

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



December 2011



FROM THE PRESIDENT

The wind, rain, and cold have us working on indoor projects. Barbecues have been replaced by a warm and cozy fire. Rather than planting seeds, we're going through seed catalogues. On the other hand, living on the west coast, there are always flowers....our Viburnum "Pink Dawn" is already blooming and the witch hazel will be in bloom in a few weeks...

It's time for our Christmas social and auction which is always a lot of fun. While we'll have a number of donations from local businesses, we're also hoping for donations from club members. This could include rhododendrons, plants, gardening related items, home-made articles, and more - please bring them along. You may even have a plant in your garden that has outgrown its space. If so and you need help transporting something to the auction, give Gerry or me a call. Guests are more than welcome; bring your neighbours, friends and family. For our potluck, remember to bring along your favorite savory or sweet finger food, as well as your own plate and cutlery. We'll be supplying the beverages.

Our auction is also an opportunity for our club to give back to the community. We ask that everyone bring along at least one non perishable food item for the Loaves and Fishes. Remember that we also contribute 10% of our auction proceeds to the Salvation Army.

Don't forget that we'll be starting at 6:30. I'm sure that Sandra will appreciate any help in setting up. See you on the 8th!

John

EXECUTIVE

President	John Deniseger	390-3605
Past President	Paul Lawry	806-2370
Vice President	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Secretary	June Bouchard	390-3605
Treasurer	Gerry Moore	756-1427
Directors	Glenda Allard Barr	390-2822
	Chris Southwick	390-3415
	Debbie Gaboury	758-1204
	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533
	Burkhard Dressler	758-1738

COMMITTEES

Advertising	vacant	
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574
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, #101-5170 Dunster Road
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4
Website: nanaimo.rhodos.ca
email: nanaimo@rhodos.ca

NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

BEBAN PARK SOCIAL CENTRE

6:30 pm



CHRISTMAS POTLUCK AND AUCTION

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

In Memoriam



Harry Wright

September 6th, 1932 – November 3rd, 2011

We are saddened by the recent loss of Harry Wright. He was a wonderful supporter, not only of the North Island Rhododendron Society, but all Vancouver Island and District 1 chapters. He supported our plant sale, year after year, attended many of our meetings, often as a guest speaker. Many of us have plants in our gardens that Harry hybridized or that we obtained through him. Harry and Gwen generously opened their garden to our club many times, including last spring's bus tour. He lived life fully with generosity, compassion and humour. We will miss him greatly.



R. 'Courtenay Duke'

Hybridized by Harry Wright

TWIGS and STEMs



GOODIES FOR DECEMBER MEETING

Potluck finger foods

Please bring your own plate and cutlery

GREEN THUMB GARDEN CENTRE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FARMER'S MARKET

Saturday December 3

10 am to 3 pm

MALASPINA CHOIR PRESENTS

Sing-along Handel's MESSIAH

Sunday December 18, 3 pm

St. Andrew's United Church

311 Fitzwilliam Street, Nanaimo

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Meeting November 10, 2011 – Minutes

Attendance: approximately 40 people
Meeting started at 7:35

1. **Welcome** from President John Deniseger – a beautiful fall day today!
2. **In Memoriam** – a moment of silence in memory of our friend Harry Wright.
3. **Treasurer's Report:**
 - Balance in NRS account as of November 5th, 2011: \$4,815.96
 - Balance in 2012 Western conference account: \$3,570.30
4. **Next meeting – our annual Christmas Auction:**
 - Early this year – on December 8th at 6:30 rather than the usual 7:30
 - Letters going out to local businesses for donations soon.
 - Donations from members most welcome – let John know if you have a large plant to donate that needs to be picked up.
 - Please bring a non-perishable item to be donated to the Salvation Army; also 10% of proceeds go to the local food bank.
 - It will be a finger food potluck – sweet or savoury.
 - Bring your own plate and cutlery if you can.
5. **Social / Sunshine:** a get well card was sent to Rosina who just had surgery and a sympathy card was sent to Gwen Wright.
6. **Program:**
 - In January, Art and Susan Lightburn will present part 2 of their trip to China.
 - Please let Glenda know if interested in billeting speakers when they're in Nanaimo overnight.
7. **Membership:** time to renew is **NOW** so you don't miss any issues of the ARS journal.
8. **Website:**
 - Craig is looking for input and contributions to add to our web page; Craig would like to create a digital scrapbook / picture gallery and add some of our speakers presentations.
 - Please send photos or let Craig know if you have any suggestions of what could be added to our web page.
9. **ARS 2012 Western Conference update:**
 - June working on registration and working with Bob Derksen on the beginning of getting the conference web site established. The hope is for it to go "live" by April 1st.
 - Schedule, meals, program, garden tours, photo contest are all set.
 - The committee has applied to the City of Nanaimo for a grant.
 - We are grateful for the help of other island chapters with our plant sale and raffle (MARS), our silent auction (Cowichan), volunteers at the event itself (North Island), and other chapters preparing gift baskets for the silent auction.
 - Check the upcoming ARS journal for an article advertising the conference.
 - Table favours – we still need band pots – see Chris if you have any to donate.
 - Thank you Yvonne Harding for offering to help with coordinating the volunteers with Chris.
 - Thank you to Jan Moles for helping Sandra and June with computer related jobs.

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- Many more volunteers will be needed – we will need people to introduce and thank speakers, people at the registration table, and more. Stay tuned for opportunities to help your club make this event a success!
- 10. **Norm Todd book** is coming out on November 14th. Art Lightburn has agreed to be the central Island contact. You can still sign up for your very own copy of *The Wit and Wisdom of Norm Todd*, hot off the press very soon. Each book is \$12.00.
- 11. **Raffle** – thank you Val and Ann for continuing to do such a great job with our raffle table. Tickets available at the break.
- 12. **Bargain table:** still some house plants left. Please remember to bring plants to be donated to the bargain table when you split plants in your garden.
- 13. **IMPORTANT:** Our February meeting date will be one week later as Beban Park will be using our room on the second Thursday of the month. It will be on February 16th instead of February 9th.

***Program for tonight:

Another inspiring presentation with wonderful photography by Garth Wedemire: “**From M.A.R.S. to P.A.R.S.**” – part 2 of “**To Mars and back**”

Meeting adjourned at 8:55.

Conference Corner

**Rhodos in Paradise:
Destination Vancouver Island
September 21 – 23, 2012**

The Conference Committee chairs are now meeting very regularly to hammer out the final details of our upcoming Western Regional Conference for September 21st, 22nd and 23rd, 2012. Final costs are being tallied and commitments have been made about speakers, tours and social and educational events. The Plant Sale will have many fine plants, including many of Mike Stewart's dwarfs that he spoke so vividly about at our last meeting. Registration issues have been decided and all of the information for a live website for the conference are being organized. Plans are continuing for further advertising and sponsorship to keep costs as low as possible.

We are so appreciative that many of the Island Clubs have volunteered to help us out and it seems like the excitement is growing! We've got growers up and down the island propagating plants which have some significance to Vancouver Island. Anyone who has the 3" square and 8" deep band pots (the type that are used by the Species Foundation) could phone Chris Southwick (250) 390-3415 for pick up. Or even better, if you have them, please bring them to the next NRS meeting so that the newly propagated plants can be potted into this type of pot for the Conference next spring.

Visits to the other Vancouver Island Clubs will take place starting in the spring of 2012 to acknowledge the support of those clubs and to sign up volunteers.

We also appreciate the many members of our own club who are stepping up to help out with the varied but important details of hosting such an event. It is hard to believe that it is only 10 months away!