

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



April 2007
April 2007



FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am heartened to see the blooms bursting forth with the warmer weather. **R. 'Nobleanun Venustum'** and **R. calophytum** are putting on quite a show now. I was motivated to buy cement blocks and bedding sand last week so that I can construct more raised beds for rhodos.

Now is a good time for application of fertilizer to the rhodos. If leaves are yellowing, apply some Epsom salts at the rate of 2 tablespoons per gallon of water. Epsom salts provide magnesium and sulfur which work to make nitrogen and phosphorus in fertilizers more available and promote synthesis of chlorophyll.

Our order of plants from the Rhododendron Species Foundation should be available at UBC around April 9. If you requested some plants, I will let you know when they come in.

Craig



EXECUTIVE

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Vice President	Paul Lawry	390-2370
Secretary	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Treasurer	Linda Lawry	390-2370
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	Debbie Gaboury	758-1204
	Glenda Barr	390-2822
	Ann Beamish	758-2574
	Mike Miller	758-2879
	Chris Southwick	758-0993
	John Deniseger	390-3605

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Advertising	Mike Miller	758-2879
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574
	Helene Sullivan	758-7023
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Program	Chris Southwick	758-0993
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 12, 2007 BEBAN PARK 7:30 PM

CAROL DANCER

"A YEAR IN THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE GARDENS"

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

TWIGS AND STEMS



Goodies for April meeting:

Jane Campbell
Mary Hardy

NRS EARLY TRUSS SHOW

Bring whatever rhodos you have in bloom to the April meeting. Please bring your own display bottle.

MOUNT ARROWSMITH RHODO SOCIETY PLANT SALE AND TRUSS SHOW

Saturday April 21
10 am to 2 pm
Parksville Curling Club

OCEANSIDE PLANT SALE

April 28 & 29
Coombs

MILNER GARDENS SPRING PLANT SALE AND FESTIVAL

April 21 & 22
10 am to 4 pm
admission by donation

COWICHAN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB FLOWER SHOW & PLANT SALE

Saturday, April 14
St. Peter's Church Hall
Church Rd (off Maple Bay Rd)
1 pm
admission \$2 tea \$2

COWICHAN VALLEY RHODO SOCIETY

SPRING PLANT SALE

Saturday May 5
10 am to 2 pm
Rabbit Barn, Duncan Exhibition Grounds

ARS SEED EXCHANGE

Last chance to place your order for seeds.
Call Allen McRae at 758-7589
<http://www.rhododendron.org/seedexchange.htm>

FAIRWINDS GARDEN AND DEMO DAY

Saturday April 21
A0 am to 4 pm
Fairwinds Community Centre
NanOOSE Bay
www.fairwindscommunityassociation.org

NANAIMO SPCA GARDEN TOUR

Sunday May 6
10 am - 4 pm
tickets \$10 available at SPCA
5 NRS members' gardens will be on the tour

April Speaker



Carol Dancer has been a member of the American Rhododendron Society for over 25 years. She has gardened from St. Johns, Newfoundland to Victoria, BC, with several gardens in between. She is a member of the Friends of the Gardens at UBC, the Advisory Board at Finnerty Gardens, UVic, and for eight years has been a volunteer at Government House Gardens in Victoria. For the past three years she has been the Garden Advisor at Government House Gardens. Carol's talk will incorporate a brief history of the gardens told through a slide presentation of a year in the gardens.

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

N.R.S. Bus Tour 2007 Saturday, April 28th, 2007



This year, we'll be visiting some great gardens and nurseries in the Cowichan Valley. We've even included a vineyard tour and wine tasting at Cherry Point Vineyards.

Cost: \$35

Where do we meet? Northfield/Parkway parking lot – the bus will be leaving at 7:30 am.

Bring a picnic lunch – we'll have lunch at Cherry Point.

There are still seats available. See John at the April meeting to book yours!

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NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY
GENERAL MEETING
MARCH 8, 2007

Treasurer's Report: \$2835.00 in the general account

Memberships are still coming in. Please see Debbie Gaboury to pay your dues if you have not done so yet.

Craig has the catalogue for Rhododendron Species Foundation. Order will be going in March 9.

Allen reported about the Rhododendron Seep Exchange. There is a list of available seed online. You can phone or email Allen with your order, cost is \$3.50/pkg. Order will be going in at the beginning of April.

Program: April speaker will be Carol Dancer, speaking about the Lt. Governor's garden in Victoria.

Craig reported on the District One meeting. May 26 will be George Fraser days in Ucluelet. Our District One dues are \$2.50/member. RSF inquiring about our interest in workshops and classes if held on the island. Allen will contact Gord Lightburn regarding the interest from our club.

Announcement: Recreating Eden t.v. series Mondays at 9 pm and 1 am ET on Vision TV.

ICC compost available at \$35/yard. Call 722-4614.

Bus Tour April 28, departing at 7:30 am, returning 6 pm. \$35 pp. Highlights: Mayo Creek Gardens in Lake Cowichan, Murrays' garden in Cobble Hill, Slabeys' garden in Cherry Point, Cherry Point Vinyard. Friends are welcome.

Local garden visits: Sunday May 6 daytime, Friday May 18, evening. Locations TBA.

Truss Show and Plant Sale will take place Saturday May 12 at the Centennial Building, Beban Park.

MARS plant sale will be April 21.

Joy and Phillip Paul say hello and are thinking of the club members.

Glossary of terms

bullate

Puckered or quilted appearance

calyx

Outer whorl of floral envelopes, composed of sepals

epiphyte

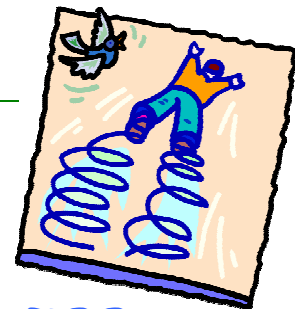
A plant growing non-parasitically upon another

grex

All the seedlings of a particular cross.

mucronate

Having a leaf tip terminating in a hard point that is a continuation of the midvein.



YAHOO!

IT'S SPRING!

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Here is a list of the show classes for our truss show in May. Get ready to show your best!

1. Regular classes (1st, 2nd & 3rd ribbons)

Alpine species
Azalea (Truss or spray)
Blotch/flare hybrid
Lax truss
Elepidote species
Lepidote Species
Pink hybrid
Purple/blue hybrid
Red hybrid
Salmon/Orange hybrid
White hybrid
Yellow hybrid
Best scented

2. Trophies & rosettes

Hammerhead Award
Best Scented*
People's Choice
Best of show.
Philip & Joy Paull award**

*hybrid or species rhododendron, not azalea

**awarded for the most cumulative points

Definitions:

Blotch - each individual flower shows a solid colour mark on dorsal lobe (or three lobes), distinctly different from the base colour of the flower

Hammerhead – a flower which arises from more than one bud



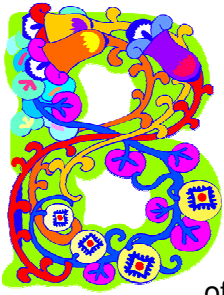
R. 'Phyllis Korn'
Winner of Best of Show, 2006
Entered by Doug Blenkarn



R. 'The Honourable Jean Marie de Montague'
Winner of Red Hybrid class, 2006
Entered by Gary Anaka

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Companion Plants



B is for Berberis of the Barberry family Family: Berberidaceae

A paradox of beast and beauty, the barberries should be an indispensable part of any well-furnished garden. Among the 600 or so species in the world, there is a huge range of sizes and leaf forms, but the flowers are always yellows or oranges. Leaves come in colours of sea green, black green, pink and white marbled, gold-edged, white reversedor red-burgundy, to name a few, and deciduous forms often have spectacular fall colour. Stem spines are persistent and often conspicuous, making these plants excellent barrier material and impenetrable hedges when established. Woe to anyone who dares to try and slip through for a clandestine look about your property! The berries are also a dominant feature, and rival the rainbow for colours – black, indigo, purple, blue, shiny red and coral, often large and showy. But however yummy they look, leave them on the plant, as they can cause mild stomach upset. In addition, some (most?!) people are sensitive to the bite of the thorns.

The barberries succeed on nearly all soils except the very wet, tolerate sun or part shade, and can be trimmed mercilessly or left to thrive au naturel. Over the years, some species have gotten a bad reputation as carriers of wheat rust disease, but recently the Dept. of Agriculture has relaxed the restrictions to allow the production of some selections that have added greatly to the gene pool. Many species grow readily from seed and freely cross-pollinate, so the occurrence of natural hybrids is quite common.

These are a few, but by no means all, that I recommend trying, some being easier to locate than others.

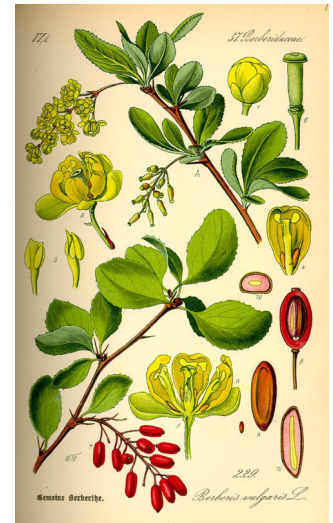
B. thunbergi 'Golden Nugget' – a deciduous form, very compact and mounding, attaining only 2ft x 3ft, with lovely lemon yellow foliage and shiny red berries like little glass beads in winter. It associates well with purple or very dark green plants, but needs sun to keep the gold colour.

B. stenophylla 'Claret Cascade' – an evergreen type to 4ft x 4ft, with small narrow leaves that are bronzy purple when emerging on red shoots. It bears clusters of rich orange-red blooms in April.

B. wilsoniae – a very spiny little spreading shrub that is semi-evergreen, with green and grey leaves that turn rich oranges and reds in fall, then show off large clusters of coral pink to light red berries.

..... and finally, *B. valdiviana* – a tree form from Chile that is absolutely spectacular when mature. I saw this in Holehird Gardens in the Lake District of England, and literally stood in silent awe! The large shiny leaves, something like a holly, were almost obliterated by the magnificent clusters of blue-black fruits weighing down the branches that September. Spiny, yes (not a tree for climbing or tree forts), but tidy and round headed, standing well over the perennial beds without casting too much shade. I loved it! So poke around in plant centers. Check out other gardens and parks – especially in April when many barberries are in blossom, and then again in fall for leaves and berries - and you will find a one to suit you. Most gardeners would happily part with a few berries for you to grow your own unique hybrids.

Happy Planting!



Berberis vulgaris

The "common" barberry has been used for hundreds of years as a source of medicinal extracts, usually from the root bark.



Berberis valdiviana

Colleen Forster