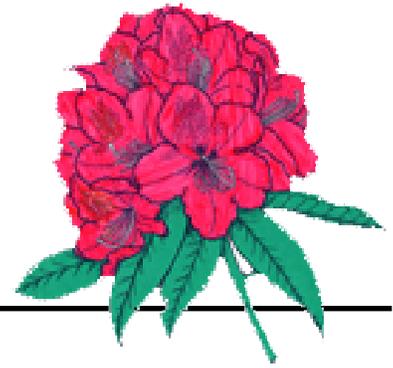


Noyo News

Noyo Chapter

American Rhododendron Society

February 2016



Wed, Feb. 21, 7:00

Presbyterian Church

367 So. Sanderson Way, FB

**Chile & Puget
Sound???**

**John Stephens and
Steve McCormick**

John's early professional career was devoted to university level instruction in geography and cartography, which was followed by management in two major publishing companies, and to his eventual position as Senior Director of Professional & Continuing Education at the University of Washington.

Steve's professional life encompassed promotional marketing positions in the Los Angeles music industry, followed by account management for major broadcast companies and, finally, as a Senior Account Executive at CBS Broadcasting.

John and Steve retired to Washington's Long Beach Peninsula in 2013. They purchased a retirement property on Willapa Bay which had been part of a rhododendron nursery created by Dr. J Harold Clarke, one of the early ARS Presidents and founding member of the Rhododendron Species Foundation.

Rhododendrons in Southern Chile

A recent travel itinerary took John and Steve to the Lake District of southern Chile in the southern hemisphere's late Spring. They suspected rhododendrons might flourish there due to the area's proximity to the Pacific and the similar latitude to their home environment in the Pacific Northwest. They were pleased to find a wide variety of

rhododendrons in full bloom and will share what they learned on their return about the origins and status of rhododendrons in the region.

Steve and John will introduce the talk with a brief history of their property in Long Beach and its relation to the ARS.

Don't miss this presentation as it is very clear that John and Steve bring varied backgrounds

2018 February President's Message

February 21 meeting: our speakers will be *Steve McCormick and John Stephens*. They will be presenting "Rhododendrons of South America".

We will also be looking for nominations for the offices of Vice President and secretary and also some board members.

March 21 Meeting: Our speaker will be *Jason Martinez*, horticulturalist at San Francisco Botanical Garden, Strybing Arboretum. His presentation will focus on rhododendrons that are blooming there and changes and additions to the Garden.

We will be gearing up for the show. Signs will be ready for people to take to put out around the community. Think of where you would like to put yours so that we have good coverage. We want all the signs up by the first week of April.

Also there will be opportunities to **sign up to help** with :

- Clerking on May 4
- Helping with the tent setup on April 29
- Table set up
- Bottle distribution to inns, restaurants etc. on May 2
- Working at the membership table on May 5 & 6
- Helping with the plant sale

April 25 meeting: Dennis McKiver will talk on selecting your best flowers, trusses and sprays for the Show and tips on cutting and transportation.

We will also have an election of officers.

May 23 meeting : Mini show and potluck

June 2 : A Saturday garden tour

Ted Steinhardt

to the rhododendron world. And keep in mind that the center of Chile *is the same latitude as Fort Bragg*. The climate is mirror image of the Noyo Chapter.

Special Note: Due to scheduling our speakers both the

Feb. and Mar. meetings will be the *third* Wed, *not the normal fourth* Wed.

Regarding the Show

We need to have trophies returned at the Feb meeting. If

you have some and cannot get them returned by then please contact Ted or Fran Steinhardt.

If you have ribbons that are not ‘keepers’ please return them as we can reuse them. They are now up to \$.70 each.

Composting

June Walsh produces the Eureka Chapter newsletter. She wrote the following for their Feb issue.

A Healthy Prescription for the New Year

By June Walsh, UCCE Master Gardener

If you are out in your garden this time of year, like I am, you are making mounds of brush clippings, piles of wet grass, a few hoards of fallen leaves. If you have a compost heap you know what treasure lies in those piles. If you haven’t begun the alchemy of composting, now is a great time to get started.

Here’s a gem of advice: Composting is nothing more than putting your garden and kitchen scraps in one place. There, isn’t that easy? Here are a few tips to get you started.

1. There is no “Right” way to compost, you will find what works for you. The worst thing that will happen is that it will take a long time to make compost, your compost may be too hot and lose some microorganism or your pile will be too big to turn and you give up for the season.

2. Your pile should be at about 3.3 feet but not so big that you struggle to turn it. If you turn it once a week or so, you will have more success. If you just pile it up and don’t turn it, you will have compost next year...no wor-ries.

3. Layer the brown leaves and green clippings and grass. If you have a chipper shredder, you can run your ma-terial through it first. You can also run your lawn mower over your clippings. The smaller your material is the faster it will compost. Simply put, layer fresh garden scraps (grass clippings, cuttings—green materials with water content) with brown (fall leaves, spent grasses—dead garden material lacking water). Toss in some kitchen scraps (no oils, dairy or meats, no dog or cat waste; we don’t need another way to attract critters to the garden!) and you have a compost pile. You can add horse, cow, chicken or rabbit manure, just be sure to mix it in.

4. Heat from the microorganisms that decompose the materials will generate the compost. Once the microor-ganisms have had their fill your compost will cool and the worms and beetles and other fauna will come to the feast.

5. Do not let the pile dry out. Like your garden, the compost pile and the living organisms within need water to thrive. Cover your heap with a tarp to conserve moisture.

6. Sun heats the compost. If you live where it is hot, and your pile has full sun, you may need to water it more often to keep it from overheating and drying out.

7. Select a good site. Flat, full to part sun (depending on where you live) and easy to access and not on a hard, impermeable surface. If you pile is on soil the worms WILL find it...no need to purchase worms.

That’s it: some heat, some sun, some water and a nice mix of brown and green, stir and let it “cook”.

If you want, you can up your composting game and build bins to keep your piles tidy, plant a camouflaging wall of plants in the front to hide the decaying matter or go all out and buy a composting unit. But, like with all things in gardening, the simpler you keep it in the beginning, the more likely you are to stick with it.



Above are a couple of simple compost bins. The bottom pile does not get turned and at this time of year it has not had much material other than kitchen wastes so it has 'cooled' off as indicated by the worms.

Adding to Your Rhodies

When our rhododendrons are not making their annual splash of color it's nice to have some blooming color in the winter, like some heaths and heathers, or a flowering plum.

Both add form and texture to our gardens.

Time to Fertilize ?

Many serious rhododendron gardeners think *Valentine's Day* and *Father's Day*.



Noyo Chapter Officers & Chairpersons

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Hospitality: **Rosalie Stanley** 367-0720, jpmohn@mcn.org
Plant Raffle: **Ted & Fran Steinhart** 964-6896, waterman.teacher@comcast.net
Wellness;
Editor : **Dick Jones** 964-4353, dic@mcn.org
***Board of Directors**

Mark Your Calendars

2017-2018 Meeting Schedule

General Meetings will be on the 3rd or 4th
Wed @ the Presbyterian Church in F B.

- Wed., February 21
**John Stephens and
Steve McCormic
Gardening in Washington
and Chile**
- Wed., Mar 21 **Jason Martinez**
- Wed., Apr 25 **Dennis McKiver**
Preping for the Show
- Sat and Sun., May 5-6, 2018.
**Noyo Chapter
Show and Plant Sale**
Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens
- April 7, Cal Chapter Flower Show and
Sale, Oakland
- April 27 to 29, Eureka Chapter Flower
Show and Plant Sale
- May 20-26, ARS Annual Convention,
Bremen, Germany

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