

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



December 2007
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am looking forward to seeing you all at our upcoming Xmas Auction and "Pot Luck Dinner". Hopefully, you will be able to bring a plant or item for the auction and some non-perishable food for the Salvation Army box.

Our Meeting in December will start at 7 pm. If you can come earlier, I know Sandra will be pleased with any assistance in setting up for the Auction/dinner.

Mike is chairing the committee for establishing an Indigenous Species Garden within the Hailey Garden at Bowen Park. Please read his article in the Newsletter and respond if you are able to donate or know where we can obtain any of the requested species.

Check out the Steller and California Sea Lions at Ada Rock in Nanoose and the log booms near Harmac.

See you on the 13th,



Paul

EXECUTIVE

President	Paul Lawry	390-2370
Vice President	Chris Southwick	758-0993
Past President	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Secretary	vacant	
Treasurer	Barb Coy	758-8497
Directors	Debbie Gaboury	758-1204
	Linda Lawry	390-2370
	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
	John Deniseger	390-3605
	Allen McRae	758-7589

COMMITTEES

Advertising	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574
	Helene Sullivan	758-7023
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Program	Chris Southwick	758-0993
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey	
Social	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Dollar Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533

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

Website: nanaimo.rhodos.ca
email: nanaimo@rhodos.ca

NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13 BEBAN PARK SOCIAL CENTRE 7:00 pm

CHRISTMAS POTLUCK AND AUCTION

Please bring an auction item and finger food to share

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

TWIGS AND STEMS



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GOODIES FOR DECEMBER EVERYONE!

Potluck finger food. Beverages, paper plates and napkins will be provided. Don't forget your chequebook (or cash)!

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For photos of species Rhododendrons see
<http://www.rhodygarden.org/pictures.html>



R. austrinum

HAILEY GROVE

Some of our members are unaware of the "Hailey Rhododendron Grove" in Bowen Park. Probably most of our members generally purchase cultivars and asiatic species and are unaware that there are 29 indigenous species in North America. Fifteen of them are Azaleas, extremely fragrant and colourful. See pages 18, 19, 20 in *Greer's Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons, Revised 3rd Edition*.

The Club is trying to establish a North American Display bed in the Hailey Grove as an educational tool for the public.

A history of "The Hailey Collection", written by Sandra and Trevor Evelyn, will be reprinted in the next issue.

ATTENTION: Members, friends and growers. Do you have any of the following Rhodos that you would be prepared to donate to the club to help establish a North American Species Display Bed in Bowen park? If so please contact Michael Miller @ 758-2879.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>R. alabamense</i> | <i>R. eastmanii</i> |
| <i>R. albiflorum</i> | <i>R. flammeum</i> |
| <i>R. arborescens</i> | <i>R. groenlandicum</i> |
| <i>R. atlanticum</i> | <i>R. lapponicum</i> |
| <i>R. austrinum</i> | <i>R. macrophyllum</i> |
| <i>R. bakeri</i> | <i>R. maximum</i> |
| <i>R. calendulaceum</i> | <i>R. minus</i> |
| <i>R. camtschaticum</i> | <i>R. oblongifolium</i> |
| <i>R. canadense</i> | <i>R. occidentale</i> |
| <i>R. canesens</i> | <i>R. periclymenoides</i> |
| <i>R. catawbiense</i> | <i>R. prinophyllum</i> |
| <i>R. chapmanii</i> | <i>R. prunifolium</i> |
| <i>R. columbianum</i> | <i>R. serrulatum</i> |
| <i>R. carolinianum</i> | <i>R. vaseyi</i> |
| <i>R. viscosum</i> | |



R. macrophyllum



R. albiflorum

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Rhododendron Species Workshops



At UBC Botanical
Garden – Spring 2008

Instructor: D. Justice
Coordinator: R. Knight

Have you registered yet?

(over 50% of the spaces are already filled.)

Dates:

March 1 – rhododendron anatomy; environmental needs; classification

March 22 – lepidotes and azaleas

April 5 – elepidotes

April 26 – photography; pests, diseases, and other problems

Register before January 31:

Maximum class size is 25 and registration priority will be given to rhododendron club members until January 31, when the workshops will be advertised to other groups.

Priority (and a discount of \$20 off the regular price of \$140) will also be given to people who register (by January 31) for all 4 sessions. Registration forms may be obtained from your club president, or online at: www.rhodos.ca

More information:

Contact Ron Knight at 604-883-9807 or 604-929-5670 or by email: rcknightf@telus.net

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Registration Form Rhododendron Species Workshops

At UBC Botanical Garden – Spring 2008
Instructor: Douglas Justice
Coordinator: Ron Knight

Demographics --Your name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Member of which rhodo club? _____

Costs -- Check which sessions you will be attending:

- | | |
|--|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> March 1 – rhododendron anatomy; environmental needs; classification | \$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> March 22 – lepidotes and azaleas | \$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 5 – elepidotes | \$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 26 – photography; pests, diseases, and other problems | \$35 |

Total before discount: \$ _____

Discount – Applies if you meet all 3 of these conditions:

- 1) You are a member of a District 1 rhododendron club.
- 2) Your registration will be mailed before December 1.
- 3) You are registering for all 4 sessions.

If you qualify, subtract \$20, for a subtotal of: \$ _____

Payment -- Total amount owing is: \$ _____

(Hint: For all 4 sessions with discount, enter \$120.)

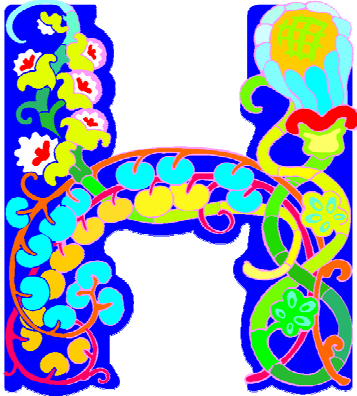
Please mail a cheque payable to “Ron Knight” to
2710 Walpole Crescent, North Vancouver, BC, V7H 1K8.

NB – 25 spaces will be assigned on a first-come-first-served basis with priority given to rhodo club members who have paid for all 4 sessions. You will be notified before January if your registration is accepted.

More information -- Contact Ron Knight at: rcknight@telus.net

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Companion Plants



H is for Heuchera
of the Saxifrage Family
Family: Saxifragaceae

In a world where we seem to be placing more and more emphasis on bigger, more colourful, and more unusual flowers, it's nice to see a genus that truly exemplifies the term "foliage plant". Coral Bells, alternately known as Coral Flower and Alum Root, has become one of the hottest plants on the market today, and for very



Heuchera 'Snowstorm'



Heuchera 'Green Finch'



Heuchera 'Chocolate Ruffles'

good reasons. First, their hardiness to Zone 3 or 4 extends their appeal right across the country. Not surprising, since many of the 55 or so species are native to the Rockies. Second, the blooms, often bright and fragrant, are a magnet for bees and butterflies. And third, the foliage variations selected even in the last five years are almost overwhelming – ruffles, contrast veining, scallops, metallics, and more. I must make a confession though – up until a few years ago, I thought these plants were boring, with ugly mottled leaves and unassuming flowers. I think it must have been a clump of *Heuchera* 'Palace Purple', in the winter when everything around it was dull and bare and the glossy purple leaves just lit up the rockery, that I changed my mind. Despite this change of heart however, I think that some varieties still have ugly leaves and boring flowers, but that's just me !!

Among the myriad of hybrids and selections, it's hard not to be attracted to such imaginative names as 'Pewter Moon', 'Chocolate Ruffles', 'Cherry Splash', 'Amber Waves', 'Rain of Fire', 'Snowstorm' or

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'Velvet Night'. I give full marks to plant names that conjure up such yummy mental pictures. Do your shopping in the summer to see the combinations of blossoms and foliages together. Blooms appear all summer from May to July, and even though the leaves are evergreen, they are at their best in the growing season. Choose a site in sun or partial shade, with moist but drainable soil, fertile, with a neutral pH. The smaller varieties do well in containers and rockeries. After 3 years or so, the crowns will extend above ground, so in late summer you should lift the clumps, pull off the well-rooted sections and replant at the proper level.

The small blooms appear well above the foliage in branched panicles, and come in all shades of reds and pinks, plus white, cream and lime green. For some, they seem almost superfluous, since the foliage is so dramatic on its own. The size of plants varies from a robust 30 x 30 inches, such as 'Coral Cloud', 'Firefly', 'Greenfinch', 'Oakington Jewel', and 'Scintillation', to diminutive cuties like 'Plum Pudding', 'Pretty Polly', 'Taft's Joy' and 'Siskyou Mountains'.

Use Heucheras in mixed borders or as edging to shrub beds – the multitude of variegation and leaf shapes contrasts so well with the plain, often coarse leaves of rhodos and the like, and the blooms come when most of the spring bloomers are finished. Just remember to sprinkle a little dolomite lime on them periodically to keep the soil from getting too acidic. Try not to get too attached to any particular one though, because in 6 months time you'll fall in love with an exciting new variety (look for the new 'Planet Collection' coming out now) and heaven knows, you don't have room for them all. Do you??

Happy Planting

Colleen Forster



Heuchera 'Green Finch'



Heuchera 'Amber Waves'



Heuchera 'Pewter Moon'