

EASTER



APRIL 2003



Volume 11



Issue 8

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I attended the ARS District 1 meeting on March 23, 2003. The main topic was the proposed ARS membership dues increase for 2004. A motion to support the proposed dues increase in 2004, with a letter of concern that the increase may impact membership, was passed. The endowment committee has made recommendations to the board on the disbursement of \$18,500 US to the applicants, Milner Gardens, Meerk-erk Gardens, Tacoma Chapter, Hawaiian Chapter, and Bill Dale Research. A recommendation has been made for the awarding of the ARS Silver medal to a member in District 1.

I spent Saturday planting rhododendrons. Be careful not to work the soil too much when it is saturated, you may compact it too much, we need the oxygen in the soil to allow for the movement of water and nutrients. Rhododendron fulvum and calophytum are bursting to their full glory and others are getting ready. When you weed and hoe those winter weeds be careful not to cut the tops off the hostas, lilies and bulbs starting to emerge. Now is a good time to give your rhododendrons a light first fertilizing. This will give them the nutrients required for the blooms and commencement of new growth. Last chance to prune back that too large rhododendron for the latent buds to be initiated, and for the new growth to harden off for the following winter.

Don't forget to prepare for our Truss Show and Plant Sale on May 10. Members are needed to set up at 7.30 am at the Centennial building at Beban Park. . Bring your trusses early so they can be named and displayed. Members will have a chance to purchase their plants from 9 to 9.30 am, then open to the public to 2 pm.

See you at the meeting, Richard.

EXECUTIVE

President	Richard White	752-6519
V/President	Mary Taylor	756-3984
Secretary	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Treasurer	Barb Coy	758-8497
Directors	Dave Ball	729-0456
	Yvonne Harding	756-3574
	Allan McRae	758-7589
	Helmut Neuman	714-1840
	Josie Robertson	390-4270
	Anne Williamson	390-2604

NRS MAILING ADDRESS

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

NRS WEBSITE

<http://www.rhodos.ca/nanaimo>

NRS EMAIL ADDRESS

Nanaimo@rhodos.ca

PAST ISSUES

<http://rhodos.ca/nanaimo/newsarchive.htm>

ARS WEBSITE

www.rhododendron.org

Rhododendron & Azalea News

<http://www.rhododendron.org/news/home.htm>

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

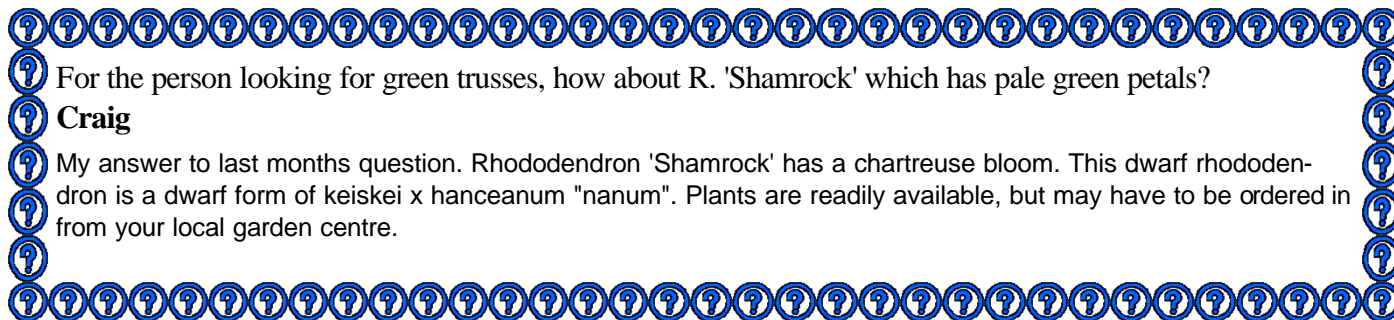
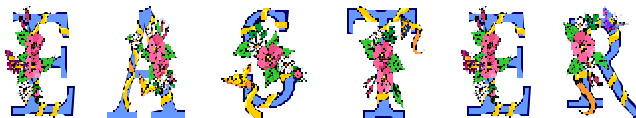
Paul & Linda Lawry

Email: plawry@shaw.ca

Telephone: [250] 390-2370

DISTRIBUTION

Gill Taylor



For the person looking for green trusses, how about R. 'Shamrock' which has pale green petals?

Craig

My answer to last months question. Rhododendron 'Shamrock' has a chartreuse bloom. This dwarf rhododendron is a dwarf form of keiskei x hanceanum "nanum". Plants are readily available, but may have to be ordered in from your local garden centre.

Evelyn's Perennial Plant Sale

at 3470 Stephenson Point Rd.

Saturday, April 19th 2003

Times 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Meeting

April 10, 2003

Our speaker to be Lindsay Gibson.

Her presentation will be on "Japanese Gardens" Lindsay was introduced to things Japanese through her father who had traveled and worked in the orient, so her focus turned that way early in her childhood. Educated through Camosun College with an introduction to Landscape architecture. She was joined in 1992 by her partner, Joan Cunningham, who has 20 years of training in the O'hara School of Ikebana. Attended the first International Symposium of Japanese Gardens held in Portland in 1996. Has traveled three times to Japan, and studied garden design under Marc Peter Keane. Lindsay's largest project has been the planting design at the Laurel Point Inn, Victoria.



Paul & Lynn Wurz
4307 Gordon Rd.
Campbell River,
287-4301
Pwurz@oberon.ark.com

Growers of Specialty Rhododendrons

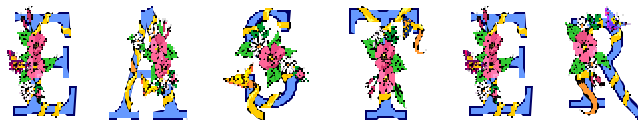
PORT DAVID

**Landscaping, Stonework,
Garden Design & Irrigation**

Ward Porter

Office [250]758-2494

Cell [250]714-9754



APRIL GOODIES

Phil & Joy Paull
Beryl Riches
Chris Southwick
Mike Miller



May Meeting

Our speaker, Norm Todd of Firwood Nurseries offered to bring a few specialty plants for sale at the meeting. Because the meeting happens only two days before the Truss show and Plant Sale on May 10, he will not be bringing a large number of plants.

If you have any particular requests, phone Craig at 390-4090 or send an email to nanaimo@rhodos.ca and he will pass your requests to Norm.



LONG LAKE NURSERIES

*45 years of business for the citizens of Nanaimo.
Voted # 1 Best of the City Garden Shop*

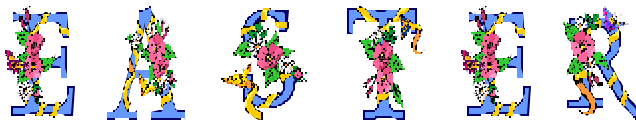
We are your one stop shop for all your garden needs:

Shrubs – Bulk Soils - Gravel's Organic products - Tree's Sea Soil - Fertilizers
Pond Products - Pots - Bedding plants- Potting mixes & Rhododendrons

4900 Island Highway North
Nanaimo. BC V9T 1W6 Phone (250) 758 5012

Present your Rhodo card and Receive 15% off regular price items, excluding bulk items





Nanaimo Rhododendron Society - Minutes of March 13th Regular Meeting 2003

1. The meeting was called to order by President Richard White at 7:36 pm.
2. Richard welcomed members and guests.
- 3. Secretary's report.** Correspondence received: Liability insurance policy from the BC Council of Garden Clubs, letter from Computec Engraving regarding closure for holidays. It was moved/seconded/carried that the minutes of the February 2003 meeting be adopted as printed in the newsletter.

- 4. Treasurer's report:**
- The balance in the Bowen Park Legacy Fund is \$156.05
The balance in the general account is \$1878.01
The balance in the library fund is \$375.74

5. Committee Reports:

Library: David Ball has an extra batch of vegetable seed.

Newsletter: Send articles to Paul & Linda Lawry.

Program: March speaker: April: Lindsay Gibson; May: Norm Todd.

Open Gardens: Doug Blenkarn asked for volunteers to open their gardens to members this season.

6. Old Business

Bus Tour May 24th. Sign up book available, the cost will be \$25.

May truss show and plant sale May 10th: flyers are made up for distribution.

7. New Business

Need volunteers to contact members to ask for nominations for next year's executive.

ARS Dues increase: It was moved by Bob Rhodes and seconded by Ray Lauzier that the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society approve the ARS dues increase and that the society will decide how the extra money will be raised. Motion carried.

There will be a ceremony in Beacon Hill Park, Victoria for the planting and dedication of some of George Fraser's hybrid rhododendrons on Friday April 25.

M/S/C That the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society donate \$100 to Bill Dale in support of his research into John Blair, the developer of Beacon Hill Park.

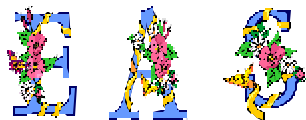
8. Next executive meeting will be hosted by Barb Coy March 20th at 7pm

9. Door Prize winners: Mary Taylor, Ray Lauzier

Raffle winners: Norma Ginther, Doug Blenkarn, Maurice Mauch

Name Tag Draw: Jean Rhodes

10. Speaker: Clint Smith gave a very interesting presentation on many of the great gardens of Scotland and Ireland.

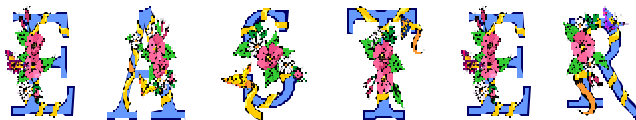


WOODLAND JEWELS: RHODODENDRONS

By Halil Ibrahim Tutak

A beautiful scent filled the air, but to which plant it belonged I had no idea. I had often experienced the scent of thyme in the mountains during spring, but never perfumed mountains in this way. The scent turned out to come from the yellow flowers of a species of rhododendron, known in Turkish as forest roses. These bushes with their large flowers could be seen sometimes in small groups and sometimes covering the ground as far as the I could see. I was reminded of these lines by the poet Orhan Veli: 'This world drives one mad / This tree beflowered from top to toe'. In a sea of yellow and purple flowers, happiness is indeed close to madness. Five species of rhododendron grow wild in Turkey. My passion for these lovely flowers began by coincidence. I had always visited the Black Sea region during the summer months, and so had never seen the rhododendrons in bloom. Yet at the end of August one year, I noticed a single flower that for some reason had bloomed out of season. The rhododendron becomes more common the further eastward one goes, growing in forests and forests glades in the Black Sea mountains. The first flowers appear in early May and continue until the end of June, or until mid-July at higher altitudes such as in the Kackar Mountains. In the western Black Sea region, Rhododendron ponticum with its purple flowers are more common. Despite their beauty, they are not well liked by forestry authorities, because these sturdy evergreen bushes are surface-rooting, and so spread rapidly, forming impenetrable thickets and impeding forest growth by preventing the seeds of trees from taking root. That is why, in some areas rhododendrons are cleared to encourage young trees to gain a foothold. The woody branches of the purple rhododendron are widely used for firewood by local people. Not only foresters but honey producers look on rhododendron as a pest rather than an asset. This is because the flowers contain certain toxins, with the result that honey produced by bees which have visited these flowers is poisonous, and is only used by some herbalists as an ingredient of medicines. The purple rhododendron is

known by such local names as kara asu (dark poison) and komar, and the yellow species (Rhododendron luteum) as sari asu (yellow poison) or zifin. The latter is more poisonous than other species, and local people take care that their animals do not graze on the grass beneath these bushes, particularly after it has rained. Over 600 species of rhododendron grow wild in Asia, North America, Europe and Australia, their habitat being hills and mountains in temperate areas with high rainfall. The great majority, over 400 species, are native to the Himalayas and China. The rhododendron is so admired that there are numerous societies of rhododendron fanciers around the world, and from the late 19th century rhododendron seeds and plants were introduced to Europe's parks and gardens. In London, for instance, rhododendrons are a feature of almost every park, and the Edinburgh Botanical Gardens has the world's largest collection of rhododendrons species. So long as they are protected from full sunlight and cold winds, and the soil is sufficiently acid, rhododendrons will thrive. Large numbers of hybrids and cultivars have been developed by horticulturalists, including over 400 from northern Turkey's Rhododendron ponticum. One misty late afternoon when I was returning from the alpine pasture of Kulakkaya in Giresun, I stopped to chat with a shepherd, Ali Kemal, and while talking noticed a flower of a different colour amongst the blooms of the yellow rhododendron. He explained that this reddish orange coloured flower was a different type of rhododendron which grew nowhere else but here. Then last year I was astonished to see that a group of yellow rhododendrons in a different part of the same pasture had produced orange blooms. Now I am waiting with anticipation to see whether this colour change takes place in any of the other patches of dark yellow rhododendrons in this area. Unlike the evergreen purple rhododendron, the yellow rhododendron is deciduous, but in the course of losing its leaves for the winter produces a show as beautiful as its blooms in spring. The leaves turn first yellow, then red and finally brown, creating a riot of autumn colour similar to that of beech trees. So it is not only in spring that these rhododendrons ornament the forested mountains of the Black Sea to such spectacular effect.



April Garden Tasks and Projects

<http://www.thegardenhelper.com/>

Shrubs and trees

- ☐ There still is time to plant trees and shrubs. However, by mid month it will be a little late to transplant large trees or shrubs, so do them now.
- ☐ The months of March, April and May are ideal for pruning evergreens. So if you have a Juniper, Cypress or conifer that need shearing or pruning this is a good time to accomplish this task. Remove all dead, diseased, and undesirable wood. However, do not prune back into the bare wood part of the plant. Prune your Forsythia after it finishes flowering.
- ☐ Broadleaf and needle leaf evergreens benefit most from lightly spreading a high nitrogen fertilizer around their bases.

Perennials, annuals, and bulbs

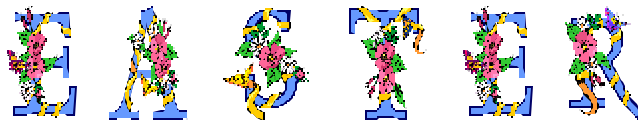
- ☐ April is the month for planting summer flowering bulbs like dahlias, gladiolas and lilies. Mix bulb fertilizer, processed manure and peat moss into the planting soil. Tuberous Begonias and Canna should not be set outdoors until all danger of frost has passed, so wait until next month.
- ☐ Plant annual seeds of asters, cosmos, marigolds, zinnias in the garden.
- ☐ When all frost danger has passed you can move your stored fuchsias and geraniums outdoors. Trim them back, feed and re-pot if necessary. Water them well.
- ☐ When they have finished blooming, you should deadhead your spring flowering bulbs. Do not cut off the green foliage yet! These green leaves continue to grow for a few weeks, and provide the bulb with food for flowering next year.
- ☐ Divide perennials like Daylilies, Delphiniums, iris, chrysanthemums, Daisies, and Phlox. The additional plants you create can be traded or given to friends, or moved to a new area of the garden.
- ☐ Hybrid Tea Roses should be fertilized prior to buds beginning to bloom. Using a systemic fertilizer will help prevent insect infestation later in the summer, as it feeds your rose. Plant new rosebushes before growth starts and buds swell.
- ☐ If you have a pond or pool you should set aquatic plants any time after the middle of the month.

Fruits and veggies

- ☐ Control weeds and aerate the soil by cultivating between the rows of plants.
- ☐ April is a great time to select and plant fruit trees and berry plants. Fruits and berries do best when planted in full sun.
- ☐ Plant perennial vegetables like asparagus, rhubarb, horseradish, etc. It's also time to plant peas, carrots, beets, spinach, cauliflower, cabbage, etc. Root crops like potatoes, radishes, parsnips and onions can be planted at anytime. Late this month you can plant beans and corn. Warmer weather crops like tomatoes, squash, cucumbers and peppers should not be planted until next month.
- ☐ As your direct-seeded crops sprout, be sure to keep them thinned out to avoid crowding.
- ☐ Cut out all the dead canes from your raspberry patch. The new canes that will bear this year's fruit should have new, swollen buds along the edges. Thin these to five canes per foot of row to allow good air circulation and prevent over-crowding. When danger of frost has passed, uncover strawberry beds and keep them well watered.

The lawn

- ☐ The application of a spring type of lawn fertilizer should perk up the lawn and improve its over-all color and appearance. If there is moss growing in the lawn, use spring lawn fertilizer that has the moss-killer included, so you can do both jobs in one easy application.
- ☐ Spring is also a good time to thatch and over-seed the lawn. Thatch buildup can smother your lawn and provide an environment for diseases. Remove thatch with a brisk raking, or with a dethatching machine. Over seeding will help fill-in the lawn and deter the re-growth of moss and weeds. Use about one pound of quality grass seed for every 300 square feet of lawn area. Apply a light compost or soil over the seed to keep it moist and in place.
- ☐ Aerating the lawn will allow water to penetrate deeper into the lawn soil and reduce the need to water during the dryer



As mowing becomes necessary, be certain that the blade is sharp to prevent tearing the grass tips. (*Did you get the mower tuned up and sharpened back in January when suggested?*) Set the blade on your lawnmower to cut the grass at 2 1/2 inches to avoid scalping. (*A mulching blade will eliminate the need to rake or bag the clippings, prevent thatch buildup, and the clippings will provide food for the lawn.*)

House Plants

- ☐ Rotate your houseplants so that each side receives it's share of light, for even growth and a balanced shape.
- ☐ As the sun's rays strengthen, some plants, such as African Violets, may need to be moved away from a south-facing window to avoid leaf scorch.
- ☐ Spring cleaning your plants will keep them beautiful and help to avoid diseases. Remove any spent flowers, dead leaves or branches, or any yellowing leaves. Rinse the dust from the leaves with the kitchen sprayer. Clean leaves allow the plant to breathe!
- ☐ Pinching back the tips of foliage plants will stimulate new growth and make your plant fuller and bushier.
- ☐ If you keep a Coleus as a house plant you can still start cuttings for transplant to the garden. Use a sharp clean knife to cut the stem just below a leaf node. Remove the lowest leaves, dip the cut end into a rooting hormone and insert it into some fresh, sterile potting soil. These cuttings will be ready to use as a bright garden accent by early June.

Odds and ends

- ☐ Although we think of this as a rainy month, it can fool us. Keep transplanted flowers well watered during dry spells.
- ☐ Be sure to take a little time to check the plants in containers and those under the eaves of the house and under tall evergreens to see that they are getting enough water.
- ☐ If you receive mail-order plants or can't resist the urge to pick up a few perennials before you are ready, make a trench and heel them into the ground in a protected area.
- ☐ Driving around the neighborhood, or visiting a local nursery may give you some great ideas of what you'd like to have blooming in your yard at this time next year.
- ☐ Take a stroll in the woods or the park at least once each season to enjoy a little bit of Mother Natures gardening handiwork!

Remember that whatever you accomplish in the garden now will definitely cut down on yard maintenance later this season!

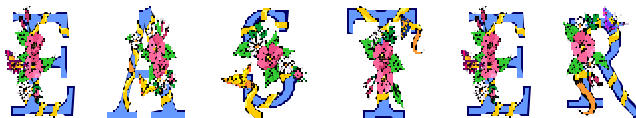
R&A News is back!

By Craig Clarke

The Rhododendron and Azalea quarterly electronic newsletter was discontinued last year when Betty Spady became too ill to carry on. The R&A News has been re-instated by Marty Anderson of Northbrook, Illinois. You can access R&A News by visiting rhododendron.org. Go to **Chapters** on the Navigation menu at the top, click on **R&A News**, and there it is. For your convenience, I have placed a direct link from our club web page.

Newsletter Online

A couple of members have mentioned to me that they had difficulty downloading a copy of the newsletter off the web page. If you have any problems, contact Craig Clarke at nanaimo@rhodos.ca.



NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY WEST COAST GARDEN TOUR

Once again, we've chartered a bus and we're heading off in a new direction this year. Two years ago we went south to Victoria, last year we went north to Campbell River and Courtenay, and this year we're going west to **Port Alberni, and Tofino.**

When: Saturday, May 24, 2003

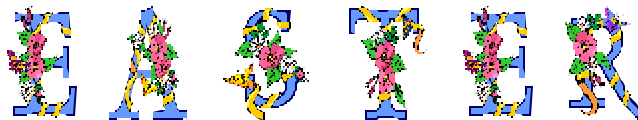
The bus will be leaving from the north end of Woodgrove Mall (near Chapters) at 7 am.

Cost: \$25 per person (non members welcome)

Itinerary:

0700	Leave Woodgrove Mall
1st Stop	Urban Greenery Nursery – Port Alberni
2nd Stop	Ken and Dot Gibson's – Tofino
Midday	Stubbs Island by boat from Tofino Bring a picnic lunch.
Afternoon	Depart Stubbs Island for Tofino
1500	Depart Tofino
1530	Drive through entry to Ucluelet to see Rhododendron donations and plantings
Late afternoon	Dashwood Nursery – Port Alberni
19:00	Return to Nanaimo

As always, we'll have door prizes and fun on the bus.



March 9, 2003

Mr. Harry Wright
769 Chaster Road
Courtenay, B.C.
V9N 5P2

2179 WEST ISLAND HIGHWAY,
QUALICUM BEACH, B.C. V9K 1G1
PHONE: (250) 752-6153
FAX: (250) 752-3826
WEBSITE: WWW.MILNERGARDENS.ORG

Dear Harry,

It was good to see you last week. I am sending this letter further to our discussion on the development of a Rhododendron propagation program at Milner Gardens and Woodland. As you have requested I have outlined the concept of the program as developed by the committee for this project for presentation at the upcoming A.R.S. District One meeting. To date committee members are: Dick Beamish, Nanaimo Rhododendron Society; Roy L. Taylor, Chair of the Milner Gardens and Woodland Society Board; Harry Wright, North Island Rhododendron Society and Alternate President of District One of the American Rhododendron Society; and myself.

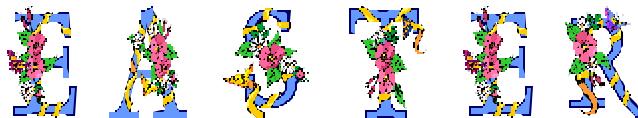
The program is in two phases:

PHASE ONE:

- A. Conduct a Survey of Rhododendron varieties and their locations within British Columbia, District One of the A.R.S. This you have done and have been doing for several years, the first edition of 2,511 entries printed in November, 1995. The most recent edition of 3,763 entries printed in September, 2000. And, as I understand from our discussion, a new edition is in the works. This program could make good use of your work in this area and seems to be the next logical step.
- B. Determine a list of selected rare Hybrids and Species from the list for propagation and release by Milner Gardens.
- C. Design a practical and achievable propagation and release program. Perhaps a limited series of plants over a number of years based on interest and demand.

"TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE MILNER GARDENS AND WOODLAND, TO EDUCATE AND INSPIRE"

Continued on page 10



PHASE TWO:

- A.** Install a simple propagation unit to get the program up and running.
- B.** Secure material by donation, propagate and make available for sale to District One members first and the general interested public second.
- C.** Develop an area at Milner Gardens and Woodland to display the Rhododendrons being propagated and made available. This could be the vehicle for establishing a Rhododendron species garden on Vancouver Island.

The committee feels that this is a worthwhile project that would be of significant benefit to those who grow, collect and appreciate Rhododendrons. The program would require financial support. The degree of support is yet to be determined and would in time be offset by revenue from sales of the propagated Rhododendrons.

We at this time would like to make District One of the A.R.S. aware of the proposed program and would like the opportunity to keep you updated as this initiative progresses.

Sincerely,

Jim Cadwaladr
Executive Director
Milner Gardens and Woodland

The Nanaimo Glad and Dahlia Society

Annual Tuber Sale

Saturday, May 3, 2003 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

at Country Club Mall

For info contact Connie Thompson at 741-0738.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

**Does anyone know anything
about our PA system?**

**Can you help set up for our next meeting and show
Richard how to operate?**

