

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



## December 2013



### FROM THE PRESIDENT

The first frost and the loss of most of the great fall colours has me thinking about the past year with the club and my garden endeavours. NRS had a very successful year with all functions well attended and handily managed through the efforts of a very capable executive and willing volunteers. The weather this year followed, somewhat, the patterns of last year, with a long damp spring and a nice dry summer. Great for plant growth and outside barbecuing, but brought problems of its own with much of our plants' new growth being damaged by mildew. To this end, we have removed some trees to increase sunlight and air circulation. Another effect of the long summer was the huge increase in the wasp population, which damaged our Italian plums and devastated one of our honey bee colonies. Members of the Nanaimo Bee Club reported this year as having the biggest population of wasps ever.

On a better note the management of the ARS has come up with a program of increasing their revenues without taxing the members. Susan has already ordered some books online. Worth a look. Your executive is already working on programs and club functions for the upcoming year.

We hope to see all our members, family, and friends at the Christmas Party and Auction.

Best Regards,  
Art

### EXECUTIVE

President	Art Lightburn	468-7516
Vice President	John Denisege	778 424-3605
Secretary	Ann Beamish	758-2574
Treasurer	Krystyna Sosulski	729-0948
Directors	Craig Clarke	390-4090
	Susan Lightburn	468-7516
	Dorothee Kieser	390-4136
	Ray Lauzier	756-2927
	Bryan Jubinville	956-6178
	Gayle McRae	758-7589

### COMMITTEES

Advertising	Bryan Jubinville	
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Membership	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Program	Ray Lauzier	756-2927
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey	
Social	Susan Lightburn	468-7516
Bargain Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533
Website	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Sunshine	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Awards	Craig Clarke, Chris Southwick, John Denisege, Gayle McRae	

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### NEXT MEETING

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12 BEBAN PARK SOCIAL CENTRE**

**6:30 pm**

**CHRISTMAS PARTY AND AUCTION**



# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## **TWIGS and STEMs**



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### **HOUSE AND GARDEN FOR SALE!**

I have decided to sell my lovely house and garden in the Shell Beach area. The property is .75 acre woodland with over 100 rhododendrons, many species. Some undeveloped woodland. Sea level, mild environment. Glimpses of the ocean. The house is 18 years old, Arts and Crafts cottage style.

Please call Kathryn for information  
250 245-7879

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### **MILNER GARDENS CHRISTMAS MAGIC**

December 6-8, 13-15, 18-22

5 pm to 8:30 pm

Admission by donation

A family oriented festival of lights and music in the Garden. Santa will be there!

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### **GREEN THUMB GARDEN CENTRE**

#### **5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FARMERS MARKET**

Saturday December 7

10 am to 3 pm

Local farmers and artisans

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### **WANTED: Rhododendron macropyllum**

If you have one you are willing to sell please contact June or John at [juneandjohn@shaw.ca](mailto:juneandjohn@shaw.ca).

## **NRS PARTY & AUCTION '13**



**December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

*Once again* it is time for the annual *Christmas Party and Auction* to be held in our regular meeting room on December 12<sup>th</sup>, dinner starting at 6:30. Please bring your favorite finger food for all to share. The social committee will provide coffee and a non-alcoholic punch. After dinner our *Santa* will conduct an auction on donated items as a fund raiser for our club, with 10% donated to the SOS. Also, a box will be provided for dry good donations, which will go to Loaves and Fishes.

*Welcome to friends, guests, neighbours.* Please bring your own plates, glasses/ cups, and eating utensils. *All* can donate items for the auction (plants are a favorite), but all items, homemade or purchased, are welcomed.

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## 2015 Convention

In preparation for our District 1, 2015 Convention, we are able to get several articles in the Journal to advertize to the world that we are holding it in Sidney, BC. Glen should be able to print any articles about gardens or garden articles with tourist attractions in our area. To all you writers out there, this is your chance to get published in a worldwide publication. This is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ARS and we want to make it extra special. The ARS Board has just voted to increase the color pages in the Journal from 16 up to 36, so there should be lots of room for beautiful color pictures with your articles. Anything that promotes our beautiful District 1 will be considered. Articles should be submitted ASAP over the next few months so that Glen can work them in over the next few journals. We should be able to get articles in the summer 2014 issue and fall 2014 too. So pick some of your favorite places and write a small article with pictures and submit it to Glen at [ars.editor@gmail.com](mailto:ars.editor@gmail.com)  
Ken Webb  
Director, District 1

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### **ARSSStore.org - The new ARS Online Store**

#### **Every purchase benefits the ARS**

At the October 4, 2013, American Rhododendron Society Board of Directors meeting, the Board authorized the creation of an online ARS site that would not be selling items but would link to other providers. The online store was authorized to develop a relationship with Amazon as an affiliate store. The online store was also authorized to use the ARS logo and name to sell "ARS" merchandise. Product providers accessed through the ARS online store at [ARSSStore.org](http://ARSSStore.org) pay referral fees directly to the ARS on sales made from [ARSSStore.org](http://ARSSStore.org) referrals. These fees from sales referrals go 100% directly to the ARS. [ARSSStore.org](http://ARSSStore.org) has no expenses, only earnings.

The store has three divisions:

- **ARS Logo Merchandise:** featuring knit, woven and denim shirts, caps, visors, and computer briefcases.
- **Amazon Merchandise:** featuring Rhododendron & Azalea Books, Garden Books, Garden Tools, and any other item sold on Amazon.
- **Participating Merchants:** featuring other merchants who agree to give referral fees to the ARS for each purchase when you mention [ARSSStore.org](http://ARSSStore.org).

To access each division, just go to [ARSSStore.org](http://ARSSStore.org) and from there select what interests you. If you don't see an item, just use the Amazon search feature. Amazon sells just about everything. You get the same low Amazon prices from the ARS store, but by using it the ARS gets a fee for referring you. As long as you go to Amazon from [ARSSStore.org](http://ARSSStore.org) before making a purchase, the ARS gets a referral fee.

[ARSSStore.org](http://ARSSStore.org) has the Main Store, a Canadian Store and a European Store. Canadians and Europeans can use the Main Store which uses [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), but the shipping can be expensive. The Canadian Store uses [Amazon.ca](http://Amazon.ca), a Canadian affiliate, which carries many of the same things. If [Amazon.ca](http://Amazon.ca) has the item, the shipping within Canada will probably cost less. The European Store uses Amazon stores in the UK, Germany, France, Spain and Italy which can offer lower cost shipping within Europe. Do not go to the other Amazon stores directly from [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com). If you do, your purchase will not qualify for a referral fee. Go to [ARSSStore.org](http://ARSSStore.org) first and use links from there.

You may wonder if people who are not members of the ARS may use [ARSSStore.org](http://ARSSStore.org). Yes, most certainly! The objective of creating the ARSSStore website is to raise money for the ARS. The more money we raise, the better it is for the ARS. Invite all of your friends to use it. Invite your favorite nurseries to add links to [ARSSStore.org](http://ARSSStore.org).

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## NRS BURSARIES

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society has just received confirmation of the disbursement of the Vancouver Island University awards we have donated from the profits of our 2012 conference.

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society

Janna Marie Logan      \$500.00

Scott Kenneth James      \$500.00

Victoria, Cowichan Valley, Mount Arrowsmith and North Island Rhododendron Societies

Tracey Ann Lewington      \$500.00

Jacob Robert Wedman      \$500.00

The cost to our club is \$1000.00 with VIU matching our donation, as arranged. The awards have been made to assist the students in their Horticulture Studies.

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### Seen In Passing



Pilated woodpeckers eating, in 2 days, a whole square of suet in our feeder.

An immature Bald Eagle trying to learn the technique of dive-bombing small waterfowl into exhaustion – flies away defeated.

Rhododendron Lee's Scarlet in bloom in Bowser in mid-November.

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### Rhodos Worth Growing



#### Ernie Dee

1' -18° C

Purple frilled, plentiful low cushion

Dauricum x racemosum      Caperci

Ernie Dee



#### R luteum

(s Azalea ss Lutem)

4' -24° C

Yellow, very fragrant, deciduous upright open





# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Getting to know each other....  
by June Bouchard

This month, I am pleased to introduce Glenda Barr who has been in the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society since almost the very beginning. Glenda was a director on the Executive for many years; most of you will know her as our program coordinator, a position she held for a number of years until last May. As you can see, there is a lot more to Glenda than a love of rhododendrons. Please meet... Glenda Barr:



## **1. How long have you been growing rhododendrons?**

I started shortly after moving to my Lantzville property in 1990. My mother gave me a few plants, and our late member, Beryl Riches, gave me a Cynthia she had layered from her plant. Rhodos were a natural choice, living at the forest's edge with hungry deer visiting regularly.

## **2. How long have you lived on Vancouver Island?**

I was born in Nanaimo, and moved to Lantzville in 1990. My mother's family has been in Nanaimo since 1862.

## **3. Describe your best day in the garden. ☺**

My best day would be a tranquil one with time to wander, then finding a delightful surprise, an unexpected bloom or hidden fruit. Finding a fragrant rhodo blooming really tops it off.

## **4. What other interests do you have?**

Edible gardening is my primary focus, especially growing as wide a variety of fruits as possible. I'm the area rep for the BC Fruit Testers Association, and graft different apple varieties each spring, as well as taking the opportunity to try growing unusual new berries, etc. I am a proponent of "Voluntary Simplicity", and choose to live with less in a material way so that I can enjoy my life more. Music is a passion, especially Blues. I volunteer at music festivals and with the Lantzville Farmer's Market, for which I book local musicians. I am also involved in activism, supporting environmental and social justice causes. Most of my activist energy goes to support medical cannabis issues, and I co-host the monthly "Cannabis Conversation" radio segment on CHLY's "Living For The Health Of It," booking interesting guests for the show, which airs the first Tuesday of each month, from 2 – 4 pm.

## **5. Do you have a favourite rhododendron?**

Of those in my garden, Hansel would be a real favourite. I can appreciate a blousy beauty, but overall, I prefer a plant with stunning foliage year round. I also have a weakness for fragrance. And I have a lovely "mistake" in my garden, labeled *R. macrophyllum*, which may be an *auriculatum* cross. It blooms very late, usually July, and has large, white, deeply fragrant flowers.

## **6. What do you like about the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society?**

My plan was to attend one meeting in 1992, but the friendly group and interesting speakers caught me up! I enjoy the scientific approach shared by many involved, finding tremendous opportunities to learn, and to network with other gardeners. Local knowledge is priceless when it comes to gardening. Our bus tours are especially enjoyable.

## **7. Anything else you might like to share????**

I am fortunate to have such a great group of people to share a common interest and provide friendly support. Thanks to all of you!

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## Noel's Baked Beans with Herbs

The following recipe has been a staple on our fall and winter menu for many years – it is flavored with herbs rather than ham or pork. The recipe comes from Winter Pleasures: Preserving and Cooking Herbs by Noel Richardson.

3 cups white navy beans soaked overnight, rinsed and drained  
2 medium onions coarsely chopped  
3 cloves of garlic, peeled and chopped (I use more than that – 4-5 cloves)  
A dash of rum or sherry  
2 bay leaves  
4 sprigs fresh thyme  
2 sprigs fresh winter savory (I've also used rosemary)  
6 sun dried tomato pieces, coarsely chopped (or more to taste)  
6 cups of water

Combine above ingredients. Cover and cook for 4 hours in a 350 degree oven or about 8 hours in a slow cooker (first hour on high and the rest of the time on low) until beans are tender.

When beans are tender, mix the following ingredients and add to the beans. Mix well and cook covered for another hour (on high if using slow cooker).

¼ cup molasses  
¼ cup brown sugar  
1 cup ketchup  
2 tsp. dry mustard  
Dash of hot pepper sauce if desired  
Salt and pepper to taste

- If cooked in the oven, check the liquid occasionally and add more water if necessary. Use less water if using the slow cooker.

Bon appétit!

*Submitted by June Bouchard*



# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## November 7, 2013 General Meeting Minutes

**Meeting called to order at 7:05**

**Welcome Guests:** President Lightburn introduced our newest members Robert Nixon and Sandy Carpenter

### **Business Meeting**

**AWARDS:** President Lightburn presented a new award to 3 deserving members who continue to contribute greatly to the club: Anne Davey, Val Harvey, and Reinhold Gorgosilich

**Response to public garden initiative for 2014-** President Lightburn has been unable to solicit sufficient interest to undertake a public garden tour in 2014.

The club will look into members opening their gardens to the members perhaps two or three at a time.

**Program:** President Lightburn circulated a survey to determine what the members might like to see in the upcoming programs.

### **COMMITTEE DIRECTORS REPORTS**

**Secretary** Ann Beamish indicated we have not received any correspondence;

**Library** Ann Beamish advised that she has reserved two books which are for sale from the Fraser Valley Club. They are Winter Blooming Shrubs and Moss Gardening.

**TREASURER** Krystyna Sosulski reported that the balance is \$15,092.09

**Motion:** Ann Beamish moved acceptance of the report

**Second:** Chris Southwick seconded motion

**Passed unanimously**

**Membership:** Sandra Dorman reported she had received a letter from Linda and Richard White who are renewing as individual members and the remainder of their \$100 cheque will be a donation. We welcomed two new members this evening Richard Nixon and Sandy Carpenter

**Sunshine** Sandra Dorman reported she will send a card to Philip Paul in sympathy for the passing of Joy.

**Advertising and Promotion** Bryan Jubinville reported that we will request two banners this year, the theme has yet to be determined.

Bryan will look into using the booth at Woodgrove Mall perhaps a week or two prior to the Show.

**Web Page** Craig Clarke was absent so no report.

**Social** Susan Lightburn thanked everyone for bringing the food and distributed a form to solicit assistance in setting up for the December supper meeting.

**Christmas Party and Auction:** December 12 at 6:30, fingerfood, plates and cutlery, 10% of funds go to Salvation Army and dry food hamper donations to Loaves and Fishes.

**Discussion-** Earl Daneluk mentioned a trip to Germany, Denmark and Sweden(in latest ARS journal). It is out of Seattle, May 20, 2014 and is \$5700 per person.

**8:00 Short Break**

**8:10 Raffle**

Earl Daneluk (Rimini), Alan McCrae (Etta Burrows) Dick Beamish(Blue Danube), Earl Daneluk (loquat)

**Door Prizes**

Sandy Carpenter, Earl Daneluk and Dick Beamish

**8:15 Speaker-**Art Lightburn introduced Carmen Varcoe who gave a spirited talk on Finnerty Gardens a jewel on the University of Victoria Campus

**9:15 Adjournment**

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## The Lapponicum Series of the Genus Rhododendron

This series (alternatively classified as the Subsection Lapponicum of the Section Rhododendron) contains the largest natural group of truly dwarf alpine rhodo species, rarely exceeding five feet in height. They have aromatic evergreen leaves with dense scales on both surfaces, making them Lepidotes. The flowers are mostly in purple or pink shades with the odd yellow displayed in small terminal trusses or in some cases singly. The flowers themselves are generally funnel-shaped or tubular and not of a very thick texture, which can cause them to be easily damaged by windy wet weather. Most have short flower stalks with the calyx and the seed capsule also quite small.

Their normal distribution covers a large area of Western China down to Tibet and the Eastern Himalayas, and reaching high altitudes which generally makes them cold resistant, but all must have good drainage. There are many worthwhile plants garden plants in the series, most of which will do well in the Dandenongs [Ed. hills east of Melbourne where the Australian National Rhododendron Garden is located] and the foothills, but are very difficult on the lower slopes. One definite plus is that they generally flower as young plants. If they become leggy or misshapen they can be pruned with electric shears after flowering without causing too much harm.

Many of these plants have been used in hybridizing, particularly with the Triflorum Series (Triflorum Subsection), eg. *R. augustinii*, to create a wide range of almost blue hybrids originally for the Northern Hemisphere.

To show the smaller members of the series at their best, and if room permits, it is better to plant them in groups of three or more to achieve the full effect of massed colour.

Some Lapponicum species that are still likely to be available:

- *R. chryseum*. Can be cream to yellow with 4-5 flowers in truss and height to 2 feet. Goes well with purple.
- *R. fastigiatum*. Light to dark purple, 4-5 flowers in truss, height to 3 feet, good glaucous foliage.
- *R. hippophaeoides*. Lavender blue flowers, compact truss, height to 5 feet, likes a moist area, early flowering.

“Haba Shan” is probably the best form.

- *R. impeditum*. Commonly grown, small purple flowers vary in colour, true dwarf.
- *R. lapponicum*. The series type. Flowers purple, 3 to a truss, height to 3 feet. Difficult to grow.
- *R. intracatum*. Lavender to mauve flowers in compact truss, height to 3 feet, one of the best.
- *R. rupicola*. Commonly yellow, but best form plum crimson, outstanding, height to 2 feet, can be leggy.
- *R. russatum*. Flowers reddish to intense violet,

4- 6 to a truss, height 2-6 feet, leaves can be up to 2.5 inches long.

- *R. scintillans*. Flowers purple rose to royal blue, 2-3 in a truss, height to 3 feet, tends to be straggly in shade.
- *R. websterianum*. Flowers can be purple, but mostly pale blue in Australia. Height 3 feet, keep moist.

Ian Wallace and Norm Brown,  
Ferny Creek Horticultural Society,  
Victoria, Australia



*R. lapponicum*

*Reprinted from the October 2011 newsletter of the Victoria Branch of the Australian Rhododendron Society*