

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



April 2006
April 2006



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Spring is here. The days are getting longer and you can feel the warmth in the sun's rays, (when you are out of the wind)! Our rhodos are now flowering—snow lady, P.J.M. Elite and many others. Fertilize now for those blooming in April and May. After our speaker in February, we know a good source of soil/mulch, at International Composting Corporation. I am ordering mine soon. I am sorry I missed the talk on Shibusa Ponds. I am looking forward to listen to our next speaker on Thursday, April 13th, when Paul Wurz, owner of Hidden Acres Rhododendrons in Campbell River, will speak to us about the Lofthouse Legacy. Good gardening, Allen.

p.s. Paul Lawry wants the names of the rhodos you may be submitting to the truss show: 390-2370 or plawry@telus.net.

Please bring plants for the \$ table.
Donate a rhodo/plant for the raffle.

EXECUTIVE

President	Allen McRae	758-7589
Vice President	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Secretary	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Treasurer	Gayle McRae	758-7589
Directors	Valerie Harvey	754-6659
	Debbie Gaboury	758-1204
	Glenda Barr	390-2822
	Pat Schulson	245-3369
	Mike Miller	758-2879
	Chris Southwick	758-0993

COMMITTEES

Advertising	Mike Miller	758-2879
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574
	Helene Sullivan	758-7023
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Program	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey	
Social	Pat Schulson	245-3369
Dollar Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533

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

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

NEXT MEETING

APRIL 13, 2006

BEBAN PARK

7:30 PM

PAUL WURZ

“THE LOFTHOUSE RHODODENDRON HYBRIDS”

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TWIGS AND STEMS

**Goodies for April meeting:
Phil & Joy Paull
Trish & Al Boyden**

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GREER'S GUIDEBOOK TO AVAILABLE RHODODENDRONS

Available for purchase at all meetings
\$22 for members, \$25 for non-members

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Urban Greenery Nursery

In Port Alberni has a new address:
4632 Elizabeth Street
corner of Highway #4 and Elizabeth Street
250 724-2942

They now have a Sheena's Best organic
fertilizer designed specifically for
Rhododendrons

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**Bring cuttings, seedlings or divisions for
the dollar table!**

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Ladysmith Rotary 9th Annual Garden Tour

Sunday May 28

Sale, displays, raffle, continental breakfast
Open 9 am – 3 pm, Aggie Hall
Self-guided tour of nine gardens

10 am – 4 pm

Tickets \$10 at 49th Parallel Grocery, Dig This
or at Aggie Hall on the tour day

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING MARCH 9, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by Vice-President Craig Clarke. Regrets from President Allen McRae and Treasurer Gaylle McRae.

Secretary's report: adopted minutes of February general meeting. Correspondence received: various newsletters, letter from Urban Greenery Nursery with new address.

Treasurer's report: balance at Feb 9: \$1890.01, revenue: \$111.40, expenses \$175.99 balance at Feb 16 \$1825.42.

ARS Seed Exchange has posted their list, Craig has printed a copy. If you want to order seeds let Craig know.

A volunteer (or two) is needed to look after nominations for the AGM in May.

David Mitchell gave a preview of the Garden Show, highlighting the speakers.

Michael Miller requested additional volunteers to sit at our table at the garden show. Michael also asked for donations of large leaves for the display.

Ann and Dick Beamish brought in some trusses to show tonight.

Library: Ann Beamish thanked those who have returned books to the library.

Program: April Paul Wurz
 May Ron Knight.

The spring bus trip has been moved to May 6, as Terry Richmond said that April was too early for flowers in Port Alberni.

Glenda Barr talked about care of the seeds that may be germinating from our seed workshop.

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Doorprizes were won by Bill Hardy, Pat Schulson. Raffle prizes were won by Al Boyden, Joyce Clarke, Val Harvey, Barbara Little, Charlie Hardy, Ted Little, Reinhold Gorgosilich, Bill Hardy.

The talk was given by Aaron Wing of Shibusa Ponds, on designing, building and maintaining water features.

SPRING IS RE-POTTING TIME

Paul Lawry

The time to re-pot can generally be noted when you see roots emerging from the drain holes; when the plant is pot bound (roots are tightly coiled) or if the plant doesn't seem to be happy.

Re-potting can be easy if you are careful and take your time. I usually water the plant or in the case of a dry plant soak it in water for an hour. This will allow you remove the plant from the container without damaging the plant. The new pot should be at least a couple of inches larger than the previous one.

I like to place a level of stones or gravel in the bottom of the pot before adding soil. I then mix the soil with bone meal before placing in new pot. If you are using a potting mix, the addition of fertilizer may not be necessary (check label). Add the new soil to the pot so that the plant is at the same level as it was in the old pot. Firmly press down the soil around the plant. Water and check the level of the plant to ascertain that it is not too low in the pot.

Reminder: Spring is also a good time to check the Rhodos. Clear away debris or dirt that has collected around the main stem of the plant. Check to see that the Rhodos you placed in the ground last year have not become lower than the recommended depth and created an area for water to sit. Remember, the root ball should be slightly above the level of the ground and kept damp not wet. Adding a generous layer of bark mulch will help keep it moist during the dry days. Have fun!



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>

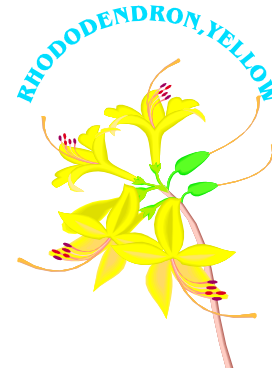
growers of specialty rhododendrons

MAY 13 TRUSS SHOW

This year will be NRS's 14th annual Truss Show and Plant Sale. This is our major event of the year, and a chance to show the public our fantastic rhododendrons.

Plan to bring your best trusses for the show. We will set up the truss show on Friday evening. Saturday morning we will need volunteers to help set up the growers, arriving at 7:30 am. Volunteers will be needed throughout the day to help carry plants to people's cars, to assist at the tills and to help with cleanup at the end.

The plant sale will be open for members only from 9 am to 10 am. Please, if you are inviting people to the sale tell them it starts at 10 am. We would like an opportunity for members to have the first selection. That's what membership is for!

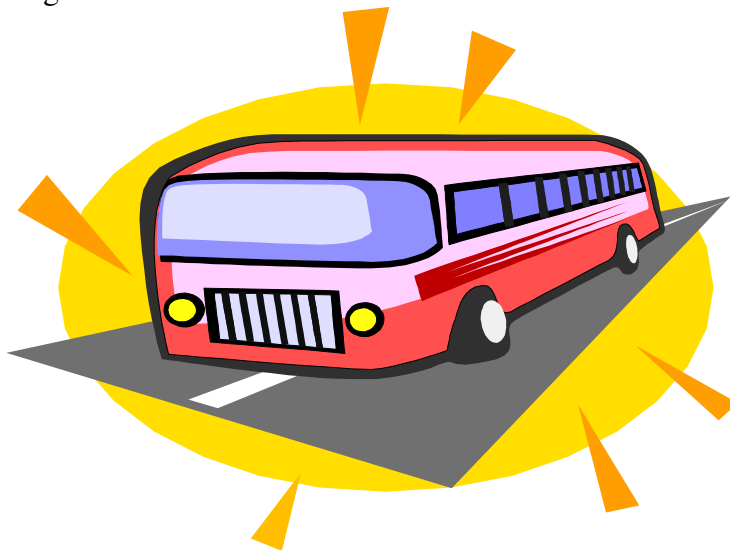


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Spring Bus Tour – Port Alberni Saturday, May 6th

This year, our bus tour will be to Port Alberni under the expert guidance of Terry and Verna Richmond, Nanaimo Associate members. Terry and Verna are long-time Alberni residents. Terry has sold many hundreds of plants to all of these owners and knows each of the gardens very well. Here is a brief synopsis of the proposed trip.

- 8:00 am Leave Woodgrove Mall
9:00 am Arrive at Port Alberni Mall to pick up Terry and Verna
9:15 am Mary Lougheed – retired teacher – knowledgeable gardener – purchased several hundred rhodos from Terry over the years – will have her home plant sale on during our visit – garden approximately 15 years old.
Mary’s neighbour, Judy Jack’s home is on our tour. Mary and Judy are good friends. Both Properties have creeks and ponds. Judy’s property is approximately 10 years old.
10:30 am Arrive at Claudia Romanik’s garden. Claudia is a retired school principal. Her property is approximately an acre in size and is the old family homestead of approximately 60 years at least. Lots of rhodos and many other plants besides – very diverse garden.
11:15 Urban Greenery – nursery – Sheena has re-married and moved her nursery into town. This will be a treat as usual. Terry assured us that her new digs will be ready for us.
12:00 Lunch at the Quay – on the water. Bring a bag lunch and have it supplemented from some of the vendors at the Quay.
1:15 Arrive at Garth McFarlane’s property on Sproat Lake. This is a waterfront property with a wonderful bonsai collection as well as rhodos.
2:15 Arrive at the Mieth’s – a true westcoast garden according to Terry. Mr. Mieth (pronounced Myatt – Danish), is a fantastic woodworker. This property has wonderful views of both the lake And Mt. Arrowsmith. It has at least 100 species of rhododendrons.
3:45 Arrive at Arrowsmith nursery.
5:15 Home to Woodgrove Mall



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NOTHING SCARY ABOUT LATIN NAMES: PART I

When we read about rhodos in their native habitats, we are bombarded with unfamiliar species names that look way too hard to spell, and Good Grief, we will never learn to say it properly, so we'd just better stay away from that one! Latin is actually a rather easy language to pronounce, as it has far fewer exceptions to the rules than does English. There are two schools of thought on how to say things, depending on whether you're a purist or a modernist, but a simple rule of thumb is: every letter is pronounced. I won't go into conversational Latin, but confine myself to words that refer to Rhododendrons specifically.

There are generally two ways that the species names relate to the individual plants - some are descriptive of some feature of the plant, but very many are merely commemorative of the person who discovered it, or a relative or good friend of theirs. The ones that incorporate a person's name (ie - fortunei, williamsianum, wardii, maddenii, roxieanum, and tons of others) really don't give any clues about the nature of the plant, but sometimes these are very distinctive species and once seen, are easily remembered. Say these names pretty much as you would call the person, and then just add that bit of an ending to tart it up (eye, or ee-eye, or anum). There! That bit was easy, no?

The descriptive names are a little trickier, but many have some very logical ways to go about knowing them. Being as the English language is made up of words that we've borrowed from just about every other culture, we can easily see the relation to many of our everyday words if we look a bit closer.

Let's take for instance, names that describe the growth habits - I have listed the species names, then a description, then an English word derived from the root word that carries the same connotation .

See how easily it all fits:

<i>arboreum, arborescens</i>	tree like	arboretum, arborist
<i>compactum</i>	compact	compact (wow, that's spooky)
<i>complexum</i>	interwoven	complicated, complex
<i>decorum</i>	ornamental	decorative, decorated
<i>impeditum</i>	tangled	impediment, impede
<i>intricatum</i>	entangled	intricate
<i>maximum</i>	largest	maximum (duh)
<i>pendulum</i>	hanging (from trees)	pendulous, pendulum
<i>prostratum</i>	low growing	prostrate
<i>rigidum</i>	stiff	rigid

There are names that tell us in what sort of conditions the plant grows, and knowing this will give us valuable hints as to where to place them in our gardens:

<i>alpicola</i>	dwells in high mountains	alpine
<i>dendricola</i>	dwells in trees	dendrology
<i>ripense</i>	on river banks	Hyacinth's riparian entertainments

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And some others that don't seem to have English equivalents but are nonetheless useful:

<i>drumonium</i>	of woods
<i>dumicola</i>	dwells in thickets
<i>faucium</i>	of gorges
<i>hylaenum</i>	of forests
<i>oresbium</i>	living on mountains
<i>rupicola</i>	dwells among rocks
<i>scopulorum</i>	of crags.

Then there are names that describe the foliage. The name may include "*phyllum*" or "*folium*", which means 'leaf' (hence we get phyllo pastry - many thin layers, as leaves):

<i>barbatum, semibarbatum</i>	bearded (the leaf stalk)	barber
<i>cardiobasis</i>	with heart-shaped base	cardiac,
cardiology		
<i>detonsum</i>	shorn (indumentum under leaf)	tonsure
<i>erosum</i>	eaten away (flaking indumentum)	erosion, eroded
<i>giganteum</i>	huge	gigantic (again
duh)		
<i>hirsutum</i>	hairy	hirsute
<i>lanatum, lanigerum</i>	wooly	lanolin
<i>myrtifolium</i>	like Myrtus - the myrtle plant	
<i>oleifolium</i>	like Olea - the olive plant	
<i>pentaphyllum</i>	having five leaves	pentagon
<i>scabrum, scabrifolium</i>	rough	scabrous, scabies
<i>scintillans</i>	sparkling	scintillating
<i>serrulatum</i>	with small teeth	serrated
<i>thymifolium</i>	like Thymus - the thyme plant	
<i>viscidifolium</i>	sticky leaves	viscosity



In the next installment, we'll learn of flowers, countries of origin, colors, and just how many Latin words there are to denote beauty and/or excellence. Get ready to add some more words to your English vocabulary too.

Happy reading!
Colleen Forster

From "The Yak" February 2006
Newsletter of the Fraser South Rhododendron Society