

The Rhodomentum

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Newsletter

December 2018



Merry Christmas everyone!

Somehow, 2018 is already winding down – where did the year go?

It's time for our Christmas social and auction which is always a lot of fun. Club members are encouraged to bring donations to be auctioned off on the big night. Maybe you have a plant that's outgrown its location, something you've propagated, or some other garden related item to donate. See page 5 for further details!

Our auction is also an opportunity for our club to give back to the community - there are a lot of needy people in our area. Don't forget that we'll be setting up at 5:45, with dinner at 6:30, followed by the auction.

Who knows, maybe Santa will bring us a new club president... 😊

June and John

EXECUTIVE

President	Vacant	
Vice President	Rosina Schmidt	751-3386
Past President	Allen McRae	758-7589
Secretary	Jan Moles	758-2574
Treasurer	Liz Higgins and Sandra Dorman	390-9340 390-0136
Directors		
	Craig Clarke	390-4090
	Art Lightburn	468-7516
	Susan Lightburn	468-7516
	Don Noakes	778 441-4783

COMMITTEES

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

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Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4

Website: nanaimorhodos.ca
email: rhodomentum@nanaimorhodos.ca



Annual Christmas Fun Auction and Finger Food Potluck!

Thursday, December 13th, 6:30 - please note earlier start!

Twigs and Stems

Calendar of Upcoming Events:



Milner Gardens and Woodland:

Christmas Magic is here!

Fri. Nov. 30 – Sun. Dec. 2; Fri. Dec. 7 – Sun. Dec. 9; Fri. Dec. 14 – Wed. Dec. 19 – from 5:00-8:30pm - last entry at 8:00pm.

Nanaimo Horticultural Society:

First Unitarian Fellowship Church of Nanaimo, 595 Townsite Rd – **next meeting in March 2019**

Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society:

No regular December meeting – Christmas party is on December 9th.

North Island Rhododendron Society:

Tuesday, December 11th general meeting - annual potluck Christmas dinner and party - an evening filled with fun, food and fellowship.

North Island Wildlife Recovery Center: Magical Night of Lights, December 7th to 22nd, Fridays and Saturdays only, 6-8 pm



Our meeting Coffee Breaks just wouldn't be the same without someone coordinating it. ...

Please consider stepping in to help with this and our two annual potlucks – it might just be the perfect volunteering opportunity to share with a friend – maybe do alternate months? Talk to Susan at the Christmas event to find out more – she would be happy to help get you started.

And of course, the position of president is still vacant – another opportunity that could be shared with a friend!



Seen in passing...

- Lots of trumpeter swans in the Courtenay fields.
- Miles of Christmas lights at Milner Gardens.
- The first hellebores and winter jasmine in bloom.
- Clean, washed mason bee cocoons put away for winter.
- Early reports of intense elf activity at the North Pole.

Minutes of November 8th, 2018 meeting:

June Bouchard, acting as co-president/chair with John Deniseger, opened the meeting at 7.33pm.

The November Presentation: meeting commenced with the speaker for November.

Chris Southwick introduced Wendy Strachan, gardener of many species of fruit, vegetables, and beautiful plants. Wendy lives by the ocean on Gabriola, has a south facing aspect with lots of sun. She is a teacher, Dr of Education, and passionate gardener.



Wendy presented Alexander Von Humboldt: a name well known from many areas of life, from isotherms, Humboldt current, botanical names, etc, etc. She portrayed an extraordinary man, well known yet little known. Much of her material was drawn from Andrea Wulf's *The Invention of Nature* for those who would like to read further. Thank you, Wendy!

The business meeting:

1. President's report (June Bouchard):

We are still looking for someone to take over from Susan, to do coffee / goodies, and to organize the roster. The sign-up book is fine through January, but lots of openings after that. June & John demonstrated the idea of sharing the president's role, and asked for volunteers.

2. Treasurer's report (Liz Higgins):

Balance in bank as at 11 Oct 2018:		9,854.74
Revenue Oct 11 – Nov 8	987.48	
Expenses Oct 11 – Nov 8	1,065.44	
Balance in bank as at 8 Nov 2018:		9,776.78
Less cheques written but not cashed	172.40	
Cash Balance available on 11 Nov 2018		9604.38

3. Secretary's report: Nothing to report

4. Programme Committee:

John Deniseger reported that Steve Hootman will not be available for the February Meeting. February speakers will be Garth and Sue Wedemire on their 'Visit to Wales'.

5. Old business/New Business:

- a) June on mini-conference of October 28 held in Parksville: 5 speakers, all excellent, spoke on a variety of topics. The event was sold out and was such a success that the date has been set for the next one: October 25, 2020. Parksville Centre is already booked.
- b) In September 2019, MARS will host the Western ARS Fall Conference.
- c) John Deniseger coordinated the vote on the bylaw changes: The changes to the NRS bylaws had been circulated by Craig Clarke to all members to read prior to meeting.
- d) Voting was as follows:
- e) Proposal: that we accept the changes to bylaws as circulated by Craig Clarke and recommended by the NRS executive. Proposer: Ann Beamish, Seconder: Glenda Barr
- f) Assenters: majority, dissenters: zero. The new bylaws were accepted by the membership.
- g) John Deniseger: Giving Tuesday at VIU is November 27th: your donation will be matched.
- h) John Deniseger: there will be a work bee at the Greig Species Garden at Milner – date to be confirmed

6. New Business

- a) June: next meeting is the December Christmas auction. A decision was made some time ago not to approach all of the business who donated year after year for fear of "donation

exhaustion". The NRS is asking all of its members to bring donations of plants, garden related gifts, etc. Just bring them along on December 13th. Chris Southwick will be chairing.

b) June Bouchard: Linda Chalker Scott's books were purchased on behalf of the club at the mini conference. Linda was the first speaker and was excellent.

c) Ann Beamish will catalogue the new books and add them to our NRS library.

Next General Meeting 13th December – Christmas Auction, 6:30 potluck, 7:30 auction.

Next Executive Meeting 15th November at 2pm, at Art & Susan's.

Meeting closed.

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/>

Nanoose Bay Garden Club: <https://www.nanoosegardenclub.ca/>

Linda Chalker-Scott's website: <https://puyallup.wsu.edu/lcs/>

Need a ride to one of our meetings?



Call Chris at 250-390-3415 or 250-616-2742 (cell)

or send her an email at csouthwick@shaw.ca

The earth tucked herself in for the year with winter's cold, white scarf of snow. ~Terri Guillemets

NRS PARTY & AUCTION '18

December 13th, 2018



Once again, it is time for the annual *Christmas Party and Auction* to be held in our regular meeting room on Thursday, December 13th – dinner starting at 6:30.

Please bring your favorite potluck dish for all to share. The social committee will provide coffee and a non-alcoholic punch. After dinner, *Santa and Mrs. Claus* will conduct an auction on donated items as a fundraiser 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.

Money donations are also welcomed for the Loaves & Fishes – please give these to our treasurer, Liz Higgins.

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.

Make this a great Year for the NRS. Hope to see you all!

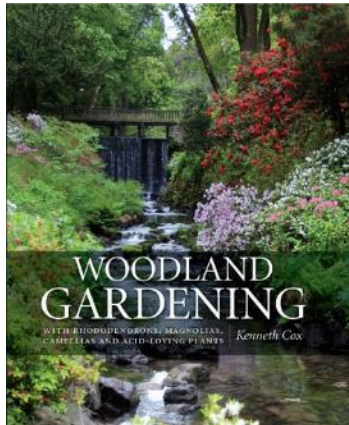
Upcoming Programs

Date	Speaker	Topic
December 13, 2018	Christmas potluck and auction	
January 10, 2019	Scott Wiskerke	Pruning – followed by a demo in February
February 14, 2019	Sue Grant and Garth Wedemire	Gardens of Wales Tour
March 14, 2019	Ole Jonny Larsen – all the way from Norway	TBA
April 11, 2019	Margot Moser	Native Plants
May 9, 2019	Graham Sakaki – Research and Community Engagement Coordinator for the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute (MABRRI).	Mt Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve and Milner Phenology Project





Exciting News – just in time for the “Reading Season” – new books in the NRS library!



Cox, Kenneth. Woodland Gardening with Rhododendrons, Magnolias, Camellias and Acid-Loving Plants. (2018)

“This beautiful new book from Kenneth Cox is his latest must-read guide for gardeners who enjoy working with nature in all her glory. As well as hundreds of full colour photographs documenting the best woodland gardens across the globe, you will also hear best practice ideas from the world’s best woodland gardeners.”

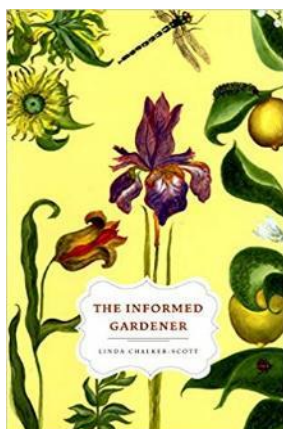
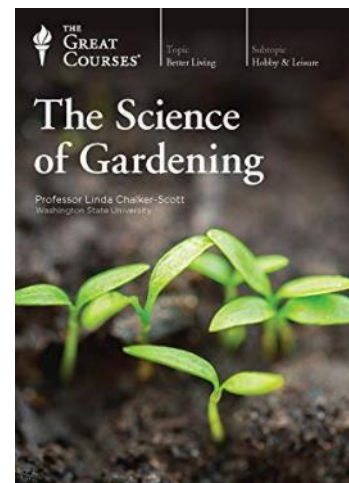
From <https://www.glendoick.com/Woodland-Gardening-Kenneth-Cox>

All following materials by Linda Chalker-Scott:

The Science of Gardening course guidebook – DVD (2016)

“**The Science of Gardening** shows how to create a beautiful and sustainable home garden guided by the newest information from applied plant physiology, biology, soil science, climatology, hydrology, chemistry, and ecology. From choosing and purchasing your trees and shrubs, to giving them the best start in your garden, to healthy maintenance and pest control, award-winning horticulturist Linda Chalker-Scott of Washington State University shows why science-based decisions are always best for your home garden, and also the most ecologically sound for the greater environment. You’ll enjoy her contagious enthusiasm and wonderful sense of humor as you learn to create your own vibrant, sustainable landscape.”

From <https://www.thegreatcourses.com/courses/the-science-of-gardening.html>



The Informed Gardener. (2008)

“Winner of the Best Book Award in the 2009 Garden Writers Association Media Awards

Named an "Outstanding Title" in University Press Books for Public and Secondary School Libraries, 2009

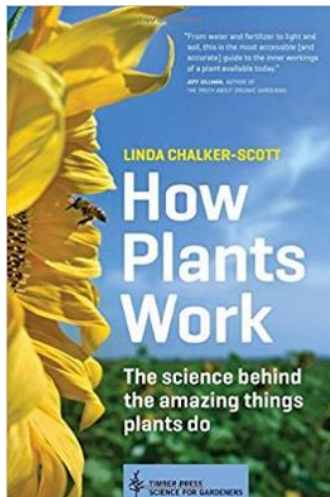
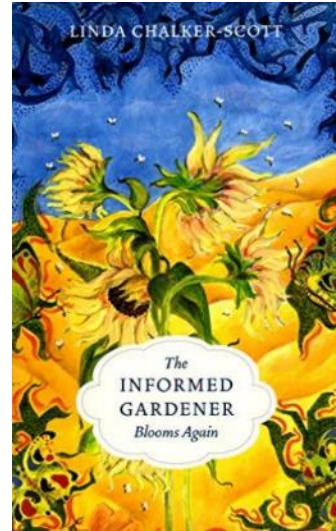
In this introduction to sustainable landscaping practices, Linda Chalker-Scott addresses the most common myths and misconceptions that plague home gardeners and horticultural professionals.”

From <http://www.washington.edu/uwpress/search/books/CHAING.html>

The Informed Gardener-Blooms Again. (2010)

"The Informed Gardener Blooms Again picks up where *The Informed Gardener* left off, using scientific literature to debunk a new set of common gardening myths. Once again, Linda Chalker-Scott investigates the science behind each myth, reminding us that urban and suburban landscapes are ecosystems requiring their own particular set of management practices. *The Informed Gardener Blooms Again* provides answers to questions such as: Does using drought-tolerant plants reduce water consumption? Is it more effective to spray fertilizers on the leaves of trees and shrubs than to apply it to the soil? Will cedar wood chips kill landscape plants? Should I use ladybugs in my garden as a form of pest control? Does aerobically brewed compost tea suppress disease?"

From <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/7290019-the-informed-gardener-blooms-again>



How Plants Work -The science behind the amazing things plants do. (2015)

"Plants are capable of interesting and unexpected things. Why do container plants wilt when they've been regularly watered? Why did the hydrangea that thrived last year never bloomed this year? Why do slugs wipe out the vegetable garden instead of eating the weeds? Plant physiology—the study of how living things function—can solve these and most other problems gardeners regularly encounter.

In *"How Plants Work"*, horticulture expert and contributor to the popular blog *The Garden Professors*, Linda Chalker-Scott brings the stranger-than-fiction science of the plant world to vivid life. She uncovers the mysteries of how and why plants do the things they do, and arms the home gardener with fascinating knowledge that will change the way they garden."

From <https://www.amazon.ca/How-Plants-Work-Science-Amazing/dp/160469338X>

Sustainable Landscapes and Gardens: good science-practical applications. (2009)

"Horticulturist and plant scientist Dr Linda Chalker-Scott's Sustainable Landscapes & Gardens is an insightful and no-nonsense approach to sustainable gardening. It is a collection of integrated text books with contributions from 21 experts from horticulture and academia. Now let's not assume that this is a dry scientific tome, in fact it achieves its goal of delivering scientific text in a palatable way to suit all garden lovers who hunger for more research."

From <https://www.amazon.ca/Sustainable-Landscapes-Gardens-Application-Chalker-Scott/dp/B01FGP69LM>



Greig Rhododendron Species Garden Update



Work on the garden continues to progress. In September, we had an Advisory Group meeting to review the year and to look ahead at what needs to be done over the winter and into the spring. Through the summer drought, volunteers monitored the plants for signs of stress, while helping to keep the plants well watered. Overall, the plants look to be in good health, and many are budded up for next year. Activities underway, or planned for, through next spring include:

- Stanley H. Smith Horticultural Trust Fund grant application.
- Subcommittee to examine sources of remaining Rhododendron species for garden – intend to add more plants to garden in late winter/spring.
- Additional fencing to be added to back of garden this fall (was completed in November – see photo).
- Mulch top up in some areas of garden (completed in November).
- Companion plants will be added and a number of small rhodos will be moved within the garden next spring.



Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season! See you at the Auction!