

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



April 2009
April 2009



FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are approaching the busiest time of the year for Rhodo lovers. Our first public event will be at **Art Knapp's on April 25th**. We will be there to assist the public with any questions they may have about the selection of rhodos and help them with any problems they may be having with Rhodos in their yard. We will be there 5 hours – from 10am to 3pm and will be needing members to help. We will also be handing out pamphlets about our upcoming Rhodo show and also NRS cards. Please contact Chris Southwick if you can help. You may feel that you are not knowledgeable enough – sign up anyway -- you can learn along with others. You won't be alone and it will be a lot of fun! Art Knapp's will be giving members a **15% discount on non-sale items**.

Soon a larger number of Rhodos will be blooming and we will be trying to decide (and hope) which Rhodos will have trusses that we can submit for display at our annual Truss Show and Plant Sale. This reminds me that we will be needing volunteers for the show. Those that volunteer that day will have first choice at purchasing plants. Note: **If you do not volunteer then you will have to wait until 10am to view and purchase plants.** Sign up sheets will be available at the meetings; **volunteers will be needed 7pm to 9pm Friday, May 8 and throughout the day from 7am to 3pm Saturday May 9. Later volunteers usually get together for dinner at a restaurant to be announced.**

Our mini-auctions have been successful in raising money for an updated audio system. Please continue to bring items for the auction.

Our elections will be held at the May meeting and I encourage you to volunteer to run for office. They are not overly time consuming and are a learning experience and a lot of fun. I will be calling on you in the near future – please say yes! See you at the April meeting,
Paul

EXECUTIVE

President	Paul Lawry	390-2370
Vice President	John Deniseger	390-3605
Secretary	June Bouchard	390-3605
Treasurer	Chris Southwick	758-0993
Directors	Glenda Barr	390-2822
	Linda Lawry	390-2370
	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
	Barb Coy	758-8497
	Rosina Schmidt	751-3386

COMMITTEES

Advertising	Michael Miller	758-2879
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574
	Helene Sullivan	758-7023
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Membership	Debbie Gaboury & Barb Coy	
Program	Glenda Barr	390-2822
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 9

BEBAN PARK SOCIAL CENTRE

7:30 pm

GLEN JAMIESON

"Mount Kinabalu: Southeast Asia's Kilimanjaro"

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

TWIGS AND STEMS



GOODIES FOR APRIL MEETING

Ann Beamish
Earl Daneluk
Burkhard & Baerbel Dressler

COWICHAN VALLEY RHODO SOCIETY

Is offering duplicates of books from their library by silent auction. All books are in good condition
<http://cowichan.rhodos.ca/newsletters/Silent%20Book%20Auction.pdf>.

MILNER GARDENS AND WOODLAND

Easter Bunny Hunt

Saturday through Monday, April 10 to 13
10 am to 5 pm

Bring the children or grandchildren for a Kids' Easter Bunny Hunt taking place in the garden. At the Welcome & Interpretive Centre kids can pick up maps for clues to finding the bunnies in the garden, and then return the map to the Pool House Gift Shop to receive an Easter treat. In addition, keep your eyes open along the forest trails for interesting rabbit facts.

NALT and RDN

Present

Mount Benson Regional Park

Information and planning session

April 16, 4 to 8 pm

Beban Park Lounge

www.mountbensonpark.ca

MILNER GARDENS AND WOODLAND

8TH Annual Spring Plant Sale

April 18 & 19, 10 am to 4 pm
Members only April 17, 5 to 7 pm
Admission by donation

Our April Speaker

Dr. Glen Jamieson has a B.Sc. in Agriculture, McGill University, but has been a research scientist with Fisheries and Oceans Canada for 31 years, partially retiring in 2000. He is a keen gardener with an extensive one acre garden, and as of January 2009, has become Editor of the Journal of the American Rhododendron Society.

Glen has traveled extensively in both Central and South America and Asia, and now guides botanical and wildlife trips to these destinations. His interest in plants focused on orchids from 1980-1995, but since then, has switched to rhodos and temperate plants in general. Since 1999, he has established a large tropical rhododendron (vireya) collection and now is a strong advocate of these beautiful plants.

Glen frequently gives garden talks, and has talked at most of the rhodo clubs in British Columbia, focusing on the winter garden, vireyas, and in the past year, botanizing in Yunnan, China, following his travels to the Salween River area in May, 2005, and more recently Borneo. Glen's talk will focus on botanizing on Mount Kinabalu in Sabah, Borneo, during his trip there in 2008. His article on this trip was published in the most recent winter issue of the ARS Journal.

Ken and Madeleine Webb

Request that we save pots for them. They are particularly interested in 1 and 2 gallon scotch pots. They will fill them and bring them back at a later date!

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N.R.S. Bus Tour 2009 Saturday, May 16th, 2009



This year, it's time to head west towards Port Alberni and Tofino. We've put together a great mixture of gardens, a visit to Stubbs Island, a nursery, and even a special stop at a local winery.

Cost: \$40.00 per person (includes wine tasting, tea and cheese)

Where do we meet? Chapters at Woodgrove parking lot – the bus will be leaving at **7:00 am**.

Don't forget to bring a picnic lunch

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



Come join the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society
at Art Knapp Garden Center in Nanaimo
Saturday April 25th
10 am to 3pm

Club Members will be there to answer questions, provide advice and enthusiasm about growing Rhododendrons and to promote the club's activities and events

On March 4th, representatives from the executives of every rhododendron club in BC (ARS District 1) attended an all-day meeting in Qualicum. They discussed ways to attract new members, raise funds, disseminate information about rhododendrons in the community, and make chapter meetings more interesting. Our President Paul Lawry represented the NRS.



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NRS Meetings Minutes

Date: March 12, 2009

1. Meeting called to order at 7:30.
2. Number of people present: approx. 40 people
3. President, Paul Lawry, welcomed guests:
4. **President's report:**
 - ARS membership roster
 - Our annual truss show and plant sale on May 9th will be held at Rutherford School this year instead of Beban Park.
 - NRS survey from last newsletter – please fill out and mail/email to Paul by the April meeting.
5. **Secretary's Report:** M/S/C to adopt the minutes of the last meeting as printed in the newsletter.
 - Various newsletters from a variety of garden clubs and organizations will be available in the library.
6. **Treasurer's Report:**
 - Lots of expenses lately.
 - Bank balance at this time is approximately \$3200.00
 - Auction Items for a new sound system brought in \$21.00.
7. **Committee Reports:**
 - **Program:**
 - o Tonight – expert panel.
 - o April meeting will be Glen Jamieson talking about plant hunting in Borneo.
 - o May: Gary Anaka, one of our members, will present: “How rhodos grow your brain!”
 - **Social:**
 - o Sad news – Ted Little, NRS member, passed away on February 6th.
 - o Karen Schulze doing better.
 - o Alan Boyden had surgery; he's doing well.
 - o If you know of anyone who needs cheering, let Sandra know.
 - **Dollar Table:** As you do your garden spring cleaning, keep in mind our dollar table. Money from donated plants goes towards purchasing new books for the library.
 - **Library:**
 - o See above under dollar table.
 - o Please return any outstanding library books.
 - **Other:**
 - o Our annual bus tour will be on Saturday, May 16th – going west. See the newsletter for full details. The cost of \$40.00 includes wine tasting and cheese.
 - o Spring Plant order from the Rhododendron Species Foundation – Allen McRae will take orders and pick up items in Vancouver.
8. **New business:**
 - Come join the NRS at Art Knapp Garden Centre on Saturday, April 25th from 10:00 to 3:00. Members will be there to answer questions, offer advice and enthusiasm on growing rhododendrons. We still need volunteers – please let Paul or Chris know if you would like to sign up to be at the table for an hour or so on that day.
9. **Raffle/Door prizes winners:**
 - Door prize: Al McRae and Charlie Hardy

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- Name tag draw: John Denisegeer, Craig Clarke and Earl Daneluk
- Raffle draw: Val Harvey, Reinhold Gorgosilich, Ann Beamish, Rosina Schmidt, Ray Lauzier, Stan Peters and guest Carl ?

10. Program for tonight: Expert Panel: Terry Richmond, Ken Webb and Dick Beamish
“Rhododendron Culture on Vancouver Island – how to meet the challenges and maximize the enjoyment”. – see highlights.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25.

Rhododendron Culture on Vancouver Island: how to meet the challenges and maximize the enjoyment. Highlights from Expert Panel

- Have a plan!!!
- Access knowledgeable people.
- Investigate your soil condition; amend your soil; don't dig down – build up; must both drain well AND hold water.
- Sea soil seems to work well:
 - o Seeds won't germinate in it.
 - o Reduces use of fertilizer.
 - o Works well as mulch.
 - o Some caution: can be hot and can have high salt content.
 - o Good idea to mix sea soil 50:50 with native soil or compost
- Buy plants you like; plant them where you will see them to give you some enjoyment.
- Pay attention to timing of flowering – stretch the season.
- Don't plant too deep.
- Soil must be moist before fertilizing.
- Beware of “pot growing” – don't keep plants in pot too long.
- Rhododendrons don't need a large amount of fertilizer, especially not species.
- If you want to use fertilizer, use a slow release balanced type with trace elements: 10-8-6 works well; or use organic fertilizer. Use sparingly on small plants.
- Stay away from high nitrogen fertilizers.
- Powdery Mildew: moving plants sometimes helps – more sun and more airflow.
- Pruning: different approaches; you can cut most rhodos down to almost nothing and it will come back but make sure you water it well to avoid drying. Another option is to cut longer branches gradually over a few years. If you prune extensively, root pruning may be a good idea too.
- Yellow leaves: Epsom salts can help; also 20-20-20.
- Weevils:
 - o Again, move plants to sunny, more open areas.
 - o Nematodes can work well.
 - o Some plants are prone to weevils (just like some plants are prone to powdery mildew).
- Coming soon – a bacteria that would attack weevil grubs – stay tuned!

“There's no replacement for luck!” ☺ (Terry Richmond)

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Arrowsmith Greenhouses
Spring 2009

Believe it or not Spring is just around the corner and we are ready to go for another season. It has been quite a winter, one that hasn't been very kind to our gardens. With this in mind here are some thoughts on what to do now.

1. Don't panic. Nature has a way of surprising us when we think it is over for our favourite plant.
2. If you have broken branches, prune them as close to the main stem or trunk as possible. Let them heal on their own without pruning paint or tar, but keep an eye open for insects or other infections in the wound.
3. Splits are a real problem for some trees and shrubs. If you can, try and secure the split and leave it for a year before deciding if you need to sacrifice one side or the other.
4. Broadleaf evergreens took a real hammering in the snow and cold. If the leaves are brown or black they will not come back but it does not mean the shrub is dead. When you clip back the branches, as long as there is green wood the shrub may regenerate. If you cannot find any green wood the shrub is dead.
5. We have had a very dry winter. Keep an eye open for dry plants and water them when necessary.

It is inevitable that some plants will need to be replaced. We can help you pick out choices that may be better suited to the site situation. Keep in mind that it may be 10 years before we have another winter like this past one or it could happen again next year. The safest thing to do is replace plants that are hardy to zone 7 or lower. Having said that I have seen many zone 8 plants that look great after this winter. It all depends on your own microclimate.

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society

**Present this coupon at Russell Farms Garden Centre and receive a
20% discount off your purchases***

***Excludes sale items or reduced items.**

Russell Farms Garden Centre

2711 Mt Sicker Road

Chemainus BC

250 246 4940

Expires May 31 2009

