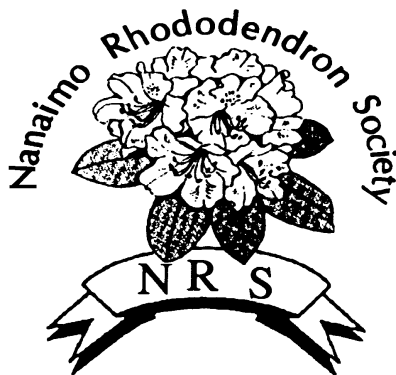


HAPPY VALENTINES



FEBRUARY
2003



Volume 11

Issue 6

RICHARD'S MEMO

This weekend we moved a dozen rhododendrons, making space for new ones and new locations where they may grow better. Now I will have room for a "Marie Starks", "Good News" and a "Malahat", when I get them. With this mild weather we can get all sorts of gardening done in preparation for the spring; I even went out and bought some vegetable and herb seeds.

Make a note of the following dates for our club functions:

February 13. General Meeting. Speaker is Margaret Cadwaladr, who will talk on her book "In Veronica's Garden", specifically the hundreds of rhododendrons which Veronica Milner was so proud of. She will have signed copies for sale.

March 13. General Meeting. Rhododendron guru Clint Smith will be our speaker, and hopefully he will be able to bring us some special rhododendrons for us to purchase. Thanks to Mike Miller for looking after Clint for the club.

March 14 - 16. The annual CVIBGS Spring Garden Show is set for Beban Park. Friday 1 to 9pm, and Saturday and Sunday 9.30 to 5pm. Please sign up to volunteer to man our booth.

May 10. Our Truss Show and Plant Sale at Beban Park.

May 24? Possible date for our Bus Tour.

See you all at the meeting. Richard.

EXECUTIVE

President	Richard White	752-6519
V/President	Mary Taylor	756-3984
Secretary	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Treasurer	Barb Coy	758-8497
Directors	Dave Ball	729-0456
	Yvonne Harding	756-3574
	Allan McRae	758-7589
	Helmut Neuman	714-1840
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NRS WEBSITE
<http://www.rhodos.ca/nanaimo>

Monthly Newsletter
<http://rhodos.ca/nanaimo/NewsFeb2003.pdf>

Past Issues
<http://rhodos.ca/nanaimo/newsarchive.htm>

ARS WEBSITE
www.rhododendron.org

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DISTRIBUTION

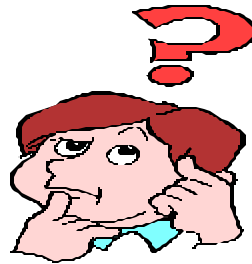
Gill Taylor

HAPPY VALENTINES

"QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS".

Question: In transplanting Rhododendrons it is important to retain as many roots as possible. How far do the roots extend from the plant stem?

Answer: In general roots extend beyond their stems by at least the height of the plant. However rhododendrons have a fine, compact root system which usually extends out to the drip line (outer most leaves). In depth the majority of the roots are in the top 8", with the feeder roots in the top 2". When transplanting rhododendrons it is not necessary to retain all the roots, but try and keep as many as possible without the root ball falling apart.



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SPECIES STUDY DAYS 2003

Species Study Days:

Saturday March 8th
Saturday March 29th
Saturday April 19th (Easter weekend)
Saturday May 31st

Times: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$140.00 (Cdn)

The format will be similar to the programme established last year and consist of several hours of instruction and review in the classroom followed by the balance of each session examining the study material in the garden. The proceeds will be used to provide an honorarium for Steve Hootman and a donation to the RSF.

Preference will be given to individuals who are able to commit for the entire four sessions, but it should be possible to accommodate those individuals who are only able to attend some of the sessions.

Arrangements for carpooling will be organized prior to each session.

Participants from Victoria and Vancouver Island are especially welcomed to attend. In order to defray the additional costs that Island members would incur, we are very optimistic that arrangements can be made with a local member to provide overnight accommodation for the Friday evening prior to the study sessions.

Please confirm and forward a cheque to the undersigned as soon as possible.

Mike Bale Phone: 604 853-8839
33623 Wildwood Drive Email: lu_zhu@telus.net
Abbotsford BC

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Minutes of January 9th Regular Meeting 2003

1. The meeting was called to order by President Richard White at 7:35 pm.

2. Richard welcomed members and guests. Attendance, approximately 30.

3. Secretary's report. Correspondence received: Email from Glenn Kaefer requesting link exchange for our web site; letter from Milner Gardens regarding membership renewal; letter from Rhododendron Species Foundation regarding membership renewal. It was moved/seconded/carried that the minutes of the December 2002 meeting be adopted as printed in the newsletter after amendment that the quilted tablecloth was donated by Dot Hardy.

4. Treasurer's report:
The balance in the Bowen Park Legacy Fund is \$156.03
The balance in the general account is \$2851.15
The balance in the library fund is \$413.22

5. Committee Reports:

Library: David Ball asked who donated the book on plant propagation. He is making up a new book order if members are interested to obtain a discount.

Newsletter: Paul Lawry asked for articles for the newsletter.

6. Old Business

Richard White thanked all the volunteers who worked to make the Christmas party and auction a success. The donation of rhodos to Ucluelet has been postponed until spring.

7. New Business

Bus tour: Richard White asked for suggestions. A possible destination is Tofino for visits to Stubbs Island and Ken & Dot Gibson's and the Botanical Garden.

The Centennial Building is booked for our May show and sale.

8. Next executive meeting will be hosted by Allen McRae January 16th at 7pm

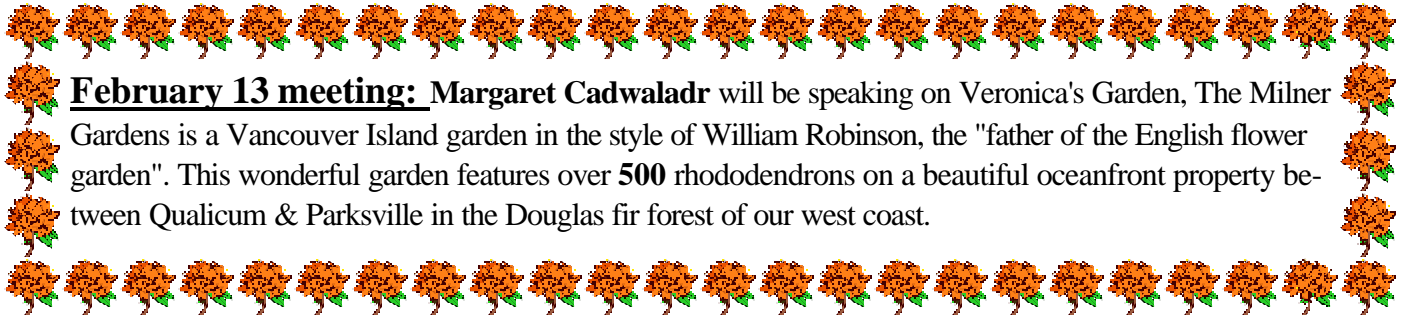
9. Door Prize winners: Richard White, Ted Little

Raffle winners : Connie Thompson, Ray Lauzier, Maurice Mauch, Reinholt
Gorgosilich

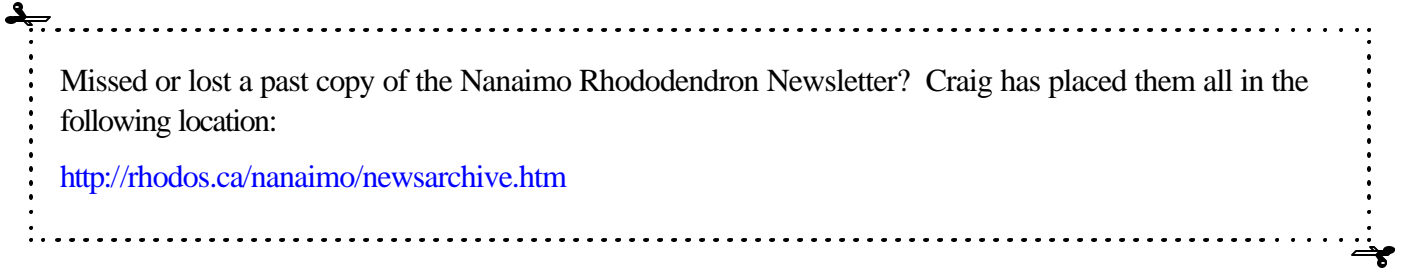
Name Tag Draw: Craig Clarke

10. Speakers: Richard White, Dick Beamish, Bill Hardy and Craig Clarke spoke on their gardens, favorite plants and surprises.

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February 13 meeting: Margaret Cadwaladr will be speaking on Veronica's Garden, The Milner Gardens is a Vancouver Island garden in the style of William Robinson, the "father of the English flower garden". This wonderful garden features over **500** rhododendrons on a beautiful oceanfront property between Qualicum & Parksville in the Douglas fir forest of our west coast.



Missed or lost a past copy of the Nanaimo Rhododendron Newsletter? Craig has placed them all in the following location:

<http://rhodos.ca/nanaimo/newsarchive.htm>

ON GARDEN VISITS

Deborah Blenkarn

Last Spring several NRS members opened their gardens. Visits were organized to occur on consecutive Friday evenings throughout the major rhododendron flowering period. Members viewed a wide spectrum of gardens, varying in size, locations, topography, architecture and planting. Of greater importance, it provided the venue for the sharing of ideas, information, inspiration and even plant material.

Visits confirmed my suspicions that the talents and knowledge of our membership is a great and relatively unexplored asset. While the visits themselves were convivial and pleasurable, their memory lingered to provide inspiration for the nurturing on my own garden and others.



FEBRUARY GOODIES

Linda & Richard White
Glenda Barr
Norma Ginther
Allen McRae

HAPPY VALENTINES



LIBRARY NEWS

NEW ARRIVALS FOR YOUR READING PLEASURE

During the past few months we have been fortunate to have 16 books donated to the library, the following list gives both Title and Author and sometimes a short description of content. All these books will be available at the next meeting.

Garden Voices	Edited by Edwinna von Baeyer and Pleasance Crawford
Heathers	The Heather Society's handy guide to Heathers with descriptions and suppliers of over 1100 varieties, 3 rd Edition
The Himalayan Garden	Growing plants from the roof of the world, Jim Jermyn
Butterfly Gardening	Thomas C. Emmel, PH.D.
Easy-Care Gardening	A Low maintenance handbook, Sunset Books
Ground Covers	Ortho Books
Hedges, Screens and Espaliers	Susan Chamberlin
The Nature and Properties of Soils	Nyle C. Brady, 8 th Edition
Pruning	Mark Cullen
Native Trees of Canada	R.C. Hosie
Arboriculture	Richard W. Harris, 2 nd Edition
Perennials	Time Life Encyclopedia of Gardening
Landscape Plants in Design	E. C. Martin, Jr.
Woody Plants and Their Use and Elementary Plant Propagation	University of Guelph, Independent study course
The Home Gardener	University of Guelph, Independent study course
Handbook for Pesticide Applicators and Dispensers	BC Ministry of Environment

Big thank you to all our members who kindly donated books.

HAPPY VALENTINES

The tasks and garden chores of February

Even though it may still be cold, damp and miserable outdoors, an occasional dose of sunshine could certainly put the gardening bug into you. With a little luck, Mother Nature will send a few blossoms your way this month. We are now at a time when we can no longer put off those garden projects, waiting for a nice day..... Don't be caught off guard though, winter is far from being over! If exceptionally cold weather is forecast, provide protection to early flowering or tender plants by covering them with some type of cloth material. Remove the covering as soon as the weather moderates again.

- Deciduous shrubs and trees are still dormant enough to transplant this month, once the buds have begun to swell, it will be too late. Trees which weren't fed last fall should be deep fed by punching a series of 1-2 inch holes two feet apart around the drip line and filled with an appropriate food. A mulch of well-composted manure is also an excellent treat for your tree.
- Mid-to-late February is the time to fertilize shrubs and evergreens. Use an acid type rhododendron fertilizer to feed evergreens, conifers, broad leaf evergreens, rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias. Use an all-purpose fertilizer to feed roses and other deciduous trees and shrubs. If you use dry type fertilizers, be sure to water it in thoroughly.
- Prune your *summer* flowering shrubs now but be aware that spring bloomers have already produced their buds last fall, and pruning them now will result in the loss of flowers. [Forsythia](#), quince, spirea and other early spring flowering shrubs should be pruned a little later, after they have finished flowering. Prune to improve the shape of the plant, as well as to open up the center of the plant to good air circulation and sun exposure. Always start your pruning by removing all dead, decayed or broken branches.
- It's a good time to stroll around and trim back any branches that were damaged by the ravages of winter.
- If you haven't yet applied your dormant fruit spray, DO IT NOW!!

Continued on page 8

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Perennials, annuals, and bulbs

- Plants which may have been pushed out of the ground by frost heave should be pressed firmly back into place.
- Plant daylilies, bleeding hearts, and plantain lilies this month.
- Deciduous vines such as [honeysuckle](#) should be pruned and shaped.
- Most perennials may be divided and moved up until they begin to show new growth.
- Check your stored plants such as fuschias and [geraniums](#), and if they are shriveled water them lightly.
- Summer flowering [bulbs](#) may try to start into growth if they are subjected to heat. They should be kept very dry, and stored at 45 degrees F. If they are shriveling, put them into slightly damp peat moss, but keep them cool!
- If you plan to grow lobelia, ageratum, verbena, petunia, vinca, or other plants from scratch, the seeds should be started indoors in the later part of the month.
- Climbing roses should be thinned out to get rid of last years tangled growth.

Odds and ends

- Continue feeding our feathered friends, you'll want them to stick around to help you in insect control when the weather warms again.
- Did you check your garden tools yet? Don't wait 'til the spring rush to get your mower back in shape!
- In the event of snow, be sure to shake or brush off the white stuff from the branches of your evergreens and shrubs.
- It's time to turn the compost pile!

Have a great gardening day!

["http://www.thegardenhelper.com/e](http://www.thegardenhelper.com/e)

