

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



April 2010



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi everyone:

With the odd weather we are having, we may be showing many trusses that have previously been unavailable. In our yard Taurus is already blooming but would normally be blooming in May. If you have any Rhodos in bloom at the same time as our meeting please bring a truss for everyone to enjoy.

Be sure to contact John or June if you can assist at the Truss Show and Plant Sale and please save a plant or two for the NRS table.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting,

Paul



EXECUTIVE

President	Paul Lawry	816-2370
Past President	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Vice President	John Deniseger	390-3605
Secretary	June Bouchard	390-3605
Treasurer	Gerry Moore	756-1427
Directors	Glenda Allard Barr	390-2822
	Linda Lawry	390-2370
	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
	Chris Southwick	390-3415
	Debbie Gaboury	758-1204
	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533

COMMITTEES

Advertising	vacant	
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574
	Helene Sullivan	758-7023
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Membership	Debbie Gaboury	
Program	Glenda Allard Barr	390-2822
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey	
Social	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Bargain 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 8 BEBAN PARK SOCIAL CENTRE LOUNGE 7:30 pm

HARRY WRIGHT

‘Four Seasons at Haida Gold Gardens’

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

TWIGS and STEMs



GOODIES FOR APRIL

Barbara Little
Gerry Moore
Antoinette Spoor

MILNER GARDEN AND WOODLAND

presents

DES KENNEDY

April 29 7:00 pm
Qualicum Beach Civic Centre
\$10 at the door

Cowichan Valley Garden Club Annual Spring Flower Show and Plant Sale

Saturday April 10, 2010 – 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
St. Peter's Church Hall
5800 Church Road (off Maple Bay Road)
Duncan, BC.

Admission: Adults/Seniors: \$2.00, Children:
\$1.00

Admission to Afternoon Tea: Adults/Seniors:
\$2.00, Children: \$2.00

Flower Show Entries from the public welcome.
Please email Diane McAmmond

diane@shaw.ca to enter

OUR APRIL SPEAKER HARRY WRIGHT

After 20 years in the RCAF, the last 5 being served at Comox, with no plans on leaving the Island, I started and operated a landscape maintenance company for 15 years and then was Parks Foreman for the City of Courtenay for 10 years. While this was going on we were developing our garden. The garden consists of 1.6 acres, situated in the City of Courtenay, elevation 25 ft. Approx 1 acre is landscaped. The garden is 30 years old and contains many mature rhodos and companion plants. Plants we used to walk around we now walk under. The garden also has a salmon spawning stream running through.



NRS Garden Visits

We are appreciative of the enthusiastic support of those who will be opening their gardens this spring. Below is the current schedule of garden visits 2010:

April 23, Parker, Deniseger, Southwick (2 adjacent gardens)

April 30, McRae, Miller

May 6, Clarke, Bissonnette

May 7, Setting up for show and sale at Beban Park; May 8, Sale and Show

May 14, Tennant, Peters, Hardy (3 adjacent gardens)

May 21, Moore, Blenkarn

May 25, Grant

Information on address, best routes or access, and descriptions of each garden will appear in the April and May newsletters. For further information or questions, please email ddblenkarn@shaw.ca or call Doug Blenkarn at 250-756-0951.

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

The 10th Annual N.R.S. Bus Tour Saturday, April 24th, 2010



Continuing our tradition of visiting a great mixture of gardens, nurseries, and special places, it's our turn to head south towards Victoria this year. Details will be announced at the March 11th meeting.

Cost: \$40 per person

There are still a few seats left...

Where do we meet? At the Northfield/Nanaimo Parkway 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...

Call John to reserve a seat 390-3605

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

NRS Meetings Minutes

Date: March 11, 2010

1. Meeting called to order at 7:35
2. Number of people present: 33
3. Vice-President, John Denisegeer, chaired the meeting as Paul Lawry was away sick. John welcomed guests: Wayne and Bonnie Steele, just moved to Nanaimo from the North Island Chapter of the ARS.
4. Secretary's Report: M/S/C to adopt the minutes of the last meeting as printed in the newsletter.
5. **Correspondence:**
 - a. March/April 2010 Issue of *The Bulletin* from the B.C. Council of Garden Clubs.
 - b. Thank you card and letter from VIU for annual donation towards the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Award bursary.
 - c. Spring 2010 Newsletter from the Central Vancouver Island Botanical Garden Society plus flyer inviting us to attend the Annual Garden Show at Beban Park this weekend.
 - d. See June if you would like to see any of the above. The Bulletin magazine will be available in the library.
6. **Committee Reports:**
 - Program: Stay tuned for details on April and May programs....
 - Social: Coffee and Treats now "by donation".
 - Bargain Table: Please consider bringing items for the bargain table when you split your plants or when you "thin" your garden. Proceeds go towards our library and/or the 2012 ARS Conference.
 - Raffle/Door Prize: Thank you Val and Ann for looking after the raffle table each month.
7. **Upcoming events:**
 - a. **Our 10th annual garden tour is going south this year on Saturday, April 24th.**
 - i. We will be visiting the following gardens and nurseries: Dinter Nursery; Al and Sandy Campbell in Shawnigan Lake; Madeleine and Ken Webb, Evelyn and Nick Weejes and Norm Todd (Firwood) in the Saanich Peninsula; and Sea Cider also in Saanich.
 - ii. Garth Wedemire will be our "official photographer".
 - iii. We will leave at 7:00 am from the Parkway/Northfield intersection parking lot.
 - iv. Cost is \$40.00 per person, including three tastings at the Cidery.
 - v. Sign up sheet available; friends are welcome!
 - b. **Local Garden Tours – coordinated by Doug Blenkarn:**
 - i. Our own gardens are a tremendous resource; it's very enjoyable to visit each other's gardens – it's a great learning experience and a social opportunity. No garden is too small or too young!
 - ii. Garden visits will be held on Friday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 hopefully from mid-April to mid-June.
 - iii. Doug has a sign-up sheet for members who wish to volunteer their gardens; nice to have a couple of gardens in the same neighbourhood to reduce driving time.
 - c. **Information Table at Art Knapp is happening on Saturday, May 1st from 10:30 to 2:30.**
 - i. This is a great opportunity to promote our club and our sale which will be happening the following Saturday.
 - ii. Sign up sheet available for volunteers – still a couple of spaces left.

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- d. **Our annual Truss Show and Plant Sale will be on Saturday, May 8th.**
 - i. Craig Clarke will be coordinating the Truss show part of the event and will need volunteers for both the Friday evening and the Saturday morning.
 - ii. June and John will be coordinating the sale part of the day. Again, volunteers will be needed to help set up and clean up afterwards.
 - iii. Gaylle McRae will be organizing the raffle – thank you Gaylle!
 - iv. Sign up sheets will be available at our April meeting – “Many hands make small work!”
☺
- e. **ARS 2012 Conference:** Chris Southwick is asking if anyone is interested in coordinating the plant sale part of the event, to please let her or Kathryn Grant know.
- f. **Year end BBQ** in June will be held at Chris’s place – date and time to be confirmed later!

8. **Raffle/Door prizes winners:** Many happy winners! ☺

9. **Program for tonight - An inspiring presentation with beautiful photography by Art Lightburn. We also got a chance to use our brand new digital projector!**

The Scottish Rhododendron Silver Jubilee

The PowerPoint presentation highlighted a 3 week UK tour with visits to some of the more well known gardens of South England and Southwest Scotland: Wisely; Kew; Exbury and of course, the gardens around Edinburgh, including the Royal Botanical Gardens of Edinburgh and the Cox's garden (Glendoik) in Perth.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40.



2010 Plant Sale and Show May 8, 2010

Our annual sale and show is just around the corner. As always, we'll need volunteers to help set up the event. On Friday evening (May 7th), we'll need some help from 6:30 to 8:30, and throughout the day on Saturday (May 8th) from 7 am to about 2:30. If you'd like to volunteer, please add your name to the sign-up sheet at our April meeting or give John or Craig a call. After the show, we'll head over to the Black Bear Pub to celebrate the day.

Milner Gardens 9th Annual Spring Plant Sale

On April 17th and 18th admission is by donation for the 9th Annual Spring Plant Sale from 10 am to 4 pm. Revive your garden with a large selection of plants propagated from Milner's heritage garden. Master gardeners will help answer your plant questions or choose the right plant. Outdoor refreshments are available and the Tea Room will be open from 10 am to 4 pm serving soup, scones and tea. Sorry, Rhododendrons will not be available for sale until April 29th, the start of Rhododendron Days. Members only early plant sale access is Friday April 16th from 5 to 7pm. Please show your membership card.

FMI 250-752-6153 www.milnergardens.org

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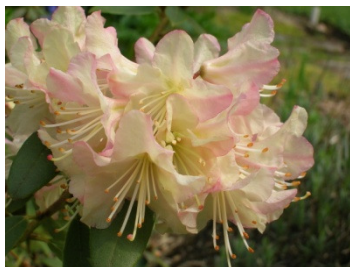
Conference Corner

**Rhodos in Paradise:
Destination Vancouver Island
September 21 – 23, 2012**

Tickets for our next fundraising raffle will be distributed at the April meeting. There will be three prizes in this draw: a \$50 gift certificate to Art Knapp Plantland, a \$40 gift certificate to the Mahle House Restaurant and two tickets to a Port Theatre Presents production. At \$2 each the tickets should be easy to sell. Please pick up one or two books at the meeting. The draw will be held at our annual spring barbeque on June 12.



Saturday May 1st, 10: 30 – 2:30



Come join the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society
at **Art Knapp Garden Center** in Nanaimo

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



R. augustinii

Hirsutum Project

The Hirsutum project website is a very user friendly and comprehensive listing of known Rhododendron species and hybrids, complete with photos and information about the plants and history of same. All photos and information have been donated by users, and everyone is encouraged to submit their own photos. There is a provision for every user to set up a personal garden site to keep track of their plants. The site was initiated by a group of enthusiasts in the Netherlands and is headed by Herman Van Ree from Nunspeet. A most welcome and informative site.

Site Address: www.hirsutum.info



R. hirsutum

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

GARDEN VISITS IN APRIL

APRIL 23, 6 – 8 pm

MARY PARKER

1981 Valley Oak Drive

Rhodos and Azaleas in Pots

I have been growing these beautiful plants in pots for about 15 years. At that time fellow rhodoholics didn't think it was such a good idea! But, when you have no more room in the garden my plants found their way into pots on patios. Point Defiance, for an example, grew in a large pot for at least 10 years blooming and looking great until I found a garden home for it.



When I moved from Qualicum Beach to Nanaimo two years ago I found I lived on solid clay with rocks for a lawn!!! I planted one rhodo high with what I thought was a good drainage base, but it died within the year. So, everything else stayed in pots or was moved to larger pots.

Head to Victoria on the Parkway and make a left had turn at Jingle Pot Road; that takes toward town. It is about two blocks down at Oak Valley Estates on Buttertubs Marsh (across from Miner's Park)

My planting medium consists of compost, bark mulch and soil. I usually throw in some bone meal and Epsom salts.

I find I have to fertilize twice a year, in the early spring and the end of May. In the late fall I give them a shot of Epsom salts. My recipe for fertilizer is as follows:

2 scoops (I use a 250 ml cottage cheese container) each of the following

Alfalfa meal

Canola meal

Bone meal

Epsom salts

1 scoop each of the following

Granular moss killer

Green Leaf rhodo food

Dolopril lime

If your leaves look like they need extra iron then just add more moss killer.

I mix this all together in a 2 1/2 gallon bucket and apply as you would in the garden.



I installed an automatic watering system with 6 zones and each pot has one or two sprinkler heads. See the photos. I put saucers under the pots in the summer so any nutrients and water can be used up by the plant. I water every other day for 5 minutes or as needed for the weather conditions.

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JUNE BOUCHARD and JOHN DENISEGER
6666 Green Acres Way, Nanaimo

An established woodland garden near Green Lake. The garden is set among Douglas fir and has over 200 Rhodos and Azaleas, as well as a collection of companion plants that include Primulas, Pulmonaria, Hellebores, ferns and Daphnes. Feature trees include Dogwoods and Japanese Maples. The property also includes a substantial food garden.

CHRIS SOUTHWICK
6647 Green Acres Way, Nanaimo

6647 Green Acres Way is a newly developed property. It is a little over half an acre in size and a definite pie shape with longest piece of the pie 220 feet along the E & N railway. The property was very damp in spots and had to be drained. It is mainly a nasty clay base (some of the worst type that Terry Richmond talked about in his talk last year) and many hundreds of yards of soil were trucked into the property.

To find the garden, travel west on Aulds Road from the Parkway. Take the first left onto Rhodo Way, then right on Green Acres Way to its end (cul de sac). There you'll find both Chris's and John and June's gardens.

Chris dug up and potted several hundred plants - mostly rhododendrons from her former property. Many are dwarf species or fairly young plants. They were either healed in or left in pots over the very severe winter we had over the 2008 - 2009 year and then planted out the following summer of 2009 - in early May. They had to endure the heat and hand watering over half of last year's hot dry summer. Most are beginning to think it might be okay here where they have much more room to grow without so much crowding. Some hardscaping has begun with low rock walls taking shape, and a lawn beginning to grow. With no fences to keep out the rabbits or deer, gardening is quite different from a city lot. The property is bordered by mature cedar and Douglas fir and has a wonderful view of the neighbour's rhododendrons!

APRIL 30, 6 – 8 pm

ALLEN and GAYLLE MCRAE
3570 Oakridge Drive, Nanaimo

From Departure Bay take Hammond Bay Road to Oakridge Drive (turn left). Drive one telephone pole past Planta Drive. Turn very sharp right and pass through stone pillars. First house on the left. Best to leave your car on Oakridge and walk down driveway. A garden largely built on rocky outcropping using stone walls to retain soil. Great view of Pipers Lagoon. Come and enjoy!! Gaylle and Allen

MICHAEL MILLER
2489 Nadely Crescent, Nanaimo

Michael has a well-established city lot garden with an outstanding collection of dwarf plants. Off Bowen Road onto Rosstown Road, left on Mountain Vista Drive, left on Nadely Crescent.

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

American Rhododendron Society – Proven Performers List

The Public Education Committee of the ARS has asked chapters to compile lists of the best performing rhododendrons in their areas. The lists give plants with good form, foliage and flowers that are hardy and resistant to pests and diseases for the given area. The listed plants have proven their ability to perform well in members' gardens and are recommended to others.

The following page on the ARS website gives the Proven Performers Lists that have been submitted for the twelve districts of the Society: http://rhododendron.org/performers_intro.htm.

In District 1 – British Columbia, seven of the nine chapters have their Proven Performers Lists published by the ARS (the two missing chapters are the Fraser Valley and the Vancouver chapters).

An email from Ray Smith, Chairman of the ARS Plant Awards Committee was forwarded to each chapter president by Ron Knight on March 22, 2010. This is what Ray Smith said:

Subject: Proven Performer Updates

Dear District Director,

The time has come again for the chapters to examine and possibly revise their Proven Performer lists. This is one of the most popular parts of the ARS website and a great aid in introducing rhododendrons to a new audience. Please contact the chapter presidents in your district and ask them to look over their Proven Performer lists. Have some of the plants listed been surpassed by newer introductions? Perhaps some are no longer available on the retail market. Maybe everything is still fine with the list, and no changes are needed. Whatever the situation, a timely review is important.

If there are any changes, the easiest way is to have the chapter representative send the list to the ARS webmaster, Bob Weissman (weissman@arsoffice.org) directly. A copy to me would be appreciated, but is not necessary.

Thank you for your help.

Ray Smith, Chairman
ARS Plant Awards Committee

I would like to encourage all District 1 chapters to review their "Proven Performers Lists" and send revisions to Bob Weissman (Weissman@arsoffice.org). The year 2010 would be a good time for all nine District 1 chapters to revise their lists.

Written by Garth Wedemire, Director - Fraser Valley Chapter, March 29, 2010

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Hirsutum.info --- A great new website with rhododendron pictures

On Saturday, February 20th of this year, I received an email from David Godfrey of the North Island Chapter. Some of the contents of the email are reproduced below:

I have been communicating with Herman Van Ree in Holland, the webmaster of the rhodo database website www.hirsutum.info and sent photos on behalf of Harry (Wright). I am now just completing sending all of Ken's (Ken Gibson's) photos (480 total) They are big files (2 to 3 MB each) so have been limiting them to 3 per email. It is taking 163 emails to get them all to him (Herman van Ree).

.... We have also exchanged information about each other, and I have Herman's permission to share this information with you. (I have actually pieced together information from several emails.) He and Marjo plan to revisit Vancouver Island in spring 2011, as they were here last August (2009) but missed the beauty of the rhodos.

The links to view his house and property are....website home page: www.huize-zandbergen.nl
house: www.huize-zandbergen.nl/tuin/index.html property: www.huize-zandbergen.nl/huis/index.html

Well, thanks to David, I had a look at both the "Hirsutum Project" website and Herman's website which is in Dutch but

Hirsutum.info: About Rhododendrons, Azaleas and Vireyas; a virtual arboretum

Why www.hirsutum.info?

Rhododendron *hirsutum* was the first rhododendron to be classified and named. It was discovered in the 16th century by a Flemish botanist, Charles l'Ecluse, who later became called Clusius.


The purpose of this website is to give an overview (photos and information) of as many rhododendron species and cultivars (hybrids) as possible.
A virtual botanical garden. A virtual arboretum.
An online database with information and pictures.

Everyone can help to build this database. Just send pictures of your rhododendrons.
See the list of contributors to the Hirsutum-project.
Absolutely non-commercial, no banners or advertising here!

Photo Gallery
Rhododendron species (1246)
Rhododendron hybrids (8823)
Azaleas (3893)
Azaleodendrons (89)
Vireyas (912)

Rhododendron community
Plant Identification (1)
For hybridisers
Your garden
Rhododendrons worldwide
Various overviews

General Information
Basic information
Taxonomy
Bloomtime
Useful links
Contact



Rhododendron hirsutum

Rhodo-finder by name:

enter at least 3 characters
Rhodo-finder by color:
purple Search

because it is mostly pictures it was easy to get around and enjoyable. The "Hirsutum Project" was started on June 3, 2009. As stated on the website --- The goal of the project is to collect as much information and as many photos as possible concerning rhododendrons. This includes *species*, hybrids, azaleas, vireyas and azaleodendrons.

I am amazed how quickly this website has grown. Eight of the twenty-six contributors of photographs are from Canada. There are over 2,850 photos of hybrids and 1,850 photos of species already in this large database. As an example, there are eight photos of 'Hotei' from four contributors.

With this website and database, we get an overview of the spread of rhododendrons worldwide. This website and the data that it contains, may help to 'find' cultivars previously thought to be extinct. Participate in this 10 year project of the Members of the Nederlandse Rhododendron Vereniging (Dutch chapter of the ARS).

Don't miss out on this exciting new website www.hirsutum.info --- you can set up your own virtual garden in the "Your garden" section. After adding your plants, you will be able to see pictures of your virtual garden.

By Garth Wedemire, Fraser Valley Chapter, ARS --- March 29, 2010