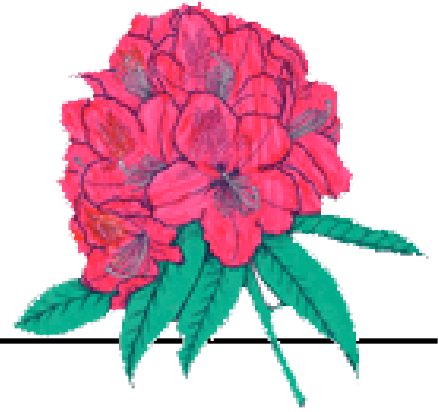


Noyo News

Noyo Chapter
American Rhododendron Society
January 2012



Tuesday, Jan. 10, 7:30

Presbyterian Church

367 So. Sanderson Way, FB

Something New from Dan

For our January meeting, **Dan Charvet**, our local camellia guru will present some new camellia developments.

Dan's been involved in the Noyo Chapter since it's inception. He was our 4th president back in the early 80's. Dan's chief horticultural interest is camellias. He's introduced many new hybrids and is widely recognized in camellia circles as one of the premier hybridizers.

With his plant knowledge and experience complementing his exceptional images Dan's program is bound to have you planning for some additions to your garden.

Some Goodbyes

Our sympathies go out to Bob Goodwin and his family for the passing of Merrie. Both were very active in the Noyo Chapter. Merrie handled publicity at the annual Plant Sale and



In Memory

Show for many years before retiring from that endeavor about 8 or 9 years ago.

Another goodbye of a less dismal sort goes to Bob Boddy. Bob has moved down to Southern Calif. where he's living close to his daughter. Bob has been one of the Chapter's most supportive members with his endless donations of plants and guidance he's given to the Chapter. He's been one of our longest tenured members. He served as Chapter President over 25 years ago. Bob is the only Noyo member to have been awarded a Bronze Medal twice.

At the personal level Bob has advised and mentored many of us. He's been a real inspiration of how to pursue one's passions. We'll miss Bob.

Here is his contact information if you'd like to communicate.

Robert Boddy
One Witherspoon #135
Irvine CA 92604
949-783-5342

Musing on Noyo Affairs

Some random things deserve your attention.

It's time to start thinking about **being more involved** in the operation of the Chapter. In the next couple of months a Nominating Committee will be putting together a slate of officers for next year. To remain viable we need to continue to infuse new people into various positions. All of you have the talent that's required.

People have been committing to **sponsor a Class at the Show** in May. This is a great way to support the Chapter. Contact John Winding (937-2140) to be sure you get the class

(continued on the next page)

2011 Gallery

Many events marked 2011.

There were a number of significant deaths. Among them were Steve Jobs, Jere Melo, Osama bin Laden, and two women who were strong enough to do what they felt was right, Betty Ford and Geraldine Ferraro.

There were significant events. Among them were the Arab uprisings, the 99% with their different kind of tent cities, the Republican Slugfest, the horrible earthquake and tsunami in Japan, and the resurgent Forty Niners.

Closer to home the Noyo Chapter enjoyed a successful year. Following are some images from 2011.



*Coleman and Barbara Smith,
our Vice-President*

of your choice. John will be at the Jan. meeting with the form for sponsoring a class.

When we arrange for speakers or judges at the Show one of the questions they have is how much it will cost them. This is a very legitimate concern and given our geographic isolation it sometimes precludes them from committing to us. Barbara Smith (884-1943) is responsible for speakers and Dick Jones (964-4353) is responsible for the Show judges. If you'd be **willing to provide lodging** for our visitors please contact Barbara or Dick.

Joyce Gilbertson's husband Graham is a skilled woodworker who likes to work with **rhododendron wood**. If you have any thick trunks or stumps that could be turned on a lathe please give him a call 961-1504

After most Chapter events your newsletter editor (Dick Jones) ends up with many photos, the majority of which get stored on a computer probably never to be seen by Chapter members. He has been thinking it might be of interest to post some of these somewhere online. There are many options. One obvious one is our Chapter web site. This is totally public and very easily accessible. Another option is one of the commercial photo companies (e.g. Shutterfly) that can limit access to just those invited.

If you have any thoughts on **posting Chapter images** please contact Dick Jones and/or share your thoughts with any officer or Board member.

A special **thanks goes to Larry McDougald** for all the plants he brought for the Xmas Potluck.

Before someone spends time counting and ordering **ribbons** for the Show take a look around and see if you have some stashed away that you are willing to **donate back to the Chapter**.

There will be a **Show Meeting** at 6:30 before the General Meeting on Tues., Jan. 10. This year we are having the Show at the MCBG so any ideas will help. If you have ideas regarding our Rules contact Dick Jones.

Garden Chores

It's time for the Dec/Jan gardening chores.

Seed catalogs are fun reading even if it's not raining. Burpee Seed Co. has been in business for over 100 years and recently even started shipping plants to Calif. The Sonoma County Bank

building, constructed in the 1920s is now home to Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Company. This is a fun place to putter around in some day when you stop in Petaluma for lunch.

Now is the time to look for **bareroot plants**. Fruit trees and (heaven forbid) roses are available for planting.

If you've not yet disposed of last year's leaves from under your rhododendrons now's a good time. Many plant pathogens are in these leaves.

With plants in a relatively dormant state this can be a time to **move plants**. They'll have some time to get new roots growing to support the growth that'll come out later in the spring. Since soil is pretty wet now a possible pitfall is letting the soil around the plants get too compressed. It's important not to tamp it down too much.

By the calendar, winter has just started. After a very wet October it's been very dry here on the Coast. It's tempting to get a jump on things and start the chores normally addressed later in the spring.

Premature pruning can result in new growth being exposed to temperatures low enough to damage the new growth before it has hardened off.

Fertilizing too early can stimulate early growth with possible results similar to premature pruning.

So what's going on with the weather this year? The wet Oct has been followed by two very dry, cold months here on the Mendocino coast. Pointing a finger at **La Niña** and/or the **Pineapple Express** come to mind.

After doing a little research it's easy to be reminded that that weather forecasters and baseball players have much in common. Very good hitters in baseball fail to get a hit 2 out of every 3 times they bat.

Perhaps the vagaries of the weather has something to do with why so many rhododendrons are sending out a few blooms when they normally have full blooms in the spring.

"Variety is the spice of life." (Wm. Cowper, 18th Century English poet)

On the next page are three excerpts relating to weather.



June Walsh from Eureka with Bob Mathey dancing a little jig



Ken Jones with one of his 'pumpkins'



Chuck Preisig receiving his 'Best of Show' trophy from Jim and Frank Celeri

From the *Snowsports Industry America* web site there is La Niña information.

Northern California

La Niña tends to be tricky in this region due to a phenomenon known as the Pineapple Express. The Pineapple Express, a relatively common weather pattern that brings southwest winds to the Pacific Northwest or California along with warm, moist air is likely this winter. The name comes from the source of the moisture: the tropical Pacific Ocean near Hawaii, where pineapples are grown. The Pineapple Express sometimes produces days of heavy rain, which can cause extensive floods. The warm air also can melt snow in the mountains, further aggravating flooding. During the colder parts of the year, the warm air can be cooled enough to produce heavy, upslope snow as it rises into the higher elevations of the Sierra Nevada or Cascades.

The web site for the *Sacramento Bee* has this Dec. 20, 2011 update regarding weather in northern California.

The National Weather Service's Forecaster Brooke Bingaman, explained that a La Niña weather pattern is influencing the north state's weather. A La Niña event pushes the polar jet stream far north of the west coast while the Pacific jet stream, although it can vary, usually is aimed for the Pacific Northwest.

Many weather watchers know La Niña can be tricky. Northern California is along the southern border of the "wet" area....

Although La Niña is an explanation for the dry conditions so far in the Sierra, that does not mean it will continue, Bingaman said.

The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) has stated that the La Niña signal will peak in December and January though CPC forecasters predict it will stay in the weak to moderate range. The CPC outlook for December through February, indicates that Northern California has an improved chance of above normal precipitation.

John Sincok of the Cascade Chapter of the ARS wrote for their Nov. issue. While this excerpt is written for the Seattle area much of it applies to northern California.

For a quick review, just what is La Niña, and El Niño? These are part of what climatologists call the El Niño Southern Ocean Oscillation, or ENSO. El Niño is a higher than normal ocean surface temperature pattern during the winter, affecting the central and eastern Pacific. La Niña, sometimes referred to as the "anti-El Niño", is a Pacific Ocean temperature pattern 3-5 degrees C LOWER than normal. These changes have significant effects on our winter weather in the maritime Pacific Northwest.

...Normally the La Niña pattern doesn't occur 2 successive years, but occasionally will. It has recently happened 5 times: 1949-51, 1954-56*, 1970-72, 1998-00*, and 2007-09. Usually the second year's event is a milder occurrence, but in the episodes marked with "*", the second year was actually more intense than the first. During the normal La Niña pattern, the effect on average temperature means the first part of winter, Oct, Nov, Dec (OND) tends to be colder, and a little warmer in the later winter Jan, Feb, Mar (JFM). However, the possibility of a severe cold snap with a few days of very low temperatures tends to be more likely during JFM. Climatologists refer to these as common patterns, versus extreme events. One of the effects of La Niña is the normal winter jet streams, which curves through the Gulf of Alaska and brings us weather systems from the northwest, becomes redirected farther south and splits in 2, bringing our weather systems more straight in from the west, and tending to carry more moisture. (The lower part of the split affects Central America).



Tom Browne is not letting Byron Jonk take his white elephant gift at the Xmas



No one's getting Nannette Giomi's white elephant gift



Three friends at Xmas, Mary Webb, Reba Dible, and Joan Murphy

Noyo Chapter, ARS Officers & Chairpersons

President	Frank Celeri	367-1554
Vice Pres.	Barbara Smith	884-1943, barand@cvcca.com
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Treasurer	John Winding	937-2140
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	Phillip Johnson	964-1426, philsabsession@gmail.com
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Show Co-Chairs	Jim Celeri	964-7526
	Frank Celeri	367-1554
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Plant Raffle	Jim Celeri	964-7526
Wellness	Bea Aker	884-1909, fishrock@mcn.org
Editor	Dick Jones	964-4353, dic@mcn.org

Mark Your Calendars

2011-2012 Meeting Schedule

Meetings typically are at the Presbyterian Church in Fort Bragg starting at 7:30 pm. **Show Com.** meetings are at 6:30 preceding each general meeting.

- Tuesday, January 10
- Tuesday, February 14
- Tuesday, March - TBA
- Tuesday, April 10
- Saturday & Sunday, May 5 & 6

Show & Plant Sale

- Saturday, May - TBA

Spring Potluck

Noyo Chapter

American Rhododendron Society
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Fort Bragg, CA 95437-1068