

The Rhodomentum



Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Newsletter

April 2019



Hello folks,

As I am the designated chair this April meeting, I thought that it might be prudent to get out a few words regarding our upcoming rhodo season. It sure has been great to get some warmth and now buds are swelling and the early rhodies are showing their finery.

If you have some rhodos that are blooming, it would be fun if you could bring us some samples. I remember that my grandmother, Mary Greig, used to have big vases full of cut flowers in her home during the blooming season. They were always quite spectacular. Obviously, some of their plants were large, and you couldn't tell if a plant were minus a few branches! Let's see what we as a group can come up with.

On Thursday, March 28th, on behalf of the NRS, Rosina Schmidt (your Vice President) and I travelled to Shirley, B. C. (west of Sooke) to attend the American Rhododendron Society District 1 spring meeting. All but one of the seven rhododendron societies in BC were represented. The meeting took place at the home and garden of Sean Rafferty and Brenda Macdonald. Sean is the current President of the Rhododendron Species Foundation and his wife Brenda is one of the editors of the annual publication of the Rhododendron Species Foundation. They have a five-acre property which they have developed over the last five years. It is on the waterfront and is full of amazing species rhodos and many other interesting

EXECUTIVE

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Vice President	Rosina Schmidt	751-3386
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Secretary	Jan Moles	758-2574
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Advertising	Jan Moles / June Bouchard
Library	Ann Beamish / Sandra Dorman
Newsletter	June Bouchard / John Deniseger
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Program	Committee
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey
Social	Susan Lightburn
Bargain Table	Reinhold Gorgosolich
Website	Craig Clarke
Bus Tour	David & Joyce Mitchell

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Next meeting: Thursday, April 11, at 7:30, Beban Park Social Center
Margot Moser – Native Plant Beauties for Small Garden Spaces

companion plants. It was very interesting to listen to the activities and ideas from all of the other clubs, five of which are on Vancouver Island. One of the issues that most clubs are facing is the smaller number of rhododendron growers in BC. Some of the growers are no longer in business and some clubs are now relying much more on their own propagating groups to find enough plants for their annual sales. This is definitely an issue for our club.

As you may be aware, our annual show and sale will be taking place on Saturday, May 11th. This year, the number of vendors we have is substantially lower than usual. We would like to encourage you to think of our club when you are working in your garden this spring. It would be great if you could pot up some of your rhododendrons (and other plants too!) and bring them to our show and sale to help flesh out our sales table, preferably in the rhodo department! The bigger the plant, the better. If you need help, talk to another club member or come to the April meeting and let me know you might need some help and we'll see if we can find members to help you out.

Looking forward to seeing you all on April 11th.

Cheers,

Chris Southwick

Our April Program – “A bit about Margot”:



Margot was born with a trowel in her hand and has no intention of ever putting it down.

It wasn't until she took Master Gardener courses 25 years ago that she realized she should have pursued a career in horticulture rather than teaching.

The Master Gardener manual inspired Margot to design a perpetual garden journal called “My Growing Garden book” that sold over 8,000 copies across Canada and the US in garden centres and gift shops.

Her passion for native plants began early as she explored the woods near her home in then-rural Burnaby and has influenced her preference for natural-looking landscapes. Her current garden in Nanoose Bay incorporates a wide selection of beautiful native perennials, shrubs and trees along with non-native plants such as rhododendrons and hellebores.

“The title ‘Native Plant Beauties for Small Garden Spaces’ pretty much sums up what my talk is about . . . bulbs, ferns and other perennials that can be planted in containers or tucked into small spots in the garden. Rather than include trees and shrubs that occupy a lot of space, my presentation focuses on lower-growing plants which can be found on the west coast of BC and are very adaptable to garden culture.”

NRS Program

Date	Speaker	Topic
May 9, 2019	Graham Sakaki – Research and Community Engagement Coordinator for the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute (MABRRI).	Mt Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve and Milner Phenology Project



Craig Clarke has decided to take a well-deserved break after many years on our club's executive. He'll continue to be our webmaster and a strong supporter of our club. Thank you for all your hard work and everything you've done over the years, Craig!

Twigs and Stems

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Goodies for April meeting - thank you to the following people:

Ann Beamish, Dorothee Kieser, and Sandra Dorman.

Eaglecrest Garden Club: Qualicum Beach Civic Center, April 17th, 7:00 pm. Speaker: Bryan Ellis – Pelargoniums. Guests \$3

Milner Gardens and Woodland: Spring Thursday - Sunday
Openings start Mar 28, 2019 until April 25th, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm (last entry at 4:30 pm) at shoulder season admission rates. Daily Openings start April 25 through to September 2 from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm with last entry at 4:30 pm. Spring plant sale Saturday April 27 & Sunday April 28 10:00 am - 4:00 pm in the Nursery. Check their website for other events and details.

<https://www2.viu.ca/milnergardens/events.asp>

Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society: Informal roundtable Q&A about rhododendron species, culture, and propagation! Experts will be on hand and all questions are welcome, from the simplest to the most complex. April 10th; 7:30 pm.

Nanaimo Horticultural Society: First United Fellowship Church, 595 Townsite Rd, April 10th, Jamie Wallace from Jaan Designs – “Regenerative Landscaping”

Nanose Garden Club: Connie Thompson – “Growing Dahlias”; Nanose Library Center and Event Hall, April 5th; 1:15 pm.

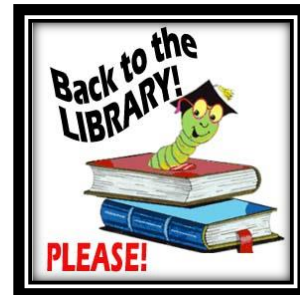
North Island Rhododendron Society: NIRS Past President Judi Murakami will present a colourful presentation of gardens toured in Bremen, Germany last spring while attending the 2018 ARS Convention. United Church in Comox, April 9th; 7:30 pm.

Qualicum Beach Garden Club: Donna Balzer ~ Growing Great Tomatoes and Pest Free Vegetables. QB Civic Center, April 9th; 7:30 pm.

We Volunteers

This month, we've decided not to remind you that we still need a president and a new coffee coordinator. You've all heard it by now and we thought we'd give you a break!





REMINDER!

A reminder to all who have NRS library books out to return them at our May meeting – our librarian Ann would like to do an inventory over the summer.

March 14, 2019 – General Meeting Minutes:

Welcome to members and guests.

- The meeting was opened by acting president June Bouchard at 7:40 pm.
- June Bouchard and John Deniseger co-chaired the meeting in the absence of an official president.
- June welcomed our speaker from Norway, Ole Jonny Larsen and his wife Kari, and many guests.
- The meeting agenda was altered to allow enough time for the presentations of our special guest: business as brief as possible; short presentation; break and raffle, long presentation.

Secretary's report:

- No correspondence
- Last Meeting minutes on the table

Treasurer's report:

Bfwd	\$8838.94
Rev	\$292.14
Expenses.	\$705.60
Balance at March 14	\$8425.48
1 uncashed cheque	\$50
Balance Forward	\$8375.48

Allen McRae - on Provincial Sales Tax (PST):

- The NRS executive passed a motion that starting this year the society will be collecting PST.
- The treasurer is in the process of making the application.

Allen McRae on Dr Craig Clarke:

- Craig has resigned from the board.
- He feels he needs some time off, after having served for many years. He will continue to be a member of the society and to run our website.
- The membership thanked him very much for all of his hard work.

David Mitchell - 2019 bus tour:

- Saturday, May 4th, 2019 – destination Saanich Peninsula. To join the tour please write down your name on list at back.
- Money will be collected at the April meeting.
- Any ideas for gardens that you would like to visit, please send them to David.

David Mitchell - Milner Gardens membership:

- Renewal available at a discount for club members, see David at the back.

Brenda Lewis. - 2019 Truss Show and Plant sale – Saturday, May 11th, (day before Mother's Day):

- Volunteers needed - sign-up sheets will be at front.
- Only 5 vendors so far have signed up for this year.
- The event went well last year so everybody please sign up to help.

Milner Gardens Work Bees:

- There will be a number of work days, first is Monday, March 18th – potentially continuing to 19th. Volunteers needed and very welcome, coffee and goodies available at the Lightburns.
- At 9am Monday, 30 rhodos will be moved from Art and Susans' to species garden – helpers please arrive with pickup at Art and Susan's – should be finished by mid-afternoon.
- Another opportunity to help in mid-April – planting bee for companion plants – date not set yet.

Raffle plants: Lucy Lou, Carmen, Sir Charles Lemon, Snow Lady.

Short Presentation – "Jean Rasmussen":

- Introduced by Chris Southwick, all the way from Norway, Ole Jonny Larsen and his wife Kari.
- Jonny is newly retired, taught for 42 years, made many plant hunting trips to "the wild".

- He is the leader of the Norwegian Rhodo Society, written many books, many articles for ARS, horticultural journals.

***** Coffee break, Raffle door prizes

Long presentation: "Rhododendron Species Culture in Scandinavia".

Thanks to our special guests who joined us for a very enjoyable and informative evening, Close.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 11th: Margot Moser on Native Plants.

Submitted by Jan Moles, NRS Secretary

THE BUCK STOPS HERE... RIDDING YOUR GARDEN OF DEER ON A DIME

by Lois Blackmore

(Reprinted with permission from the Victoria Rhododendron Society April Newsletter – thank you Doug Kitts for bringing this to our attention.)



1. Rotten Egg Spray: 3 each of eggs, crushed garlic cloves, 3 cups of water, 3 tbsp. of milk, cayenne pepper. Blend. Strain. Leave to brew for several days. Spray on plants and around the yard. Rinse sprayer after each use.

2. Red Hot Chili Pepper Spray: 4 habanero peppers, 1/4 c. water, 2 tbsp. olive oil, 3 tbsp. milk. Blend peppers in enough water to liquefy. Strain the mixture through a coffee filter. Mix in oil and milk. Add to a spray bottle and dilute to get a 1:10 solution. 1 part mixture to 10 parts water. Wear gloves.

3. Cayenne Pepper Spray: 4 eggs, 1tbsp. cayenne, 1tsp. black pepper, 3 drops liquid dish soap, 5 cloves crushed garlic. Fill gallon jug with water and add mixture. Leave to brew for several days. Spray on and around plants.

Our annual Plant Sale and Truss Show is coming up in a hurry –
Saturday, May 11th, 2019!!!



Here's a word from Brenda Lewis, our plant sale coordinator:

"We need people to sign up to volunteer to help to make this a successful show and sale! We also need donations of plants from members' gardens for the NRS table." **Sign-up sheets will be available at our April meeting.**

Do you have any extra 3-gallon pots? Paul Lawry is looking for some for potting up rhodos and azaleas for our plant sale.

Rhodos worth growing!

We asked Art and Susan Lightburn to give us their 3 favourite rhododendrons. They weren't able to limit themselves to just three, or was it that they couldn't come to a consensus? So instead, we have their six favourites – three each.

Art's Favourites:

R. albrechtii

Deciduous, open, upright flowers, early blooming, light to deep rose (purplish), 2 meters high in 10 years, hardy to at least -20°C, can take sun, from Japan 1000 to 2000 m.



R. 'Yellow Rolls Royce'

'Crest' x 'Odee Wright'; Hybrid by Spady, 1.5 m high in 10 years. Source: Ken Gibson in Tofino.

Glossy green foliage, wavy-edged, large rich yellow, long lasting blooms with a small red blotch. Takes a fair amount of sun and is good to -12 C; early season bloomer which benefits from afternoon shade.



R. 'Langley Tranquility'

'Graf Zeppelin' x 'King of Shrubs'; hybridized by Bev & Les Clay, Langley, BC. Unregistered, 1 meter high in 10 years, takes sun and good to at least -15 °C. A tidy, compact plant with dark green, curly leaves, floriferous – soft multi-coloured bloom.



Susan's Favourites:

R. 'Cinnamon Bear'

Cecil Smith was a "leaf turner" and loved the fine indumentum of *R. yakushimanum* and *R. bureavii*. He combined these two species and produced *R. 'Cinnamon Bear'*.

Flower: White, bell-shaped blooms, about 20 per truss. Height after ten years: two feet. Habit: Compact.





R. haematodes

Excellent for both foliage and flower. This plant should be in your garden of low growing plants. Glistening, brilliant scarlet, tubular, bell-shaped flowers are carried in trusses of up to 10. The smooth, dark green leaves are densely covered with woolly brown to dark brown indumentum underneath. (-20C)

R. calophytum

The “beautiful-face rhododendron” is a species of flowering plants native to the forests of central and eastern China, where it lives at altitudes of 1,400 - 4,000 m (4,600 - 13,100 ft). Growing to 12 m (39 ft) tall and 8 m (26 ft) broad, it is a substantial evergreen shrub. The leathery leaves are up to 30 cm (12 in) long. In early spring, trusses of bell-shaped, white or pale pink flowers, spotted with maroon inside, are produced.



In cultivation in the UK, *Rhododendron calophytum* has gained the Royal Horticultural Society’s Award of Garden Merit. Like most rhododendrons, it prefers an acid soil. It is hardy down to -15 °C (5 °F).

Useful Links

Victoria Rhododendron Society: victoriarhodo.ca/index.html

Cowichan Rhododendron Society: cowichanrhodos.ca/

Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society: marsrhodos.ca/

North Island Rhododendron Society: nirsrhodos.ca/ws/

The American Rhododendron Society: rhododendron.org/

Linda Gilkeson’s website: lindagilkeson.ca/

Nanoose Bay Garden Club: nanoosegardenclub.ca/

Greig Species Garden – Update:

On Monday March 18th, a group of 15 volunteers from the NRS, MARS and the NIRS transported 30 large rhododendrons generously donated by Susan and Art Lightburn to the Greig Species Garden at Milner. Thanks to some advance planning, we were able to plant each of the rhodos into their new home. Now, we just need a little rain to help them settle in.... (Photos by Craig Clarke)



Raffle plants for April meeting

'Seaview Sunset'

This early bloomer has vivid, reddish-orange buds, open to light yellow flowers, with a broad band of reddish-orange and mature pure gold. Absolutely stunning blooms against outstanding, slightly glossy, dark green foliage. 3' x 3' Hybridizer: Frank Fujioka



'Phyllis Korn'

A beautiful upright well-branched plant; mid-spring bloomer with stunning white flowers with currant red blotches. It should be about 5 feet high after 10 years, is very hardy to -29C, and is rated 4/4/4. ('Diane' X 'Gomer Waterer'). Hybridized by Korn.



Annual Truss Show - Part 1 by Jan Moles

Saturday, May 11 (The day before Mother's Day) at Beban Park Centennial Building 10am to 2pm

Last year, the annual truss show was exciting with entries from seasoned rhododendron growers and new members alike. If you have a beautiful rhododendron in your garden, blooming at the right time, think about entering, just one truss, or many.

This year there will be more display tables available, so if you do not want to enter the competition and you have a favourite in your garden that is in glorious form, bloom or foliage, consider bringing it for the display only table to help make the show more appealing to the eye and to share the joy!



2018: The judges take their time and look seriously at each class. Glenda and Liz are showing the judges where each class can be found, following the judges to record the results and re-arranging the entries for better visibility when necessary. This year there will be notes recorded from the judges where they have comments to make about a specific entry, e.g. in 2018 there was a truss which could have won a prize if the entrant had cleaned up the truss, removed dead pieces of sepal or other debris.



Azalea Sprays on the display table



Foliage Class in the Truss Show

Consider entering a truss this year – it is not just for experts; it could be a flower, an azalea spray, or a truss into the foliage class; foliage can be stunning on its own! New members entering the show for the very first time can win a prize.



Two long term members celebrating an outstanding entry in the foliage class

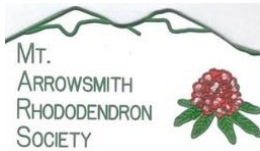


Surprise for debutante in 2017; a commendation for Rt Hon Jean Marie de Montague

Hope to see you all on the weekend of the show, if you don't want to enter, come and enjoy the spectacle!

To enter involves gathering your entries the night before, filling in your entry forms in advance, turning up between 6pm and 8pm on Friday 10th to make your entry if at all possible, or before 7:30 on the Saturday morning. Club members will be available on arrival to help set up your entries, answer any questions....

Detailed instructions on how to enter will be available on our website under Truss Show, in the next Rhodomentum newsletter, and at the April 11th Meeting. "Hints and Tips" will be available on how to clean up your truss for best presentation. There is a poster available for download on the website if you have somewhere you can display it, or hand it out. All help with advertising is very welcome!



Coming this Fall!!

ARS 2019 Western Regional Fall Conference

**'Rhododendrons by the Seaside' – hosted by the Mount Arrowsmith
Rhododendron Society**

Sept 27-29, 2019 at the Parksville Community and Conference Center

It's going to be a special event you won't want to miss. Great speakers, tours, workshops, plant sale and more. Registration begins April 2nd, don't miss out, book early. For more information and to register visit our website at: www.marsrhodos.ca/conference

Mark your calendar!

The 19th Annual N.R.S. Bus Tour

Destination – Saanich Peninsula

Saturday, May 4th, 2019



Continuing our tradition of visiting a great mixture of gardens, nurseries and special places!!! More details at the April meeting and in upcoming newsletters.

It's not too early to book your seat – sign up at our meeting or contact David and Joyce Mitchell at 250 245 5601 or David's cell at 250-729-6498 or email at drumsbythesea@shaw.ca

Seen in Passing.....

- Spring at last!
- Sea lions, eagles, seagulls and boats following the herring spawn.
- Rhododendrons in bloom.
- Dry (too dry?), sunny weather.
- Program committee working hard on next year's program.



Happy Easter!

Looking forward to seeing you all at the meeting!