In January and February 2017; I saw flower shows at the Community Activities Building in Redwood City. In January went to an orchid show and in February went to a camellia show. The shows were in the same area, but the configuration of the room (rooms in the case of the orchid show) was different.

These are some gardens of today.

In the future it is highly likely that there shall me more and more gardens such as this because some Grand Poobah politicians think that everyone must live in a ticky tacky condo or apartment located on top of a transit center as per things such as Plan Bay Area, sustainable development, sustainable community initiative, "smart growth", Agenda 21, wildlife corridors, Wildlands Project, and the UN Biodiversity Treaty. These photos were taken within an easy walking distance of a light rail station and bus stops for four bus routes, and is not far from the San Jose train station (which I have walked and bicycled to, and I live about a quarter to a half mile further than the apartment or condo complex).
When the general public thinks of rhododendrons, they think that they are huge monsters that are not suitable for the patio garden. Nurseries foster that belief by only carrying Elepidote hybrids. I live in an apartment (would like my economic condition to improve to the point that I could afford to purchase a place where I could establish a garden), have an understanding apartment manager who allows me to grow over 100 rhododendrons in containers behind the garage structure, and when my mother was alive, planted rhododendrons in her garden; but the vast, majority of apartment and condo dwellers are not as lucky as I am.

There are two types of rhododendrons that are perfect for the patio garden, and make superb container plants: Vireya Series and Maddenii Series rhododendrons. Vireyas are probably better than maddens, though in Bob Scott’s garden, saw some of his Maddenii Series hybrids well over twenty years, that were planted in the ground, which were about three feet tall. Bob Scott designed most of his hybrids to be low growing. Though there are several sources for purchasing vireyas mail order via the internet, the only places I have seen vireyas for sale are Berkeley Horticultural Nursery and at the Plant Sales of the San Francisco Botanical Garden.

There are several sources for purchasing maddenies on line, and they can be purchased at Sonoma Horticultural Nursery, the Plant Sales of the San Francisco Botanical Garden, and at Singing Trees Garden Nursery.

For well over twenty years Paul Molinari operated the wholesale nursery Enjoy Rhododendrons which introduced many of Bob Scott’s Maddenii hybrids, and had many other Maddenii hybrids. Enjoy Rhododendrons sold to nurseries ranging from at least as far North as Sonoma County to as far South as Santa Cruz; some of their customers were Berkeley Horticultural Nursery, Yamagami’s Nursery, Almaden Valley Nursery, and San Lorenzo Garden Center.
In 2012 Paul Molinari decided to retire, creating a vacuum which has yet to be filled. If I had the money, would have purchased the nursery, and made the web page the maddenii equivalent of [Vireya Rhododendrons](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vireya_Rhododendron). Maddens have worse PR than vireyas, am familiar with public relations, handling the public relations for two Chapters of the American Rhododendron Society.
Paul Molinari and Mike McCullough on May 5, 2012 at the final plant sale of Enjoy Rhododendrons which was held at where Gary Farwell’s Nursery used to be.

If people who grow plants in patio gardens knew of types of rhododendrons that fit their needs, it is highly likely that the membership of the American Rhododendron Society would increase.

It is time for the vacuum created by the departure of Paul Molinari to vanish, and for vireyas and maddies to become more available.

Orchids grow in the same habitats as vireyas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LeachRHS77</th>
<th>HelmFarbarik97</th>
<th>ArgentPro94</th>
<th>CruttwellPro88</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DoleshyARS77</td>
<td>ArgentICTB90</td>
<td>WadeARS81</td>
<td>GoheenMossmanARS83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Did Google searches for maddies and orchids and found many instances of the two growing in the same area.

Orchids can be found at quite a few nurseries. These folks are missing the boat by not having vireyas and maddies as companion plants.

On the tenth of September, 2016 hiked Sweeney Ridge to where the Portola expedition first spotted San Francisco Bay.

After the hike, toured Shelldance Orchid Gardens, which is located not far from Sweeney Ridge.

While there, mentioned vireyas and maddies. Was going to follow up with an email, but a few days after the hike got shingles, which I thought at first were some mosquito bites. Was out of commission for over a month.

The main purpose of the trip to the Orchid Show of the Peninsula Orchid Society was to inform the nurseries about what would make good companion plants.

Am basically shy, and sometimes have difficulty in face to face communications, but can do the job.

On Sunday, January 15, 2017 departed my apartment in San Jose at 9:40 AM (the temperature being 47° F). arriving at the Community Activities Building at 10:09 AM after driving 36 miles. The temperature was also 47° F, a high fog perhaps evening the temperature.
Outside the Community Activities Building.

The Orchid Show.
At the Orchid Show, there was added lighting, something which is missing at the Camellia Show.

A table with trophy winners.
Unlike the Camellia Show where I normally photograph the trophy winners, and perhaps a few others, at the Orchid Show took photos of flowers which looked interesting. The entrants used things such as “cym” instead of cymbidium, and “paph” instead of paphiopedilum; did not solve that mystery until editing and labeling the photos, when quite a few Google searches was done.

A table with at least one trophy winner.

Cymbidium Via Rincon Vista

Cymbidium tracyanum Chaveyo

Cymbidium Pebbles Royale

Cymbidium Doris Elizabeth
Cymbidium James Joya × Paul Robeson

Cymbidium Alan Porter

Cymbidium Isly Flamingo

Cymbidium Horace Mexicana

Dendrobium Golden Gate Sunrise

Phalaenopsis Hsin Spot Leopard
Laelia anceps Theta.  
Many orchids and vireyas are epiphytes.

Paphiopedilum K 6214  
Paphiopedilum Terry Jarvi

The Peninsula Orchid Society had a Plant Sale in the same room that the San Francisco Peninsula Camellia Society has their plant sale, but the western end of the large room where the San Francisco Peninsula Camellia Society has their Flower Show was blocked off and there several orchid growers had tables. Unfortunately, not all the growers had signs identifying themselves. Did not see any one from Shelldance Orchid Gardens there. Talked with some of the growers and mentioned vireyas and maddenies. The person who I talked with the most at first I thought worked at Brookside Orchids in Menlo Park. I am on Brookside’s email list and they informed me about the Orchid Show.

After talking to the person for quite some time, asked him if he was with Brookside Orchids since he was sitting next to them, not far from a Brookside sign. He said that he was with “Botonaco Gear”, and his nursery was next to Rocket Farms in Half Moon Bay. Informed him about vireyas and maddenies. He said that he had some Vireya’s from the San Francisco Botanical Garden and thought that some were mislabeled. Informed him about Vireya web site, and Pacific Island Nursery and Bovees Nursery.
Was unable to get the person’s email address. After returning home did a Google search for the nursery and did a Google Map search in the area of Rocket Farms, but found nothing. Was going to send him further information.

In the future will head up to Brookside Farms (which is not far from Interstate 280), head North to Highway 92, explore some Half Moon Bay Nurseries (have not been to the nurseries there in some time), then head North up Highway 1 to Shelldance Orchid Gardens. Do not know if that trip will be done before or after the American Rhododendron Society Convention that will be held from April 27 to 30 in Eureka. 

http://eurekarhody.org/convention.php

Will leave a few days before the convention and drive up there. On the way, I will stop at Sea Ranch where there are very likely some early blooming R. occidentale.

Currently with my financial situation cannot afford to stay at the featured hotel, or even a motel. Will hopefully camp at Samoa Boat Ramp and Campground, located at 40.772894, -124.213132, which is not far from the wreck of USS Milwaukee. Not far from there is where USS LCI 1091 was moved to. Have eaten a few times at the Samoa Cook House.

If Samoa Boat Ramp and Campground is full (is first come first serve), will camp at either Clam Beach or at Patricks Point State Park. There are other possibilities: Have camped several times at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, located North of Stagecoach Hill and Orick, but that is very likely to far of a commute. After the Convention, I will explore the Eight Dollar Mountain Road area of the Rogue River / Siskiyou National Forest where there is some late April and early May blooming R. occidentale.

The main bloom for R. occidentale at Stagecoach Hill, where convention tours shall be going, is in the area around Memorial Day Weekend, but R. occidentale Stagecoach 901 was discovered there on April 30, 1988.

Departed the Orchid Show sometime after 11 AM and arrived home at 12:16 PM, driving 72 miles on the trip.

Mike McCullough