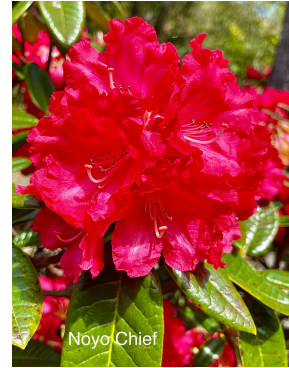


Noyo News

Noyo Chapter

American Rhododendron Society

March 2024



President's Message

Thank you everyone who came to the February Meeting and bought raffle tickets even though our planned speaker had to cancel. Thank you to Nodja and those of you who helped her with providing the snacks. Thank you Devon for stepping in with your wonderful photos of the Chelsea Flower Show from your trip to England. Thank you to those who stayed to help us clean up. I hope everyone can make this month's meeting March 27th.

We still need some people to step up and become club Directors. It's an easy job. All you have to do is come to a few Club Board Meetings to help us review the budget and make decisions on the direction of the club. Right now we are having board meetings on the Wednesday the week before our regular Wednesday meeting 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.

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.

Our February Speaker will be Atsuko Gibson

Atsuko is the Nursery Manager/Assistant Curator at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington. Originally from Japan, Atsuko has a degree in horticulture from the University of Arkansas and has interned at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. She propagates species rhododendrons from seeds, cuttings, and graftings while managing the 2 acre nursery at the RSBG.

Program Title: Rhododendron Propagation

The Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden is one of the leading institutions in the collection of species rhododendrons. What makes us unique is one of our missions, which is to distribute these rare plant materials to other botanical institutions and the public. The propagation of these plants takes place at our on-site 2-acre nursery where I spend most of my day. Learn the secrets of how we propagate not only species rhododendrons, but also the other uncommon companion plants that grow with rhododendrons in the wild.

Atsuko



Dinner with our speaker:

We traditionally take our guest speaker out to dinner before the meeting. Dinner will be at Casa Del Sol at 4:30 on Wednesday the 27th before our 6:00 meeting. If anyone would like to attend the dinner please RSVP Fran Steinhardt (waterman.teacher@comcast.net), so she can get a head count to let the restaurant know.

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

March Garden Tip:

For those of us who fertilized in February, we didn't expect that much rain right after. Hopefully it didn't all get washed away before the plants got their share. I normally do only one fertilizer application per year, but this year I may have to give them an extra spring feeding.

I have strived to have rhododendrons blooming year round, especially in the winter. It's nice to have rhododendrons blooming when not much else is blooming. For those of you who may also want winter flowers here are some recommendations to achieve that. First of all this works best here on the coast where we don't get much frost. However, I was just over in the Sacramento area in early March where I saw a number of azaleas and camellias in full bloom. Some rhododendrons normally bloom in the winter and some will bloom twice per year. Rhododendron bloom is triggered by soil temperature and photo period. Photo period is the period of time that it is light each day. If you have a rhododendron that normally blooms late winter or early spring, it may also bloom in the fall when the photo period is the same. There are a lot of rhododendron hybrids that were hybridized in Australia and New Zealand. They are in the southern hemisphere, so their seasons are opposite of ours. Our winter is their spring, so if they develop a rhododendron to bloom in their spring it could bloom in our winter if brought up here to the northern hemisphere. A good example of this is my favorite R. arboreum hybrid 'Pink Delight'. It starts opening its first buds around Thanksgiving and is in full bloom at Christmas. So, here is a list of some rhododendrons and azaleas that for me will bloom early and some that bloom twice per year:

Pink Delight - Blooms December thru March

R. arboreum - Many of these species bloom early
January to May.

R. spinuliferum

R. agapetum

R. kiusianum

R. agastum

Early Blooming R. arboreum hybrids:

Maesie

President Roosevelt

Noyo Dream

Noyo Brave

Bill Fee



Cornubia
Bibiani
Shining Sea
First Blush

Other Early Blooming Hybrids:

Lee's Dark Purple
Robyn
Cleo
Noble Mountain
Fireman Jeff - Blooms twice per year.
Christmas Cheer
Cheer
PJM
Seta
Siltcoos Sunrise



President Roosevelt

Tender Species:

R. cubittii - Many of the tender species bloom early here on the coast.
R. dendrocola - same as R. cubittii.
R. chrysodoron - early yellow
R. carneum
R. johnstoneanum

Tender Species Hybrids:

Fragrantissimum Improved - For me it blooms twice per year.
Taos - Blooms for about 5 months starting in November.
Foresterianum - February and March
Winter Peach
Fran Sumner

Other Notes:

Hidden Forest Nursery (Formerly Sonoma Horticulture Nursery is currently having a 50% off sale on most all of their plants of all sizes. It's a great place and time to get some hard to find rhododendrons that you can't find anywhere else. Some are Polo Delorezo's hybrids that have never been registered. They have a lot of unique azaleas that are blooming now. They also have a lot of deciduous azaleas and many other plants. It's also a great place to buy big mature rhododendrons including some Big Leaf Species.

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.

March 27 - Speaker Atsuko Gibson from the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, Propagating Rhododendrons. Vote for new officers.

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:

March 20

April 17

May 15

Noyo Chapter Officers and Chairs:

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

***Vice President:** Vacant

***Secretary:** Vacant

***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>