

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



February 2009
February 2009



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hopefully, most of your Rhodos made it safely through the recent snow falls and have been left alone by the hungry deer. There have been reports of the deer eating our members' Rhodos (and they're alleged to be deer proof plants) – it seems the only way of keeping the deer off of your property is to erect a high fence and/or have a large dog in your yard 24/7. If anyone has any suggestion let me know so I can pass it on to others.

We are now in the process of organizing our Rhodo Truss Show & Plant Sale for May. Anyone wishing to help please contact any member of the executive. We depend on your assistance and you will find it rewarding and fun.

We need to replace our audio system and also purchase a projector. In order to raise the needed money, it was suggested that we auction an item at each meeting. If you have an item/plant that we can auction please contact June, our secretary, or myself.

I look forward to seeing you at the February 12th meeting.

Cheers,
Paul

EXECUTIVE

President	Paul Lawry	390-2370
Vice President	John Deniseger	390-3605
Secretary	June Bouchard	390-3605
Treasurer	Chris Southwick	758-0993
Directors	Glenda Barr	390-2822
	Linda Lawry	390-2370
	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
	Barb Coy	758-8497
	Rosina Schmidt	751-3386

COMMITTEES

Advertising	Michael Miller	758-2879
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574
	Helene Sullivan	758-7023
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Membership	Debbie Gaboury & Barb Coy	
Program	Glenda Barr	390-2822
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey	
Social	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Dollar Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society
Box 241, #1 – 5765 Turner Road
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4
Website: nanaimo.rhodos.ca
email: nanaimo@rhodos.ca

NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12 BEBAN PARK SOCIAL CENTRE 7:30 pm

BILL BISCHOFF

“CYCLAMEN”

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Our February Speaker

TWIGS AND STEMS



GOODIES FOR FEBRUARY MEETING

Janet Atkinson
Trish and Al Boyden

ARS 2009 RHODODENDRON RENDEZVOUS
EVERETT, WASHINGTON

April 29 to May 3, 2009

www.ars-2009-convention.org

By Bill Bischoff

My wife Carla & I moved from Hamilton, Ontario, where we lived for over 20 years and raised our two daughters, to "sunny" Surrey some 20 years ago. In Hamilton we were members of the Royal Botanical Orchid Societies. We also loved gardening, as well as growing Orchids, indoors and outdoors.

From the City of Hamilton we received several prizes for the best garden in our district.

A former co-worker of Carla's showed us some Cyclamen plants she had brought back to Canada when she had visited relatives in Austria. It must have been *Cyclamen purpurascens*. I knew this plant as "Alpen Veilchen", "Alpine Violet". What I did not know, was that it was not a Violet at all. Somehow the thought got lodged in my mind to grow them in our garden. Several years later, we had moved to BC and were members of the Alpine Garden Society in Vancouver, someone brought *Cyclamen purpurascens* corms to a meeting. These plants were from then Czechoslovakia. We bought several of them. There were no culture sheets with these plants, so I had to get some information from the library. It was a surprise to learn that they were distantly related to *Primulas* I can't remember exactly how, but we became members of the Cyclamen Society in England and have remained ever since (excellent newsletters and free seeds).

Our collection has grown over the years such that there is no part in our garden where there are no Cyclamen plants. Some were planted deliberately, others self-seeded. Of the 22 available species we successfully grow and bloom 18 as out-door plants. Of the numerous leaf variants we have many and are still getting more when and where they become available.

Hardy Cyclamen are unfortunately very much underrated as companion plants for, especially, shady places. From full sun to deep shade, there is a species that will fill any spot in a garden. Flowers can be expected from mid January until December, right up to Christmas. All species are winter ever-green, except *Cyclamen repandum* and *Cyclamen peloponnesiacum*.

Our Garden was awarded several times by the City of Surrey and some 10 year ago was published in "Gardens-West", on the front page and 3 more pages inside. We also were part of a fund-raiser event, where we had some 250 visitors in one afternoon. In addition, Carla cultivates tropical Orchids in 2 greenhouses (one warm and the other cool). I grow several hardy Orchids throughout our garden, in shade and some in full sun. Many of our Orchids have been awarded by the "American Orchid Society".

The rest I will tell you at your meeting.



Cyclamen pseudibericum

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Cyclamen Blooming Times

By Bill Bischoff

Winter (December – March)

coum – extremely hardy
elegans (formerly coum) - north Iran, south shore
Caspian Sea; hardy
libanoticum – hardy in sheltered areas
persicum (in the wild)
pseudibericum – hardy
peloponnesiacum (syn. Repandum) in February;
tender – hardy
alpinum (syn. Torchopteranthum) – hardy

Spring (March – June)

balearicum – from Balearic Islands and southern
France; tender – hardy
creticum – from the island of Crete; tender – hardy
parviflorum (occasionally earlier) – small flowered;
hardy
repandum – from southern Europe; hardy
rhodium (related to peoponnesiacum) – from the
island of Rhodes; semi-hardy
peloponnesiacum (syn repandum); tender – hardy

Summer – Autumn (July – November)

africanum (bl) – from 2 places in north Africa
cilicium – from south Anatolia (Turkey), historic
name; hardy
cyprium (bl) – from the island of Cyprus; tender –
hardy
graecum (bl) - from mainland Greece and islands;
tender – hardy
hederifolium (bl) - ivy leafed; extremely hardy
intaminatum – from south Anatolia (Turkey); hardy
mirabile – from south Anatolia (Turkey); hardy
persicum var. autumnale – Israel south of Hebron
purpurascens (bl) – northern-most growing; hardy
rohlfisianum (bl) – from north Africa
somalense – from easter Somalia, the horn of Africa

(bl) = basal lobe on flower.

Note: they all flower in late summer and fall.

Milner Gardens Antiques in the Garden

On February 15th Milner Gardens is holding an Antiques In The Garden day and our members are the first to hear about it. If you have ever wondered about the value of some of your treasures here's the chance to find out. We will have a team of appraisers with expertise in china, silver, art, collectables and books that will be happy to talk to you about your pieces. The price for the appraisal is \$10 for the first item and \$5 for each additional item. There is no need to register for the appraisals - just come to Milner Gardens on Sunday February 15th between 10am and 3pm with your treasures. Unfortunately we cannot handle anything larger than what you can carry.



And there is more! If you would like to turn any of your collectables into cash we are also having a sale. It will be a good opportunity to clear out some of the extra china or linens or

other things your kids say they don't want. Or maybe you are thinking ahead to downsizing. Your items just need to be priced and brought down to Milner Gardens the day before the sale. We'll sell them for you and split the proceeds 50/50 with you. Please keep in mind it is not a garage sale. To participate in the sale please phone John or Arlene England at 250-752-6131 or email them jaengland@shaw.ca for more information.

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

NRS Meetings Minutes

Date: January 8th, 2009

1. Meeting called to order at 7:30
2. Number of people present: about 50
3. **President's report:** President Paul Lawry welcomed guests and apologized for the last minute change of room. Our Christmas Auction was once again a great success. We raised \$1737.00 in total of which 10% (\$173.70) was donated to the Salvation Army. Thank you everyone for making our annual auction such a success. Make sure you thank the community organizations and businesses who donated so generously to this event. A special thank you to Mike Miller who assisted Al McRae in getting items for the auction.
4. **Secretary's Report:** M/S/C to adopt the minutes of the last meeting as printed in the newsletter.
5. **Correspondence:** no correspondence
6. **Treasurer's Report:** \$1683.19 as of November 30th. Full details of report available for those who wish to see it – see Chris Southwick.
7. **Committee Reports:**
 - **Program:** The February speaker will be Wilhelm (Bill) Bischoff who will be talking about cyclamens.
 - **Membership:** We have approximately 40 registered members at this point.
 - **Social:** Sandra had a visit from Karen Schultz; she's home from the hospital and slowly recovering. Ken Gibson is also in the hospital and is awaiting transfer to Victoria for an angioplasty. Sandra will send a card on behalf of the club.
 - **Dollar Table:** Nothing tonight as most gardens are still under snow! ☺
 - **Raffle/Door Prize:** Thank you to Val and Ann for providing us with some lovely prizes. Also to the Webs from Victoria who brought some of their own seedlings back in November for our raffle table.
 - **Library:** Please check the library for a wonderful selection of gardening books and related topics.
8. **New business:** none
9. **Raffle/Door prizes winners:** many lucky winners.
10. **Program for tonight:** An inspiring and entertaining presentation by author Margaret Horsfield on her books *Cougar Annie's Garden* and *Voices from the Sound: Chronicles of Clayoquot Sound and Tofino 1899-1929* with a special section on George Fraser.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30



NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

January 2009
Announcement

CVRS 2009 Bus Tour to Washington State Gardens

The Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society is again hosting an exciting spring bus tour and you are invited to join us. This time we'll visit spectacular Northwest USA gardens. The tour will focus on the gardens of coastal Washington and include 7 renowned sites over the 4-day, three-night trip. Final dates will be confirmed but present planning is for May 14 to 17 or May 21 to 24, 2009. The tour requires a minimum of 40 confirmed participants. Participants need to be able to walk short distances on the tour and there is no wheelchair access.

We leave Duncan and Victoria on Thursday morning via the MV Coho bound for Port Angeles and the beautiful Olympic Peninsula. We'll have lunch near the Olympic National Park Centre. Our first garden is about an hours drive to Brinnon where we will have a guided tour of Whitney Gardens, a magnificent 3-hectare site at the foot of the Olympic Mountains next to the Dosewallips River. Among rare trees and ponds you will see a beautiful array of Rhodo hybrids and species along with an abundance of azaleas, magnolias, maples, kalmias, camellias and ground cover. We then travel about an hour to Olympia where we have a brief tour of the State Capital and check in to the Red Lion Hotel for the night and a sumptuous buffet supper.

On Friday morning, after breakfast at the hotel, we head for Tacoma and the world class Rhododendron Species Foundation Garden on Federal Way. There are 10 hectares of botanical splendour and one of the largest collections of species rhodos and azaleas in the world. If time permits we will also visit the adjacent Weyerhaeuser owned magnificent Pacific Rim Bonsai collection.

After lunch we visit the Anderson Garden in Enumclaw-a two-hectare haven of several thousand rhodos and other plants that was established over the past 50 years by well known landscape architect and artist Bob Anderson and currently managed by his son. Our final garden of the day is a fantastic legacy to its founder Fujitaro Kubota who in 1927 bought two hectares of logged off swampland in Seattle and started his Rainier Beach garden. Another 7 ha were added in 1981 and the City of Seattle acquired the Kubota garden in 1987. This unique urban refuge displays over 80 years of effort including 400 tons of stone placed to create waterfalls, reflection pools and habitat for the thousands of plants this landscaper worked with throughout his life.

Friday night we check into a downtown Seattle hotel and you can enjoy a free evening in this beautiful American city to shop, eat and sightsee.

We start with an early breakfast on Saturday morning and head over to Bainbridge Island by ferry to the Bloedel Reserve, an oasis with opportunities to enjoy nature through quiet walks in the garden and adjacent woodlands initially created by Mr. Kubota and others.

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

After returning to Seattle we then travel north to Mukilteo and take a short ferry ride to Whidbey Island and visit the 25 ha inspirational Meerkerk Rhododendron gardens at Greenbank. This garden was created by the Meerkerk family in the 1960's and is now owned and operated by the Seattle Rhododendron Society. As well as a marvellous garden it is a research facility with over 150 years of combined hybridizing of rhodos and genetic library from renowned leaders such as Lem, Brandt, Ostbow, Fujioka, Watson, Hachman and many others.

Our final stop is the 250 ha Greenbank Farm established in the early 1900s. At one time it was the largest loganberry farm in the US. Now owned by the Nature Conservancy, this working farm also hosts a series of popular shops including a fine selection of Washington state wines, Whidbey Pies Café, Greenbank Cheese and Specialties, I Remember When Antiques and the Rob Schouten, Raven Rocks and Gifts and Artworks Galleries. You can purchase one of their best sellers at the Wine Shop and Tasting Room, the signature Greenbank Farm Loganberry Wine.

We spend our last night in Oak Harbour. Members of the Whidbey Island Rhodo society will have a presentation for us after dinner at the hotel.

After an early breakfast on Sunday morning we head for the Anacortes Ferry Terminal for the ferry to Sydney arriving there around 11 am and finally to Duncan about noon.

The all-inclusive cost of the tour is approx. \$600 per person (double occupancy) or \$750 (single occupancy). A \$150 deposit is required to confirm your seat on this fabulous tour. The following is included:

- 4 days of travel in a deluxe highway coach
- All ferry fares, gratuities and taxes
- All meals except supper on Friday night in Seattle
- 3 nights three star or better accommodation-Olympia-Seattle-Oak Harbour
- All entry fees to the various Gardens
- Guided garden tours where available
- An opportunity to see and experience world-renowned Northwest gardens in spring bloom
- A fun event with fellow dedicated gardeners from BC
- A pleasant evening shopping in downtown Seattle.



Contact Bill Dumont - wedumont@shaw.ca or 250 743 9882 for further info. Final itinerary subject to alterations and adjustments. Send deposit cheques to Bill Dumont, 1753 Peerless Road, Cobble Hill, BC V0R 1L6 by February 28, 2009.