



# The Rhodomentum

## Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Newsletter



April 2022



### President's Message

The Year of the Garden

Hello Spring! How great to see your arrival!!! The birds are back, the bumblebees are busy already and much is abloom in our gardens, especially the early blooming rhododendrons. At Hailey Grove, the *R. sutchuenense* var. *geraldii* with its pink flowers and the burgundy blotch is blooming spectacularly. (See photos p. 14) There is so much to report on our preparations to celebrate "The Year of the Garden"! It's all available on [our website](#) as well as in this newsletter. To all those "busy beaver" committee members working on it, our huge "thank you!" Some important notes:

**From April 28<sup>th</sup> to May 28<sup>th</sup>:** 'members only' list of open gardens is on the website and can be downloaded (See also pp. 5&7).

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Lionel de Rothschild coming from England! He will be talking about **Exbury Garden: Past and Present**, as well as his new book: "*The Eighth Wonder of the World*". (See pp. 2-3 for full details). We're hoping for a big turnout so please share this exciting news with your gardening friends.

**April 26<sup>th</sup> – "Year of the Garden" Celebration at Milner Gardens** – a very important event for our club! Free admission for NRS members. Please wear your NRS nametag – light refreshments will be served. (See p. 6 for full details.)

**April 30<sup>th</sup> – NRS Truss Show and Plant Sale:** in case you have not already signed up, the sign-up sheet will be available again at our April 22nd meeting. We need everyone's help, please. 😊 **All trusses for the show must be delivered on the evening of the 29<sup>th</sup> starting at 6 p.m. until 8:00** as well as your generous contributions to the raffle table. No coffee or food will be offered during the sale event. Please share the Truss Show poster with your friends and neighbors – it is available on our website. On the 30<sup>th</sup>, the doors will open at 7:30 a.m. for the vendor's delivery. NRS members can begin purchasing plants at 9:30 a.m. and the general public at 10 a.m. The show will end at 2 p.m. (See pp. 8-13 for full details)

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Happy Year of the Garden!

Rosina

### OUR EXECUTIVE

President	Rosina Schmidt	751-3386
Vice President	Chris Southwick	390-3415
Past President	Allen McRae	758-7589
Secretary	Deborah Francis	
Treasurer	Ron Sutton	416 951-1373
Directors	Ann Beamish	758-2574
	Dorothee Kieser	390-4136
	Gaylle McRae	758-7589

### COMMITTEES:

Advertising	Allen McRae
Library	Ann Beamish / Gaylle McRae
Newsletter	June Bouchard / John Deniseger
Membership	Jan Moles
Program	by Committee
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey
Social	Deborah Francis
Bargain Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich
Website	Deborah Francis/Rosina Schmidt
Bus Tour	David & Joyce Mitchell
Sunshine	Wanda Brenton
Propagation	Rosina Schmidt
Hailey Grove	Kevin Francis
Show and Sale	Jan Moles and Brenda Lewis

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

April Meeting ~ in person!! 😊

Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30

Lionel de Rothschild on

"Exbury Garden: Past and Present"

## Nanaimo Rhododendron Society

Presents A Very Special Event – all the way from England!

# Exbury Garden: Past and Present

by **Lionel de Rothschild**

Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 pm

Beban Park, Nanaimo: Rooms 1-3

**FREE ADMISSION; NON-MEMBERS WELCOME!**

It is just over 100 years since Lionel de Rothschild started work on one of the best-known woodland gardens in the world, one devoted above all to his favourite plant, the rhododendron. In just twenty years he created one of the largest gardens of its kind, as well as funding a number of the plant hunters of the day and creating many beautiful hybrids.

His work was continued by his sons and is now looked after by the two generations after that. His grandson, Lionel, will talk about the history and about the plants in this iconic garden.



*Lionel de Rothschild is the grandson and namesake of the creator of Exbury Gardens. He has written and lectured on Exbury Garden, rhododendrons, and other Rothschild gardens. He is also a trustee of The Rothschild Archive in London and sits on the Garden Council of Borde Hill Gardens in West Sussex.*

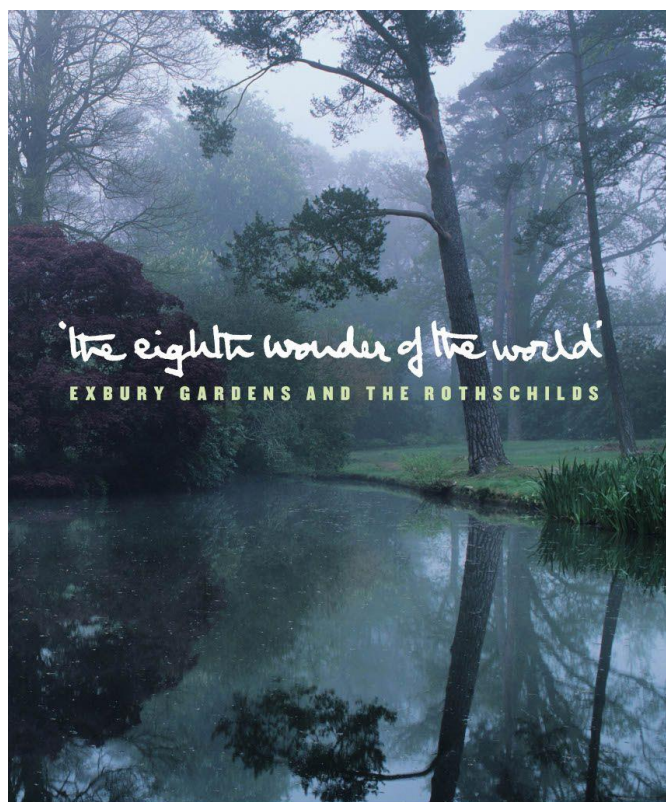
**Note:** Lionel de Rothschild has just published a new book: *“The Eighth Wonder of the World: Exbury Gardens and the Rothschilds”*.

## *Here's more information on the book from Unicorn Publishers and Lionel de Rothschild:*

### **"The Eighth Wonder of the World: Exbury Gardens and the Rothschilds"**

By Lionel de Rothschild and Francesca Murray Rowlinson

The history of Hampshire's renowned Exbury Gardens and the extraordinary achievement of Lionel de Rothschild in creating them.



This book celebrates Lionel de Rothschild (1882–1942) and his vision in creating Exbury Gardens, a two-hundred-acre woodland garden in Hampshire, and all those who have worked to realize its beauty. Ten chapters tell the story of the prominent Rothschild family and their horticulture project at Exbury, detailing Lionel's life, the intrepid plant hunters he sponsored, and the influence the plants had on gardens in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Richly illustrated with more than two hundred images, many published for the first time, *The Eighth Wonder of the World* chronicles the life of Exbury itself from before the arrival of the Rothschilds, into the war years, and beyond. The book places Exbury at the center of the development of private and public gardens—above all for rhododendrons—in the British Isles during the interwar years. In a stunning exploration of the woodland gardens, the book

showcases the fascinating collections of rare plants, shrubs, and trees that remain on show today, as well as the famed rhododendrons, azaleas, magnolias, and camellias.

**If you wish to purchase the book, [click here](#) .**

**Normally, it is available on line for \$45US. However, the publisher has arranged to offer ARS members a 20% discount. To get the discount, enter the PROMO code 8THWONDER when you place your order. All proceeds go to Exbury Gardens, which is run as a non-profit organization.**

**N.R.S. Calendar** – Spring is coming and it's the Year of the Garden! There are many events being planned – you will want to mark your calendars!! It's going to be busy!!!! Don't forget to tell your friends! As always, we will be following the appropriate public health guidelines.



**Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>:** Hailey Grove work bee: 10 am to 2 pm.

**Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Regular meeting – speaker: Lionel de Rothschild – Exbury Gardens.

**Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>:** "Year of the Garden – A Celebration of Rhododendrons" – Special Event for all Vancouver Island ARS chapter members – to be held at the Greig Rhododendron Species Garden at Milner Gardens and Woodland.

**April 28<sup>th</sup> through May 28<sup>th</sup>:** A number of open gardens by members for members (see p.5).

**Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>:** Garden tour of several NRS and NIRS members gardens. A bus tour without a bus – provide your own transportation – car pool as much as possible - travel in a "convoy". A schedule and details are found on page 7.

**Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>:** NRS Annual Plant sale and Truss Show – Centennial Bldg, Beban Park.

**Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>:** Hailey Grove Work Bee: 10 am to 2 pm.

**Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>:** Regular meeting- speaker: Allison McCabe – Invasive Species.

**Saturday/Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup>:** NRS Public Garden Tour.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Twigs and Stems: Calendar of Other Upcoming Events:



**Milner Gardens and Woodland:** – open Thursday thru Sunday from 10am to 4pm. Check the Milner website for details: [Milner Garden Events](#)

For NRS members: Milner Gardens discounted memberships will be available to the end of May, 2022. Please bring your valid NRS membership card to the Welcome & Interpretive Centre during open hours to complete your application and pick up your Milner Gardens membership card.

### **Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society:**

- Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>; 7:30pm, Qualicum Beach Community Center – 'My Recommended Pacific Northwest Garden Species (Other than Rhododendrons and Conifers)' – Glen Jamieson
- Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:30, Qualicum Beach Community Center – 'Exbury Gardens: Past and Present' – Lionel de Rothschild
- May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 10am to 4pm - Mother's Day Weekend Garden Tour

**North Island Rhododendron Society:** Wednesday, April 20<sup>st</sup>, Komox First Nations Hall, 7:30 pm. 'Exbury Gardens: Past and Present' – Lionel de Rothschild

**Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society:** Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> 7:30 via Zoom, 'Bringing the World to Milner Gardens: The Story of the Greig Rhododendron Species Garden' – John Deniseger.



## *The Year of the Garden - Spring Open Gardens*



We are having a series of open gardens for members only, from late April to late May. On April 28<sup>th</sup>, there will be a joint NRS/MARS garden tour for members only. In mid-May, we're having an N.R.S. public garden tour as a fundraiser for our club – the dates of the Public Tour are Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. The cost will be \$15 per ticket which gives people access to all of the gardens for two days. The organizers of this tour are busy looking for

volunteers to act as garden sitters to take tickets for the public tour. If you are interested in helping out by garden sitting, Gayle and Chris would be **very happy** to hear from you at [csouthwick@shaw.ca](mailto:csouthwick@shaw.ca) or [allengaylle@shaw.ca](mailto:allengaylle@shaw.ca)

Obviously, we will have to be cognizant of the latest Ministry of Health guidelines, but we are thinking that this spring will be better for us than the last two with regard to being out and enjoying the fruits of our gardening friends' labours!

## **NRS MEMBERS OPEN GARDENS SCHEDULE – Spring 2022**

As we slowly move into spring, we're able to start planning our club's garden events (while keeping an eye on PHO guidelines). The good news is that we're back to having a series of open gardens, thanks to the generosity of a number of our club members. **Please note that these open gardens are for members only.**

Here's the schedule as it stands so far:

**April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022** (Thursday): June and John – 4555 Thompson Clarke Dr. East, Bowser, BC (together with MARS) – see schedule on p. 7.

**April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022** (Thursday): Rea and Ron Sutton – 7310 Cougar Smith Rd., Fanny Bay, BC (together with MARS) – see schedule on p.7.

**May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022** (Friday): 2-5 pm – Robert Nixon – 6250 Azure Road, Nanaimo

**May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022** – (Saturday): 10 am – 3 pm – Dorothee Kieser – 6299 Pearce Rd. Nanaimo

**May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022** – (Monday): 4 – 7 pm – Chris Southwick – 6647 Green Acres Way, Nanaimo

**May 23<sup>th</sup>, 2022** (Victoria Day, Monday): 2 – 5 pm - Ann and Dick Beamish – 3904 Hammond Bay Rd., Nanaimo

**May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022** (Saturday): 2 – 5 pm – Linda and Paul Lawry - 118 -5854 Turner Rd., Nanaimo

## A Special Event at the Greig Rhododendron Species Garden



Rhododendron season is back and heating up. Milner Gardens and Woodlands is inviting members of all District One chapters to a celebration of the Greig Species Garden on Tuesday, April 26th, 1 to 3 pm. Milner will be open only to ARS members at that time (free admission).

It's a low-key affair with refreshments and few brief speeches, giving everyone a chance to wander the paths while recognizing and appreciating how it has progressed.

The Greig garden opened four years ago; since then, many more rhododendrons and trees have been planted and bulbs and drifts of companion plants added, totally transforming the area. In all, there are more than 220 species rhodos here with a few more to come.



Hope to see you there!

**\*\* Our propagation group could use more 2-gallon pots. If you have pots that you'd like to donate to the group, please contact Rosina or Chris.**

## Mt. Arrowsmith & Nanaimo Rhododendron Societies Car Tour to North Island

### Itinerary for Nanaimo RS on Thursday, April 28, 2022

Here is the list of gardens and visiting times for Nanaimo RS members. The tour is for chapter members and spouses/partners only in order to keep the numbers down and not overwhelm neighbourhoods with too many cars. Please carpool wherever possible. Please stick to this schedule. Two clubs are touring on the same day but they will not be in the gardens at the same time. Some garden owners have graciously offered tea and coffee. But please bring your own lunch, snacks and drinks. Please use your smart phone Maps or Google to find the best route to the gardens.



### The Gardens

John Deniseger/June Bouchard  
4555 Thompson Clarke Road East  
Bowser, BC

Outback Nursery  
6016 Headquarters Road  
Courtenay V9J 1M7

Carolyn Chester  
2636 Parker Road, Courtenay  
V9J 1S6

Paradise Plants  
2480 Hardy Road  
Courtenay (2 mins from Carolyn)

Robert Argall  
387 Wireless Road  
Courtenay

Ron Sutton  
7310 Cougar Smith Road  
Fanny Bay V0R 1W0

### The Schedule for Nanaimo Rhododendron Society

Time	Location	Comment/Status
	Leave Home for Outback Nursery	Or Paradise Plants
10:15	Arrive Outback Nursery or Paradise Plants	40 min at Outback
11:00	Leave Outback or Paradise	10 min to Chester
11:15	Arrive Carolyn Chester garden	45 min to tour
12:00	Leave Chester Garden	20 to Argall
12:20	Arrive Robert Argall garden	60 min to tour
1:20	Leave Argall Garden	40 drive to Sutton
2:00	Arrive Rea and Ron Sutton garden	50 min to tour
2:50	Leave Sutton Garden	20 min to Deniseger
3:15	Arrive Deniseger/Bouchard garden	45 min tour
4:00	Leave Deniseger	Drive home



# Nanaimo Rhododendron Society

## Annual Plant Sale and Flower Show

Beban Park Centennial Building

Saturday, April 30th - 10:00 am to 2:00 pm



The plant sale hosts vendors and growers from all over Vancouver Island, specializing in rhododendrons, unique and interesting perennials, alpine and woodland plants, bulbs and seeds....

Members enter rhododendron trusses to the flower show – illustrating the great variety of rhodo blooms and foliage, hybrids and species. Judges will choose the best in each category.

*Join us – admission is free*

*A great place to get a beautiful plant for your garden, for a friend, for Mother's Day....*

For details of the event, see: <http://nanaimorhodos.ca/truss-show/>



# Annual NRS Truss Show by Jan Moles

**Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at Beban Park Centennial Building 10am to 2pm**

Our last event was in 2019, so we are so happy to be able to stage the Truss Show and Plant Sale once more. We are a little earlier this year (about 2 weeks) and so we may see a whole new set of trusses! It is exciting to be doing this again. If you have a beautiful rhododendron in your garden, blooming at the right time, think about entering, just one truss, or many. Come help us make it a showcase for rhododendrons.

There will be 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! Below, I would like to share with you a few photos from previous shows.



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.

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.



We think it is 'Midnight Mystique' on the Display Table, 2019



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

Consider entering a truss this year – it is not just for experts; it could be a flower truss, 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



Worker Bees Setting up the Truss Show 2019

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 5:30pm and 8pm on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> to make your entry if at all possible, or around 7 am on the Saturday morning for those



who really can't make it because they live outside of Nanaimo. Club members will be available on arrival to help set up your entries, answer any questions....

Detailed instructions on how to enter are available on our website under Truss Show. 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.

### Last minute instructions for entering Rhodo Trusses to the show on 30<sup>th</sup> April:

1. Be sure to read the Hints and Tips section below on picking your entries for the show, on preparing them for entry and on displaying your rhodo trusses to the best advantage.
2. **Entries need to be received at the registration desk between 5:30 and 7:30 pm on Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> if possible please.** If you come from far and need to register on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>, registration clerks will be available from 7:00am and the last entries will be accepted at the registration desk at 7:30 am; all entries arriving after that time will not be entered and will be displayed on the 'display only' table.
3. Please complete the two-part registration form (see below, pp.12-13):
  - a. Page 1 is a list of your entries with the class if at all possible please. (the clerk will retain this page)
  - b. Page 2 is a list of your entries **in exactly the same order** as on page 1 (this list is for you to keep track of your entries and to help transfer them to the show table) (You can find the 2-page registration form on the NRS Web site and also in the newsletter below. A list of rhodos by class can be found on the NRS web site 'Truss Show' section and if in doubt, help will be available at the registration desk to find the correct class for the entry).
4. At the registration desk, please put your entries in the water bottles provided and line them up on one of the tables adjacent to the desk, **in the order in which they appear on page 1 of the form.** Corks are available to help display your entries to advantage in the bottles.
5. Take your registration form to the desk. The registration clerk should return page 2 to you.
6. You will receive a card for each entry from the registration clerk which will have the name and class of the rhodo truss and an entry number on a small sticker.
7. Put each card into a wooden card-holder next to the correct entry, and with the help of a registration clerk, the entries will be transferred to the show display tables to the correct sections.
8. Good luck! 😊

**If you have a particular rhodo truss or foliage, beautiful, a bit different that you think people might like to see - but not for entry to the show - please bring it for the 'display only' table.**

	<p><i>Oreotrephes</i> is an Elepidote Species.</p> <p>Species are botanically identified plants originating from seed or cuttings.</p>		<p>'Black Widow', a 'red' hybrid was the PEOPLE'S CHOICE in 2019.</p> <p>Hybrids are plants resulting from cross-breeding of more than one species, hybrid, or combination thereof.</p>
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## 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 in 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. You can remove a damaged leaf or two, as long as you leave a set of leaves in good condition encircling the bloom. Remove additional leaves further down the stem. 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 past their best. 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".

\*\*\*\*\*



'Thor' won BEST IN SHOW in 2019, it has a 'Lax Truss' where the individual flowers are loose, not rigid



'Irene Koster' featured in the 'Azalea (Truss or Spray)' class in 2019: Multi-stems emerging from a single stem



Foliage: *Macabea*, winner of 2020 online show.



Azalea *Schlippenbachii* winner of 2020 online show.

Truss Show Registration Form – to be handed to registration clerk

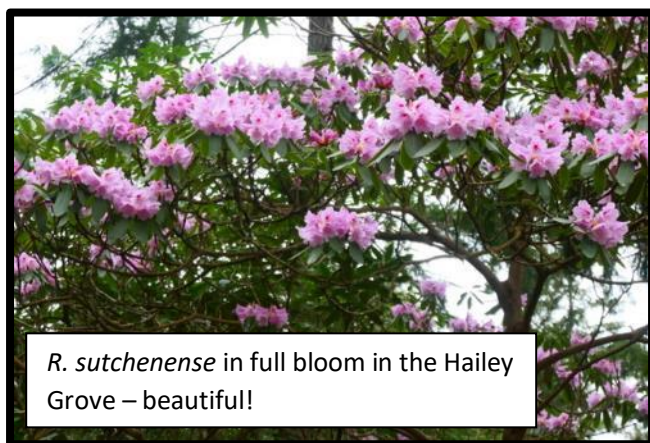
Number <u>Please leave blank</u>	Entrant's Name	Truss Name	Category/Class



Truss Name	Truss Name

## *Hailey Rhododendron Grove at Bowen Park - from Rosina*

Photos of the Hailey Grove crew on March 10<sup>th</sup>.



*R. sutchense* in full bloom in the Hailey Grove – beautiful!



*R. sutchense* – a close up



Our next work bee is on Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> –  
10am to 2pm! Come and join the fun – as  
they say... “Many hands make light work!”  
Bring your lunch and a sunny disposition!



*Stay connected - check our web page -  
new things added regularly!*

<http://nanaimorhodos.ca/>



## Plant of the Month by Ron Sutton

### Azalea 'Nuccio's Purple Dragon'

Here is a floriferous eye-catching evergreen azalea that's a *R. stenopetalum* 'Linearifolium' hybrid. It is very similar to Azalea 'Koromo Shikibu'. The 3.5-inch long strap-like flowers are medium purple, often streaked with white. The leaves are medium green with fine hairs. It is hardy to 0°F and will grow to 4 feet wide by 3 feet high. It likes full sun, and was unaffected by the heat wave of 2021.



My plant in the photo above, was photographed May 3<sup>rd</sup>, and was just beginning to open. It was purchased from Whitney Gardens.

The photo on the left, taken May 30<sup>th</sup>, is a plant in full bloom. This is the one I had in Ontario, where it had to be wintered in the garage. It was purchased from Greer Gardens.

### Rosina's April Gardening Calendar:

**General:** Apply beneficial nematodes to rhododendrons and the lawn;

Divide summer flowering perennials; plant new perennials;

Rake out moss from the lawn and seed it if necessary. Prune shrubs after flowering, including rhododendrons; fertilize with all-purpose 6-8-6. Place peony support rings before growth gets too tall. Apply slug bait around newly emerging Hostas. When apples and lilac bloom, plant squash, cucumber and beans; wait for Spireas to bloom to plant the tomatoes.

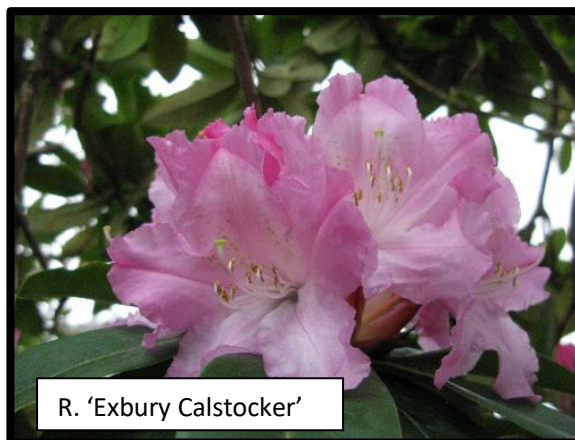
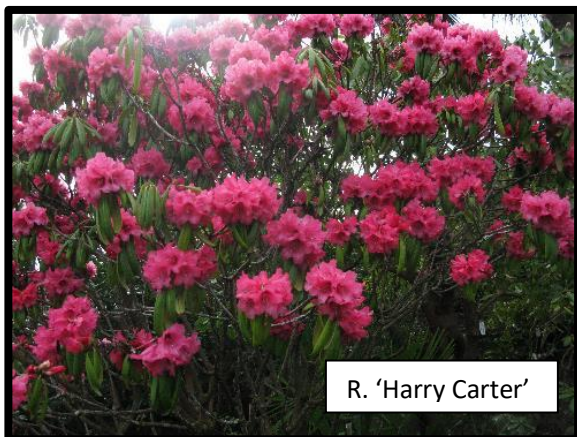
**Rhododendrons:** continue tip pruning the developing leaf buds and dead-heading the spent flowers; mulch with wood chips; fertilize after blooming.

**Mason Bees:** add additional nests, according to blossom presence. Plant early flowering plants that bloom when there are few flowers present.



## *Blooming in the Beamish Garden March 24, 2022* (17 species, 21 hybrids)

**Species:** *Arboreum*, *Arizelum*, *Asterochnoum*, *Auriculatum*, *Basilicum*, *Falconeri*, *Fulvum*, *Grande*, *Kesangiae*, *Lutescens*, *Magnificum*, *Mallotum*, *Monstroeanum*, *Niveum*, *Nobleanum coccineum*, *Praestans*, *Rirei*, *Sinogrande*, *Sutchuenense*, **Hybrids:** Christmas Cheer, Clayoquot Warrior, Cloudburst, Cornubia, Edith Boulter, Exbury Calstocker, Grace Seabrook, Harry Carter, Heatherside Beauty, Inkspots, Lee's Scarlet, Macabeaum X Promise of Spring, Malahat, Maxine Childers, Peach Charm, Peter Falk, Princess Abhkazi, PJM, Rose Vallon, Sir Charles Lemon X Etta Burrows, Sir Charles Lemon, Something Lovely, Tara Lynn.





*Photos of the Lightburn's Beautiful Garden  
taken on March 10<sup>th</sup> by Rosina!*











**Come one Come all!** It's time to get on board for the long-awaited 75<sup>th</sup> (plus 2) ARS Anniversary Convention. There's still room on the tours, in the hotel, in the special meetings and banquets.

If you're in the area, please register and attend one or more of the events. All on Saturday, daytime, are free with registration—the morning clinics and afternoon sessions with three excellent speakers: Juliana Medeiros, Steve Krebs, Valerie Soza. Check out the [schedule](#). The **Plant & Book Sale** will have some wonderful plants and you'll find an amazing collection of books (three lists are included on the [website](#)).



And just in case you think you've "been there, done that" – the chance to tour **Iseli Nursery** (Thursday) is a rare one. This is one of the most outstanding conifer displays and collections in the world (above).



**The Stewart Garden** (formerly Dover Nursery)

That Thursday tour includes a visit with catered lunch at the **Stewart Garden**, formerly Dover Nursery, where Mike and Maria have been installing new beds, boulders, and beautiful trees and plants over several years for the occasion—not to be missed.



**Sebright Gardens, Woodburn Nursery:** also new to northwest conventions. And the pre-tour and post-tour are both packed with destinations sure to thrill plant lovers.



**Dan Hinkley** is now scheduled to do talks on Thursday and Saturday. You're probably aware what a treasure he is to the northwest plant world. Thursday evening he'll be talking about the development of his own garden, and his book recently published, *Windcliff*. As one of the intrepid plant explorers, he'll be sharing his 22 years of botanizing in Vietnam at the Saturday lunch—a nice balance to Steve Hootman's treks seeking species rhodies there.

**We're getting down  
to the wire!**

Join your rhody friends! We are under-booked (about half of the number registered in 2020), so **we would really appreciate your support**. Registration & details at [www.ars2022.org](http://www.ars2022.org)

Click [HERE](#) for the **revised convention video**.

<h2>Spring Events</h2> <p><b>Spring Friday Saturday Openings</b> Enjoy the early Spring blooms. Gardens and Gift Shop open. Open Fridays and Saturdays March 4 – 26 11am – 3pm, viewing until 3:30pm Stay tuned for Camellia Tea Room opening details.</p> <p><b>Shoulder Season Begins</b> March 31 Open Thursday to Sunday 11am to 4:30pm, viewing until 5pm</p> <p><b>Bunny Trail</b> April 15 - 17</p> <p><b>Spring Plant Sale</b> April 30 – May 1, 11am – 4pm at winter admission rates Members Only Early Access on April 29, 5pm – 6pm Great prices on heritage plants.</p>	
<p>2179 West Island Highway, Qualicum Beach 250-752-6153</p> <p> VANCOUVER ISLAND UNIVERSITY</p> <p> MILNER GARDENS</p> <p><a href="http://milnergardens.viu.ca">milnergardens.viu.ca</a> Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/VIUMilnerGardens">VIUMilnerGardens</a> Instagram: <a href="https://www.instagram.com/MilnerGardens">@MilnerGardens</a></p>	

**\*\*\*Another request: donations for the raffle table at the Truss Show needed – please contact a member of the executive if you have anything to contribute.**

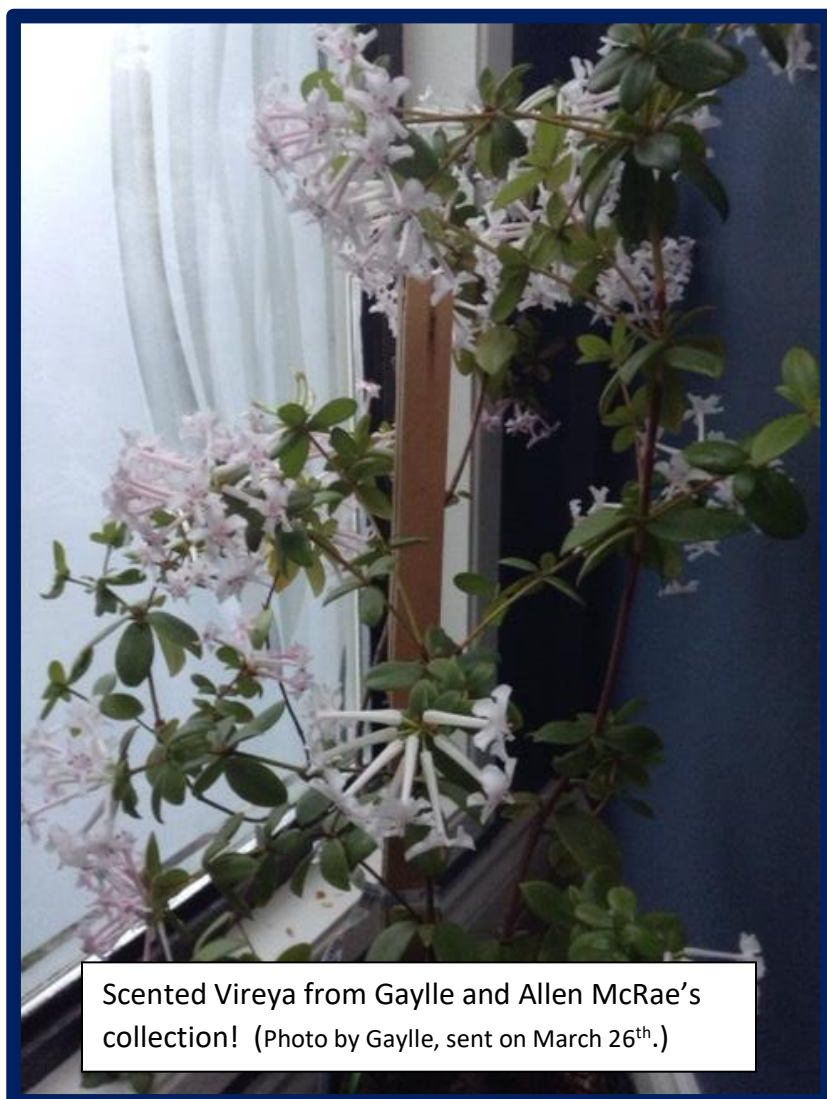
*"April rain is here again,  
Hear it pitter, pitter, patter,  
On the leaves and on the trees,  
See it spitter, spitter, spatter.  
Rain, oh rain, don't go away  
We need you for flow'rs in May;  
Drip, drip, drop and do not stop,  
Send a little rain our way."  
- Nina B. Hartford, April Rain*



*Happy Easter  
Everyone!*



*See you all on  
Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>  
for an exciting  
evening with  
Lionel de  
Rothschild of  
Exbury!*



Scented Vireya from Gaylle and Allen McRae's collection! (Photo by Gaylle, sent on March 26<sup>th</sup>.)

