous about the easy access other would-be royals had to various poisons), to the name for the tray which carried the food, and thence to any tray used in the service of the upper-class, including those for calling cards.

From poisoned-food testing to a flat-topped flower form, surely metonymy at its finest.

And thus endeth the lesson on botanical names, or, how to amuse oneself during enforced social distancing.

*This article has been republished with permission from the Author and the newsletter of the Atlantic Rhododendron and Horticultural Society, one of our fellow ARS Chapters in Nova Scotia, Canada.*

\* Editor’s note: German is unapologetic about stringing words together without hyphens to express a complex idea; either snappy two-item numbers like Zeitgeist and Schadenfreude, or stretching to the horizon like Vierwaldstätterseedampfschiffgesellschaft (Lake Lucerne Steamship Company).



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](mailto:RhodyHostel@suddenlink.net)  
Membership information and applications are available from Ellen Gill. [Htglanderg@suddenlink.net](mailto:Htglanderg@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](http://www.EurekaRhody.org)



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### Future Programs

*All in-person meetings and programs are suspended as we deal with the health concerns of Covid 19. We will be bringing you some online programming and live meetings using ZOOM and will keep you posted. Please check [www.EurekaRhody.org](http://www.EurekaRhody.org) for updates, informative articles, old newsletters and hopefully a program or two.*

*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!*

### ZOOM Programs

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| March 25, 2021 | Marc Colombel, our friend from France, Propagation by an Amateur for Amateurs  |
| April 22, 2021 | Atsuko Gibson, Four Seasons at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden   |
| May 27, 2021   | Mike Stewart, Dwarf and Small Leaf Rhododendrons   |
| June 6, 2021   | Members' Gardens Tour and Bring-your-own-Picnic. This tour may be held over several weekend days in several gardens so that we may limit the number of people in the gardens all at one time. We will keep you posted. |

*All programs subject to change*

### Eureka Chapter Officers and Board Members

For board member contact information or if you are interested in attending a board meeting which are held via Zoom the first Wednesday of the month at 6 PM, call or email June Walsh 707-443-0604