

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



December 2005  
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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Many of you will have noticed in the paper, that one of our members, Dick Beamish, has received an "honourary award from his Russian colleagues for his contribution to fishery research in the Pacific Ocean". Dick is the first non-Russian and first Canadian to be recognized for his work by TINRO, an internationally renowned facility. All the members of the NRS congratulate you on receiving this honour. Once again I would like to thank all of you who helped make our last meeting enjoyable, in particular Mike Miller, Craig Clark and Richard White. The topic of rhododendron leaves, I believe, was of great interest to all who attended the meeting. Just a reminder to those of you who have still not paid your fees-please get them in soon-we need your financial support. On Thursday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm-please note the time-we will be starting our pot luck supper-finger food and Christmas auction. Please come and bring your spouse, or a friend to share the fun of the evening. Members are reminded to bring some "finger food", something for the auction if you can, and a donation of non-perishable food for the needy. Also bring some "cash" as there should be some plants or other items you may wish to buy. Come and have some fun and support our fund raiser. Drinks will be provided. See you there, Allen.

## EXECUTIVE

President	Allen McRae	758-7589
Vice President	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Secretary	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Treasurer	Gayle McRae	758-7589
Directors	Valerie Harvey	754-6659
	Debbie Gaboury	758-1204
	Glenda Barr	390-2822
	Pat Schulson	245-3369
	Mike Miller	758-2879
	Chris Southwick	758-0993

## COMMITTEES

Advertising	Mike Miller	758-2879
Library	Vacant	
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Program	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey	
Social	Pat Schulson	245-3369
Dollar Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society  
Box 241, #1 – 5765 Turner Road  
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4

Website: [nanaimo.rhodos.ca](http://nanaimo.rhodos.ca)  
email: [nanaimo@rhodos.ca](mailto:nanaimo@rhodos.ca)



## NEXT MEETING

**DECEMBER 8, 2005**

**BEBAN PARK**

**6:30 PM**

**CHRISTMAS PARTY AND AUCTION**

Please bring an item for the auction and finger food to share  
Those who bring a donation for the food bank will be entered for a draw

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society  
General Meeting  
November 10, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 7:35. There were 32 members and guests present.

Minutes of the October meeting were passed. Correspondence from Butchart Gardens regarding greenhouse tours; newsletters from various clubs.

Treasurer's Report: General Account: \$2,626.88, Legacy Account \$156.35 (transaction to move this into the general account has not yet shown on the statement), Library fund \$16.32. (books purchased in the amount of \$58.00).

Library: we still need a Librarian. Three new books in the library: *Wild Rhododendrons of Bhutan*, *The Pacific Rhododendron Story*, *Rhododendron of Nepal*. *George Forrest, Plant Hunter* has been returned to the library, this is an excellent book.

Program: tonight's speaker, Christine Dawe, is ill and will be rescheduled. December meeting will be the annual auction and Christmas social. January will be Michael Miller speaking his trip to Bhutan.

Rhododendron Species Foundation order has arrived and will be picked up next week. Craig will contact you.

Memberships are due tonight for this year's membership.

Social: bring potluck "finger food" for the party and something to sell in the acution.

Bowen Park North American Species garden: Mike Miller and Richard White are speaking to the City of Nanaimo about developing a bed devoted to species Rhododendrons of North America.


Gayle and Allen McRae have cleaned out our storage cupboard and put in some more shelves. Thank you Allen and Gayle!

Next Executive Meeting November 17 at Chris Southwick's.

Door prizes won by Liisa Rullo, Richard White, Kathryn Grant.

Raffle winners: Paul Lawry, Bill Hardy, Liisa Rullo, Richard White(X2), Kathryn Grant.

The video "The Rhododendron Leaf" was shown, followed by a discussion on the different leaf types by Craig Clarke and Richard White, and general discussion about rhododendron care.



**Hidden Acres  
Rhododendrons**  
Paul & Lynn Wurz  
4367 Gordon Rd.  
Campbell River, B.C.  
1-250-287-4301  
pwurz@oberon.ark.com

<http://hiddenacresbc.tripod.com>  
*growers of specialty rhododendrons*

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## elepidote

Without scales, as opposed to lepidote (with scales).

## lepidote

Having scales. Tiny scales typically cover the undersides of the leaves. Characteristic used to separate the genus rhododendron into two major groups.

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## 2009 Rhododendron of the Year

It is time to vote on the Rhododendron of the Year (ROY) for 2009.

The ROY program was set up to establish the best Rhododendron performer in each of the geographical regions. It has become obvious that rhododendrons do not perform equally well in different climates, soil conditions, even insect populations. The American Rhododendron Society invites us to vote on our candidate for each of the categories: Lepidote, Elepidote, Deciduous Azalea and Evergreen Azalea.

The purpose of establishing the ROY three years in advance is to allow growers and nurseries to propagate and have the candidates for sale during the year they are announced as Rhododendron of the Year.

To prepare for our nomination process, we need to generate a list of our club's "**Proven Performers**" – plants that do well in our gardens and that we like to grow. Once we have developed a list I will ask you to identify your nomination for the Rhododendron of the Year for 2009.

To make things simple, I (Kathryn) will ask you to give me your list of favourite plants and I will determine to which category they belong. You can give me your list at the December or January meeting, by phone (245-7879) or by email: kd.grant#shaw.ca. (replace the # with @). We will need to vote on our candidates for the 2009 ROY in February, as we must submit our nominations by mid-March.

The following criteria should be considered in making ROY recommendations, so you should keep this in mind as you make your list of favourites:

1. Foliage should have a good green colour and retain leaves for at least 2 years (except deciduous azaleas)
2. Plant should flower and perform well 4 out of 5 years
3. Full, compact plant
4. Must be cold hardy, bud hardy and heat tolerant in your area
5. Must be registered with the ARS
6. Easily propagated
7. Easily grown in the average garden requiring low maintenance
8. Resistant to local diseases
9. Propagation material must be available for mass production and availability in 2009
10. 2009 candidates cannot duplicate previous years' ROY selections

Year	Lepidote	Elipidote	Deciduous Azalea	Evergreen Azalea
2002	Ken Janeck	Ginny Gee	R. schippenbachii	Hino Crimson
2003	Taurus	PJM	Homebush	Purple Splendour
2004	Percy Wiseman	Dora Amateis	Arnesons' Gem	Fascination
2005	Horizon Monarch	Ramapo	Nifty Fifty	Hilda Niblett
2006	Point Defiance	Wee Bee	Washington Centennial	Silver Sword
2007	Nancy Evans	Blaney's Blue	Cecile	Mitsuki
2008	Marie Starks	Vibrant Violet	Yukon	Girard's Fuschia

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## 2005 Rhododendron of the Year Awards

### **Elepidote Rhododendron: 'Horizon Monarch'**

R. 'Nancy Evans' x R. 'Point Defiance'

Flower greenish-yellow with a small, vivid red flare, openly funnel-shaped, wavy edged, 4" across. Held in large ball-shaped truss of 5-8 flowers. Blooms midseason. Leaves elliptic, apiculate apex, cuneate base, concave, 6-3/4" long, olive green. Upright, spreading plant habit. Grows to a typical height of 6 ft. in 10 yrs. Cold hardy to 5°F (-15°C). Hybridized by Brockenbrough.



Photo by Steve Henning



### **Lepidote Rhododendron: 'Ramapo'**

R. *fastigiatum* x R. *minus* var. *minus* 'Carolinianum Group'

Flower pinkish violet, held in small clusters. Very floriferous plant. Blooms early midseason. Leaves bluish-green, elliptic, very aromatic. Dense and very compact habit. Grows well in sun or partial shade, being more compact in sun. Reaches a height of 2 ft. in 10 years. Plant is cold hardy to -25°F (-32°C). Hybridized by Nearing.

Photo by Harold E. Greer



# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## Evergreen Azalea:

### 'Hilda Niblett'

(R. 'Glacier' x R. 'Tama-giku') x R. 'Getsu-toku'

Flower pale tints of strong pink to pale purplish pink, variously marked strong red, throat greenish white spotted deep pink or deep purplish red, broadly funnel-shaped, wavy edged, 3-1/4" across. Blooms early midseason. Leaves elliptic, about 1-1/2" long. Spreading habit. Grows approximately to 3 ft. tall in 10 yrs. Hardy to -5°F (-21 °C). Hybridized by Gartrell.



Photo by Richard F. Clapp



### Deciduous Azalea: 'Nifty Fifty'

unknown x (R. 'Knap Hill Yellow' x R. 'Klondyke')

Flower vivid yellow with vivid orange-yellow throat, broadly funnel-shaped, wavy edged, 4-1/2" across. Held in ball-shaped truss with 13 flowers. Blooms early midseason to midseason. Leaves elliptic, broadly acute apex, cuneate base, flat, 2-1/2" to 3-1/2" long, slightly bullate, slightly hairy below, deciduous. Upright, spreading habit. Grows to a height of 3 ft. in 10 yrs. Hardy to -15°F (-26 °C). Named for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Rhododendron Society. Hybridized by Arneson.

Photo by Harold E. Greer

Source: JARS V45:No.3:p136:y1991

## How To Select a Rhodie at Your Local Nursery

Jan D. Kelley  
Drain, Oregon

Over 30 years ago I purchased my first rhododendron for a Mother's Day present. I still have a vivid picture of proudly presenting it to her on Sunday morning after selecting it the day before from a local nursery. Like

most beginners I was looking for a big plant with lots of blooms that didn't cost any more than a 16-year old boy could afford. However, with the passing of time I now realize that I was fortunate to have purchased a quality plant without really knowing what I was doing. Today when I purchase a new variety several criteria come to mind before I make my purchase. As there are some readers of the journal who are new to rhododendrons, I will try to identify some of the things I look for when selecting a new plant for my yard. The following general topics are not necessarily in any specific order but seem to be worth consideration prior to selecting a plant:

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**Learn about climate.** Get knowledge of local climatic conditions with special attention to the most extreme winter temperature in the last five years. This information is typically available from the local airport, radio or TV weather station, or local newspaper. This extreme cold temperature is critical as most all rhododendrons sold are rated for hardiness. The hardiness rating is a *generally* accepted temperature that the plant will endure and survive. Notice I said the plant and not the flower buds. The rationale behind plant hardiness is that you can afford to lose the buds on a given year, but not the plant. Rhododendrons are generally rated from H-1 (will survive to minus 25 degrees F) through H-6 (will survive at plus 30 degrees F).

**Talk to local gardeners.** Talk with neighbors and rhododendron club members about varieties that they have had for several years. Discuss with them how frequently the plant flowers, when it blooms, and where in their yard they have it located, i.e., in the shade, in full sun.

**Read about rhodies.** Background reading about rhododendrons in one of the several books that are available is helpful. Several of the books have many excellent color pictures. I would recommend any of the following authors as good resources: Van Veen, Greer, and Cox. Each of the authors provides good description of flowers, plant habit, bloom period, and hardiness in a very understandable form.

**Visit nurseries.** Visit several local nurseries, if available, to view their selection of rhododendrons. Find a rhododendron knowledgeable sales person and seek his/her opinions about varieties that do well locally. Generally, retail nurseries tend to sell "tried and true" varieties that have stood the test of local time.

Frequently, your choice will be quite limited in the number of different varieties that are available.

When you have all of the general information identified and are ready to make your choice - that one plant that is going in that special place in your yard - I suggest that you have the following in mind:

**ULTIMATE SIZE.** How large will the plant be at 10 years of age. Standard varieties are about 6 feet at 10 years. Semi-dwarfs are about 2 to 4 feet at 10 years of age and dwarfs are about 1 1/2 feet at 10 years of age.

**PLANT AGE.** Know the plant size that you want to purchase: are you after instant landscape or are you willing to grow with the plant.

**LOCATION.** Know that the variety you want meets the conditions of your location, i.e., full sun, semi-shade, etc.

**PLANT HEALTH.** When you make the final choice the foliage of the plant you select should be dark green and vigorous looking. It should not have burned or spotted leaves. Burned leaves generally result from inadequate water in the summer or excessive cold in the winter. Leaf spotting typically results from some disease condition in the plant. The plant should be uniform and well branched. Stay away from lopsided or crooked plants. The leaves should be free of insect damage. Uniform notching around the border of the leaves generally indicates weevil activity. Other insect damage is evidenced by irregular holes in the leaves. If you want the plant to bloom in the coming season, look for large flower buds on some of the branch ends.

I realize that initially all of the above takes a great deal of time, but your labors dramatically increase the chance of purchasing an excellent rhododendron. All too often we buy the plant with the big open flowers only to later realize that it was a mistake. Good Hunting!

**TWIGS AND STEMS**



**Memberships are due!**

Please pay your membership fee in order to be on the club list and to receive your ARS Journal.

\$30 Individual, \$40 Family

Memberships may be mailed to  
Nanaimo Rhododendron Society  
Box 241, #1 – 5765 Turner Road  
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4