



# April 2016

## President's Message

This final week of March has been so warm that our rhodos starting to put on quite a show! I have included a photo of *R. edgeworthii* (see p. 3) that is growing in a pot on my mother's deck in downtown Nanaimo. Mom pruned it back hard two years ago and although the growing conditions are not ideal (lots of sun and wind), it has responded beautifully!

I hope that many of you will bring something interesting from your garden to share with others at our upcoming April meeting on the 14th. At that time we will be sharing with you some ideas regarding the criteria that judges will be looking for during our annual truss show on May 1st.

I am pleased to report that at the ARS District 1 meeting in Ladner, it was established that each of the seven chapters of the ARS in District 1 will be receiving an even share of the Sidney Conference profit. The amount will be approximately \$2,300, so we will be forwarding that amount along with our \$2,000 to Milner Garden and Woodland. A letter of thanks outlining our use of their gift will be sent to the Sidney Conference Committee co-chairs.

Thank you for your ongoing support for our Nepal Fundraiser. To date, \$290 has been raised. If you have a plant that you'd like to donate for that cause in April, please send me an email.

We're still looking for volunteers to help phone members regarding the upcoming May executive elections. Do consider allowing your name to stand when volunteers call you. We are definitely looking for the following, and likely a few more; President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Program Chair. Krystyna has volunteered to stand for Membership Chair, and Ann Beamish is willing to stay on as secretary unless someone else would like to take over for her.

Looking forward to Thursday, April 14th. Mr. De Jong is a fantastic speaker!

Chris

### EXECUTIVE

|                |                   |          |
|----------------|-------------------|----------|
| President      | Chris Southwick   | 390-3415 |
| Vice President | Brenda Lewis      | 751-3639 |
| Secretary      | Ann Beamish       | 758-2574 |
| Treasurer      | Krystyna Sosulski | 729-0948 |
| Directors      | Glenda Barr       | 390-2822 |
|                | Craig Clarke      | 390-4090 |
|                | Susan Lightburn   | 468-7516 |
|                | Dorothee Kieser   | 390-4136 |
|                | Gayle McRae       | 758-7589 |
|                | Art Lightburn     | 468-7516 |
|                | Sandra Dorman     | 390-0136 |

### COMMITTEES

|               |                                |          |
|---------------|--------------------------------|----------|
| Advertising   | Jan Moles                      |          |
| Library       | Ann Beamish                    | 758-2574 |
| Newsletter    | Kathryn Grant                  | 585-2706 |
| Membership    | Sandra Dorman                  | 390-0136 |
| Program       | Art Lightburn                  | 468-7516 |
| Raffle        | Ann Davey & Val Harvey         |          |
| Social        | Susan Lightburn                | 468-7516 |
| Bargain Table | Reinhold Gorgosilich           | 758-6533 |
| Website       | Craig Clarke                   | 390-4090 |
| Sunshine      | Edith Higgins                  | 390-9340 |
| Bus Tour      | John Deniseger & June Bouchard |          |
| Truss Show    | Doug Blenkarn                  |          |
| Spring Sale   | Ann Beamish                    |          |

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society  
Box 241, #101-5170 Dunster Road  
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4  
Website: [nanaimorhodos.ca](http://nanaimorhodos.ca)  
email: [nanaimo@rhodos.ca](mailto:nanaimo@rhodos.ca)

### Next Meeting

Thursday April 14, 7:30 pm Beban Park Social Centre

Jeff De Jong

"Perennials to Love"

## Twigs and Stems



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### GOODIES FOR APRIL

Beth Walrond

Brenda Lewis

Jan Moles

Edith Higgins

\*\*\*\*\*

### Mt ARROWSMITH RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

#### RHODO SHOW AND PLANT SALE

Saturday April 23

10 am - 2 pm

Parksville Curling Rink (Hwy 19 at Corfield)

Admission free

#### OUR APRIL PROGRAM

Once again we have Jeff De Jong as our featured speaker. Jeff is a trained horticulturist with award winning landscape designs. He has taught at Olds College in Alberta, hosts a weekend gardening program (Gardening 101 on C-fax 1070), writes about gardening and leads tours around North America and around the world. April program will be "Perennials to Love", a packed presentation.

See you Thursday.



## The 16th Annual N.R.S. Bus Tour Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016



Continuing our tradition of visiting a great mixture of gardens, nurseries and special places, we're heading south to the Cowichan Valley and the Saanich Peninsula this year.

#### **Cost: \$42 per person**

includes Merridale Cider tour and tasting

**Where do we meet? Save on Foods end of Country Club Mall parking lot.** The bus will be leaving at 7:30 am. We expect to return by about 6:00 pm

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

*Call John to reserve a seat at 778 424-3605*



## NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



This is a photo of the first bloom on one of my Gord Galloway seedlings. I'm curious about how some of the other seedlings turned out, and I think it would be neat for those of us who have his plants in bloom to share photos.

Glenda Barr

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### HELP WANTED!



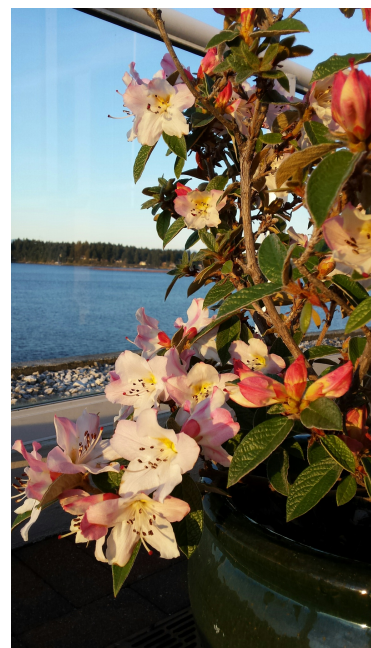
We're looking for volunteers as cashiers for the upcoming plant sale on May 1st. Training provided - might include a glass of wine! This position involves operating the cash register - an extra person will be assisting with plant processing! If you're interested, please contact June Bouchard at [juneandjohn@shaw.ca](mailto:juneandjohn@shaw.ca) or 778-424-3605 or talk to me at the next meeting! Thanks so much in advance!

### William T. E. Hardy February 9, 1924 to March 13, 2016

Bill was born in Wellington, New Zealand. He served in the RAF. After WWII, he worked his way around the world as a stevedore with the Merchant Marines. He and the family moved to Canada in July 1969. He continued his career as a school



teacher in Alberta, Yukon then in British Columbia on Lasqueti Island and Powell River. He and his wife, Mary, settled in Nanaimo when they retired. A gentle man and a gentleman, Bill was respected and loved by those who knew him. An avid horticulturist, he specialized in alpenes and rhododendrons. He volunteered for Nanaimo's Horticulture and Rhododendron Societies and VIRAGS. He served in many positions within the Church of Jesus Christ of LDS. He is survived by his wife Mary, and children Suzanne (Ron) Cooper, Graeme (Karen) Hardy, Pene (Steve) Kenny, Robert (Kellie) Hardy, eight grandchildren, five great-grand children and brother, Trevor (Sandy) Hardy of N. Z. A memorial service will be held Saturday, April 9, 2016, 11:00 a.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints, 2424 Glen Eagle Cres. Nanaimo.



*R. edgeworthii*

## April Raffle Plants



### **Rhododendron 'Cilpinense'**

(*ciliatum* x *moupinense*) 3', -15°C, E, 3-4/3-4.

What an attractive hybrid this is for both foliage and flower! The leaves are small to medium sized and are deep forest green. The flowers sparkle in the sunlight like big apple blossoms, a blush pink touched with deeper pink. Yes, this is beautiful!

### **R. 'Summer Straw'**

Hybridiser: Jim Barlup, Bellevue USA, 1981  
Status: IRRC registered  
Height in 10 years 150 cm (5 ft)  
Bloom time: midseason  
Flower: broadly funnel-shaped  
Leaves: oblong  
Type: elepidote  
Hardiness: H4



### **Rhododendron 'Crimson Pippin'**

(*yakushmanum* x *sanguineum* ssp. *haemaleum*) 2', -23° C, M. 5/4

Silver indumentum and bright currant-red flowers held in loose trusses of 10 with a nice calyx. Compact plant with very deep green leaves and the flowers are the darkest red of any of the *yakushmanum* hybrids.



## Rhodos Worth Growing



**R. Cream Crest** 3', -17<sup>0</sup> C  
Compact, likes sun, good foliage, hardy and vigorous  
Bright creamy yellow flowers

### **Rhododendron 'Bob's Blue'**

('Ilam Violet' x 'Blue Diamond') 3', -17°C, M, 4/4.

Talk about electric blue! This is it! Introduced by Bob Rhodes from Vancouver, British Columbia, this is a good addition to the world of blue rhododendrons. It is a lepidote type rhododendron and has small, deep green leaves that turn bronze in the winter. Flowering extremely well.



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## Seen In Passing

- ❖ our very first flower on Princess Abkhazi
- ❖ most garden plants, especially "Rhodos", blooming weeks ahead of normal. (new normal?)
- ❖ our evergreen Clematis covering our very large Western Red Cedar and the trilliums out and about every where.



## **Kalmia latifolia (mountain laurel)**

Mountain laurels are unusually cold-resistant shrubs that grow 4 to 8 feet high in about 10 years but can easily be kept smaller by pruning. Their 3- to 5-inch lustrous dark green leaves are attractive at all seasons, but they are nearly hidden beneath 4- to 6-inch clusters of small cup-like blossoms in late spring. The flowers range in color from nearly white to a pink so deep as to seem almost red; brownish flecks inside the cups look like freckles or sprinkles of nutmeg. The structure of the flowers is unusual--each stamen is held in a tiny slot under tension until it is released when touched by bees so that it catapults pollen onto them. The plants make handsome ornaments when planted near a foundation or in a shrub border, and can be massed to create a spectacular springtime effect.



**Kalmia latifolia**

Mountain laurels are hardy to Zone 5, hardy to -20° F. They thrive in light shade and moist acid soil. They will tolerate deep shade but bear fewer flowers there than in brighter light. Do not cultivate the soil around the plants to keep roots moist and cool; instead, use a permanent 2- to 6-inch mulch of wood chips, oak leaves or ground bark. If faster-than-average growth is desired, dust the soil under the plants with rhododendron-azalea-camellia fertilizer or cottonseed meal in spring. Remove seed capsules after the flowers fade to ensure an abundance of blossoms the next season. Pruning is rarely needed, but to lower the height of a plant, prune immediately after flowering; new stems will sprout even from large branches. If an old plant has become too large, cut the plant back so that only 2-inch stubs remain above the ground; it will soon grow into a small, thickly foliated shrub.

Mountain laurel is an ideal plant for shade, preferring subdued light to sun; it will even do well in deep shade, although its bloom will be less abundant. This evergreen shrub, indigenous to the mountains of the eastern United States, grows 4 to 8 feet high but can be kept lower by pruning. Its glossy, oval, dark green leaves, 3 to 5 inches long, are almost hidden in late spring by masses of rose to white cup-shaped flowers which are borne in loose clusters 4 to 6 inches across. Inside these flowers the petals are marked with brown dots that look like sprinklings of nutmeg. A hardy plant, mountain laurel will keep its leaves unfurled even in severe cold. Mountain laurel spreads by sending up suckers. It does well near rhododendrons, since both plants need acid soil. Use them for foundation plantings on the north side of a house, in woodland settings or behind spring-flowering bulbs in garden borders.

### **How To Grow Kalmia Latifolia**

Mountain laurel is hardy in Zones 5-9 and does best in a cool, moist, acid soil with peat moss or sand added. To retain moisture, give it a year-round 2- to 6-inch mulch of wood chips, ground bark, well-rotted oak leaves or pine needles. For greater bushiness and more abundant flowers, remove the mulch briefly in the spring and spread cottonseed meal or a fertilizer prepared for acid-loving plants around the base; then replace the mulch. The plant's flower production for the following year can be improved by pinching off the seed capsules when the flowers fade, but this is not essential. If pruning is needed, do it immediately after flowering stops. If the plant dies back in winter, cut it to the ground, it will send up new growth.

<http://www.rhodyman.net/rhodycp.html>



# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## Easy Pastry Shop Apple Tart

### Tart Shell

½ cup butter

⅓ cup sugar

½ tsp vanilla

1 cup flour



### Cream Filling

1 egg

½ tsp vanilla

8 oz cream cheese, softened

¼ cup sugar

### Topping

3 apples, peeled and thinly sliced

¼ cup sugar

½ tsp cinnamon

¼ cup slivered almonds or chopped walnuts

### Tart Shell

Heat the oven to 400°F/200°C. Make the crust: cream the butter and sugar. Stir in the vanilla. Finally, mix in the flour to make a smooth dough. Press into the bottom of an 8-inch/20 cm spring-form pan, giving it about a 1-inch/2.5 cm rim. Bake 15 minutes until lightly golden. Remove from the oven.

### Cream Filling

Beat all the ingredients for the cream filling together until smooth. Make the topping by tossing the apple slices with the cinnamon, sugar, and nuts. Remove the tart shell from the oven. Spread over the cream mixture.

### Topping

Arrange the apple slices on top, then scatter over the nuts. Bake until the apples are tender and golden, about 40 minutes.

<http://www.foodnetwork.ca/recipe/easy-pastry-shop-apple-tart/10319/>

Made it for Easter Dinner. Awesome!! & Easy!

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY Truss Show Sunday, May 1

Increase your knowledge and appreciation of rhododendrons by participating in our annual truss show. Access valuable information and tips from the winter 2013 ARS journal, the NRS website and the NRS May, 2012 & 2013 newsletters.

To ensure uniformity in the show, don't guess which class your truss belongs to. There is an updated PDF file with a list of plants sorted into show classes available from the truss show page of the club website. If in doubt, leave the class blank and it will be filled in by the clerk.

Avoid the Sunday morning rush by bringing trusses in between 6PM and 7:30 PM Saturday evening (April 30). Alternately, trusses can be entered from 6:30 – 7:45 AM Sunday morning.

Registration forms can be obtained at the NRS meeting, prior to the show, or from this newsletter or at the registration desk. Your name, the name of the truss and its entry class should be entered on the registration form. On the second page, provide a duplication of the **truss show names in the same or identical order as on the registration form.**

On arrival, give the registration form to people at the desk, thus enabling the withdrawal of the appropriate rhododendron name cards from the bank. Keep the separate list for assistance in organizing your entries. (Matching the identifying cards to the entries has been a major hold-up in the past). The desk will provide you with the numbered identifying cards; again in identical order as on the registration form.

On the table adjacent to the registration desk, entrants can then place trusses in the water filled bottles and **arrange them in the same order as on the registration form.**

Help will be available for this and in transporting the bottles and appropriate identification card to the display tables. Members entering more than 15 trusses might consider having a friend or spouse help.

### **Tips on Exhibiting Trusses and Sprays**

A day or two before the show go around and make a list of the blooms you will pick on the morning, the day before the show. Organize whatever containers you will be using to transport your blooms to the show. They needn't be elaborate. Empty bottles or cans work well. Be careful to avoid crushing the blooms. Fill the containers with water almost to the top. Bottles in six-pack cartons are great for transporting blooms.

Picking blooms always takes more time than you think it will! When choosing trusses, select ones that have straight stems with the bloom at the top. Don't choose ones with crooked stems that are growing at odd angles (e.g. pointing straight down). When choosing sprays, look for ones that will present themselves gracefully in a bottle. Pieces of cork can be used to stabilize the stem in the neck of the bottle. Prune judiciously if need be to enhance the shape of a spray. Avoid choosing entries with bruises. Sometimes rain damage is inevitable, but avoid it if you can. Look for freshness. In a spray, it is better to have one or more unopened flower buds (for they frequently open after they have been picked) than to choose blooms that are already open and going over. Some judges like to see one or two unopened or partially opened buds, but a truss must not have flowers from more than one bud (except for the hammerhead class). Hammerhead definition (Seattle) is inflorescence with multiple rachis emanating from a single leaf stem.

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

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[illegible]



## NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

A visit to The Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden In Federal Way, Wa. February 26, 2016.  
A beautiful sunny day, 18° C. A few scenes from the gardens. (Susan Lightburn photos)



**The Stumperi**



**The Bog Leafs**



***R. lanigerum***



***R. strigillosum***



**Spring Colours**



**The alpines**