



APRIL 2014

President's Message

Your president has just returned from a six-day "holiday" in the NRGH, recovering well with the help of a great nurse. We have 21 Rhodos in bloom with six already finished. We are looking forward to a great display this year, as most of our plants are heavily budded and swelling rapidly. The Kramer's Red Heather is a great contrast to our Snow Ladies and the many Trilliums popping up around the garden.

April promises to be a busy month with all the arrangements being made for the Woodgrove kiosk, member garden tours, bus tours and, of course, our Show and Sale. Our PR department has made some good arrangements this year to maintain and increase our profile in the community. The club will be looking for replacements for some of our executive positions, so please give it some thought as to how you can contribute.

NRS is hosting the April 3 District One meeting at the Longwood Brew Pub at 10:30 AM. All members are welcome. A meeting at Milner Garden and Woodlands has started to bear fruit in respect to the proposed species garden. We will report at the upcoming meeting.

Remember the dollar table.

Best Regards,

Art

EXECUTIVE

President	Art Lightburn	468-7516
Vice President	John Deniseger	778 424-3605
Secretary	Ann Beamish	758-2574
Treasurer	Krystyna Sosulski	729-0948
Directors	Craig Clarke	390-4090
	Susan Lightburn	468-7516
	Dorothee Kieser	390-4136
	Ray Lauzier	756-2927
	Bryan Jubinville	956-6178
	Gaylle McRae	758-7589

COMMITTEES

Advertising	Bryan Jubinville	
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Membership	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Program	Ray Lauzier	756-2927
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey	
Social	Susan Lightburn	468-7516
Bargain Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533
Website	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Sunshine	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Awards	Craig Clarke, Chris Southwick,	
John	Deniseger, Gaylle	
McRae		

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society
Box 241, #101-5170 Dunster Road
Nanaimo, BC V9T
Website: nanaimo.rhodos.ca
email: nanaimo@rhodos.ca

NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY APRIL 10 BEBAN PARK SOCIAL CENTRE 7:30 PM

NORMA SENN

ENJOY SPRING DOWN UNDER

Twigs and Stems

APRIL GOODIES

Brenda Lewis
Debbie Gaboury
Elaine Hutchison

A small committee is looking to organize informal garden tours of members' gardens this spring. In the past, several club members have opened their gardens on a Friday evening or time that is convenient for a few hours to members and friends. These garden openings would occur from early April through May or so depending on the weather. If any of you are willing to open your garden for these informal tours, the committee would be interested in hearing from you. Please call either Sandra Dorman at (250) 390-0136 or Chris Southwick at (250) 390-3415. The Tennants have already volunteered their garden, thank you, Royce and Anne!!"

Remember to save your divisions and unwanted plants for the NRS table at the May sale

We received a lot of positive feedback on last month's photo presentation by Muriel Gustavson and Pat Haugen. If you would like to view more of Pat's photos, including the ones from the rhodo bus tours, check the following site: <http://www.patriciaartphotography.ca>

The 14th Annual N.R.S. Bus Tour

Saturday, May 17th

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

Our itinerary highlights 6 exceptional destinations, including 4 first time visits.

Cost: \$40 per person

(includes wine tasting)

Where do we meet? At Chapters/Woodgrove parking lot – the bus will be leaving at 7:30 am. We expect to return at approx. 6:30 pm

Don't forget to bring a picnic lunch and appropriate clothing. Bring a friend...

Call John to reserve a seat

778 424 3605

Friends of Abkhazi Garden



Abkhazi Garden Community Open House

Saturday, April 5, 2014 11 am - 4 pm
at 1964 Fairfield Road - Free Admission



Dennis Robinson photo

VISIT THE GARDEN THAT LOVE BUILT, CREATED BY A REAL LIFE PRINCE AND PRINCESS

Stop by to tour the garden, learn about the legacy of the Prince and Princess Abkhazi, enjoy a cream tea, find out about upcoming events, and meet some of the people behind this amazing heritage site.

www.abkhaziteahouse.com
778-265-6466

For more information about the Friends of Abkhazi Garden
go to their website at
www.friendsofabkhazi.ca

Getting to know each other...

By June Bouchard

This month, I am pleased to introduce Earl Daneluk. Apparently, Earl “didn’t know what a rhodo was” until he and his wife Judy moved to the West Coast ten years ago. They’d enjoyed their gardens in Calgary and the Bahamas where they lived before they moved here, but were not familiar with rhododendrons. When retiring to Lantzville, they had more space and more time to devote to the garden AND they discovered rhododendrons! After meeting Paul and Linda Lawry in the garden department at Home Depot, they joined the NRS and, six years later, Earl has an extensive rhododendron collection and has become an expert on propagating rhododendrons from seed.



1. How long have you been growing rhododendrons?

I bought my first 5 rhodos about 8 years ago and then went crazy buying more & more AND am still looking to buy those that I want to add to my collection.

2. How long have you lived on Vancouver Island?

We moved here from Calgary 10 years ago.

3. Describe your best day in the garden.

Any day is a good day in the garden as long as it is not pouring rain! I especially enjoy looking at the garden with the purpose of where/what else could I plant there. There always seems to be a place to plant something new (yes I do plant close together). Best day is sitting under the portico with Judy and enjoying the scenery.

4. What other interests do you have?

Propagating rhodos from seed that I have hybridized. Still waiting for my first bloom which I think might happen this spring. Main hobbies are woodworking and model trains, although both have been put on the back burner given my time constraints with Judy.

5. Do you have a favourite rhododendron?

I have far too many to just pick one! A good saying for me is my favorite is “the next one that I plan to buy”. Actually my favourite is SIERRA SUNRISE; which I think is absolutely stunning. Others would include: Pacific Sunset, Lodaure Iceberg, Red Gold, Fire Rim, Naselle, Sefton, Pomegranate Splash.....

6. What do you like about the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society?

Getting together with the members and talking about rhodos. I have learned a lot from the other members, the presentations and the library (which has a multitude of information).

7. Anything else you might like to share????

I think that many members are missing a great opportunity by not attending any of the ARS conferences. They are an excellent event to participate in and provide a multitude of information, socializing and wonderful garden tours that normally would not be available to view. In addition the Plant Sale is something all to itself and one of my absolute favourite parts of the conference.

Seen in Passing

Sea lions rolling through the spawning herring with multi -thousands of gulls diving on the fish driven to the surface, and bald eagles trying their luck at robbing the seagulls of their catch.

Some success in having an evergreen Clematis climbing up our Western Red Cedar, with some white flowers starting to show well up on the cedar branches.

Planting grass seed trails on the first warm day in March - washed away by cold rains. (oh well!)

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY
"SHADE"?

Definitions of sun requirements may vary from region to region and from horticulturist to horticulturist, but most can agree that few plants do well 100 percent, never-to-see-the light shade. Mushrooms, maybe, but not ornamental plants. But what is really meant by "shade"? In general here's the scoop.

Full sun: six or more hours of direct sunlight each day.

Partial sun/partial shade: These terms are often used interchangeably, but there is a subtle difference. Many hold that "partial sun" means 4 to 6 hours of sun each day, and "partial shade" is slightly less: 2to4 hours of sun each day.

Filtered sun/dappled sun: Also called

filtered shade and dappled, these terms indicate that light is available through the canopy of an over story plant.

Full shade: Less than 2 hours of sunlight each day.

Then there are "light shade," "deep shade," "thin shade," "dense shade,"... and the list goes on. When in doubt, ask the grower or your extension agent.



<http://www.arswillamette.org/current.htm#CONTENTS> March'14_

FREE "BENEFICIAL BUGS" SEMINAR hosted by the BUG FACTORY

SATURDAY APRIL 5th AT 10 AM

Presented By: Angie Hale of the Bug Factory in Nanoose Bay

What is eating my Rhodo?
Why are there Aphids all over my trees?
What is happening with my lawn?
Ahhhh! Spider Mites??

Do any of these questions sound familiar?

Angie from the Bug Factory will be hosting a 2 hour Question and Answer session for all gardeners wondering what to do now,
that most products have been taken off the market for such troubles.

The answer, BENEFICIAL BUGS!! Come and see what you can do to fix your problem. We can place orders for beneficial bugs for you the day of the seminar.
We encourage you to bring samples if possible, but ask that you bring them **IN SEALED CONTAINERS !!!!!**

Enjoy complimentary Coffee and Snacks

Door prizes too!

Hope you can make it!

Please note that as a Green Thumb Seminar Attendee, you will receive a 15% off coupon valid for your entire purchase on that day!!! (Some exclusions do apply. See store for details)

FROM THE GREEN TEAM @ GREEN THUMB GARDEN CENTRE

Green Thumb
GARDEN CENTRE (1997)



250-758-0944

**6261 Hammond Bay Rd.
Nanaimo BC**



THE COWICHAN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
invites you to join them on
SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2014
for their
ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW & PLANT SALE
DUNCAN UNITED CHURCH HALL
246 Ingram Street, Duncan B.C. 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY
JEFF DE JONG
10:30 A.M., 11:45 A.M. & 1:00 P.M.
General Admission \$3.00
*With Special Presentation \$6.00
*Advance tickets available from Apr.25 - May 9
Leaf & Petal 101 Station Street, &
Volume One 149 Kenneth Street, Duncan
HIGHLIGHTS
Flower Show, Plant Sale, Photography & Cafe
Raffle in aid of Providence Farm Therapeutic Garden
WWW.COWICHANVALLEYGARDENCLUB.COM



APRIL RAFFLE PLANTS



R. 'Starbright Champagne'

4' -18° C

An unusual star-shaped flower.
Great foliage on a dense, very
rounded-growing plant.

Frank Fujioka

R. montroseanum

(RSF 3157/08)

5' -12° C

'RSF Species'

Grows to form a small tree.

Large, oblong shaped leaves are smooth, dark
green with reverse silvery-white indumentum.

2 1/2" bell-shaped, intense pink, crimson blotched
flowers (sometimes white with pink edges) set in
large trusses of 15-20.

May need some protection.



R. 'Honeybutter'

5' -18° C

A new introduction from Jim Barlup.

The flowers are luscious tones of
yellow with apricot edging.

The foliage is dark green and very
attractive.

Needs partial shade.



Sweet Potato and Black Bean Mexican Lasagna (3-4 servings)

4 medium/small sweet potatoes

2 cans of black beans

1 yellow onion

Corn tortillas (I used about 6)



4 oz. grated goat cheese (I used a hard sharp cheddar goat cheese but I think this dish would be interesting with a soft goat cheese as well)

Chili powder,
Allspice,
Ground Cumin,
Salt, Olive Oil

Preheat your oven to 375F. Start by peeling and cubing your sweet potatoes in .5" chunks. Throw in a bowl and toss with olive oil, chili powder, allspice and salt. Spread evenly over a baking sheet and roast for 35-45 minutes (until tender when poked with a fork).

Drain and rinse your black beans – throw these in the bowl you used for your sweet potatoes and stir in 2 tsp. of ground cumin and salt. Dice an onion and sautee with olive oil just until they begin to caramelize and are translucent.

Once the sweet potatoes are done cooking reduce the oven heat to 350F. Layer the green chile sauce, tortillas, black beans, sweet potatoes, onions, and cheese in that order until you use up all of your ingredients. Top with the remaining green chile sauce and a little bit of cheese. Cover with tin foil and bake for 40 minutes (remove tin foil at 20 minutes in to let the top brown a little).-

See more at: <http://andkathleen.com/2011/01/sweet-potato-and-black-bean-lasagna/#sthash.RegpPRYu.dpuf>