

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



## April 2011



### FROM THE PRESIDENT

We've just returned from a few days in Washington State, including visits to Meerkerk Gardens on Whidbey Island and to the Rhododendron Species Foundation. Both gardens are beautiful and had a number of plants in bloom e.g. *R. strigillosum*, *R. barbatum*, *R. mucronulatum*, *R. neriiflorum* etc. The winter of 10/11 has definitely been a challenge for many rhodos in these gardens as well as our own. Many plants have been set back or damaged, largely due to the November cold snap. We took advantage of the situation to assess which large leaf rhodos appeared to be the hardiest, toughest plants. In other words, we created our "wish list" for next year's RSF plant order.

We're entering both the busiest and most fun part of our club's season. We have many events coming up over the next two months. You'll find lots of information in our newsletter and of course at our regular meetings. If you have any questions, just contact someone on the executive.

In reading the early spring issue of GardenWise magazine, I came across an article from Sandy Mathies (BCLNA president). He refers to the "greening of gardeners" as we realize that pesticides can be largely, if not completely, left behind. We are re-learning how to grow plants by observing what they need and what works. The Internet can be a great resource connecting people to knowledge and expertise. On the other hand, once you get into gardening, "you'll find that you have less time to follow the digital lives of others, and you will start to enjoy growing and sharing the life you are living", which is a big part of what clubs like ours are all about. HAPPY SPRING everyone! See you at the April meeting!

John

### EXECUTIVE

President	John Deniseger	390-3605
Past President	Paul Lawry	806-2370
Vice President	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Secretary	June Bouchard	390-3605
Treasurer	Gerry Moore	756-1427
Directors	Glenda Allard Barr	390-2822
	Chris Southwick	390-3415
	Debbie Gaboury	758-1204
	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533
	Burkhard Dressler	758-1738

### COMMITTEES

Advertising	vacant	
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Membership Program	Debbie Gaboury	
	Glenda Allard Barr	390-2822
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey	
Social	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Bargain Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society  
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Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4  
Website: [nanaimo.rhodos.ca](http://nanaimo.rhodos.ca)  
email: [nanaimo@rhodos.ca](mailto:nanaimo@rhodos.ca)

### NEXT MEETING

**THURSDAY, APRIL 14    BEBAN PARK SOCIAL CENTRE    7:30 pm**

**SUSAN and ART LIGHTBURN**

**"Our Recent Travels to China"**

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## **TWIGS and STEMs**



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### **GOODIES FOR APRIL MEETING**

*Pat Schulson*

*Linda Moore*

*Jean Grieg*

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### **NRS WILDFLOWER WALK**

#### **HONEYMOON BAY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE**

*Friday, April 22*

*Meet at the parking lot at 11 am*

*Come and see the pink Erythronium and the yellow violets!*

[http://www.cowichanlake.ca/tourism\\_hbwfr.php](http://www.cowichanlake.ca/tourism_hbwfr.php)

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### **FREE WORKSHOP SERIES**

#### **DIANA'S GARDEN CENTRE**

*Saturday April 2*

*Starting Seeds and Propagating tips*

*Saturday April 9*

*Growing and Nurturing Your Soil*

*Friday April 22*

*How to Make a Hanging Moss Basket*

*All workshops 1 pm - 2 pm at Diana's Garden Centre, 2517 Bowen Road, Nanaimo*

### **OUR APRIL SPEAKERS**

#### **SUSAN AND ART LIGHTBURN**

The Nanaimo Rhododendron Society presents Art and Susan Lightburn with a PowerPoint presentation of their most recent trip to China. You are welcome to tag along on their journey to

seek out rhododendrons in their native habitat.

Susan's brilliant photography is sure to provide a fascinating glimpse into life in this distant part of the world.



### **Upcoming Garden Tour**

Please mark Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> on your calendar for our first garden tour! This event is a fundraiser for the 2012 ARS Fall Conference which will be held in Nanaimo in September 2012.

Nine private gardens will be open to the public – a major thank you to all owners who are opening their garden gate in support of this fundraiser. Tickets are \$15.00 each and are available at the following five locations: Dig This, Art Knapp, Diana's Garden Centre, Turley's Florist and Garden Centre and Buckerfield's.

We will also have tickets available at the April and May meetings as well as at our other spring activities:

- Information table at Art Knapp on Saturday, April 23rd.
- Our annual truss show and plant sale on Saturday, May 7th.
- Our bus trip on Saturday, May 14th.

In mid-April, we will be emailing a poster advertising this event to all NRS members with a suggestion to pass it on to friends who might have an interest in gardening. Thank you in advance for "passing on the word".

Thanks are also in order to Mary Parker and Art Lightburn who have shared their MARS garden tour experience with us. And last but not least, thank you to Susan Lightburn for accepting to be our official photographer for that day!

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual N.R.S. Bus Tour Saturday, May 14th, 2011



Continuing our tradition of visiting a great mixture of gardens, nurseries, and special places, this year we're heading north through Nanoose, Qualicum, the Comox Valley and Campbell River.

### **Cost: \$40 per person**

(includes tours/tastings at Little Qualicum Cheeseworks and Mooberry Winery; does not include Milner Gardens admission of \$7.50 as many NRS members are also Milner members; free admission for Milner members)

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 and appropriate clothing. Bring a friend...

**We still have lots of seats left!**

*Call John to reserve a seat 390-3605*



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### **Wildflower Walk**

We are planning a trip to the **Honeymoon Bay Ecological Reserve** (formerly the Honeymoon Bay Wildflower Reserve). A small circuit of easy walking trails reveals an abundance of spring wildflowers such as pink fawn lilies, bleeding hearts, violets and white trilliums from April through to the end of June.



*Erythronium revolutum*

North of Duncan, we turn right on Highway 18, then keep to the left side of the lake at Lake Cowichan, following the signs to Honeymoon Bay. Beyond the village, the Reserve is located on South Shore Road, approximately 2.5 km west of Honeymoon Bay village. Keep left when the road divides at Walton Road and pass March Meadows Golf Course.

This will take place on Good Friday, April 22nd, meeting at the parking lot of the destination at 11am. Please bring a picnic lunch. It is our hope is that members can carpool and some of this can be set up at the meeting. Barrie Agar has been invited to join us.

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## NRS Meetings Minutes

Date: Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011

1. Meeting called to order at 7:35
2. Number of people present: approx. 40 people
3. President, John Deniseger, welcomed everyone including a few guests. Special welcome to new members Diana and John English and Diana Walker
4. **President's report:**
  - a. Spring is bound to be just around the corner, despite the unseasonably cool and wet weather so far this spring. Dick Beamish gave us a herring update.
  - b. Don't miss the garden show March 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> at Beban Park.
  - c. Sad news – passing of Rick Grant, our newsletter editor Katherine's husband. Thank you Craig for taking care of the newsletter until Katherine is ready to take it on again.
  - d. Cowichan Valley Chapter tour of Fraser Valley gardens on May 13-14 – handouts available for those interested.
  - e. Microphone and speaker will be available at next meeting
5. **Treasurer's Report:**
  - a. Balance in NRS account: \$4256.30
  - b. Balance in ARS 2012 conference account: \$940.53
6. **Program:** The program for our April meeting will be Susan and Art Lightburn on their recent trip to China.
7. **Social:** Sandra has sent a sympathy card to Katherine.
8. **Upcoming Wildflower Walk:**
  - a. At Honeymoon Bay Wildflower Sanctuary.
  - b. It will be either on April 17<sup>th</sup> or April 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - c. We should know by the April meeting.
  - d. Liz and Al Murray will monitor and let us know.
9. **Rhododendron Species Foundation:**
  - a. Gerry is coordinating individual orders for us.
  - b. \$300.00 club order.
  - c. Members can also order – please let Gerry know as soon as possible if you wish to order something from the RSF catalogue.
10. **Sale and Show on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>:**
  - a. All vendors confirmed; everyone from last year plus more.
  - b. NRS table: We will be selling plants and books once again. Please remember to keep some plants when you divide plants or thin your garden this spring. Also, if you have good gardening books that you no longer want, please consider donating them to the NRS table – that part did really well last year.
  - c. Thank you Sandra for coordinating the NRS table for this year's sale.
11. **ARS 2012 Conference update – Gayle McRae:**
  - a. Program almost all confirmed.
  - b. Meals and refreshments organized by Sandra – things are coming along.
  - c. Garden tours for the Saturday afternoon is now all organized.
  - d. We appreciate the fact that MARS is looking after the plant sale at the Conference.
  - e. We will be applying to the City of Nanaimo for a possible grant.
  - f. Thank you to Michael Miller for offering to look after the foliage display at the conference. Please bring examples of your interesting foliage plants to the April meeting.

# **NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY**

- g. Brian Jubinville, in charge of publicity, is working on a Power Point presentation to promote our conference at the upcoming Vancouver, Washington ARS conference in May.
- h. Fundraising: main event right now is the upcoming garden tour on Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **12. Nanaimo Garden Tour – fundraiser for the ARS 2012 Conference:**

- a. Signs are ready – they look great!
- b. Tickets are printed and a “folding party” is happening this weekend.
- c. Tickets will be available at our 5 vendors in early April at \$15.00 each.
- d. Turley’s has offered to do publicity for us at this weekend’s garden show.
- e. Thank you to all who have offered to volunteer as garden sitters. The list is complete and we have names on back up just in case.
- f. A reminder that all volunteers get a free ticket and are invited to a celebration potluck BBQ after the event.
- g. A very important thank you to both Art Lightburn and Mary Parker who have initially met with us to get us started with the organization of this event. They both had much experience with the annual MARS garden show.

## **13. Annual Spring Bus tour:**

- a. On Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>.
- b. Chris Southwick will take care of the entertainment on board as Linda and Paul Lawry will be unable to organize it this year.
- c. Tickets are \$40.00 each and are available right now.
- d. Cost includes wine and cheese at Little Qualicum Cheese Works but does not include entrance to Milner Garden as many of our members are already Milner members.

14. On Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will have an **information table at Art Knapp’s** – a great opportunity to promote upcoming NRS events. There will be a sign up sheet for volunteers at the April meeting.

## **15. Milner Gardens update:**

- a. Special guest, Geoff Ball, informed us of upcoming events happening at Milner Gardens.
- b. It’s their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.
- c. There will be evening concerts through the summer.
- d. Possible access to shoreline in the works.
- e. Memberships offered at 25% off at the break.

## **16. Special presentation - Bronze Medal awarded to Gaylle and Allen McRae:**

“Allen and Gayle have both served on our executive; Allen as president and director; Gaylle as treasurer. Allen and Gaylle have each been important contributors to our club through committees and events, including our annual auction, truss show and plant sale, and our 2012 conference committee, which Gaylle co-chairs. Allen and Gaylle have always supported the club by extending their hospitality in opening their garden and hosting meetings. Individually and as a team, they’ve made a difference!”

17. **Raffle/Door prizes winners:** Many happy winners.

## **18. Program for tonight:**

- A very informative presentation on wildflowers of our area with astounding photography by Barrie Agar.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20.

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## Conference Corner

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

We are now about a year and a half out from our big weekend in September of 2012. Our committee is continuing to make steady progress in planning all the aspects which will ensure a conference of which we all can be proud. We last met on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> at June and John's home. Here's a brief review of where we're at as of now. The budget was an important item on our agenda. Gerry invited each planning head to put together individual budgets which he can then place in his overall financial plan. We will set aside time soon for a budget meeting. June is working on an overall timeline with an eye ahead to launching our webpage. She, along with Earl Daneluk, will be our registrars. June is also working with Senini Graphics on a cloth bag which will be given to each participant upon check-in at the conference. We have 3 confirmed speakers already and Craig is working to get other people onside. More on that when they are confirmed. Brian Jubinville is looking after advertising, and is putting together a Power Point presentation to be shown at the May conference in Vancouver, Washington. We want to continue the advertising that we did in Florence, Oregon at the 2010 Fall Regional. Sandra has the meals all well under control. We will be having a sit-down dinner to help kick things off on the Friday night. We have an awesome line-up of gardens which John has organized for the Sat. pm. tours (complete with the buses to take folks around). MARS is of course taking care of the plant sale and are busily planning for the event. The most pressing item was the garden tour fundraiser scheduled for May 22. We are well along with the planning for this with 9 gardens confirmed, vendors onside, tickets printed, folded and numbered. What we need now is help from the membership in

seeing that these tickets get sold. Please put the date on your calendars, invite your family and friends to enjoy these gardens. We are very grateful to those who have said yes already to being a part of this event. We are excited about this our first ever garden tour. Help us please to put it OVER the Top

Our next planning meeting will be at Chris' on Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Chris and I are very well pleased with the work done so far. But we have a lot left to do. We'll keep you posted, so stay tuned!

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### Special Offer to a Lucky Gardener!

A complete collection of Royal Horticultural Society Journals from 1998 – 2009 has been donated to the NRS. These Journals are published monthly and are an amazing resource of information for all gardeners. Whether you wish to grow Rhododendrons, Clematis or potatoes, you'll find what you need. If you'd like to have them, all it takes is a "reasonable" donation to our Conference fund. Call John if you're interested....



Allen and Gayle have both served on our executive; Allen as president and director; Gaylle as treasurer. Allen and Gaylle have each been important contributors to our club through committees and events, including our annual auction, truss show and plant sale, and our 2012 conference committee, which Gaylle co-chairs. Allen and Gaylle have always supported the club by extending their hospitality in opening their garden and hosting meetings. Individually and as a team, they've made a difference!