

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



April 2008
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi Everyone:

Chris, Allen, Glenda and I attended the Species Workshop in Victoria, and found it to be very informative. Although I was lost at times, I did learn a lot and hope to continue to do so at the next workshops in Qualicum. I highly recommend these workshops to all, so be sure to sign up next year.

We are still in need of a Secretary. Chris has volunteered if someone will take over her job as Program Chair. She will be glad to help whomever volunteers. As you are aware, our organization has volunteered (voted on by the membership) to sponsor the Western Regional ARS convention in 2012. If we are unable to have someone volunteer to help out on the executive, perhaps we should reconsider our sponsorship. Consequently, maybe we should consider joining MARS and no longer be the NRS. Being a member of the executive is not a time consuming task (1 meeting a month + general meeting). You will always have resources to call on and will not be alone in your endeavours. See ya'll at the next meeting,

Paul

EXECUTIVE

President	Paul Lawry	390-2370
Vice President	Chris Southwick	758-0993
Past President	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Secretary	vacant	
Treasurer	Barb Coy	758-8497
Directors	Debbie Gaboury	758-1204
	Linda Lawry	390-2370
	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
	John Deniseger	390-3605
	Allen McRae	758-7589

COMMITTEES

Advertising	Michael Miller	758-2879
	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574
	Helene Sullivan	758-7023
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Program	Chris Southwick	758-0993
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey	
Social	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
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

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

BEBAN PARK SOCIAL CENTRE

7:30 pm

PANEL

"RHODOS FOR ALL SEASONS"

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Terry Richmond is the owner of Rhodomania, a very intimate yet successful nursery where many of the long time Nanaimo Rhodo club members have purchased literally hundreds of plants. Terry is very knowledgeable about rhodos and his advice for club members with regard to growing conditions, fertilizer, problems and pests is always given with generosity and good humour.

This program should be both educational and entertaining. Come prepared to ask questions!

More from Paul...

I was asked the other day about Rhodos that do well in the Sun. Personally, I have found that most of them do well if their roots are kept damp (not wet). However, the following are proven sun bathers: Anna Hall, Anna Rose Whitney, April Rose, most of the Augustinii, Azurika, Azurro, Azurolke, Bambino, Ben Mosely, Biskra, Black Sport, Blue Boy, Bluenose, Blue Tit, Bob Bovee, Brickdust, Canary Island, *R. callimorphum*, Centennial Celebration, Cherries-n-Cream, *R. cinnabarinum*, Cinkey, Coral Mist, Crete, Connecticut Yankee, Fred D. Peste, Gartendirektor Reiger; Gletschernacht, Goldbucket, Golfer, Haaga, Helsingin University, Honey Butter, Horizon Monarch, Ingrid Mehlquist, Jenny Dossler, Kabarett, Kokardia, Lavendula, Lillian Peste, Melidioso, Mist Maiden, Noble Mountain, Northern Starburst, Peter Tigerstadt, Porzellan, Purple Passion, Ria Hardijzer, Rocket, Sappora, Scarlet Romance, Silberwolke, Silver Skies, Skookum, *R. smirnowii*, Songbird, Summer Summit, Taku, Tamarindos, WeeBee, *R. williamsianum* "Caerhays", Yaku Princess, Yaku Prince.

Most of the above are available on the island; remember that if you want to move them into the sun or have just purchased them from a Nursery where they were in the part shade or all shade they will need to acclimate to the sunny area. This could take a year or two (if necessary), but eventually they will look great.

Howdy. This is Cowboy Keith, the tall guy that interrupted you in San Francisco last year, remindin' you about all the fun we're gonna have in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Ya'll can now register for the 2008 National Convention in Tulsa, OK as shown in the last ARS Journal. Get in before March 1 to save you some money and save me from worrying about paying for all them rooms we reserved fer ya at the Doubletree Hotel.

Don't forget about all that great professional entertainment we got, great lunches on every tour, and my personal favorite, buffalo barbeque. The gardens will be great and personally I think ya'll are gonna be surprised at how beautiful the city of Tulsa is. Leonard is making me speak to all of you on Saturday night and I am gonna take you on a memorable tour of "Rhodies In the Wild West". Besides side-splittin' jokes and wacky-western Okie Rhodie slides you'll learn important cowboy stuff like: always drink the water upstream from the herd, and don't squat with yer spurs on.



Oh, and don't forget we're having an amazing plant sale with over 40 named *R. hyperythrum* hybrids you can't find anywhere else. We'll even help you ship the little darlings back to yer ranch.

See ya'll,

Keith Johansson
Ozark Chapter President of the ARS

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

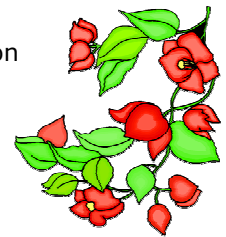
NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

March 13, 2008

- Call to Order:** President Paul Lawry at 7:30 pm.
- President:** Welcomed Guests
Paul again requested that someone take over the duties of the Secretary.
Barb & Ted Little pass on their best wishes – both have been ill and hope to rejoin us soon.
Paul thanked Mike for his generous donations of books for our library.
- Treasurer:** Balance of \$3209.57
- Correspondence:** Newsletter from the Horticultural Society
- Committees:** *Membership* – Debbie – reported membership is now 45.
Raffle – Anne/Val – Always need items for raffle.
Social – Sandra – Nothing to report.
Advertising – Michael – All ads have been placed or arranged for the Truss Show.
Web Site – Nothing new to report
Bus Trip – John - Bus trip to be May 17th – Sign up sheets now available at meetings.
Library – Anne – showed new books that have been added to the Library courtesy of Mike Miller.
- Presentation:** Bill Stipe had an excellent presentation on “Rhododendrons 101” We must get him back for “Rhododendrons 201”
- Meeting Adjourned:** 9:40 pm
- Next Meeting:** April 10, 2008
- Executive Meeting:** March 27 at John & Junes
- Submitted by:** Paul Lawry

Some rhododendron club members might be interested in combining next fall's ARS convention with a fall holiday in Hawaii. The conference should be interesting. Likely, there will be lots of opportunities to learn about Vireya rhododendrons. The conference location in Hilo, on the Big Island of Hawaii, is near where the local volcano is constantly spewing lava into the sea.

Also near Hilo is a very large and very beautiful tropical botanical garden; the orchid section alone is worth the price of admission. Moreover, many conference attendees in past years have reported that they have enjoyed the Western Regional conventions even more than the national ones.



Regarding air travel, both Air Canada and Westjet have direct flights to Maui from Vancouver and from there it is easy to take any one of several daily inter-island flights to Hilo. I booked on the phone with Westjet for 2 people, in March. The total cost from Vancouver to Maui, with all taxes and fees included was \$908. This seat sale apparently lasts until mid-April. Flying with Air Canada on the same days (with their cheapest on-line booking for 2 people) would have cost \$1926.

Conference details will be posted soon on the ARS website at: www.rhododendron.org.

Ron Knight
ARS District 1 Director

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

N.R.S. Bus Tour 2008 Saturday, May 17th, 2008



This year, it's time to head north towards Qualicum, Courtenay and Campbell River. We're putting together a great mixture of public and private gardens and of course, some special nurseries.

Cost: \$35.00 per person

Where do we meet? Chapters at Woodgrove parking lot – the bus will be leaving at 7:30 am.

Don't forget to bring a picnic lunch

Sign up early so you don't miss out. Bring a friend...

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

EARLY RECOLLECTIONS OF THE VANCOUVER RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

By Dr. Bob Rhodes, April 2005

I joined the parent body of the ARS about 1959 as a member at-large through Gerald Charlton, who was a Charter member of the parent body in Portland. I met Gerald, who had grown up in Maple Ridge, and was then a landscape architect in Portland, when he returned to Maple Ridge to visit his mother who was my patient.

My first recollection of the Vancouver Chapter of the ARS is around 1960 when I went with Gerri and Eric Langton (Charter members from Maple Ridge) to a chapter meeting in Dunbar. At that time Ellen Hailey seemed to be running the organization. She sent out monthly notices telling where the meetings would be held and ran them for a busy lawyer who was the president. She was very knowledgeable as she was Dr. McKee's medical secretary and he was one of the first people in B.C. to grow rhododendrons from seed which he obtained from the Dexters in New York. His property was in Abbotsford and he allowed the plants



R. Bob's Blue
Photo: Jean Rhodes

to self see where they continued for many years and were finally incorporated into the landscaping of a golf course.

The next memory I have is a meeting at Ellen's home to meet Dietrich Hobbie, the famous German expert and developer of rhodos for colder climates. At the next meeting I attended elections were held, in which Jack Lofthouse was elected president and Mike Trembath became secretary.

This opened the chapter to more democratic processes involving more of the members. I was given the job

of program chairman and was told by Lillian Hodgson to phone Alleyne Cook to do a program, as he was a charter member and most knowledgeable as he had worked with rhododendrons in the U.K. But Alleyne said that he "no longer believed in single plant societies" and had moved on to the Alpine Society. We also met other people who grew rhododendrons but were not active in the Society, such as Dr. Marcellus, who had a large collection of plants in Mission. About this time Fred Collins and Lloyd Smith became active in the chapter. Both were very active when we did the first International Conference of the ARS in 1970.

During all this time we had our meetings and shows in many unlikely places, Westburn Community Centre, Simon Fraser U., the Red Cross Blood Bank Centre, Dueck on Broadway Showroom, the Unitarian Church. The first Spring Show was in Surrey at Bear Creek Park and the '74 Show was in Maple Ridge to help

celebrate their Municipal Centennial. We finally settled down in the Floral Hall once VanDusen Garden became available.



R. Lillian Hodgson
Photo: Vern Finley

Our contacts with the people in the early Chapter (which became the Vancouver Rhododendron Society) have always been fun and stimulating. Both Jean and I enjoyed our involvement, holding various offices, getting up at dawn to cut trusses, setting up shows, starting the first lending library in a rhodo club, etc., and though the rewards of bronze medals are great, the friendships are the greatest reward.

Rhododendrons on this page were hybridized by Dr. Bob Rhodes.

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