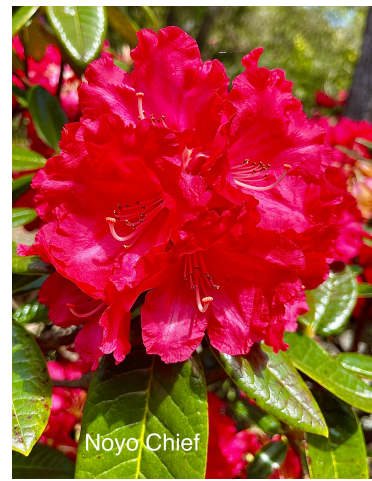


Noyo News

Noyo Chapter

American Rhododendron Society

April 2024



President's Message

Thank you everyone who came to the March Meeting, bought raffle tickets, and enjoyed a wonderful presentation from Atsuko Gibson on propagating rhododendrons at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Gardens. Thank you to Nodja and those of you who helped her with providing the snacks. Thank you to those who stayed to help us clean up. I hope everyone can make this month's meeting April 24th.

We have some nominations for our vacant positions and this year's positions that are up for re-election. All our positions are 2-year terms. Although we have been operating with 4 directors, our bylaws allow for up to 8. So, we still would like some others to step up and be Directors. Also if anyone would like to throw their hat in the ring for consideration of any of the other positions it's not too late. Let me know if you do. Elections will be held at the April Meeting.

Right now we are having board meetings on the Wednesday the week before our regular Wednesday meeting (3rd Wednesday) at 4:15 at Saint Michael's Church on Franklin Street. Come check us out to see what it's all about. Board meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend.

Those nominated for vacant positions or running for reelection are:

President: Dennis Miller

Vice President: Fran Steinhardt

Secretary: Mary Gill

Treasurer: Kathe Charters

Director: Phil Johnson

Director: Tom Charters

Those persons not up for reelection this year and will also be on the 2024-25 board will be:

Past President: Dennis McKiver

Director: Devon Billings

Director: Paul Beadleston

I have agreed to continue doing the Newsletter for the time being. I would be very happy someone else would like to do it. So, if you think it's something you would like to do, it's all yours. 😊

Please let Nodja know if you can help with snacks and drinks at the meeting. Let Devon know if you can help out with the show. At the meeting she will be passing around signup sheets for various jobs at the show. Please help out so we can continue having a show. We are one of the few Rhododendron Shows left and still the best, thanks to all of you.

At the last Show Meeting it was decided to create a couple of new trophy classes. The first one is going to be a conversation. Currently we have a trophy for both an evergreen azalea truss and a separate trophy for an evergreen azalea spray. Since an evergreen azalea spray usually consists of only one or two flowers it makes sense to only give a trophy to the spray. So, we are eliminating the evergreen azalea truss trophy and replacing it with a trophy for the best foliage. It will be called the Ted Steinhardt Memorial Trophy for foliage.

The other trophy we are creating is a Youth Trophy. It's open to anyone 18 and younger. We will have a separate table just for youth entries in place of what we used to have which was a fragrant rhododendron table. Young people may enter any rhododendron on the youth table to compete for ribbons and the trophy along with a gift certificate to the trophy winner. So, any of you with children or grand children or any other young people you know, get them to enter a truss or more in the show. In addition to entering on the youth table any young person who would like to also enter and compete in the rest of the show may do so.

Our April Speaker will be Me

We are getting ready for our annual rhododendron show. The show would not happen without our members helping out and submitting entries. If you have something blooming, bring it in for entry. I'm going to be showing you how to select and prepare your flower trusses and sprays for entry and how to fill out your entry cards. We also have entry classes for foliage plants, blooming plants and plants Bonsai. So, if you have any potted rhododendrons and azaleas you can enter them. Even if you have rhododendrons that are not blooming you can enter a foliage branch. If you have any talent for arranging flowers, we also have a flower arrangement category. Even if you don't have any rhododendrons you can still enter. Take a picture of yours or someone else's rhododendrons and enter our photo category.

Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden

The Noyo Chapter of the ARS, as a group we are all members of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, Member number 182. Check out their website for what they have to offer. It's a great place to purchase hard to find rhododendrons and companion plants. They have mostly species but also some unique hard to find hybrids. Check out their current catalog.

rhodygarden.org

facebook.com/rhodygarden

instagram.com/rhodygarden

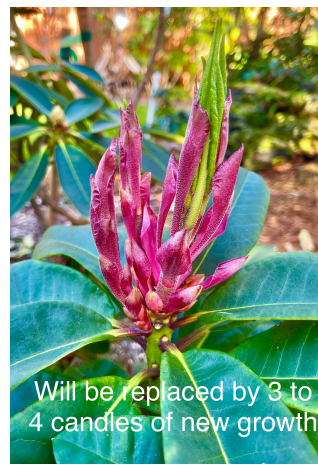
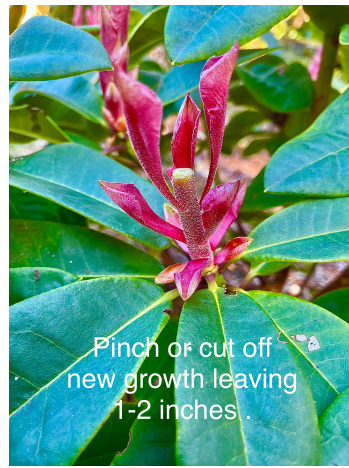
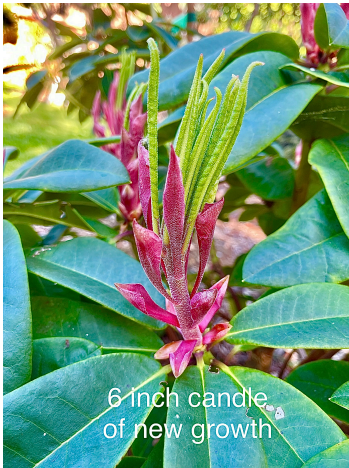
April Garden Tips:

Now is the time to go through your rhododendrons and make a list of those rhododendrons that might be blooming for the show. After I make the list I go through my entry cards and pick out the ones on my list and make new cards for any new ones. This saves me a lot of time when it comes to picking trusses and sprays. I also like to start grooming those trusses and sprays that might make good entries even before they bloom.

Here's another tip for those early rhododendrons or after the show. Ever wonder how the nurseries get those nice bushy plants with multiple branches and lots of flower buds? I learned this from Bob Bodie owner of Descanso Nursery and one of our long time members until his passing. Bob was a master at pruning and creating fabulous potted rhododendrons. He would win Best of Show with his Blooming Plant entries which he then donated to the club to sell.

This is how he did it: If you have a branch with a single candle of new growth, you can change that to branch into 3-4 candles of new growth, by pinching or cutting off the new growth but leave 1-2 inches of the candle that you cut. There is something about leaving a little of the new

growth candles that triggers the stem to put out multiple candles in its place. The theory is that its a stimulus from the growth hormones in the new growth. Here are some pictures to illustrate:



Rhododendron of the month: Coastal Spice



This newly registered hybrid of Rhododendron hybrid Fragrantissimum is one of the most loved fragrant rhododendrons. Developed by Jim Gerdeman of Yachats, Oregon, the fuzzy dark green foliage is very unusual and attractive. Blooming for a long period of time, this eye catching plant will fill your garden with true beauty, as the spicy fragrance fills your senses. We still have a few of these left, so get yours before they are all gone.

Other Notes:

Hidden Forest Nursery (Formerly Sonoma Horticulture Nursery is having financial difficulties and is going to close if they can't find an investor. Being one of the few remaining rhododendron nurseries in the state and with many rhododendrons and azaleas that can't be found anywhere else, it will be a shame if they close and get sold to a developer. If anyone knows a wealthy investor who may be interested in rescuing this unique botanical garden and nursery please let them know of this opportunity. In the meantime get there soon to obtain some special plants at greatly reduced prices.

Rhododendron Walks at Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens. I am currently giving rhododendron walks at the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens every Friday at 1 pm. You are welcome to join me. It would be nice if someone else would be willing to do some of the walks in the future, so I don't have to do all of them. It's a great opportunity to share your love of rhododendrons and recruit new members to our club and the Botanical Gardens.

Upcoming Meeting Information

Meetings are usually the 4th Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church at 367 South Sanderson Way.

April 24 - Dennis McKiver will talk about picking and preparing your rhododendron trusses and sprays for the shows.

May 4-5 - 45th Annual John Drueker Rhododendron Show and Plant Sale at the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens.

May 22 - Member's Mini-Show at our regular May meeting.

Board Meetings: will be the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 4:15 pm at Saint Michael's Church on North Franklin Street:

April 17

May 15

Noyo Chapter Officers and Chairs:

***Acting President:** Dennis McKiver dmckiver@comcast.net

***Vice President:** Vacant

***Secretary:** Mary Gill

***Treasurer:** Kathe Charters charters@mcn.org

***Directors:**

Fran Steinhardt waterman.teacher@comcast.net

Devon Billings devon750@gmail.com

Paul Beadleston paulbeadleston@gmail.com

Phil Johnson philsabsession@gmail.com

Dennis Miller dennismiller2525@gmail.com

* Voting Member

Show Chair: Devon Billings devon750@gmail.com

Membership: Fran Steinhardt waterman.teacher@comcast.net

Hospitality: Nodja Jones nodjaken@gmail.com

Newsletter: Vacant. Acting: Dennis McKiver dmckiver@comcast.net

Please help with the Newsletter. I would love it if you would submit questions, articles, photos, or any interesting tidbits or garden tips. Please submit them to Dennis McKiver at dmckiver@comcast.net

The Noyo Chapter is a member of the American Rhododendron Society, a 501c(3) charitable organization. We are happy to accept your charitable contributions.

Website: <http://www.noyochapterars.org>