



December 2014

President's Message

November certainly started out with a bang – with temperatures dropping to as low as minus four and a half at my home. Green Acres was not green, but white with frost for a number of days. Our more usual dull and rainy weather has returned with a hint of the “s” word on the horizon.

Bowen Park's Hailey Rhododendron Grove has recently come back to our attention thanks to long-time member Val Harvey. In this newsletter we're reprinting with permission from Sandra Evelyn, an article which gives the history of this local but hidden garden gem. Sandra wrote this article 20 years ago and perhaps it's time to revive our support for this historic Nanaimo garden. If you're interested in either leading or serving as a member of a group to look at how our society can support the Hailey Rhododendron Grove, please speak to one of the executive members.

Our annual Christmas Auction and celebration is on Thursday, December 11th. It is one of our club fundraisers and we hope that everyone will contribute in some way. On these warmer days, dig up that duplicate rhodo that you now don't really want, or let one of the executive know that you would like to part with the rhodo that's grown bigger than you ever thought it would. We'll come and help you dig it up and bring it to the auction! Smaller items (wine or chocolates are always welcome) can go into our special raffle section. We donate 10 percent of the proceeds to the Salvation Army and our gifts of non-perishable items are given to our local Loaves and Fishes food bank. We start one hour earlier than our usual meetings – at 6:30 p.m.

Continued next page



Next Meeting

Thursday December 11, 6:30 pm Beban Park Social Centre

CHRISTMAS AUCTION AND POTLUCK

EXECUTIVE

President	Chris Southwick	390-3415
Past President	Art Lightburn	468-7516
Vice President	Brenda Lewis	751-3639
Secretary	Ann Beamish	758-2574
Treasurer	Krystyna Sosulski	729-0948
Directors	Craig Clarke	390-4090
	Susan Lightburn	468-7516
	Dorothee Kieser	390-4136
	Gayle McRae	758-7589

COMMITTEES

Advertising	Jan Moles	
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Membership	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Program	Art Lightburn	468-7516
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey	
Social	Susan Lightburn	468-7516
Bargain Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533
Website	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Sunshine	Edith Higgins	390-9340
Bus Tour	John Deniseger & June Bouchard	
Truss Show	Doug Blenkarn	
Spring Sale	Ann Beamish	

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society
Box 241, #101-5170 Dunster Road
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4
Website: nanaimo.rhodos.ca
email: nanaimo@rhodos.ca

Twigs and Stems



Goodies for December Meeting

Everyone!

Potluck finger foods

Qualicum Beach Seedy Saturday

'SOW THE SEEDS!'

Saturday February 7

10 am to 3:30 pm

Qualicum Beach Civic Center

www.qbseedsaturday.com

Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden

Spring Catalogue

now online

<http://rhodygarden.org/cms/current-catalog/>

President's Message continued

Bring a gardening friend along with:

1. a donation of some non-perishable food items;
2. at least an item or two to include in the auction or raffle;
3. cutlery, plate and a mug;
4. an item of finger-type food to share in our pot luck dinner; (You can choose an appetizer, a main dish or dessert. We don't have bowls or spoons so hence the idea of finger food. I've heard that the Lightburns are bringing some turkey!)
5. and...don't forget your chequebook!

The long-awaited on-line registration for the American Rhododendron Society's 2015 Spring Conference is now available at: www.2015rhodo.ca On the Victoria Rhodo Society's website there are links to you-tube videos and all sorts of information about this exciting opportunity to learn more about the genus rhododendron. Don't wait to register, as this conference will be sold out!

If you're away on a holiday or are unable to attend our December meeting, I'd like to extend warm wishes for a happy holiday and a fantastic new year.

Chris

Rhodos Worth Growing



Rhododendron 'Karen Triplett' ('Seattle Gold' x 'Mary Drennen') 4', -20°C, ML, 4/4.

Rounded mounds of warm satin yellow appear in grand splendor. Attractive jade green leaves on a handsome, well-branched shrub. Very choice!



Rhododendron 'Kimbeth' ('Kimberly' x 'Elizabeth') 3', -20°C, EM, 4/4-5. A perfect semidwarf for landscaping. Rouge-pink flower buds bring merry color through the winter. Rose colored flowers appear on every stem of the plant, making a solid mass of colour.



NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society November 13, 2014

Meeting convened at 19:35 with Chris Southwick welcoming all and acknowledging new member Edna Murdock and welcoming two guests of Liisa Rullo.

Opportunities and upcoming events:

- CVRS are sponsoring an England Garden Tour May 14-25, 2015
- ARS Spring Conference in Sidney, May 8, 9, 10 2015. Please be thinking of things for a silent auction basket

Secretary: receipt of card of thanks from bursary recipient Ashley Hilder

Library: nothing new to add

Treasurer: Krystyna gave an updated financial report and reported the balance is currently \$13,387.20

PLANT SALE DATE CHANGE: PLEASE NOTE THE 2015 SHOW AND SALE WILL BE SUNDAY MAY 3

Sunshine: fortunately no cards were required this past month please let Edith Higgins know if you would like someone to receive some cheer from the club

Membership: reminder that membership renewals are due: Family \$45, Single \$40, Associate Family \$15, Single \$10. Late memberships will have \$10 added as the club has to pay an additional fee to ARS for late reporting.

Program: Art Lightburn reported for 2015:

- January Earl Daneluk
- February Gordon MacKay from ALBA plants
- March a panel discussion topics yet to be determined

Update email addresses: please check list circulating for residential address, phone number, and email address

ARS Spring Conference: Art Lightburn is our point person and indicated that they are looking for volunteers for Tuesday to Saturday in all capacities some of which are: greeters, bus tour captains 2 per bus and there will be a preview tour, billets are in progress in Victoria. Anyone who is interested in assisting should email Art Lightburn. *registration forms were available at the meeting and will be on line in a week or so. **We still need items for our raffle basket for the conference.**

Milner Garden Update: Art Lightburn reported that a preliminary draft will be available shortly, and that Jim Cadwaladr has been commissioned to prepare same. Jim is the former Manager of the garden. Island clubs have pledged \$20,000 with an agreement for matching funds. To date an architect, a landscape architect and two foresters are working on the plan pro bono.

Dorothee Kieser and Craig Clarke are circulating tickets for the Milner Christmas Raffle.

ARS photo contest results: Art Lightburn reported the results will be in the upcoming edition of the ARS Journal. Kudos to our own Susan Lightburn for a first in Category 1: flower, truss or spray and runner up in the same. Runner up in Category 2: plant in bloom, Runner up in Category 4: Foliage.

Christmas Auction: Ann Beamish requested that anyone with suggestions for new donors please contact her.

Program: Jeff de Jong gave a rousing presentation on creating a garden from which everyone present learned either something about their own garden or something they can do to their garden.

Meeting adjourned at 21:30

Next meeting: Annual Auction and potluck December 11

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Getting to know each other

By June Bouchard

Our feature member for this month is Susan Lightburn. Susan has been involved in the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society for many years and has been a member of the executive for most of that time. In addition to being a helping hand in numerous capacities over the years, Susan is currently in charge of the social committee, overseeing monthly coffee and goodies as well as September and December potlucks. Susan is also an accomplished photographer and has been the recipient of numerous accolades for her spectacular photos. Thank you Susan for your enthusiasm and for your continuous support of the NRS.

1. How long have you been growing rhododendrons?

Art and I started visiting island rhododendron gardens around 2004. We met so many interesting and friendly people willing to share their wonderful gardens that it didn't take long to start collecting rhododendrons for our own property. Art was becoming very smitten with the species, and I was getting very fascinated with garden and, most specifically, rhododendron photography.

2. How long have you lived on Vancouver Island?

We moved from Masset, Haida Gwaii to Nanooose in 1987. It was a very exciting time for our family, as we had a 5year old and a 2 year old, and I was making a shift in my teaching career from elementary to secondary school.

3. Describe your best day in the garden. ☺

I love those warm spring days in March and April when all the new trusses are showing up, and I can flit about with my camera trying to capture just a small bit of the garden's splendour and colour.

4. What other interests do you have?

Photography and traveling (other cultures) would be very high on the list, along with literature (reading and editing) and art, biking and walking.

5. Do you have a favourite rhododendron?

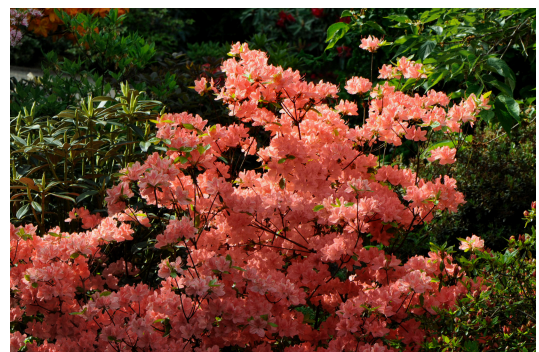
My list of favourites would be too long for this article. I think it would be easier to answer the question, "Do you have any rhodos you don't like?" The answer would probably still be "no". There is such a wonderful variety of size, shape, colour, foliage, fragrance that I could never choose.

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

First, what a great group of people! Second, I enjoy the many, many garden visits. Next, I love learning from all the speakers we get for our meetings. It's just a lot of fun!

7. Anything else you might like to share?

Aren't they all beautiful?



Hailey Garden

by Sandra Evelyn

Reprinted from May 1994 NRS Newsletter

In April, 1975, Mrs. Ellen Hailey gave more than 350 rhododendron plants from her collection to the City of Nanaimo. These plants can be found in the Hailey Rhododendron Garden in Bowen Park.

When I was asked to write a history of this lovely old garden I accepted but not without a good deal of trepidation. Certainly I was familiar with this garden; in fact my husband and I frequently visit the Hailey Garden in Bowen Park and now find ourselves on a first name basis with many of its occupants. Each spring we look forward to renewing our acquaintance with the Rhododendron hybrids such as '**Etta Burrows**', '**Snow Queen**', '**Avalanche**', '**Mrs. Chas. E. Pearson**'; and some species including ***R. calophytum***, ***R. conncinum***. There are also the many Azaleas such as ***R. slippenbachi***. But a large number of these rhododendron plants seem unable to be identified. One must be content to enjoy their beauty and (if they feel so stimulated) to engage in the conjecture of the parentage of these progeny. Over the last decade many Vancouver Island rhododendron experts including Bill Dale, Norman Todd, Evelyn and Nick Weesjes, Dave Dougan, Bob and Jean Rhodes and Ken Gibson have visited the garden and concur that many of the rhododendrons in the Hailey garden noticeably differ from the many hybrid and species rhododendrons they are familiar with. These unknown crosses may well be one of a kind. It seems unlikely even if modern genetic research makes these elusive plants reveal their parentage many will be recognized as registered hybrids. Along with the overall beauty of the plants in the garden this mystery of the unknown becomes part of the lure of the Hailey Garden to everyday passers by and rhodoholics alike.

But a garden's history is not only about nomenclature and botanical origins. It is also about special integrated relationships between the plants and the people who select and care for these plants. The rhododendrons in the Hailey Garden have known two owners. The garden was originally established in Vancouver and later moved to Vancouver Island by Captain Alfred and Mrs. Ellen Hailey. Today it is owned by the people of the City of Nanaimo.

As both Captain and Mrs. Hailey are now deceased and left no written records of their garden I knew it would be difficult to write of this earlier history. However, memories of those who knew the Haileys in Vancouver such as long time rhodoholic Fred Collins, along with Jean Rhodes' knowledge of items in older ARS journals and Nanaimo historian Fred Taylor's records of Bowen Park have all helped to piece together some of the story behind the Hailey Rhododendron Garden.

The first Hailey garden was located at their residence in Vancouver at 14th Avenue and Dunbar St. Here, Captain Hailey indulged his interest in arborea and had a collection of locally available magnolias. Ellen Hailey was a lab technician who worked for a medical practitioner in the Fraser Valley who had a keen interest in rhododendrons. His hobby proved addictive (who once exposed can dare to deny this?) and Mrs. Hailey was soon observed removing the grass about her home to make way for her own increasing rhododendron collection. Indeed she soon had several hundred rhodos on this city-sized lot including both hybrids and species. Many of these plants were obtained by Mrs. Hailey during her frequent "shopping trips" to Halfdan Lem's nursery in the United States. Today some of his famous hybrids which include ***R. 'Lem's Monarch'*** (a.k.a. Pink Walloper) can be seen in the Hailey Rhododendron Garden in Bowen Park.



R. 'Susan' photo by Susan Lightburn

There can be no doubt that Mrs. Hailey's interest in rhododendrons went beyond that of finding a suitable garden plant for "beside the front door". She was a charter member of the Vancouver Rhododendron Society, which formed in the early 1950's. From 1959 through 1962 she was secretary-treasurer of the group. In April 1963 she undertook to chair a committee for a display of rhododendrons in the Vancouver Horticultural Society show. Frequently she was called upon to judge at rhododendron shows.

By now "rhododendroning" had become a family affair in the Hailey household. The early meetings of the Vancouver Chapter of the ARS were held in members' homes and gardens. Captain and Mrs. Haileys' three children, a daughter and two sons were always on hand to greet the guest members and serve refreshments. For whatever their reasons these children did not retain an interest in their parents' garden and the City of Nanaimo became the welcoming beneficiary to many of the rhododendrons.

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

The second Hailey Rhododendron Garden was planted in Nanaimo in 1967. Captain Hailey had accepted a post in Nanaimo as port warden and the family moved to their new home in the Hammond Bay area just past the lagoon. Not about to leave her beloved rhododendrons behind Mrs. Hailey had a backhoe load them onto two forty foot flatbed trucks and transported to Nanaimo. Here they flourished in a garden that was soon to become vastly overgrown as the family engaged in other interests including a summer home on Thormanby Island. With failing health Mrs. Hailey may have been expressing her concern for her plants' survival when she asked local rhododendron growers to propagate some of her prized species plants but this was never accomplished.

On March 21st, 1975 Captain Hailey was returning in his small pleasure craft from a short holiday to the family summer cabin. Despite his lifelong experience with the sea (his transport carrier was torpedoed off South Africa and he and another Nanaimo man, Capt. Clarke spent several hours in shark infested waters before rescue) Captain Hailey's craft overturned. Although he had lashed himself to the transom Captain Hailey was unable to withstand the cold waters and he died from exposure. Mrs. Hailey found she could no longer keep her home and garden and decided to move back to Vancouver to be closer to family and friends. Once again she faced a priority of establishing a new home for her many rhododendrons. She gave her species collection to the Vancouver Parks Board where Alleyne Cook undertook to arrange their planting in Van Dusen Gardens. The hybrids numbering some 350 plants she gave to the Nanaimo Parks Board. It is interesting to note, however, that some species did find their way into the Bowen Park Hailey Garden. In April, 1975 the planting of these rhododendrons in Bowen Park was overseen by city gardener Anders Olsen in what was to be the third and final Hailey Rhododendron Garden. Unfortunately the plants were either not tagged or the tags were lost and no records were kept of the identity of the individual plants.

Until recently the Hailey Rhododendron Garden in Bowen Park has not received the attention it so richly deserves. Lack of funding and manpower saw the plants grow to overcrowd each other. It became obvious that many of the plants had been propagated by graft as suckering rootstock (mainly *R. ponticum*) began to overpower the scions. This suggests there are some rare and hard to propagate specialties in the collection. **R. 'Susan'** and **R. 'Robin Hood'** are two such specimens that have been identified. Vandalism, too, took its toll. Some plants have been found uprooted and others mysteriously disappeared. However with the installation of a watering system and a dense mulching of sawdust most of the rhodos survived happily enough. Today many of these plants have reached a height of fifteen feet or more.



R. 'Beauty of Littleworth'

In 1992 the Nanaimo Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society was established and the membership was encouraged to visit and enjoy the Hailey Gardens. In June, 1993 eight of the founding members formed a work party and volunteered to "dead-head" (remove the spent blooms) of the plants. Interest mounted within the group and it was proposed that Bowen Park including the Hailey Garden could be used as the NRS principal display garden. A comprehensive plan was worked on by the executive of the NRS and the City of Nanaimo whereby the NRS asked to "adopt" the rhododendron grove in Bowen Park as part of the city's "Volunteers In Parks" program. With this permission granted in winter of 1994 the NRS voted to provide the sum of \$1500. for the purpose upgrading and expanding the irrigation system. This sum will be matched by an

equal amount from a city grant. Present plans include extending the watering system, plant identification and tagging, improvements to pathways and general maintenance. In future, they also hope to provide for additional plantings.

The Hailey Rhododendron Garden lies in the beautiful Millstream River valley in Bowen Park. It can be reached by three access routes. One may start from the Bush Street parking lot and covered picnic area. From here follow the roadway that runs adjacent to the Millstream River. A smaller parking lot to accommodate about six cars is located halfway between the Bush Street lot and the Hailey Garden. A sign "The Hailey Rhododendron Garden" is on the left-hand side. If you approach from the upper valley proceed downstream past the animal farmyard. Alternatively, leave the parking lot behind the tennis courts on Bowen Road and adjacent to the Bowen Park Clubhouse and follow a woodland trail that descends into the garden. Of course if you should choose (and you most definitely should) to time your visit to these gardens during April and May the colourful, towering and sometimes scented trusses announce you have arrived at the Hailey Rhododendron Garden.

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Christmas Stollen

I got this stollen recipe while I was Head Baker at the Dorchester. It's packed with dried fruit and filled with a marzipan surprise. It makes a perfect food gift at Christmas.

Ingredients

Serves: **15**

- 2 teaspoons dried active baking yeast
- 175ml (6 fl oz) warm milk (45 C)
- 1 large egg
- 75g (3 oz) caster sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 75g (3 oz) unsalted butter, softened
- 350g (12 oz) bread flour
- 50g (2 oz) currants
- 50g (2 oz) sultanas
- 50g (2 oz) red glace cherries, quartered
- 175g (6 oz) diced mixed citrus peel
- 200g (7 oz) marzipan
- 1 heaped teaspoon icing sugar
- 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
- toasted flaked almonds for sprinkling on top



Preparation method

Prep: **2 hours** | Cook: **40 mins**

1. In a small bowl, dissolve yeast in warm milk. Let stand until creamy, about 10 minutes.
2. In a large bowl, combine the yeast mixture with the egg, caster sugar, salt, butter, and 3/4 of the bread flour; beat well. Add the remaining flour, a little at a time, stirring well after each addition.
3. When the dough has begun to pull together, turn it out onto a lightly floured surface, and knead in the currants, sultanas, dried cherries and mixed peel. Continue kneading until smooth, about 8 minutes.
4. Lightly oil a large bowl, place the dough in the bowl, and turn to coat with oil. Cover with a damp cloth and let rise in a warm place until doubled in volume, about 1 hour.
5. Lightly grease a baking tray. Deflate the dough and turn it out onto a lightly floured surface. Roll the marzipan into a rope and place it in the centre of the dough. Fold the dough over to cover it; pinch the seams together to seal.
6. Place the loaf, seam side down, on the prepared baking tray. Cover with a clean, damp tea-towel and let rise until doubled in volume, about 40 minutes. Meanwhile, preheat oven to 180 C .
7. Bake in the preheated oven for 10 minutes, then reduce heat to 150 C and bake for a further 30 to 40 minutes, or until golden brown.
8. Allow loaf to cool on a wire cooling rack. Dust the cooled loaf with icing sugar, sprinkle with cinnamon and finish with toasted flaked almonds.

Christmas Nuts

By Norma Senn

One of the speciality foods we associate with Christmas are nuts: we even have a whole Christmas story built around a nutcracker. We find mixed nuts available in the shell or in cans. The most common mix includes cashews, Brazil nuts, walnuts, pecans and hazelnuts. These delicious nuts represent crops that are produced from all over the world.



Cashews, *Anacardium occidentale*, is native to South America where it is still grown. However, in the 16th century, cashew trees were introduced to India by the Portuguese, and shortly thereafter, into Africa. The trees were really introduced to hold soil in place, rather than as use as an edible crop. The trees are now found growing throughout the tropical world, and it is a major economic crop of several African countries, as well as India and now, Viet Nam. It is grown in large plantations in many areas, but it also is a cash crop for many small growers. In parts of eastern Africa, cashew trees have naturalized and now form large tracts of forests. Cashew trees grow well with heat and drought, but they have no tolerance to cold or poorly drained soils.

The cashew tree is related to poison ivy and poison sumac, and like these plants, parts of the cashew tree cause skin irritations. The actual hard seed coat that surrounds the cashew meat contains the phenolic oils that cause skin rashes. In times past, there were problems in removing the husks to get at the delicious seeds inside, but with modern processing techniques, however, no one has to handle the husks. The cashew apple, the fruit that surrounds the cashew seed, is perfectly edible, and in many parts of the world, the cashew apple is more important than the nut as it is used for fresh eating, juice and syrup. In southern India, the fruit is fermented to create a local liquor called feni. Cashew apples are also used as livestock feed.

Another crop originally native to South America is the Brazil nut, *Bertholletia excelsa*. The trees are native to large areas of the Amazon River basin, and are found growing wild in Brazil, Peru, Bolivia and Colombia. It is a very large tree, easily reaching 50 m in height. The nuts we eat are contained within a very large capsule-like fruit. Each fruit, which has a woody covering much like a coconut, can weigh over a kg and contains between 15 to 20 nuts. The nuts are considered to be very nutritious as they have a high protein content, as well as several elements and vitamins essential to our diets. The nuts also contain high quality oils that can be used to make cosmetics and soaps.

Traditionally, Brazil nuts have been collected from the wild, but over the past couple of decades, concerted efforts have been made to establish cultivated plantations. The trees make good over-story trees for other crops like cocoa and pepper. The wood is used for lumber, and the hard fruit shells are used to manufacture local crafts. Brazil nuts are very important to the local economies where the trees are grown.

Pecans, *Carya illinoensis*, are native to North America, originally found growing in areas in the southern parts of the American mid-west into the south eastern states. This is a deciduous tree that needs deep, rich soil with an even moisture supply and good drainage. Georgia, Arkansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Texas and parts of California have a large pecan industry. As well, there is a large industry in Australia. Pecans, like walnuts and hazelnuts, are used extensively in commercial baking, as well as being a Christmas snack. Trees come into bearing between 6 to 10 years of age. In addition to the nuts, pecans are also grown for their beautiful wood. The nuts form slowly in a shell over the summer months. The pecan kernels that we eat are actually a seedling's two cotyledons.

Pecan trees are vegetatively hardy in the mildest areas of B.C., but they do not produce nuts. There are several beautiful trees planted at Butchart Gardens in Victoria. Because they are tap-rooted, pecan trees are a good choice to plant in a lawn, where a good lawn is wanted underneath the tree canopy.

Commercial walnuts come from the English (or Persian) walnut tree, *Juglans regia*. It is native to a large

area from the western Himalayas through central Asia into Eastern Europe. It has provided food for thousands of years. English walnuts were introduced into North America by early settlers, including the Spanish, who brought the nuts to California in the 1700s. California is the largest producer of commercial English walnuts in the world. English walnuts have been selected for soft shells that can be removed easily and a mild flavour. Walnut oil is extracted from poor grade nuts. Even the hard shells of walnuts are used to make polishing solutions for metals.

There are several other species of walnut trees, including the black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) that is native to parts of southern Ontario into the eastern U.S. seaboard through the mid-west. The nuts, while edible, are not as popular as English walnuts because of their strong flavour and very hard shells. Wood lot production of black walnut trees is common in eastern North America since the trees are prized for their beautiful lumber. Trees grown for lumber are grown from seed while those grown for nuts are produced by grafting. Tree habit for nut bearing trees is a low, wide-spreading canopy while lumber trees are trained to grow tall and have a high canopy. Both English and black walnut trees can be grown in southern British Columbia. However, nut production tends to be variable from year to year. One reason for the variation is that the flowers are occasionally damaged by late spring frost. However, both make beautiful, large ornamental trees.

Commercially, hazelnuts or filberts, *Corylus avellana*, are grown from northern California into southwestern B.C., with the largest production in Oregon. However, our production pales in comparison with the crops produced in Turkey, Italy and Spain. The nuts are used extensively in baking, added to breakfast cereals and eaten whole. If you're wondering about the terms filbert and hazelnut, they're really the same thing. Traditionally, the nuts from trees introduced from Europe and the middle-east were called filberts and they are characterized by having husks (the covering over the nut) as long as or longer than the nut, while hazelnuts were used for native North American species which typically have a husk that is shorter than the nut. Nowadays though the terms are used interchangeably, and in some areas these even go by a third name, the cobnut.

Hazelnuts can be grown as a single stemmed small tree or as a multi-stemmed large shrubs. They grow best in rich, deep soils that hold moisture while providing good drainage. The contorted hazelnut tree, *Corylus avellana* 'Contorta' (Harry Lauder's Walking Stick) makes an interesting small tree for the garden. It is grown for its winter habit which has branches growing in contorted spirals. It does produce edible nuts, but I find the Stellars Jays and squirrels adore them.

There are several other species of hazelnuts that are important wildlife food sources, including *Corylus cornuta*, our wild hazelnut.

From The Yak Dec 02.

