

The Rhodomentum

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Newsletter



December 2016



President's Message

There seem to be more flowers out in my garden each time I look. I think that the cooler weather, which we are now experiencing, will stop that. My "Lee's Scarlet" started blooming this year in October - unreal! During the last week, on two occasions John Deniseger, Doug Kitts, Art and Susan Lightburn and I moved a number of large species rhododendrons from Art's place to the storage area at Milner Gardens. Art and Susan are donating these plants. What amazed me was that the ground was still dry under some of the plants. Art's tall firs and cedars really shed the rain from the area close to the trunks of his trees.

I wish you all a "Merry Christmas" and a "Happy New Year" and hope to see you all at our Christmas meeting on December 8th. Please bring something to share for the potluck, something to auction, something for the Food Bank and your own plate, cutlery and cup.

See you there,
Allen!



EXECUTIVE

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|----------|
| President | Allen McRae | 758-7589 |
| Vice President | Art Lightburn | 468-7516 |
| Secretary | Ann Beamish | 758-2574 |
| Treasurer | Gayle McRae | 758-7589 |
| Directors | Glenda Barr | 390-2822 |
| | Craig Clarke | 390-4090 |
| | Susan Lightburn | 468-7516 |
| | Dick Beamish | 758-2574 |
| | Chris Southwick | 390-3415 |

COMMITTEES

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Advertising | Jan Moles /Gerry Moore |
| Library | Ann Beamish/Sandra Dorman |
| Newsletter | Kathryn Grant/June and John |
| Membership | Krystyna Sosulski |
| Program | Doug Kitts |
| Raffle | Ann Davey & Val Harvey |
| Social | Susan Lightburn |
| Bargain Table | Reinhold Gorgosilich |
| Website | Craig Clarke |
| Bus Tour | John Deniseger & June Bouchard |

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society
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email: nanaimo@rhodos.ca

Next Meeting

Thursday December 8, 6:30 pm Beban Park Social Centre

CHRISTMAS POTLUCK AND AUCTION

Twigs and Stems



GOODIES FOR DECEMBER

Potluck

QB SEEDY SATURDAY

Mark your calendar! The 15th annual Seedy Saturday will be held on Feb. 4th 2017 at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre from 10am to 3:30pm. Our exciting theme this year is Flourish and Nourish with Linda Gilkeson's "Flourishing Food Gardens all Year Round" and Amy Robson's "Nourishing your Soil; the World Beneath your Feet." As usual, we have the Seed Swap, local garden related Vendors, Master Gardeners, Seedy Cafe and the "Shoots with Roots" family program. Admission is by donation, with proceeds going to school and community garden projects. Don't forget there are Raffles and Door prizes to be won! Check out our new website for more information.

<https://www.qbseedysaturday.ca>





We hope you are all planning to join us for the annual NRS Annual Fun Auction and Christmas Party coming up on.....

Thursday, December 8, 6:30 pm
Beban Park, Nanaimo

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 fundraiser for our club, with 10% donated to the Salvation Army. Also, a box will be provided for dry goods 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.

Please remember...

A donation for the Food Bank, Loaves and Fishes



Ten Minute Botany Talks

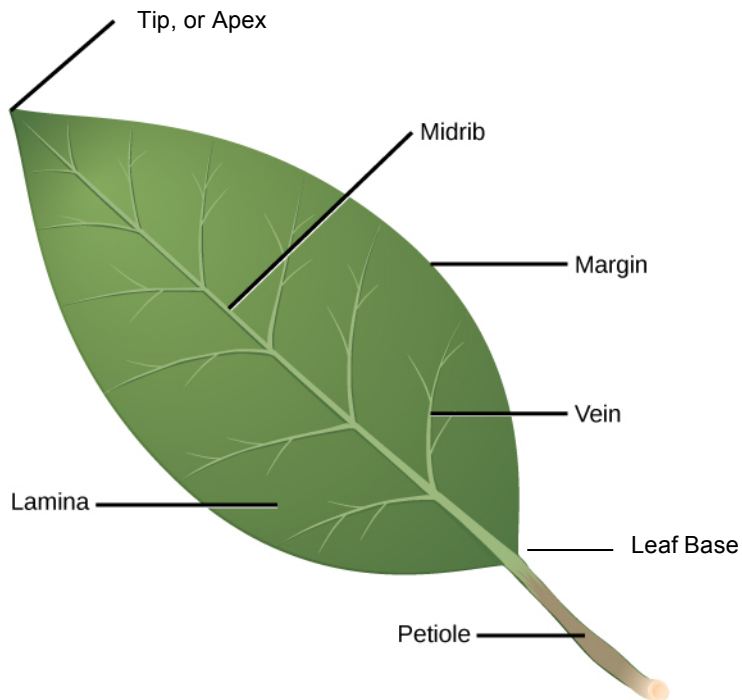
By **Chris Southwick**

Allen McRae came up with the idea of doing some short talks on rhododendron botany to help us all learn some simple language to help us all be more knowledgeable about our favourite plants. I agreed to help out as I am keen on species rhodos and in trying to identify rhododendron species you have to know something about botany. Obviously, this quick information is not intended to help you key out species or anything that detailed, after all, universities teach botany courses which take many months if not years to learn!

Since it is fall we thought we'd start with leaves and then move on to flowers. Our topics will be roughly as follows:

- Parts of a leaf - November
- Leaf types - January
- Lepidotes and Elepidotes – what does that mean? February
- Parts of a Flower - March
- Buds - April
- Flower Shapes – May

Parts of a Leaf



NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society General Meeting November 10, 2016

1. Call to order at 1930. Welcome everyone. We have many guests with us this evening and one new member Patricia Cuttriss.

President's report: Allen reported that following up on a question about annual expenses of the club that it takes approximately \$4,500 to run the organization.

2. Rhodo Botany: Allan distributed a variety of rhododendron leaves and then gave a presentation on the structure and differences among the leaves. Hopefully the members will come away with more understanding about the part of the rhododendron we see all year.
3. Committee Reports:
 - a. **Bargain Table:** Reinhold reported there were still a couple of plants and some iris bulbs
 - b. **Library:** no report at this time
 - c. **Membership:** Krystyna reminded members that it is renewal time and all renewals must be in by the end of November or the club pays a late fee of \$10 US for each entry.
 - d. **Treasurer:** Gaylle McRae reported that the balance as of October 31 was \$14,977.64, since then we have had \$862.73 in income, and \$5,618.88 in expenditures leaving a balance of \$10,221.49. Gaylle further itemized the expenses: \$4,600 to VIU for Milner Garden, \$400.00 for Nepal, \$50.00 to the NRGH Foundation in memory of Edith Higgins, and monies paid out for speakers, and raffle plants.
 - e. **Rhodomentum:** Kathryn Grant kindly continues to produce our newsletter now called the **RHODOMENTUM**.
 - f. **Program:** In Doug Kitts absence Art Lightburn did say that the January session was booked but did not have details.
 - g. **Raffle Table:** Tonight's 3 offerings were provided by Al Campbell.
 - h. **Secretary:** Ann reported correspondence from VIU thanking us for our donation to Milner Gardens, NRGH Foundation thanking us for our donation in memory of Edith Higgins, and a newsletter from Dominion Brook Park.
 - i. **Social:** Susan Lightburn reminded members that our next meeting is our Christmas potluck dinner and auction. Please bring something to share and your own utensils.
 - j. **Website:** Craig Clarke continues to update the website
 - k. **Sunshine:** Gratefully nothing to report.

Upcoming functions:

- ARS annual Spring Convention, Eureka, California, April 27-30, 2017
- Christmas Pot Luck and Auction-David and Joyce Mitchell will once again be Santa and Mrs. Claus. Please bring a plant from your garden for auction or some other item if able. Also bring a food item to share and something for the Food Bank.

Old Business:

- **Monthly Raffle:** Following the discussion at the last meeting, the executive decided that the raffle tickets should now be 1/\$1, 3/\$2 and 10/\$5.
- **Moved:** Ann Beamish that the prices be as above
- **Seconded:** Sandra Dorman
- **Motion Carried**

Door Prize: Following the motion to discontinue the funded door prize, at the executive meeting it was determined that an anonymous donor would donate a door prize for each meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1940 to be followed by presentation by Dennis Bottemiller.

Next executive meeting: Krystyna Sosulski November 17 at 2pm



American Rhododendron Society Fall Conference in Newport, Oregon

The ARS fall conference was held September 30-Oct 2 at The Agate Beach Holiday Inn, just north of Newport, with 189 participants including 26 from District 1. Not bad!

Highlights of the conference, in addition to copious socializing, were evening talks on rhododendrons from around the world, and morning clinics on “how to, and more.” We heard about amazing azaleas in the southwest USA, rhododendrons in northern Germany, Russia, Sikkim, New Zealand (presented by MARS president Linda Derkach) and even Chile. Clinics were held on Saturday and Sunday mornings with simultaneous, rotating talks on rhododendron propagation,

camellias, rhododendron bonsai, hardy fuschias, alpenes, garden photography and more. I really like these clinics. They get right to the point, usually involve hand-out notes, and always have an attentive and appreciative audience. The ones that I attended were all outstanding: Dennis Bottemiller of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden fame on growing rhododendrons from seeds and cuttings, Robert Herald of Portland on Camellias (“Revival of an Aristocrat”), Don Wallace from Eureka chapter (“Hybridizing Rhodos with Goals in Mind”) and Dave Eckerdt from Salem, Oregon (“A Garden Appreciator”), photos and garden ideas from around the world presented with wry humour. If any of them venture north, grab them for speakers. Of course we all know Dennis and he’s always obliging.

Trusses are out of the question in October, but Mike Bones of Florence, Oregon put together a most attractive display of rhododendron foliage, from miniatures to big leaves. We voted, and the winner was a big leaf, but darned if I can remember which one.

A meeting of the ARS board was held on the Friday, at which it was reported that the ARS budget is finally in balance and that Katherine Sterner, our new Administrative Assistant, is doing an exceptional job. We heard glowing plans for next year’s ARS spring convention in Eureka, California. Ken Webb, from the Victoria Rhododendron Society, pumped us up for the 2018 blockbuster ARS conference in Germany, which will include optional pre and post trips to Holland, Denmark, Sweden and Finland. Stay tuned!

Chris Hodgson, District 1 Director

Seen In Passing

Friday night a skim of snow in Nanoose

The cooling weather giving our very expressive
R sutchuenense leaves a sad dog look



Hummingbird visiting *Berberis Darwinii* looking for breakfast

Seen In Passing

Deliveries of many species rhododendrons to the storage area of Milner Gardens and Woodlands in preparation for next spring's species planting



Getting Kesangiae ready

Starting The Day
moving plants at Art & Susan Lightburn's



Heading for Milner's new species garden



Doug Kitts, Art Lightburn, John Deniseger, Allen McRae
moving plants on to Trailer



Coffee time for the movers



HOLIDAY BREAKFAST CASSEROLE

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 package of 6 Thomas' Original English Muffins
- 1/2 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 medium sweet onion, chopped finely
- 1 medium red bell pepper, chopped finely
- 1 medium green bell pepper, chopped finely
- 2 cups finely chopped ham
- 8 ounces shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 8 large eggs
- 2 cups whole milk
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper



DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Spray a 9x13-inch glass baking dish with nonstick spray.
2. Slice the English muffins into small bite-sized pieces. Scatter them into the bottom of the prepared pan.
3. In a large skillet, heat the olive oil over medium-high heat; add the onion and bell peppers and sauté until softened- 5 to 6 minutes. Set aside to cool.
4. Sprinkle the ham over the muffin cubes. Scatter the onion/bell peppers over the ham. Sprinkle the shredded cheese evenly over the top.
5. In a medium bowl, whisk together the eggs, milk, mustard, salt and pepper. Distribute the egg mixture evenly into the dish.
6. Bake until set and golden- about 40 minutes. Let stand for 10 minutes before serving.

<http://www.recipegirl.com/2015/12/03/holiday-breakfast-casserole/>