

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



April 2005
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Spring is here and we are moving into our busy season. Dr. Bob Rhodes of Gabriola Island will be speaking about growing "the more fragile rhodos" at our next meeting, on April 14th. The ARS Conference will be in Victoria, April 28th to May 1st. Our "Plant Sale and Truss Show" will be on Sat., May 7th. Don't forget the "Garden Bus Tour", May 14th. Enjoy your "rhodos" as they bloom.

Allen

NRS Plant Sale and Truss Show

Saturday May 7

The truss show will be set up on Friday evening. Please bring your trusses for display between 7 – 9 pm Friday May 6 or before 7:30 am on Saturday. Volunteers are needed for set-up on Friday evening 7 – 9 pm.

EXECUTIVE

President	Allen McRae	758-7589
Past President	Richard White	752-6519
Vice President	Paul Lawry	390-2370
Secretary	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Treasurer	Barb Coy	758-8497
Directors	Anne Williamson	390-2604
	Craig Clarke	390-4090
	Debbie Gaboury	758-1204
	Glenda Barr	390-2822
	Mary Taylor	951-0671
	Mike Miller	758-2879

COMMITTEES

Advertising	Mike Miller	758-2879
Library	Chris/Brenda	758-0993
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Program	Richard White	752-6519
Raffle	June & John	390-3605
Social	Anne Williamson	390-2604
Dollar Table	Yvonne Harding	756-3574

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society
Box 241, #1 – 5765 Turner Road
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4

Website: nanaimo.rhodos.ca
email: nanaimo@rhodos.ca

NEXT MEETING

APRIL 14, 2005 BEBAN PARK 7:30 pm

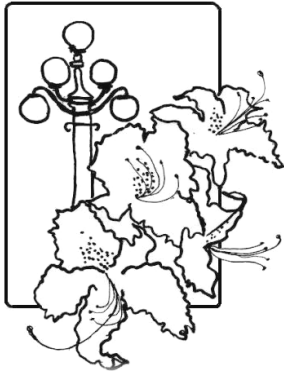
DR. BOB RHODES
"GROWING THE TENDER RHODODENDRONS"

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY
GENERAL MEETING
March 10, 2005

SILVER SALUTE

VICTORIA'S 25th ANNIVERSARY



ARS CONVENTION VICTORIA

BRITISH COLUMBIA

APRIL 27 - MAY 1

2005

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by President Allen McRae. There were 43 members and guests present.

David Mitchell gave a short presentation on the upcoming Flower and Garden Show hosted by the Nanaimo Botanical Garden Society (March 11, 12, 13).

Secretary's report: M/S/C to adopt the minutes of February meeting. Correspondence: various garden club newsletters, Species Foundation catalogue, flyer re garden tour of New Zealand with David Tarrant.

Treasurer's report: general account - \$2781.91 Bowen Park Legacy account - \$156.29 library fund - <71.58>.

Newsletter: Allen thanked Paul and Linda Lawry for their many years of service as newsletter editors and distributors. Please advise Kathryn if you received both email and paper copies of the newsletter and indicate which you would prefer.

Membership: two new members tonight. Welcome to Patricia Schulson and Karin Schulz.

Tours of Hailey Grove at Bowen Park: Glenda asked Sandra and Trevor Evelyn if they would lead an orientation tour of the garden so that members can lead tours for the public; they have declined. If anyone would like to provide an orientation please let Glenda know.

May 7 Plant Sale and Show: we need a volunteer with a truck to bring the display racks down from Qualicum; please let Allen know if you can help. Discussion regarding setting up the truss show on Friday evening in order to avoid a big rush in the morning and late judging. M/S/C: Trusses shall be brought in Friday evening between 7 & 9 pm or before 7:30 am on Saturday morning. M/S/C: Members will label their trusses when bringing them in for the show. Labels will be provided at the April meeting.

ARS 60th Annual Convention in Victoria, April 27 – May 1, 2005. Early bird registration deadline is March 15. Volunteers are needed for self-guided tours, bus tours and plant sale. Volunteers receive bus tours for free. Please let Craig know if you would like to volunteer.

NRS 5th annual garden tour will travel to points North this year on May 14. Highlights will include the site of the Greig's Royston Nursery, Jim & Jean Greig's home, Milner Garden, Filberg Lodge in Courtenay, Roy Taylor's garden, Bernie Gudader's garden and the Bonnies' garden in Courtenay. There will be prizes! Cost is \$33/pp, includes admission to gardens. There are 47 seats. Sign up sheet started tonight.

Nametag draw was won by Yvonne Harding. Doorprizes won by Darlene Moss, Maurice Mauch, Reinhold Gorogosilich, John Huff. Raffle prizes won by Paul Lawry, Patricia Schulson, Karin Schulz, Kathryn Grant.

Bernie Guyader gave a talk and slide show on dwarf rhododendrons in the rock garden.

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society's

5th Annual Garden Tour

When: Saturday May 14th, 2005

Cost: \$33 (includes admission to Milner Gardens and Woodland)

Departure: 7:30 am from Woodgrove (near Chapters)

Don't forget to bring a picnic lunch!

Where Are We Going?

This year, we're off to Nanoose, Parksville, Qualicum and the Comox Valley where we'll visit a number of beautiful gardens as well as a couple of local nurseries. Included will be visits to the Milner Gardens and Woodland and the Filberg Estate. We'll visit several private gardens which can only be seen on tours such as this. Included in this year's tour are the gardens of both our February and March speakers: Roy Taylor and Bernie Guyader.

We'll also explore a little local rhododendron history through the Greig family and the site of the original Royston Nursery. We'll visit several gardens with strong links to the Greigs and the nursery, including Jim and Jean Greig's garden in Nanoose. Not only have they opened their garden to us, but Jim and Jean will accompany us throughout the day adding their own commentary and anecdotes.

We plan on returning to Nanaimo by 6 to 7 pm

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

Bring a friend!

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Twigs AND STEMS



Goodies for April meeting:

Philip and Joy Paull
Janet Atkinson
Gary Anaka

Nanaimo Horticultural Society 35th annual
Spring Fling Plant Sale

April 9th 9:30 am to 2:00 pm
Country Club Centre

Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society
Flower Show and Plant Sale

April 16, 2005
10 am to 2 pm

Qualicum Beach Curling Club
644 Memorial Avenue
Qualicum Beach

Cowichan Valley Garden Club
Spring show and sale



April 16
1 pm to 4 pm

St. Peter's Church Hall
Duncan

Tips on Displaying Trusses and Sprays

[From the April 1996 Victoria chapter newsletter]

A day or two before the show, go around and make a list of the blooms you will pick the day before the Truss show. Bottles in six-pack carriers are useful for transporting blooms.

Picking blooms always takes more time than you think it will! When choosing trusses, look for ones with straight stems with the bloom at the top. Don't choose ones with crooked stems that are growing at odd angles (e.g., pointing down). When choosing sprays, look for ones that will present themselves gracefully in a bottle.

Prune judiciously if need be to enhance the shape of the spray. Avoid choosing entries with bruises. Sometimes rain damage is inevitable, but avoid it if you can. Look for freshness. It is better to have one or more unopened flower buds (for they frequently open after they have been picked) than to choose blooms that are already open and heading over the hill. Some judges like to see one or two unopened or partially opened buds.

Choose blooms with good-looking foliage. Avoid ones with chewed or otherwise damaged leaves. Once again, some judicious snipping of damaged leaves can be done - but don't go too far because some foliage is needed (and you must NOT trim off the bitten parts of a weevil-chewed leaf!). For a truss, one nice whorl is best - and flowers from one bud only. For sprays, more foliage will often be needed for balance, and of course, more than one flowering bud is allowed.

After cutting a truss, plunge it deeply in luke-warm water. Later, you can make an oblique cut across the stem making sure to leave the right length to make the exhibit look balanced - and do this under water. This will help the truss to take up water and keep it fresh all day. You may then store your exhibit in its water-filled bottle in the refrigerator.

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Early Days with the VRS

By Margaret & Mike Trembath

I moved to British Columbia from Ontario in 1954 and was immediately impressed by the wealth of plant material available to even a fledgling gardener. Dr. J. A. Marcellus of Mission City was a colleague of my husband. He was (and is) an enthusiastic rhododendron grower. I caught the disease from him, and have never wished for a cure. I learned of people like Dr. McKee, the Greigs of Royston, and the group in Vancouver who became a chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. It wasn't until our family move into Surrey that I began to visit the early shows put on by the Vancouver Chapter.

The first display I saw was in a Dunbar auditorium (I don't know the exact site or designation). Filled with trepidation, I neared the site – and was absolutely 'blown away' by a plant of "Fabia" at the entrance. I had never imagined such a beautiful colour was available in a rhododendron. I think I managed to actually speak to Ellen Hailey!!

Eventually, I became brave enough to become a member of the group. At this time the Vancouver Chapter was managed by Mrs. Ellen Hailey, ably assisted by her friend and competitor Mrs. Lillian Hodgson. Ellen was Secretary-Treasurer of the group, and other members of the executive were, it seemed to me, only for show or political 'clout'. (In fact, this arrangement lasted for several years). At this time, the group had no regular meeting place, in fact I think it met rather sporadically, and not necessarily each month. I do recall one meeting held at Mrs. Hailey's Dunbar home, where we were privileged to meet and hear from Herr Deitrich Hobbie. One of the pictures he showed was of a plant he named as *R. soulei*. Each corolla had lobes that were split, making them look like petals and the overall effect was of a bush covered by groups of white stars.

The chapter arranged displays, or shows of cut trusses. One of these was held at the Oakridge Mall (seems to me that Malls were very new then!!). This was the first showing of the group of

yellow hybrids developed by the late Murray Stevens, creator of "the Glades". Murray sat behind a table of these flowers, - *R. wardii* x *R. caloxanthum*, and revelled in the excitement of the viewers. Now, these would not be considered as hybrids, but as selections of *R. wardii* itself. The best of them had a colour that was as good as the "Hawks" beginning to come out of England, and almost the equal of the best yellow of the "Hawks" – "Hawk Crest".

Over the years, Mrs. Hailey's strangle hold on the club was loosened, and Vancouver Chapter grew, becoming a society in its own right, as well as a Chapter of the ARS.

There were growing pains, of course, but the strength of VRS still lies in its dedicated members, and their continuing determination to further the knowledge of this most entrancing group of plants.

Reprinted by permission from "Indumentum", Newsletter of the Vancouver Rhododendron Society

Description of *Rhododendron wardii* var *wardii*



Photo by: Sally and John Perkins

Predominate Flower Color:	Yellow
Flower / Truss Description:	Widely campanulate to saucer-shaped, various shades of yellow. Truss has 5-14 flowers.
Bloom Time:	Midseason
Height (ft.) in 10 Yrs:	4
Cold Hardiness Temperature:	0°F (-18°C)
Foliage Description:	Leaves orbicular or ovate to oblong-elliptic, up to 4 1/2" long, glabrous
Plant Habit:	Compact to open shrub or small tree

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Hailey Rhododendron Grove

The Hailey Rhododendron Grove is situated in the Millstone Valley of Nanaimo's 36 hectare Bowen Park. The Hailey Rhododendron Grove is part of a larger and expanding rhododendron garden. This rhododendron garden was "adopted" by the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society under the city's "Volunteers In Parks" program as a community project.

In April 1975, Mrs. Ellen Hailey donated more than 350 rhododendrons from her collection to the City of Nanaimo. Mrs. Hailey was a charter member of the Vancouver Rhododendron Society in the early 1950s and moved to Nanaimo in the late 1960s.



This shows the entrance to the garden with a large Rhododendron 'Beauty of Littleworth' blooming behind it.

Over the last decade, Vancouver Island rhododendron experts have concurred that many of the plants in the Hailey garden differ noticeably from the many hybrid and species rhododendrons that they are familiar with. These unknown crosses may well be one of a kind. Along with the overall beauty of the plants in the garden this mystery of the unknown becomes part of the lure of the Hailey Garden to everyday passersby and rhodoholics alike.

The grove is in flower from late February to early July, but it is at its colourful and fragrant best from mid-April to mid-May. Thus, if your goal is to be overwhelmed by colour and fragrance, you can time your visit accordingly.

► noted at the flower and garden show...

Wildside NURSERY

Wildside Nursery specializes in growing British Columbia's coastal native plants. Native plants offer much beauty and elegance, which will complement any garden design. They are well adapted to our climate and soil conditions, making them ideal low maintenance garden plants for our coastal region. Native plants also attract wildlife creating added interest. Plants are grown at our nursery from seed, cuttings and division, without the use of pesticides.

Wildside Nursery is operated by Anne and Roy Vidler who have over 20 years experience working with BC's native plant life. We offer extension services such as landscaping and plant installation for the home garden as well as prepare prescriptions for restoration projects.

1770 Corrigan Rd, Denman Island
ph/fx 250.335.1379 wildside@island.net



Hidden Acres *Rhododendrons*

Paul & Lynn Wurz
4367 Gordon Rd.
Campbell River, B.C.
1-250-287-4301
pwurz@oberon.ark.com

<http://hiddenacresbc.tripod.com>

Growers of Specialty Rhododendrons