

Noyo News

NOYO CHAPTER
AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY
JANURAY 2022



President's Message

Greetings

Firstly the Board had planned to have an in person meeting this month but the Rise of Omicron (not a Sci-Fi movie) has caused us to reconsider. Instead we are encouraging all members to tune in to the zoom meeting of the Eureka Chapter, where you will see and hear Dennis McKiver in a presentation. He will be presenting at the May National ARS Conference. He is also presenting it at Eureka's Chapter meeting: Thursday JANUARY 27, 2022 @ 7:00 P.M. please sign in 10 minutes early

*For the link to meeting site, go to eurekarhody.org this will bring up the Eureka Chapter, scroll down a little to the upcoming presentations (Orange Box) Click here to join **Zoom meeting ID: 991 2017 0578***

Speaking of the National Conference, you will find all pertinent information in your newly arrived Winter Journal. The conferences are a great way of networking with other rhododendron admirers and exchange thoughts and information, learn new methods etc.

Are there members out there looking to help with the Rhododendron Show this year?

The Rhododendron Show committee has had some meetings to begin the planning of our show which "should" happen May 14 and 15, 2022. Your help would give insight to what all it takes to do the show, and your input is richly desired and wanted in order to develop an even better show each and every year! The next scheduled show meeting will be January 31st at 11:00 A.M. at the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens Farm House. Mendocino County Covid regulations will be applied (Masks and social distancing) as we wish to protect each other the meeting may occur outside of the farm house.

Of course when thinking about the show and the beauty of the show let's remember the rule for the show. Now is the time to start getting your Rhododendrons in shape by pruning and feeding them around Valentine's Day.

Ted. Steinhart
President

Quote of the month:

The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul.

- Alfred Austin

Virtual Meeting with the Eureka Chapter

Again our Board has decided in keeping with safety guidelines will not meet in person this month. We are encouraging all of you to join in on the Zoom meeting of the Eureka chapter on Thursday, January 27.

Our very own: the one and only Dennis McKiver will be presenting. 😊

Just click on the eurekarhody.org link for the Zoom meeting. As always, please log in ten minutes early by 6:50pm for a 7pm start.

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 _____

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

Memberships are on a calendar year. Please make Noyo my home chapter.

Individual/Family \$40, Commercial/Corporate \$90, Sustaining \$75, Sponsoring \$150

We Need Your Helping Hand!

We are planning a big show this year and we need everyone to get onboard to help out.

All positions are needed from set up to tear down and everything in between. Working the show is fun and a great way to help our Chapter.

Come to our next show meeting and find out!

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Garden Tips of the Month with Dennis McKiver.

I hope everyone is enjoying the period of good weather after our December rains. However, we still need some more rain to charge up our wells for this coming summer. I hope everyone is staying healthy. The best way to do that is to get out and get sunlight and fresh air and exercise. Take some walks and work in your gardens. Now is a great time to plant your rhododendrons that you may still have in pots or the ones you just bought. We still have available a bunch of our rhododendrons from Long Cabin Nursery and we just picked up a shipment of 200 more. Call me if you want to come see what's available (707-813-8383).

Now is also the time to fertilize and mulch. Not all rhododendrons need the same amount of fertilizer. Some don't want any. It's good to photograph your rhododendron plants and leaves when you first purchase them from the nursery, so you can record what color the leaves should be. Not all rhododendrons have the same shade of green. If your leaves are looking a little lighter than normal then you probably need some fertilizer. If you fertilized last year and now the tips of the leaves are brown then the rhododendron may have gotten too much fertilizer so either skip or lighten up on your amount this year.

What fertilizer should I use? The best thing is to use what our local wild rhododendrons use. The leaf litter mulch that naturally composts under the plants. If you leave the leaf litter and dead flowers compost under your plants you are recycling the natural fertilizer from previous years and may not have to ever add supplemental fertilizer. If you are going to add fertilizer then any balanced slow release fertilizer will work. Balanced meaning it has all three elements: nitrogen(N) phosphorus(P) and potassium(K). The numbers don't have to be equal. There are a number of brands that are specifically formulated for rhododendrons (Romeo, CARE, Lilly Miller). I usually use the Lilly Miller Rhododendron, Evergreen & Azalea Food which is 10-5-4 which means 10% nitrogen 5% phosphorus and 4% potassium. The only reason I use that brand is because it's readily available at Home Depot, Ace Hardware and Lowes and it's the cheapest at \$16 for a 16 pound bag.

Knowing the species parents of your hybrid rhododendrons can help you know how much fertilizer they will use. I have found that rhododendrons with parents of *R. arboreum*, *R. yakushimanum* and *R. strigillosum* will need very little if any fertilizer. On the other hand, hybrids with *R. ponticum* in their parentage seem to need a lot to keep their foliage a dark green.



December Plant Sale

On December 18 our chapter held a huge plant sale. Tons of Rhodies of all sizes and colors were available. We had a lot of customers. One buying more than \$2000. worth of plants. You can see their purchase by visiting Mendocino Grove. The newest exclusive “glamping” site on the coast. Here is their website:

<https://mendocinogrove.com/>

Thanks to all the members who hauled plants, made sales and generally helped out. Along with a ton of fun and Jenny’s burgers for lunch, our sales for the day equaled more than \$4,600!

Noyo Chapter Officers and Chairs

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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/>