

The Rhodomentum



Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Newsletter
December 2017



President's Message

Welcome back to June and John from their great trip to New Zealand to attend the Rhodo Conference and see a little of that country. We are really into the rainy season now. Just a reminder to give some relief to any of your rhodos which are sensitive to "cold" by moving them into some shelter – your garage or greenhouse – if we get an "Arctic Outbreak".

Please try to dig up and bring a rhodo, or something else, from your garden as a donation for our Christmas Auction which is one of our major fund raisers. Remember that our next meeting is a "Pot Luck" and you will have to bring your own plate, cutlery and cup. If you wish, bring a donation of food or cash for the "Foodbank". A reminder that our meeting starts one hour earlier, at 6:30 pm. Doors open at 6:00pm.

All the best and
"Season's Greetings",
Allen

EXECUTIVE

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

COMMITTEES

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

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society
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Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4
Website: nanaimorhodos.ca
email: rhodomentum@nanaimorhodos.ca

Christmas Fun Auction and Finger Food Potluck!

Thursday, December 14th, 6:30 – please note earlier start!



Twigs and Stems

Don't miss Christmas Magic at Milner Gardens and Woodland
December 1-3, 8-10, 15-20
5 – 8:30 pm
<https://www2.viu.ca/milnergardens/>

North Island Wildlife Recovery Center
Magical Nights of Lights
December 8 -23, 6 -8 pm

16th Annual Qualicum Seedy Saturday
February 3rd, 2018

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



Thursday, December 14
6:30 pm
Beban Park, Nanaimo

Please bring your favorite finger food, sweet or savoury, 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 SOS. Also, please bring money or food donations for the Loaves and Fishes.

Friends, guests, and neighbours are welcome!

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



Minutes: NRS November Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 9th, 2017

1. President's Report –Allen welcomed everyone- all guests and new members Jan Thorsen and Susan Malo, and our speaker, Geoff Ball. I would just like to remind you to bring a plant or something for our "Raffle" and auction at our December meeting. Are there any additions to the Agenda?
2. Secretary's Report –nothing to report.
3. Treasurer's Report – Gaylle presented the Treasurer's report which is always available to be viewed from her.
4. Bargain Table – Reinhold has two plants left.
5. Library – Ann had no new report.
6. Membership – Krystyna reported that memberships have come in very well and reminded any members who have not renewed that to be eligible to receive the print copy of the Journal, their fees MUST be submitted to the ARS by Dec 2, 2017
7. Social – Susan Lightburn still has a few slots for refreshments.
8. Sunshine – Ann had no report.
9. Rhodomentum – June and John will be back resuming their role of newsletter editors.
10. Bus Tour: We are still looking for someone to organize our spring **Bus Trip**.
11. Changing to Electronic Registration – Craig Clarke has successfully registered our Society with the required Ministry.
12. Plant Raffle –Val reported that tonight's plants are: Augustinii (Norm Todd), Olive, Alice Street, and Satsop Sunrise. The door prize was a Loquat plant.
Coffee Break Plant Raffle Draw – Anne or Val
13. Guest speaker Introduction – Doug Kitts introduced Geoff Ball, Executive Director of Milner Gardens and Woodlands who spoke on the development and current status of the Gardens.
14. Thank you to the guest speaker – Doug.
15. Next Executive meeting will be on Thursday, Nov. 16, 2017 at Krystyna Sosulski's home.



MARS surprised us with a delicious 25th Anniversary cake – thank you Glen, Linda and Elaine for joining us!

The N.R.S. is celebrating its 25th anniversary!

In the upcoming months, we'll continue to highlight some of the club's past activities and events. Please send us your photos or stories – we'd love to hear from you!



Memories of Christmas past- thank you Susan Lightburn for sharing some of your photos!



Feature Rhododendron

Rhododendron “Lee’s Scarlet”

As we settle into the darkest days of winter, here on the coast we can begin to start looking ahead to the early blooming rhododendrons. They really brighten up a corner of the garden on a dreary winter day. Our mild climate allows us to grow varieties which will bloom as early as January. One of the earliest bloomers available is Rhododendron “Lee’s Scarlet”. Depending upon your garden’s location and the mildness of the winter, it will begin to bloom from mid-January to mid-February. Like all early blooming rhododendrons, the trusses or flowers are susceptible to frost once they begin to open. Covering them with a sheet overnight will protect them from light frost so that the blooms will continue to thrive for several weeks. We find that the plant often blooms “a little at a time” so that you have 4 or 5 trusses giving you a show over a prolonged period rather than having all of the trusses in bloom at once. The flowers are a dark rose to crimson with bright red spots and a blotch in the throat of each flower. Lee’s Scarlet is very hardy (-21 C), growing to approximately 4 feet after 10 years. It is an easy to grow plant, preferring light shade and protection from the afternoon sun.



Lee’s Scarlet with a little protection
against a hard frost



Other very early blooming rhododendrons include “Olive”, “Christmas Cheer”, *R. dauricum*, *R. mucronulatum*, and *R. sutchuenense*. You’re unlikely to find these at your local nursery. Keep an eye out for them at our auction or spring plant sale. You never know!

A Christmas Poem for Gardeners

T'was the weekend before Christmas, and all through the yard,
Not a gift was being given, not even a card.
The tools were all hung, in the garage with care,
With hopes that St. Nicholas soon would repair.
The shovel with blade all rusty and cracked,
The pitchfork still shiny, but handle it lacked.
When out on my lawn, (it's brown and abused)
I could see poor old Santa, looking confused.
No list had been left for Santa to see,
No gardening gifts were under the tree.
But wait there's still time, it's not Christmas yet,
And gardening gifts are the quickest to get.
You can forget the silk tie, the fluffy new sweater,
Give something to make the garden grow better.
If she wants a gift shiny, then don't be a fool,
It's not a dumb diamond, but a sparkling new tool.
If fragrance is listed you can forget French perfume,
It's a pile of manure that'll make gardeners swoon.
Give night crawlers, not nightgowns; or a hose that sprays water.
(Anything for the kitchen is not worth the bother.)
Give a great gift that can dig in the dirt,
It's better than any designer-brand shirt.
Now look quick at Santa, this guy's not so dumb,
Under his glove, he hides a green thumb.
His knees are so dirty, his back how it aches,
His boots stomp on slugs, (he gives them no breaks).
The guy works only winter, you can surely see why,
For the rest of the year it's as easy as pie.
He has elves plant through spring, pull weeds in the summer,
In fall they all harvest, but winter's a bummer

Useful Links

Victoria Rhododendron Society:

<http://www.victoriarhodo.ca/index.html>

Cowichan Rhododendron Society:

<http://cowichanrhodos.ca/>

Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society:

<http://marsrhodos.ca/>

North Island Rhododendron Society:

<http://www.nirsrhodos.ca/ws/>

The American Rhododendron Society:

<https://www.rhododendron.org/>

Linda Gilkeson's website:

<http://www.lindagilkeson.ca/>

Lee Valley's Gardening Newsletter:

<http://www.leevalley.com/en/newsletters/Gardening/2567/Article1.htm>

Here are Brian Minter's **winter gardening tips**:

- Bring tender plants inside now.
- Mulch.
- Wrap up your plants.
- Water your plants.
- Don't repot until spring.

See full article here:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/brian-minter-five-tips-for-winter-gardening-1.3339132>

And so, Christmas gives Santa a part-time employment,
'Till spring when the blooms are his real enjoyment.
So ask the big guy for garden gifts this year,
Seeds, plants and tools, Santa holds them all dear.
You see, malls may be crowded, vendors hawking their wares,
But visit a nursery, stress-free shopping is there.
Now Santa's flown off, to the nursery he goes,
And his voice fills the night with loud Hoe! Hoe! Hoe!

By Marianne Binetti

<http://www.binettigarden.com/christmas-poem.html>



Budding writer???

Please consider writing an article for our newsletter on a gardening topic that is of interest to you! Possible topics might include: favourite plant, mulching, favourite season, gardening tips, companion planting, composting, "beyond rhododendrons", or... We'd love to hear from you! ☺



Merry Christmas and a bountiful New Year to all!!!