

Noyo News

NOYO CHAPTER
AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

APRIL 2021

President's Message



At the regular board meeting we considered ways of getting our club moving back into a more normal working organization for the members. Try as we may, it seems to be a bit early. We have heard from Mendocino County Health that we are not able to have any in person meetings at this time. Covid19 regulations prohibit gatherings of club type meetings. This will not change until the county deems it is safe to do so. We are all looking forward to the time we can have a in person meeting. We will do so, as soon health regulations allow us to meet.

New rhododendron plants are being delivered to Dennis. Plants will be available on April 24. Chapter members only will be able to view, select and purchase plants. Come after 10:00 AM. Please keep in mind that we are practicing social distancing and face masks are required. Dennis's fabulous gardens will be open to stroll about during this time. He will have many rhododendrons in full bloom to enjoy! This is a great opportunity to find answers to rhododendron questions that you may have. There is nothing like sharing rhododendron information with another addicted rhododendron grower.

Our yard is defiantly showing signs of growth along with joy from the spring weather. New blooms are putting on a show each and every day and we can hardly wait to get our hands dirty.

I hope that you find as much joy in your yard as we find in ours.

Until we get to meet once again, Ted

D@#n Dreadful Drought, Dang It!

According the www.drought.gov Mendocino County is already in Moderate to Severe Drought and it's not going to get better this year. That said, our Rhodies are drought tolerant.

With that good news, they still like a drink every once in a while.

How do we make the best of our limited supply of H2O?

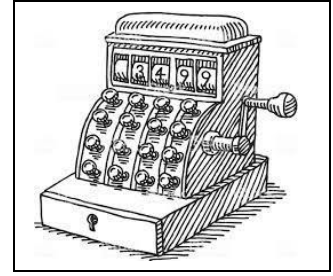
Well, this isn't our first drought rodeo and you already know the drill.

- Install a drip system,
- MULCH,
- Water in the cooler part of the day,
- If you use a hose, make sure you have a nozzle with a shut off valve,
- Capture water in your in house faucets while waiting for water to heat up.

Drought is a drag, however we can mitigate it as well as we can.



Two Big Plant Sales! Coming Soon!



Two great opportunities to purchase plants in the coming weeks. Our chapter purchased more than 300 plants all waiting at Dennis's house for you to take home and plant. 😊

Members Only Sale: Saturday, April 24 10am
Dennis McKiver's house: 32530 Forest Lane, Fort Bragg off Odom Lane
One gallon plants \$15.* Huge selection!

Public Sale: Saturday May 1 11am to 2pm
Corner of E Oak and Main Street in Fort Bragg.
Tons of plants for sale and some special surprises too.
One gallon plants \$15*
Please bring a friend along!

Can you help?

Do you have a few hours to spare to volunteer for this event? Please contact Fran if interested.

*member price and public price are the same...we know. Members get a much better selection! 😊

Membership News

Need a great gift for that certain gardener? A membership is a fantastic way to support our chapter and get more people involved in The Wonderful World of Rhodies!

ARS Application for Membership

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Memberships are on a calendar year. Please make Noyo my home chapter.
Individual/Family \$40, Commercial/Corporate \$90, Sustaining \$75, Sponsoring \$150

Mail to: Ted & Fran Steinhardt, 23551 Shady Lane, Fort Bragg, CA 95437

Quote of the month:

"I like gardening. It's a place where I find myself when I need to lose myself. - Alice Sebold"

Photos-Photos-Photos

Each day there are more and more surprises in our gardens.

Don't go out without a phone or a camera [those things we used to take pictures with] to record your treasures. Then plan on sharing those pictures with someone. There are lots of opportunities for photo shows right now.

Beginning with our chapter, you can send your pictures of what's blooming now through the end of April to LeeAnn to go into a virtual show on our website.

Mendocino Coast Botanical Garden is also having a photo contest, pictures can be sent to Roxanne Perkins, check out their website for all the rules and specifics.

The ARS is also having a photo contest. Rules and information can be found on the ARS Rhodo Notes newsletter.

It's a great time to be a photographer or just a person with a good phone. Thanks for sharing!
So here are the rules:

- Email photos and information to LeeAnn ladickson222@gmail.com
Get out there, take advantage of this magnificent weather and start snapping those beautiful images.



Plant of the Month: Vulcan Flame*

Flower/Truss Description: Flower openly funnel-shaped, 3" across, bright red. Held in dome-shaped truss with 12-15 flowers. Blooms better in warmer areas of garden.

Dominate Color: red

Dominate Emotion: Logical ☺

*just cause I am in a Star Trek mood. LLAP!

April 30

Arbor Day

Plant a tree and make shade for many future generations.



Garden Tips of the Month with Dennis McKiver.

What do mammal mouths and plant roots have in common?

Just as mammals breathe through the same passage which take in nutrients, a mouth, so do rhododendrons. Rhododendrons just do it through their root structure.

However, airways, both Rhody and mammals need to function without drying out. Rhody's can be protected by soil, mulch, leaf litter and moisture. Mammals can't breathe through water and neither can Rhodies.

To help Rhodies breathe and protect against drying out, we need to make sure our soil/mulch can retain water, but be loose enough to let in air. **As far as rhododendrons are concerned the more coarse organic material in your soil the better.**

Rhodies will die if they are too compacted in the wrong type of soil and cannot breathe.

To assure the best possible growth, you want a mixture of different sized organic materials that breakdown slowly and allow the rhododendron roots to breathe. Rhododendron nurseries In the USA usually use a planting mix of 100% fir or redwood bark or both. Sometimes volcanic pumice rock or coarse sand will be added to the mix. I like to use and have great success with 100% redwood bark.

For ongoing care, each year or so, add a few inches of fresh mulch over the old! Let the dead leaves/flowers decompose right there also. This dead plant material consists of all the nutrients and fertilizers from previous years and will be recycled back into your plants,

One more thing! Don't let grass, weeds and ornamental ground covers grow under your rhododendrons. These extraneous plants will rob your rhododendrons of vital nutrients and moisture. Their dense root systems can also smother your rhododendrons.

Never use weed block material under your Rhodies to prevent weeds. Any type of fabric weed block works to smother weeds and it will also smother your Rhodies.

Be nice to your rhododendrons, don't smother them.

Need Volunteers

We need volunteers to help with the Member Only Sale and the Public Sale.

If you have a few hours to spare, please contact Fran to sign up.

We REALLY appreciate it!

Noyo Chapter Officers and Chairs

*President: Ted Steinhardt 964-6896 waterman.teacher@comcast.net
*V President: Dennis McKiver 813-8383 dmckiver@comcast.net
Interim Secretaries:
Robert and Nancy Jorgensen 734-4321 nanartist50@hotmail.com
*Treasurer: Ben Nicholson 961-6193 bennich@aol.com
*Directors: Fran Steinhardt 964-6896 waterman.teacher@comcast.net
Devon Billings 937-0710 devon750@gmail.com
Show Chair:
Kathe and Tom Charters 964-7759 charters@mcn.org
Membership: Fran Steinhardt 964-6896 waterman.teacher@comcast.net
Hospitality: Rosalie Stanley 367-0720 jpmohn@mcn.org
Plant Raffle: Cleo Bailey 367-0720 baileylanelandscape@gmail.com
Editor: LeeAnn Dickson 916-412-3233 ladickson222@gmail.com
*indicates Board of Directors

Noyo Chapter Newsletter is published monthly except when it is not.

We love members to submit items, articles, photos and interesting tidbits. Please send them along to LeeAnn Dickson, Newsletter Editor at ladickson222@gmail.com. The Noyo Chapter is a member of the American Rhododendron Society a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization. <http://www.noyochapterars.com/>