

Noyo News

NOYO CHAPTER
AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY
MARCH 2022



President's Message

Greetings

News Alert: After two years our Chapter will restart scheduled in-person meetings!

March 23, 2022 begins a return to regular scheduled meetings. This will be our first meeting in two years and our excellent speaker will be: Tim Walsh, ARS District Director. Wouldn't it be overwhelming if we had a huge turn out for this meeting? Look inside the newsletter for Tim's bio. He will be speaking on the "Gardens of Wales." It will be a great time!

Over the last two years a lot has happened! Can you believe it it's time to elect officers. Positions of all kinds are available. Membership Chairs Fran and Devon will be handling the job of presenting candidates for those open opportunities. Would you be available to help them by taking an important and fun job in our chapter? If you are, or know someone who would love to be involved in serving on our Board, please contact Fran or Devon.

Kathe Charters, Rhododendron Show Chair, is looking for help with our upcoming in-person show May 14 & 15. This is a fun opportunity to help out and be part of a great team, working on the largest Rhododendron show in California! There is no end to the many things needed to be done from picking trusses to awarding prizes to the proud and happy winners.

I hope to see all of you on March 23rd.

Ted Steinhardt
President



Timothy Patrick Walsh, ARS
District Director

Born and raised 4th generation
Humboldt County, Eureka Calif.

Bio/Program:

After attending University of Southern California Tim became a sheep boy on the Southern Humboldt ranch of his dad's long time friend. He thought his prospects of making a living as ranch-hand were poor so he became a real estate broker and finally settled in as a Stock Broker and Certified Financial Planner for more than 30 years.

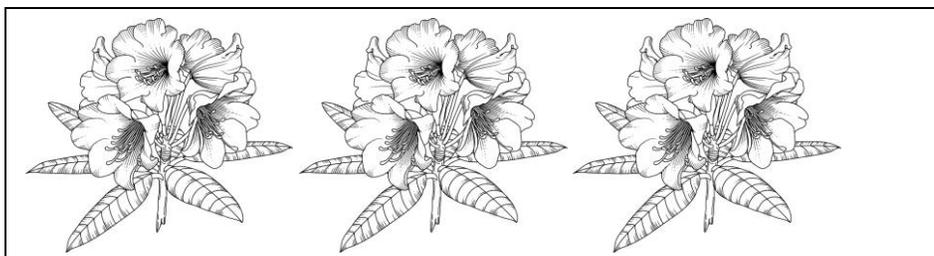
Tim had an epiphany in Hendrick's Park Garden in Eugene Oregon in the '80s when he discovered *Rhododendron* 'Loderi King George'. Before that he had grown up with the thousands of *Rhododendron* 'Countess of Derby' which in Eureka were planted by Cottage Gardens for the cut flower trade and sold as R. 'Eureka Maid'. As a little boy he would break off branches of the pink flowers and carry them up the street to sell for candy money (his dad was a dentist).

As the Rhodo-bug hit him hard he spent many Saturdays at Westgate Garden Nursery with Catherine Weeks who passed away January 12, 2015. One day she said that he needed to join the American Rhododendron Society to learn more about rhodos and meet other people who had the same affliction. Thus began a long relationship with the ARS, first as chapter President (an office he has reprised more than once), then treasurer, then Treasurer of ARS, and currently District 5 director where he sits on the Executive Board. He is thoroughly Rhodo-holic.

In 1991 a Eureka lady (Irene Van Natter) called all the garden/plant societies together to see if there were enough people interested in exploring making a botanical garden in Humboldt County. Tim was on the first board of directors for the newly formed Humboldt Botanical Gardens Foundation. Tim and his wife June have been very actively involved at all levels of the Humboldt Botanical Gardens, both at the board and at the "hands-in-the-dirt" levels. Each year they spend more than 600 hours volunteering. They are the co-curators of the Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden. We hope you will enjoy Tim's program on the new Humboldt Botanical Garden, just possibly the best place anywhere to grow Rhododendrons (...and a few other special plants as well)!

Tim and other Eureka Chapter ARS members have been instrumental in developing, selecting plants and caring for the Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden at Humboldt Botanical Garden.

Tim received the American Rhododendron Society's Silver Medal in 2007. Tim is a University of California Extension Service Master Gardener, too.



Membership News

Our Chapter is in District 5 of the National Society. We are the second largest membership district in the country!! We have a membership of 76 right now, which is among the larger chapters.

The total membership for National has been a slow slide the past few years, mostly due to the pandemic. In 2013 there were 2,900 members and this year we are down to 2,100.

So, let's do our part to bring those numbers up. Because those numbers are gardeners who love rhododendrons and that's what we're about.

If you have friends, or neighbors with Rhodies, they would benefit from being involve in our Chapter.

Attached is a membership application or just call me and pass on their name and contact information.

Thanks! Fran

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

Quote of the month:

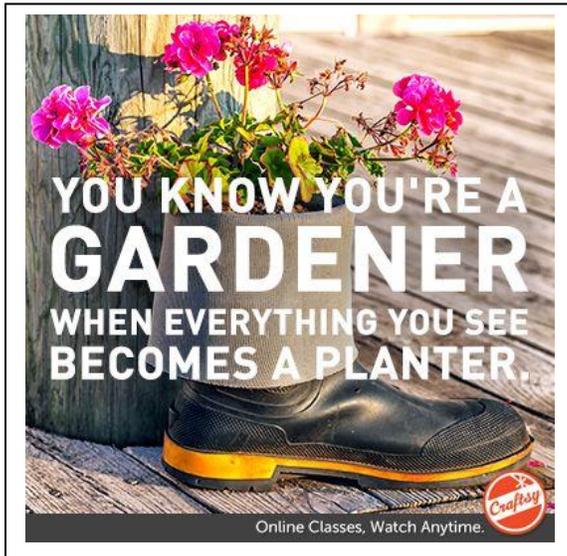
The best time to plant a Rhody was twenty years ago. The second best time is now. 😊

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.

Kathe has a complete list of volunteer positions available.



Do you have a yard sign from years past? We are collecting them to change the date for our current show and sale.

If you have a sign, please bring it to the meeting.

Thanks!

Our in person meeting March 23 at 7pm at the First Presbyterian Church of Fort Bragg, 367 S Sanderson Way.

The church follows Mendocino County COVID guidelines. So, please be vaccinated! Also the county strongly encourages everyone to still wear masks.

If you like, please bring a snack to share! Anything would be appreciated from hors d'oeuvres to desserts.

Let's celebrate being back together. We are also allowed to bring beer and wine too! 😊

Garden Tips of the Month with Dennis McKiver.

Early Blooming Rhododendrons If you purchased and planted rhododendrons you saw in bloom at our Rhododendron Show, most likely most of your rhododendrons bloom in April and May. One benefit we have of living here on the Mendocino Coast is the mild maritime climate allows us to have flowers blooming in our yards year round.

Let's talk about rhododendrons that are considered 'early' and 'very early' bloomers. Blooming between December and February. People often ask me, "What's your favorite rhododendron?". That's like asking someone with children, "Which of your children is your favorite?" Usually I respond, "Which month?"

Let's start with December. If you want a rhododendron blooming at Christmas, then my favorite would be a select variety of the species rhododendron *R. arboreum* ssp. *cinnamomeum* var. *roseum* that was given the name 'Pink Delight'. Pink Delight for me puts out its first bloom every year at Thanksgiving and is in full bloom by Christmas. It's a great plant for Christmas flowers. The best thing about Pink Delight and most other Arboreums is that it blooms over a long period. Starting in November it blooms through March and into April. Some other rhododendrons that may put out some blooms in December are: *Fragrantissimum Improved*, *Robyn*, *Cleo*, *Orange Juice*, *Taos*, *Seaview Sunset*, *R. arboreum* 'Double Flower', *R. spinuliferum*, *Bernice*, *Fran Sumner*, *Cornubia* and various azaleas.

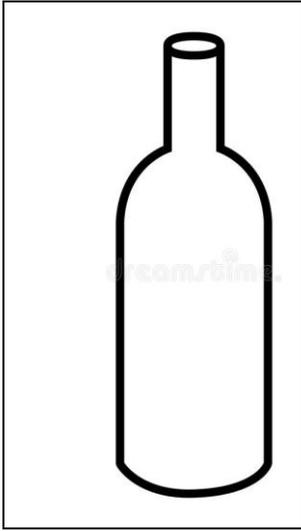
My favorites for January might be the *R. arboreum* 'Double Flower' and *Cleo*. Also, I started growing some *Vireya* rhododendrons and this year several of them bloomed this winter. My favorite was 'Orange Cascade'. *Vireyas* are unique in that they don't have a set bloom time. They can pop out blooms any time of year whenever they feel like it. January is also when some of the tender species and their hybrids start blooming such as: *R. pachypodum*, *Taos*, *Foresterianum*, *R. veitchianum*, *R. carneum* and *R. cubittii*. Other rhododendrons I had blooming this year in January were: *Robyn*, *Elizabeth*, *Cornubia*, *Loraine Fee*, *Noyo Dream*, *Christmas Cheer*, *President Roosevelt*, *Maesie* and some azaleas. Also, January is when some of the companion plants start to bloom like camellias and the deciduous magnolias as well as evergreen *Magnolia doltsopa* (Chinese Silver Magnolia).

In February my favorites are: The deep red arboreum hybrid 'Bill Fee', *Cleo*, *Maesie*, *Cornubia* and the various *R. arboreum* species. Other rhododendrons blooming for me in February are: *Taos*, *Christmas Cheer*, *Fran Sumner*, *Nobel Mountain*, *Robyn*, *Conemaugh*, *Scott's Valentine*, *President Roosevelt*, *Winter Peach*, *Seta*, *Razor Bill*, *Pink Snowflakes* and various species: *R. chrysodorun*, *R. cubittii*, *R. carneum*, *R. spinuliferum*, *R. hendrickii* and various Big Leaf rhododendrons along with magnolias and camellias and daffodils. We have a lot of early blooming club sale plants available now that are in bloom and won't be in bloom for our show.

Call me and come take a look and pick some out to take home. Dennis McKiver 707-813-8383



Club sale plants blooming now.



We need wine bottles!

We need empty wine bottles of all shapes.

Every year we distribute a truss in a wine bottle to local businesses to advertise our show. We attach an informational sticker about the show and sale to each bottle. We need about 200 bottles, so if you could save yours and dig through your recycle, we would appreciate it. There is no need to remove the labels!

Please bring your bottles to the meeting or contact LeeAnn for pick up.

We will need the bottles by May 5. THANKS

Did you get a trophy at one of our shows?

We need to recycle trophies. So, if you received a trophy in the past and still have it, we would love to get it back and use it this year. Please bring your trophy to the March meeting or contact LeeAnn for pick up. Thanks!!



Noyo Chapter Officers and Chairs

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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/>