

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



December 2009
December 2009



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings:

Our annual Xmas Auction and Potluck Dinner will be held at our December meeting. **The starting time will be at 6:30pm.** Please bring your own cup/glass and utensils.

Good news, we almost have enough money to purchase a projector and should have one for our January meeting. Those of you who have photos of interest and would like to make a short presentation, please contact Glenda Barr at 390-0822.

Books, books and more books – please look through your garden books and if you have any that are in good condition, please save them for our May Truss Show. We will sell them along with our donated plants. Books will be accepted at our April meeting and also at the Truss Show site.

I look forward to seeing you at the December meeting,

Paul

EXECUTIVE

President	Paul Lawry	816-2370
Past President	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Vice President	John Deniseger	390-3605
Secretary	June Bouchard	390-3605
Treasurer	Gerry Moore	756-1427
Directors	Glenda Allard Barr	390-2822
	Linda Lawry	390-2370
	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
	Chris Southwick	390-3415
	Debbie Gaboury	758-1204
	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533

COMMITTEES

Advertising	vacant	
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574
	Helene Sullivan	758-7023
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Membership	Debbie Gaboury	
Program	Glenda Allard Barr	390-2822
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey	
Social	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Bargain 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 10 BEBAN PARK SOCIAL CENTRE 6:30 pm

CHRISTMAS POTLUCK AND AUCTION



NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

TWIGS AND STEMS

MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE

Please pay your membership fees.

Individual: \$40

Family: \$45

CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

Please bring a finger-food dish to share. Coffee and tea and plates will be provided. Please bring an item for the auction. A collection for the food bank will be taken.

MALASPINA CHOIR

presents

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

with the Vancouver Island Symphony

Tuesday, December 15

7:30 pm

Port Theatre

Tickets available at the Port
Theatre Ticket Centre



Conference Corner

Fundraising for the conference begins this month! Raffle tickets will be distributed at the Christmas auction for the first draw, to be held at the January meeting. The prize is a \$100 gift certificate for the Mahle House Restaurant. Tickets sell for \$2 each, or buy a book of 10 for \$20. I hope that each NRS member will take at least one book of tickets to sell; we have 50 books of tickets. Next month we will distribute tickets for the February raffle.

Milner Christmas Magic

5:00 pm to 8:30 pm from Dec 4 – 6, Dec 11 - 13 and Dec 17 - 21. A family oriented festival of lights and music in the Garden. Admission by donation. Santa will be here!

The Gardens will be lit up with thousands of Christmas lights. We have a variety of local musicians performing seasonal music from choral to instrumental, including one sing along evening on opening night. Volunteers from the local library delight children and parents alike with storytelling, and musicians will entertain in the Milner House, decorated in old fashioned Christmas splendour. Guess the number of teddy bears in the gardener's cottage to win a prize or bid on silent auction items. Gift shops and tea room will be open. All donations support the garden. Although the Gardens are lit up we suggest you bring a flashlight. Golf cart shuttle available for those with mobility issues.

FMI 250-752-6153 or www.milnergardens.org

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

NRS Meetings Minutes

Date: November 12th, 2009

1. Meeting called to order at 7:35.
2. Number of people present: 28
3. President, Paul Lawry, welcomed guests!

4. President's report:

- a. A reminder to renew your membership now if you don't want to miss any issues of the ARS Journal.
- b. We would like to sell "gently used" gardening books at the plant sale in May – if you have any that you no longer need, please consider donating them to the plant sale.
- c. **Our next meeting will be our annual Christmas auction / pot luck. It will start at 6:30 rather than our usual 7:30. See below under "program" for further details.**

5. **Secretary's Report:** Due to a computer glitch, the minutes of the October meeting did not appear in the last newsletter; they should be in the next newsletter along with the current minutes.

6. **Correspondence:** The November / December issue of the B.C. Council of Garden Clubs is in – check it out at the library. You might also like to check the following web site: www.bcgardenclubs.com

7. **Treasurer's Report:** Our current balance is \$2704.71 and our projector fund is up to \$453.25

8. Committee Reports:

- Program: December program is our "Annual Christmas Auction and Potluck" on **Thursday, December 10th – please note that it will start at 6:30 rather than 7:30.** Members are asked to bring donations to be auctioned off, anything from plants to gifts baskets to a bottle of wine to a bird house, or.... 10% of the proceeds will go to a local food bank. If you want to donate a plant from your garden and need help digging it out, let a member of the executive know and someone will come to help. Thank you to Al and Gayle McRae who have kindly volunteered to organize and coordinate pick up of items donated by local businesses. Please let Paul or Al know if you can help. A reminder to bring some sweet or savoury finger food to share (coffee, tea and juice will be provided), your own cutlery and plate and a non-perishable item for the food bank.
- Membership: Debbie and Gerry accepted membership renewals at the back table.
- Bargain Table: Thanks to Reinhold for looking after the bargain table – some great plants back there – and thanks to people who donated plants.
- Raffle/Door Prize: Many happy winners! ☺
- Library: don't forget to check our great selection of books in the library!

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

9. **New business:** Auction of *Rhododendron* “Courtney Queen x Pink Fortunei” with proceeds to go to our projector fund. Congratulations to Glenda Barr who got it for \$25.00!

10. Program for tonight:

Jeff Hallworth from the provincial Ministry of Forest and Range gave us a very informative talk about “Preventing Further Introductions of Invasive Plants to B.C.”

Highlights from Jeff’s presentation:

- Invasive Plants 101 – everything from weed, alien, invasive and noxious plants.
- Coastal Invasive Plant Committee – Invasive Plant Council of B.C. Check the following website for more information - many booklets and lists that you can download:
<http://www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca/resources/outreach-materials>
- Mandate is:
 - o Public Education
 - o Stakeholder coordination
 - o Information sharing

Top ten list of invasive plants

Check the following link for further info on these and other invasive plants:

http://www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca/images/stories/documents/otherpublications/growmeinstead_booklet_web.pdf

	Invasive Plant:	Grow instead:
1.	Butterfly bush (Buddleia)	Red flowering Currant; California Lilac; Ocean Spray
2.	English Ivy	Salal; Bunchberry; Deer Fern
3.	Purple Loosestrife	Garden Astilbe; False Spirea; Anise Hyssop
4.	Japanese, Bohemian or Giant Knotweed	False Solomon Seal; Goat’s Beard; Fothergillia
5.	Daphne (Spurge Laurel)	Evergreen Huckleberry; Fragrant Sweet Box; Dull Oregon Grape
6.	Policeman’s Helmet (Himalayan Balsam)	Meadow Rue; Pacific Bleeding Heart; Kirengeshoma
7.	English Holly	Tall Oregon Grape; San Jose Holly; Hollyleafed Osmanthus
8.	Yellow Flag Iris	Oregon Iris; Siberian Iris; Western Blue Iris
9.	Common Periwinkle	Wild Ginger; Piggyback Plant; Christmas Box
10.	Lamiums (Yellow Archangel, Purple Dead Nettle)	Foam Flower; Redwood Sorrel; Coral Bells

Remember – “Spread the Word, Not the Weed!”

Meeting adjourned at 9:10.

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

NRS Meetings Minutes

Date: October 8th, 2009

- 11. Meeting called to order at 7:30.
- 12. Number of people present: approx. 40
- 13. President, Paul Lawry, welcomed guests:
 - Paul and Nuria Courtin
 - Hal and Beryl Cahoon
 - Antoinette SpoorGuests now provided with name tags.

14. President's report:

- ARS have raised their dues from US\$27 to US\$30 per membership.
- It's now time to renew your membership.
- Auction of Protistum-Lucy's Giganteum; proceeds to go to funds for new projector; purchased by Pat Schulson for \$20.00.

- 15. **Secretary's Report:** M/S/C to adopt the minutes of the last meeting as printed in the newsletter.

- 16. **Vice-President's Report:** As a follow up to the article in the last newsletter, John listed the committees and events needing a coordinator. Thank you to Allen and Gayle McRae who have volunteered to coordinate the Christmas Auction. Thanks also to Doug Blenkarn who will be organizing local garden tours in the spring. Still vacant are Advertising and Rhodo Sale and Show which will be held in May. Please contact Paul or John if interested; one option is to team up with someone – splits the load in half. ☺

17. Treasurer's Report:

- i. Balance: \$3236.49 – much of it is membership dues which will soon be sent to the ARS.
- ii. Projector fund: Plant auction (\$20.00); bargain table (\$58.25); Linda Gilkeson (\$35.00)
- iii. Talk to Gerry if you want to see details of the report.

18. Committee Reports:

- Program:
 - o The program for November will be Jeff Hallworth from the Ministry of Forests who will be talking about coastal invasive plants.
 - o Glenda has talked to Joy Paull last month. They are doing well and enjoying their new life in Quesnel with their son nearby. Phillip has had some health issues but is doing well overall. They miss their friends at the Rhodo Club and say hello to everyone.
- Membership: Please see Debbie to renew your membership.
- Social: Book to bring goodies circulating – Sandra thanks everyone for bringing goodies.
- Bargain Table: New name – no longer called “Dollar Table”. See Reinhold for great bargains!

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

- Raffle/Door Prize: Lots of lovely items on the raffle table – check it out at the break.
- Library: Two new books by Linda Gilkeson were added to the library.

19. Raffle/Door prizes winners:

- Door prize: Nuria Courtin
- Name tag draw: Reinhold Gorgosilich
- Raffle draw: Bill Hardy, Reinhold Gorgosilich, Pat Schulson, Sandra Dorman, Ray Lauzier, Earl Daneluk.

20. **Program for tonight:** Linda Gilkeson gave a great presentation on dealing with pests in the garden. See her website at www.lindagilkeson.ca

Program Highlights:

- Prevention is the key!!!
 - o Start with healthy, pest-free plants.
 - o Choose disease resistant plants.
 - o Healthy soil is the basis for a healthy garden.
 - o Mixed plantings are healthy.
 - o Put the right plant at the right place.
 - o Alter the environment.
- Monitoring:
 - o Close inspections done regularly / written notes.
 - o Correct identification of problem essential.
- Taking Action:
 - o Cultural Control: preventative measures.
 - o Physical Control:
 - Pull weeds.
 - Prune out diseased / infested foliage.
 - Use barriers, mulch and traps.
 - Use water sprays.
 - o Mechanical Control:
 - Cultivation
 - Vacuuming
 - Startle devices.
 - Apply heat – ex. Boiling water.
 - o Biological control:
 - Protect native species.
 - Attract native beneficial insects.
 - Choose plants to attract beneficial insects – ex. White Alyssum
 - o Chemical Control:
 - Treat only when needed.
 - Choose least toxic and non-residual products – ex. soap.
 - Use the most efficient application method.
- Powdery Mildew:
 - o Choose least susceptible hybrids or species.

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

- Avoid planting in deep shade.
- Space plants – air circulation is important.
- Remove worst infected leaves or parts of plants.
- Use sulphur fungicides.
- Review:
 - Identify the problem.
 - Check every few days.
 - Is there really damage?
 - If so choose non-toxic option.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30.

Something to remember for winter vegetables:

Mulching is not optional!

Mulching: Even for the hardiest greens, mulches are needed to prevent damage to fine roots from frost heave. When soil is bare during a cold snap, frost expands the surface layers. As the soil moves, it breaks fine roots, injuring or even killing plants. Freezing also damages the 'shoulders' of carrots and other roots exposed above the soil - and then they rot. So, put the veggies to bed with a mulch of leaves, straw, bracken fern, shredded corn stalks or other organic material. I like to put mulches on in two layers, starting about now with a layer 4-6 inches deep tucked in well around the base of plants. When it gets colder, in December, I put down a second layer of leaves. For beds of carrots and other roots, I also put a light layer of leaves right over the tops of the plants.

While you are at it, mulch empty beds too; this protects the soil from erosion, smothers weeds and adds organic matter. Contrary to what you might have been told, maple, oak and arbutus leaves are all fine to use. I was surprised to learn that even walnut leaves, which contain a natural herbicide, apparently only have an effect on certain plants. If you want, you can run a mower over big leaves to chop them into smaller pieces, but I find it really isn't necessary as even big-leaf maple leaves are pretty well digested in the spring. While you are raking up fall leaves, put away some big plastic bags of leaves or pile them in a bin and cover with plastic so they don't get wet and decompose. Then

you can revel in having stored up next summer's mulch!

Staking: The other timely task this month is staking up plants that will be damaged by high winds and heavy snow. Top-heavy plants, such as broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower and cabbage, should be supported in some fashion. I drive 2 or 3 stakes around each stem. Bamboo or wood stakes or the coated metal stakes used to support flowers all work fine.

Covering: I just sorted my collection of plastic sheets that I keep folded up in the garage in case I need to cover plants in extreme cold snaps. Some plants (corn salad, winter leeks, Brussels sprouts, kale and parsley) don't need covers as they are so hardy. On the other hand, lettuce, spinach and Swiss chard fare better with protection from the worst of heavy rain and frost. At its simplest, a cover can just be a sheet of plastic weighed down with rocks. If this isn't supported on a frame of some sort, try to keep water or heavy snow from sitting too long on the plastic and crushing the plants. The more dedicated gardeners among you may have put up more elaborate covers, such as plastic tunnels, cold frames, cloches - all excellent.

Linda Gilkeson

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

THE ULTIMATE RHODODENDRON CONFERENCE

For all gardeners who would like
to learn more about rhododendrons



April 9 – 11, 2010

At Canada's premier rhododendron garden:
The University of British Columbia Botanical Garden
and Centre for Plant Research
Vancouver, BC

TEACHERS:

Douglas Justice is the Associate Director and Curator of Collections at UBC Botanical Garden (www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org) and is an instructor at UBC, teaching horticulture and plant identification courses. Prior to joining the Botanical Garden, Douglas taught plant identification, integrated pest management, and nursery production courses at Kwantlen University College in Langley. He is a member of the Vancouver Rhododendron Society and, with his wife Karen, edited the VRS newsletter "Indumentum" for a number of years. Douglas holds a Bachelors Degree in Horticulture and a Masters in Botany, both from UBC. Douglas will be teaching all Level 2 conference sessions which will include lecture/slide presentations, laboratory experiences, and field studies in the garden. (Limited to 70 students)

Ron Knight is a past president of the Vancouver Rhododendron Society and the current Director for the American Rhododendron Society's BC Division. He and his wife Carla have created Caron Gardens, at Pender Harbour, where they display 400 different hybrid rhododendrons and 100 species (www3.telus.net/rcknight). Caron Gardens welcomes hundreds of visitors each year and has been featured in Gardens West magazine and on television. Prior to retirement, Ron was a biology teacher and secondary school administrator. He holds a Bachelors Degree in Science from Concordia University in Montreal and a Masters Degree in Education from UBC. Ron will be teaching all Level 1 conference sessions which will include lecture/slide presentations, hands-on activities, and field studies in the garden.

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

CHOOSE FROM 2 LEARNING LEVELS:

Level 1 is aimed at newer rhododendron collectors and at general perennial gardeners who want to learn to grow the most spectacular rhododendrons on their block. Topics will include current best-practice information and practical advice about:

- * Rhododendron environmental needs and how to duplicate them in your garden
- * Rhododendron and perennial pruning
- * Rhododendron culture and care, irrigation, and pest and disease management
- * Garden design to incorporate rhododendrons and prevent future problems
- * How to choose superior rhododendrons for your area
- * The best dwarf rhododendrons for rock gardens, containers, and small garden spaces
- * A yearly rhododendron maintenance calendar
- * Websites with excellent information on rhododendron gardening



Level 2 is designed for confirmed rhodoholics and veteran rhododendron collectors. Topics will include research-based information and practical advice about:

- * The best species rhododendrons for Pacific Northwest gardens and how to grow them
- * Rhododendron anatomy as seen with a projected dissection microscope
- * Using keys to distinguish between closely-related and often-confused species
- * Low tech ways to propagate rhododendrons from seed or cuttings
- * The importance of salts, pH and micronutrients; pH and soil nutrient testing
- * How to solve the 10 worst problems of rhododendron culture and care
- * Highly recommended reference books on hybrid and species rhododendrons



NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

REGISTRATION AND COSTS:

The conference registration fee is \$155 (in both Canadian and US dollars) and includes:

- * 6 ninety-minute learning sessions at either Level 1 or Level 2
- * A folder of notes from all 6 sessions
- * Saturday and Sunday lunches and coffee breaks
- * Free admission to UBC Botanical Garden (not including the tree-top canopy walk)
- * Complimentary parking at UBC Botanical Garden
- * Rhododendron experts leading the Friday garden tours

Everyone who registers in 2009 receives a discount and the fee is \$130.

Registration is on a first-come-first-served basis and is limited to 100 gardeners. It's easy:

Simply print a registration form at www.rhodos.ca and mail it with your Canadian or US cheque (**made out to Ron Knight**) to: Ultimate Rhododendron Conference, 2710 Walpole Crescent, North Vancouver, B.C., V7H 1K8, Canada. (The United States registration fee is for the same dollar amount as the Canadian fee to allow us to recover banking costs associated with foreign currency and checks.)

You will receive confirmation by email that your cheque has arrived and a space is reserved for you.

For further information, email Ron at: rcknight@telus.net (NB. All conference communication will occur via email. If you do not own a computer, your local librarian will help you set up a free gmail account.)

WHAT THIS CONFERENCE DOES NOT OFFER:

There are no banquets, raffles, keynote speeches, contests, truss shows, bus tours, business meetings, or entertainment events. The Ultimate Rhododendron Conference is ultimately concerned with relevant learning about rhododendrons and rhododendron gardening. You will be very busy all day long but will have evenings free to relax and enjoy Vancouver and the UBC campus. Your registration package will contain maps and suggestions for optional tourist attractions and entertainment events on Friday and Saturday evenings.

ACCOMMODATION, MAPS, AND MEALS:

We recommend three hotels, all within 15 minutes' driving time of UBC Botanical Garden:

- 1) West Coast Suites - located on campus 2 km from the garden. (www.ubcconferences.com).
(Separate bedroom; fully-equipped kitchen; shuttle bus; your best bet if you don't have a car.)
- 2) Coast Vancouver Airport Hotel - located in Vancouver, half-way between the airport and UBC.
(www.coasthotels.com/hotels/canada/bc/vancouver/coast_vanairport/overview)
(Bed and breakfast special available; our best-value recommendation.)
- 3) Granville Island Hotel - on Vancouver's waterfront. (www.granvilleislandhotel.com)

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

(Luxury rooms; same price as #1 above; boutiques, public market and fine restaurants nearby.)

No blocks of rooms have been pre-booked at any hotel by the conference organizers. Please make your room reservations early, by contacting the hotel directly.

There are other fine hotels within 15 minutes' driving time from UBC. Visit: www.bestlodging.worldres.com and sort by "Hotels near University of British Columbia".

Breakfasts, dinners, and Friday lunch are your own responsibility and there are several reasonably priced restaurants within walking distance of each hotel. VanDusen Botanical Garden has its own restaurant. For a good map to UBC, visit www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org, and click on "Directions".

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE:

Friday, April 9:

- 8:30 – 12:00 Registration and plant sales (no phytos available)
- 9:00 – 12:00 Guided tours of UBC Botanical Garden -- featuring species rhododendrons;
90 minute tours at 9:00 or 10:30 (www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org)
- 2:00 – 5:00 Guided tours of the world-class VanDusen Botanical Garden's Rhododendron Walk
and Sino-Himalayan Garden -- admission fee; 90 minute tours at 2:00 or 3:30
(www.vancouver.ca/Parks/parks/vandusen/website/index.htm).

Saturday, April 10:

- 8:30 – 9:30 Registration, coffee, purchase plants (no phytos available)
- 10:00 – 11:30 Session A
- 11:30 – 1:00 Lunch, then time to purchase plants or stroll through the garden
- 1:00 – 2:30 Session B
- 2:45 – 4:15 Session C

Sunday, April 11:

- 8:30 – 9:00 Coffee time; purchase plants (no phytos available)
- 9:00 – 10:30 Session D
- 10:45 – 12:15 Session E
- 12:15 – 1:15 Lunch
- 1:15 – 2:45 Session F
- 2:45 – 5:00 Head home or
Optional visit to Nitobe Memorial Japanese Garden at UBC, (www.nitobe.org)
or the UBC Museum of Anthropology (www.moa.ubc.ca); admission fees.

(NB: This schedule allows Vancouver Island residents who cannot come to UBC on Friday, to arrive in time for Session A on Saturday by catching the first ferry sailing and to return home on a supper-time ferry on Sunday. Seattle area residents should plan on a three-hour drive to UBC.)