

APRIL



Volume 10

Issue 7

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is amazing how much a little warmth and a little sunshine makes a gardener feel. Sunday's warmth after our cold spell and snow really helped make me feel that spring truly is on its way. I took a quick tour of my garden and am pleased to see that R. moupinense didn't get completely ruined and R. Seta likewise was only touched and brown on the few buds that had completely opened. I am waiting with anticipation to see my R. chaemethomsonii open fully. The buds are full and the dark red petals are about to unfurl for the first time! So too, is the one large flower bud that I have on my plant of R. Harry Carter, a Greig cross of R. strigillosum. It should be in full bloom by Easter. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that no more Arctic outflow winds come our way.

Thanks so much for the support of the following people in helping to "man" our booth at the Botanical Garden Society's Garden Show: John Denisegeer, June Bouchard, Yvonne Harding, Mary Kool, Bill & Mary Hardy, Darlene Moss, Craig Clarke, Al McRae, Barb Coy, Philip & Joy Paull, Terri & Ken Mack, and David Ball. Your support is very much appreciated. You did a great job!

Chris

OUTSIDE EVENTS

See calendar on page #6 for NRS Events

April 14: Urban Garden Club Party, Port Alberni All invited. Tel: 724-2942 for information.

April 27: Cowichan Valley Garden Club Annual Flower Show. 1PM – 4PM, St. Peter's church Hall, 5800 Church Road, Duncan. Plant Sale & PM Tea. Info call: 246-3626

April 28: VanDusen Botanical Garden
5251 Oak St./ West 37th Avenue, Vancouver
10am to 4pm Admission is free, more than 35,000 plants for sale!

March, April & May Species identification workshops, Rhododendron Species Foundation, Saturdays \$140. Jim Greig (phone 468-7805)

May 9, 10, 11 Milner Gardens Rhododendron festival.

May 18, 19 MARS bus tour to Bernt Ronning Garden near Holberg. Phone Pat Jefferson 752-2524

June 30: Gabriola Island Home & Garden Tour.
10AM-5PM – \$15.00 call 247-9935 for info.

VOLUNTEERS

RAFFLE:	June &	Terri
DOLLAR TABLE:	Michael Miller	
GOODIES:	Connie Thompson	
	Joy & Phil Paull	
	Terri Mack	

Have any extra plants for the
\$ Table or Raffle?

1

Please use natural methods in
ridding your garden of pests!



APRIL



**Specialty Dried Flowers
Fine Nursery Plants**

4323 Yellow Point Road
RR3 Ladysmith BC
V0R 2E0

Wendy Mathers

Phone: (250) 245-1084
Fax: (250) 245-1085



THE BACKYARD
Wildbird & Nature Store

Colin & Denise Bartlett

Tel: (250) 390-3669
Fax: (250) 390-1633
www.go-nanaimo.com/birds

#6-6404 Metral Drive, Nanaimo, B.C. V9T 2L8

YOUR EXECUTIVE

President	Chris Southwick	758-0993
V/President	John Deniseger	390-3605
Secretary	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Treasurer	Richard White	752-6519
Directors	Dave Ball	729-0456
	Doug Blenkarn	756-0951
	Al Hirst	751-1802
	Ray Lauzier	756-2927
	Terri Mack	758-4287
	Mary Taylor	756-3984
	ConnieThompson	741-0739

NRS MAILING ADDRESS

Suite 241 1-5765 Turner Road
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4

NRS WEBSITE

[www.hedgerows.com/Canada/
clubbroschures/nanaimorhodosoc.htm](http://www.hedgerows.com/Canada/clubbroschures/nanaimorhodosoc.htm)

[www.rhododendron.org/adminsector/
chapterinfo.htm#Nanaimo](http://www.rhododendron.org/adminsector/chapterinfo.htm#Nanaimo)

ARS WEBSITE

www.rhododendron.org

RHODODENDRON & AZALEA NEWS WEBSITE

[http://members.aol.com/RandANews/news.
html](http://members.aol.com/RandANews/news.html)

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Paul & Linda Lawry
Email: plawry@shaw.ca

7056 Aulds Road
Lantzville, BC V0R2H0
Tel: [250] 390-2370

DISTRIBUTION

Gill Taylor

Have any extra plants for the
\$ Table or Raffle?

2

Please use natural methods in
ridding your garden of pests!



APRIL

“R. ALBERT CLOSE”

This is another of Fraser's hybrids that was grown and named by Joseph Gable. It is of the same parentage as “R. George Fraser”, which it resembles both leaf and flowerwise, although I do believe that the flowers are slightly lighter on Albert Close.

When it bloomed for Gable he named it “R Albert Close” to honour Albert Close the chief propagator at the Department of Plant Introduction Station at Glenn Dale, Maryland. The rhododendron is described by Gable as “hardy, late, a shy bloomer, somewhat straggly and open with attractive foliage. Flowers medium size, bright rose pink with throat heavily spotted chocolate red, compact conical truss, can take sun (seed from Fraser).”

The cuttings can be obtained from an Albert Close growing at the Tyler Arboretum in Lima, Pennsylvania.

The plant in the Tyler Arboretum Garden had been obtained initially from Joseph Gable of Stewartstown, Pennsylvania. I obtained the plant from the nursery of Pat and Everett Jefferson at Qualicum Beach, B.C. It is now about 8 feet tall and cuttings have been taken to Ucluelet.

Bill Dale

Art Knapp's provides the best selection of Fertilizers & Pesticides, Trees & Shrubs, Annuals & Perennials plus hundreds more garden related items and all the Free information you can use! Clay, Plastic and Ceramic Pots. Tropicals. Flower & Vegetable Seeds. Bulk Soil & Bark Mulch. Indoor Potting Mixes, Outdoor Bagged Soil. You name it, we got it.

 **Art Knapp**
PLANTLAND

6469 Metral Dr., Nanaimo, B.C.

Next to Woodgrove Mall, across from Home Depot

390-1151 Phone us for free information!

OPEN
SEVEN DAYS A WEEK
9:00 am - 5:30 pm



Have any extra plants for the
\$ Table or Raffle?

3

Please use natural methods in
ridding your garden of pests!





Canadian Gardener David Tarrant Takes Green Thumb Cruisers to Costa Rica and the Exotic Caribbean

Panama Canal Cruise-Tour: featuring "*Gardens of Costa Rica and the Exotic Caribbean*".

David Tarrant's Panama Canal Cruise-tour is doing more than sending gardeners to the sunny tropics. On behalf of each gardener, **a donation is made to a worthy cause: the University of British Columbia Botanical Garden.**

Tour members will begin their adventure in San Jose, Costa Rica, where David will conduct 2 full day tours of Lankaster Garden, Claudio Salas Orquids, Paos Volcano as well as 2 private orchid gardens. There will also be exclusive garden walks and tours on the Caribbean Islands of Curacao, St. Lucia and St. Thomas. Then it's off to transit the Panama Canal and onto the Islands of the Caribbean aboard Crystal Cruise's *Crystal Harmony*. With a full itinerary, travelers will enjoy many exotic and unique ports of call, as well as a few days at sea..

David Tarrant's Panama Canal Cruise-tour: featuring "*Gardens of Costa Rica and the Caribbean*" begins November 16th and ends November 29th 2002. For more information on joining the group, please call Rebecca or Linda at Renshaw Travel's CRUISE CONCEPTS toll free @ (800) 317-0464 or (604) 733-1074. **The Panama Canal Cruise-tour is in support of the UBC Botanical Garden.**



Paul & Lynn Wurz
4307 Gordon Rd.
Campbell River,
287-4301
Pwurz@oberon.ark.com
**Growers of
Specialty Rhododendrons**

STONEBRIDGE
LANDSCAPE
MAINTENANCE

753 - 3243
DAVE ROSE

Have any extra plants for the
\$ Table or Raffle?

4

Please use natural methods in
ridding your garden of pests!



APRIL

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON GARDEN TOURS

The NRS Executive is grateful to those members who offered their gardens for these May tours. The evening visits are from 6:30 PM- 8:30 PM on successive Fridays May 3, 10, and 17. Prior to our potluck dinner on Saturday, June 1 three other gardens will be open for daytime tours.

We encourage you to invite prospective members to accompany you on these visits. See below for the garden tour schedule.

May 3, 2002 6:30PM- 8:30PM Al Mc Rae, 3570 Oakridge Drive

Turn off Hammond Bay Road at Oakridge Drive and proceed 0.7 km and park on side of road. Walk down shared lane toward the house. Tall vertical split cedar screens provide privacy and backdrop for the plants that line the access driveway. On both sides raised beds made from fractured basalt are filled with rhododendron, camilla, magnolia, azalea, hydrangea, and pieris japonica. Vinca, salal and sword fern tastefully co-exist with the exotics. Further down a circular drive encloses a huge raised bed of rhododendrons accented with a bird bath, statuary and a large Japanese cherry. The house has a commanding view of Georgia Strait and Piper's Lagoon. Al would appreciate your help in identifying many of his Rhodos.

May 3, 2002 6:30 PM- 8:30 PM William and Mary Hardy, 5992 Waterton Place

From the intersection of Hammond Bay Road and Uplands Road proceed south one short block and turn right onto Garabaldi- then first right onto Waterton Place. Park in the visitors lot on the left. The house and garden are to the right of the mail boxes.

When William and Mary moved here 6 years ago the potential garden areas were dense with cedar, fir and salal. Only a few trees remain to provide backdrop and balance to an arrangement of small, medium sized rhododendrons, azalea, hebe, rock and alpine plants. Their garden efforts extend onto two adjacent properties and for which their neighbors are grateful. Several donated plants have been resuscitated back to health. Numerous hypertufa planters of varying dimensions add additional interest. A painted Styrofoam planter has obvious virtues.

May 10, 2002 6:30 PM- 8:30 PM Ward and Donna Porter, 6259 Azure Road

Turn off Hammond Bay Road onto Brickyard, proceed 0.8 km and turn right onto Wadbank - take first right onto Azure.

Ward and Donna's latest garden is just over 3 years old. One is immediately drawn to the curving raised beds of Vancouver Island slate laid in a bookleaf fashion. Many of the 80 Rhododendrons, of which 30% are species, may be unfamiliar or are less common. Fortunately all are labeled.

GARDEN TOURS CONTINUED ON PAGE #8

APRIL



Nanaimo Rhododendron Society's

2002 Gardening Calendar

April

6th Saturday
11th Thursday
18th Thursday
27th Saturday

Tufa Workshop (tentative)
General Meeting & Early Show
Executive Meeting
Mount Arrowsmith Show & Sale – Parksville
Victoria's Show and Sale

May

May 3rd Friday,
May 4th Saturday,
May 4th/5th Sat. & Sun
May 5th Sunday
May 9th Thursday,
May 10th Friday,
May 10th & 12th Fri – Sun
May 11th Saturday
May 16th Thursday
May 17th Friday
May 18th Saturday

Garden Visits – Nanaimo Club
North Island Show/Sale - Courtenay
Filberg Show – Comox
The Nixon's Open Garden noon – 4p.m. Nanoose
General Meeting
Garden Visits – Nanaimo Club
Rhododendron Festival – Milner Gardens
Nanaimo's Annual Show & Sale
Executive Meeting
Garden Visits – Nanaimo Club
North Island Tour – Nanaimo 7:30 leaves

How Much: Cost \$25 (plus \$5 admission fee to Kitty Coleman Woodland Gardens)
Departure: 7:30 am from Country Club (near Swiss Chalet) 7:45 am from Woodgrove (near Chapters)

Don't forget to bring a picnic lunch

We'll be visiting many beautiful gardens while also having a chance to check out some great nurseries.

- Campbell River – Paul and Lynn Wurz's garden and nursery (Hidden Acres Nursery)
- Campbell River – Mystic Woods Nursery <http://www.mysticwoods nursery.bc.ca/>
- Oyster Bay – Linda Easton's garden
- Courtenay/Comox– Kitty Coleman Woodlands Garden <http://woodlandgardens.ca/index.html>
 - \$5 admission fee
 - Includes a stop for lunch and a guided tour

If you'd like to go, contact John or Chris

June

June 1st Saturday
June 8th Saturday

Garden Tour & Pot Luck Dinner
Rhododendron Lake Picnic (tentative)

Have any extra plants for the
\$ Table or Raffle?

Please use natural methods in
ridding your garden of pests!





Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Minutes of March 14 – Meeting

1. The meeting was called to order by President Chris Southwick at 7:39pm.
2. Chris welcomed new members and guests.
3. **Secretary's report**. Move that the minutes of the February meeting be adopted as printed on page 5 of the newsletter. Correspondence received from 5 growers attending our May plant sale, notice of Cowichan Valley Garden Club Spring Show, notice of Gabriola Home & Garden Tour, notice of Urban Greenery Garden Party.
4. **Treasurer's report**:
The balance in the Bowen Park Legacy Fund is \$155.93
The balance in the general account is \$2732.64
The balance in the library fund is \$338.91
5. **President's report** Our early truss show will be held at the April meeting.
6. **Committee Reports**:
Library David announced a new book entitled "Great Garden Formulas"
Newsletter No report
Dollar Table Strawberries available this month
Program: The speaker for our April meeting is Bill Dale. For the May meeting, there might be a joint meeting with MARS chapter to have Cyril Hume speak on Abkhazi Gardens.
7. **Upcoming Events**
John Deniseger and Chris Southwick are organizing a visit to gardens in the Campbell River, Courtenay and Comox area on May 18 at a cost of \$25.
8. **Executive meeting** will be hosted by Mary Taylor on March 21st at 7pm
9. **Educational talk** – Bill Hardy showed how mock tufa planters can be constructed from Styrofoam containers and speckle stone paint.
10. **Raffle/Draw winners**. Allan McCrae, Mike Miller, Paulette Galloway, Linda Lawry, Joy Paull, Phillip Paull, Barb Coy, Ken Mac, Charlie Hardy.
11. **Program**. Carol Dancer gave a slide presentation entitled: "Plant combinations in a rhododendron garden".



APRIL

NANAIMO GARDEN TOUR CONTINUED

The walk to the fenced rear garden reveals some of Ward's grafting efforts. Inside the unique garden house of bookleaf slate is an organized gallery of images and details of various liliium, narcissus, allium, iris, tulip and other plantings. Numerous bird feeders, bath tubs and wheelbarrow planters and massive arbor covered with wisteria are other features.

May 10, 2002 6:30 PM- 8:30 PM Chris Southwick, 5588 Clipper Drive

Proceed north on Hammond Bay Road to Rutherford Road. Clipper Drive is the second left on Hammond Bay Road after the Rutherford Road traffic lights.

This garden has been evolving over 9 years. Although rhododendrons dominate, Chris describes it as an eclectic and learning garden. Borrowed native trees, fencing and fruit trees provide background and microclimates for her plants. One third of the 182 rhododendrons are species. Smaller specimens have been favoured. Variety is provided by clematis, kalmia, viburnum, hellebores, hosta, hydrangea, rosa, paeonia and more. Edible are restricted to berries, asparagus and garlic. Lawn is continually giving way to planting beds. The side deck with several container plants is shaded by a tree photinia.

May 17, 2002 6:30 PM- 8:30 PM Yvonne Harding, 6214 Brickyard Road

Take second left south of Uplands on Hammond Bay Road on to Brickyard Road. The house is yellow and is 0.6km from Hammond Bay Road on the right side.

Yvonne has replaced the lawn at the front of her house with a large variety of deer proof plants including heathers, sedges, irises, penstemon, geranium, and euphorbea.

The fenced rear yard permits an even wider range of plants. The lawn area is gradually receding as more beds are added. Larger rhododendrons, camillia, aucuba and various trees form a backdrop for beds of primulas, caged delphiniums, helleborus, fritillaria and rosa.

May 17, 2002 6:30 PM- 8:30 PM Garden of Mary Taylor, 6343 Waterbury Road

From the intersection of Hammond Bay Road and Uplands proceed on Uplands toward the water. Turn right onto Dover for one block then turn right onto Mystic for two blocks and then turn right onto Waterbury and park. Access to Mary's garden is to the right of the garage.

Mary has been developing her garden over the past six years. Fencing, fruit trees and a remarkable eucalyptus form a backdrop for her diverse and concentrated gardening. Among the multitude are some 30 rhododendrons, 16 clematis, lonicera, viburnum, hydrangea, buddleja, helleborus, continus, fatsia, aucuba, camellia, nandina, hardy fuschia, paeonia, and lilium. Many succulents and cacti, brugmansia (angel's trumpet) and others winter over in the greenhouse. Propagation, composting and vegetable growing areas are adjacent to the greenhouse. Containers and interesting artifacts decorate the deck and



?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
?																	?
?	HELP																?
?	Hi Paul,																?
?	I am wondering if we have or could have a																?
?	"problem" section in our newsletter. If so, I have a																?
?	big problem. More than 1/3rd of my rhododen-																?
?	drons have severe bud damage - both flower																?
?	and somatic buds. The whole bud is not turning																?
?	brown as in the Bud Blight shown in Greer.																?
?	Rather they look as if they have been bitten with																?
?	a chunk taken out of the top or top and side.																?
?	This occurs at all heights from six feet or more																?
?	(and out of deer and rabbit reach) down to the																?
?	ground. It is also occurring on hybrids and spe-																?
?	cies of all sorts. However, many plants are free																?
?	of the problem.																?
?	I live at some altitude - above Malaspina and get																?
?	more snow and cold than people nearer the																?
?	ocean, but this is the first time I have seen this																?
?	problem in 15 years here. Last year was my first																?
?	year to see leaf mildew as well, so perhaps the																?
?	fates are catching up with me. Other attributes of																?
?	my site: Douglas fir and Arbutus shade condi-																?
?	tions, rocky dry soil (lots of watering), salal. If																?
?	anyone has any ideas about my bud troubles, I																?
?	would be grateful to hear from them.																?
?	See you,																?
?																	?
?	Bill Pennell																?
?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?





The Pacific Coast Rhododendron Story: The Hybridizers, Collectors and Gardens

By Craig Clarke

I learned about this book from Edna Newcomb of Snohomish WA. Published last year, it is the culmination of a project started by the Portland Chapter of the ARS when it was planning to host its 50th Anniversary Celebration Conference in Portland. Sonja Nelson assimilated material collected by a committee of researchers and wrote the final version. I purchased my copy from Dee Daneri at the ARS Executive Office.

Although the Royal Horticultural Society produced a book of more than 200 pages entitled ***The Rhododendron Story*** in 1996, there was little information for those interested in the history of rhododendron cultivation in western North America. This is rectified by the present book that focuses in on people who have a passion for growing, collecting, and hybridizing rhododendrons from California to British Columbia.

There is a fascinating description of the pioneers including those who formed the American Rhododendron Society in Portland Oregon in 1944. The work of George Fraser in Ucluelet and Ted & Mary Greig in Royston is described in some detail.

Several chapters summarize the work of hybridizers in Oregon, Washington, BC and California. The British Columbia section features the accomplishments of George Fraser, Ted & Mary Greig, Albert de Mezey, Stuart Holland, Evelyn Weesjes, Bob Rhodes, Milton Wildfong, and John Lofthouse. There is also an appendix with a list of hybrids and selected species forms.

The University of British Columbia Botanical Garden received a donation of species rhododendrons from Ted & Mary Greig in 1952. Nick Weesjes began propagating rhododendrons at UBC from seed imported from the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. When the Rhododendron Species Foundation was formed, it was unable to import material from the UK and Europe to establish its collections. Therefore, it made an agreement in 1964 with the UBC Botanical Garden to import cuttings and root them. Evelyn & Nick Weesjes did the propagating and in return for raising the cuttings, kept specimens for the UBC collection when forwarding the plants to the fledgling Rhododendron Species Foundation Botanical Garden in Federal Way. The David C. Lam Asian Garden opened in 1983 as a 7 hectare section of the UBC Botanical Garden with more than 440 species rhododendrons.

The section on test and display gardens includes descriptions of the Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden in Portland, Meerkerk Gardens on Whidbey Island, our Hailey Rhododendron Grove in Bowen Park and the Comox Valley Rhododendron Garden in Courtenay.

There are many excellent photographs of both people and plants. Of local interest, the front cover is decorated with a photograph of Clayquot Sound taken from Dot & Ken Gibson's garden in Tofino. Pictures of local hybrids include **R. 'Bob's Blue'** & **R. 'Haida Gold'** by Bob Rhodes, and **R. 'Royston Red'** by Mary & Ted Greig. There are also photos of several British Columbians including Les Clay, Alleyne Cook, Mary Greig, Clive Justice, Jack Lofthouse and Nick & Evelyn Weesjes.

I heartily recommend ***The Pacific Coast Rhododendron Story*** to anyone who has an interest in the history of rhododendron cultivation in the Pacific Northwest. Available in paperback or hardcover editions, with its large format, attractive photographs and detailed index, it will be not only a valuable reference, but also an eye-catching coffee table book.

Have any extra plants for the
\$ Table or Raffle?

10

Please use natural methods in
ridding your garden of pests!

