

Noyo News

NOYO CHAPTER
AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY
AUGUST 2022



President's Message

Hi everyone!

I hope you are enjoying this spectacular weather we are having here on the Coast! Watching the news, I see triple digit heat throughout our state and sit back, with jacket on and enjoy our 60ish degrees! 😊

We are lucky to have such nice weather and even luckier that our Rhodies are happy here too.

As the drought drags on, I know we are all conserving water as much as we can. Capturing water in showers and sinks, limiting flushing toilets, packing the dishwasher, quick showers, driving dusty cars and more will help us get through. Giving our thirsty plants only drips of water to keep them going is helping a lot too.

We, in California and Southwest, are not alone. Historic drought is happening all over the world and in places we never would have thought. The Lorie River in France is dry, as is Europe's Danube. With water receding, discoveries of every kind are made. Just like in our Lake Mead, authorities are finding long lost bodies, relics of lost years, and important historical finds. I just hope we don't have the same experience here on the Noyo. So, please keep your conservation efforts up for a few more months and pray or dance for rain to fall in abundance this season.

We had a fun potluck lunch at the Grange Hall last month with lots of delicious food and fun. Thanks to Nodja Jones and all her helpers for organizing the event. We have a great line up of speakers for our in-person meetings this year. So, please check the calendar below and save the dates. Yes, we are having in-person meetings now, however we are asking everyone to keep with the Mendocino County guidelines during our meetings. In our county our community is ranked Medium for Covid. This means:

- If you are at high risk for severe illness talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions,
- Stay up to date with Covid vaccines,
- Get tested if you have symptoms.

As the long forgotten 1966's group The Happenings once sang "See you in September when the summer is done!"

LeeAnn

“When the well's dry, we know the worth of water.”
Benjamin Franklin

Really Cool! T-Shirts available now.

Our Chapter designed these fabulous T-Shirts, here modeled by our Past President Ted.

Heavy Beefy T's by Hanes in long sleeve and dark gray with our wonderfully colorful design on the back and on the front too.

They are reasonably priced at \$30 each. We currently have a limited size selection, however we will be ordering more with demand from members.

Wear it with pride to promote our club and Rhodies.



Noyo Food Forest needs your Help Now

NFF has been part of the community for 16 years -

Growing food for the schools
Hosting Earth Day
Organizing workshops
Mentoring interns
and **always** welcoming you into this beautifully alive space

The Food Forest will close without Community Support Now.

Please Join Us - Sunday August 28 at 11am
in the Gardens at 300 Dana Street

Come Expecting:

A community brainstorming session to redefine and invigorate the Noyo Food Forest and an opportunity to throw your hat in to join the board.

Where: Noyo Food Forest - 300 Dana Street
(North end of Fort Bragg High next to the AG department)

When: Sunday, August 28, 11am

All are welcome
coffee, cake and veggies provided

For more information:

admin@noyofoodforest.org

(707) 738-3514

Garden Tip of the Month by Dennis McKiver

What can we do with our Rhododendrons this fall? There are several things we can do with our rhododendrons in late summer and fall to have beautiful blooms for our Rhododendron Show. First of all it's a good time to add some mulch to make sure we have the roots of our rhododendrons covered. Especially on the new ones we planted last Spring. Also, you want to remove weeds and other undesirable plants like berry bushes that want to compete for nutrients. If you want to fertilize now, do so with a low or zero nitrogen fertilizer. You want to enhance your blooms but you don't want to stimulate new growth. Summer and fall is when rhododendrons set buds. If they get a blast of fertilizer now they may put on a new spurt of growth instead of setting buds. That's ok if your goal is to get your rhododendron plant bigger rather flowers. On the contrary if you withhold water and nitrogen fertilizer in late summer it will stimulate your rhododendrons to set more flower buds. The other thing you can do is some pruning. Now is the time to remove any dead branches. I often get asked, "What's wrong with my rhododendron?", when someone finds a dead branch. Most of the time the answer is, "nothing". If the rest of the plant looks good, don't worry about an occasional dead branch. There are a number of things that can cause this. For one thing just like your roses, rhododendrons can be subject to stem borers that can kill a new shoot or young branch but won't kill the plant. Often times rhododendrons just want to shed branches for no apparent reason. After all rhododendron literally translates to "Rose Tree". Many of our rhododendrons are really trees even though we try to prune them into bushes. As a result your rhododendrons may just be shedding some branches to return to its natural tree form. Just look at some of the 50+ year old rhododendrons that look more like trees than bushes. If I have a rhododendron that I want to reduce in size next spring, this is what I do. I wait for it to set buds, then I prune off every branch that doesn't have flower buds. Then in the Spring when they bloom I prune off the branches with blooms as they finish blooming until I have the whole plant down to the desired size. That way I won't have a year without flowers. The other thing you can do is start grooming your flowers for the show while they are still in bud. Our show rules don't allow entering in the truss category a stem with multiple buds on one stem. We call this a 'Hammerhead'. So, what I do is as soon as the rhododendrons set buds I go over them and remove all the extra hammerhead buds. This will result in perfect single trusses that are bigger that if you had let these extra buds use up some of the plants energy. See attached photos.





Just because I know about such things....

Have you been hearing a different train whistle on weekends lately?

Well, the new GM of the Skunk Train brought in his darling (yes, to us railroad loving folks, locomotives can be cute) No. 2 steam locomotive. It is a doll! Built in 1908 for use in the Davenport (Santa Cruz) quarry, No 2 is a 45 ton work horse.

Not to wax poetic...but I will anyway! Unlike modern diesel, steam locomotives are alive: they drink oil, breathe steam and on occasion spit a bit of water.

Upcoming Meeting Information

The next regular meeting of our chapter will be September 21.

Mark your calendars for the following important dates:

September 21 Special guest speaker: Bill McNamara

October 26 Special guest speaker: Dennis Botten Miller

November 16 (early due to Thanksgiving) Potluck dinner and Special Guest Speaker: Garry Schanz

December 11 at 2pm Christmas lunch/dinner at David's Deli

January 25 Special guest speaker: Christy Hartsell Topic- Vireyas

February 22 Members meeting Speaker to be announced soon

March 22 Special guest speaker: Glen Jamison

April 26 Our very own: Dennis McKiver will get us ready to show our Rhodies!!

May 6 & 7 Rhododendron Show

May 24 Members Only Show

All meeting will be held at:

First Presbyterian Church of Fort Bragg, 367 S Sanderson Way.

Quote of the Month

Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.

Warren Buffet



Mount Vesuvius Day is always observed on August 24

August 24, 79 A.D. was an historic date for the world. This was the day that Mount Vesuvius erupted in a huge explosion. It was one of the largest volcanic explosions in recorded history.

This deadly volcano destroyed the Roman cities of Pompeii, Herculaneum, and Stabiae. They were buried by volcanic ash and pumice. An estimated 3,360 people died in the volcano's eruption.

Mount Vesuvius also exploded a second time in 1631. At that time, it killed approximately 3,500 people.

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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.org/>