

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



February 2010  
February 2010



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi Everyone:

The year is sure moving along at a fast pace, spring flowers are starting to burst through the earth and I have noticed buds appearing on some of our deciduous trees and bushes.

As you probably heard, we now have enough money for a projector which has been ordered and will hopefully arrive in time for our February 10 meeting. Thank you to our members who generously bid at our "mini-auctions" and to Ken Webb and Al Campbell for donating the plants that were sold.

Our next big expense will be the 2012 ARS Western Regional Conference being hosted by us! We will be having raffles, mini-auctions, etc. to raise the necessary funds to cover expenses (e.g. deposit for Conference Centre). The end result will be an educational, social and profitable event. We are fortunate to have other Rhodo Societies on the Island who have offered to help with this major event.

Our annual Truss Show & Plant Sale will be held on May 8, 2010 and we will be needing assistance in setting up, helping during the sale and clean up. Please let us know if you can be there to assist. We are asking that you check your garden book collection and donate a book or two for the sale.

See you at the **February 10, Wednesday** meeting,  
Paul

## EXECUTIVE

President	Paul Lawry	816-2370
Past President	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Vice President	John Deniseger	390-3605
Secretary	June Bouchard	390-3605
Treasurer	Gerry Moore	756-1427
Directors	Glenda Allard Barr	390-2822
	Linda Lawry	390-2370
	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
	Chris Southwick	390-3415
	Debbie Gaboury	758-1204
	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533

## COMMITTEES

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

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society  
Box 241, #1 – 5765 Turner Road  
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4  
Website: [nanaimo.rhodos.ca](http://nanaimo.rhodos.ca)  
email: [nanaimo@rhodos.ca](mailto:nanaimo@rhodos.ca)

## NEXT MEETING

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10**

**BEBAN PARK SOCIAL CENTRE LOUNGE**

**7:30 pm**

**DR. RICHARD HEBDA**

**'Facing Climate Change in our Landscape and in Our Gardens'**

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## **TWIGS AND STEMS**



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### **GOODIES FOR FEBRUARY**

Rosina Schmidt  
Bill and Mary Hardy  
June and John

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### **MILNER GARDEN AND WOODLAND**

presents

**JUDY NEWTON**  
CONTAINER GARDENING

February 25 7:00 pm  
Qualicum Beach Civic Centre  
\$10 at the door

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### **MILNER GARDEN AND WOODLAND**

Antiques in the Garden Fundraiser  
February 21 10 am to 3 pm

Appraisals \$10 for first, \$5 for additional treasures  
For information: [milnergardens@shaw.ca](mailto:milnergardens@shaw.ca)

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### **QUALICUM BEACH SEEDY SATURDAY**

Saturday February 5 10 am to 3:30 pm  
Qualicum Beach Civic Centre

Seed Swap, seed vendors, plant vendors, free catalogues, artisans, garden products, gardening books, Master Gardeners, Seedy Café, speakers

Admission by donation

<http://qbseedysaturday.com/>

### **OUR FEBRUARY SPEAKER DR. RICHARD HEBDA**

The Nanaimo Rhododendron Society's February meeting will feature a special presentation. Dr. Richard Hebda will be speaking on "Facing Climate Change in our Landscape and in Our Gardens"

Date and Location: Beban Park Community Center at February 10th, 2010 at 7:30 pm.  
**Please note that the meeting is changed to the Wednesday to enable us to host this very special speaker. We will be meeting in the lounge which will accommodate extra guests. Please tell your friends; the program should be very interesting and informative.**

The intent of Dr. Hebda's presentation is not only to give us some background on climate change but to give us some insight on how climate change may affect our coastal ecosystems and our gardens.

A little background on Dr. Hebda:

He has been a curator (specializing in botany and earth history) at the Royal British Columbia Museum in Victoria for more than 25 years. He recently curated exhibits on climate and climate change. With his graduate students he has authored over 90 scientific papers and more than 200 articles. He has also co-authored or co-edited a number of books and major reports. His knowledge, enthusiasm and passion have made him a sought after public speaker, locally, nationally and internationally. Dr. Hebda has been featured in a number of newspaper articles, television shows and radio programs. Many of you may know him through his regular column on native plants, in Garden Wise magazine.

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## NRS Meetings Minutes

Date: Thursday, January 14, 2010

1. Meeting called to order at 7:30.
2. Number of people present: 39
3. President, Paul Lawry, welcomed guests!
4. **President's report:**
  - Thank you for a successful Christmas auction.
  - We're almost there with our projector fund – one more item to auction off tonight should do it.
  - A reminder to return your ARS 2012 Conference raffle tickets and money to June – the draw will be after the break.
  - Our annual plant sale and truss show will be on Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. Paul and Linda won't be able to attend. A reminder that if you are cleaning up your collection of books, you can donate no longer wanted gardening books to the sale.
5. **Secretary's Report:** M/S/C to adopt the minutes of the last meeting as printed in the newsletter.
6. **Correspondence:** We received a thank you note from the Salvation Army – we donated 10% of our auction proceeds to them.
7. **Treasurer's Report:** Our current balance is \$3787.86 and our projector fund is \$806.25
8. **Committee Reports:**
  - Program:
    - o Our February speaker is Richard Hebda who will be speaking about Climate Change and how it will affect our gardens.
    - o Richard Hebda is very well known – please spread the word and bring a friend so we fill the room. ☺
    - o Please don't forget that it will be on Wednesday, February 10 rather than the Thursday and it will be in the lounge rather than our usual room.
  - Membership: We have 49 members on our list as of January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010.
  - Social: A reminder that the January exec meeting will be at Sandra's house.
  - Other: Short presentation by June and John on "Gardening in Zone 2": a diorama of photos from June's cousin's garden in northern Quebec – Saguenay area. Some might remember meeting Marlène and Robert as they joined us on our garden bus trip to Tofino last May.
9. **Projector Fund:** Auction of R. Loderi King George x Sunspray donated by Art Lightburn. Brian Jubinville got it for \$40.00. Thank you to both Art and Brian!
10. **ARS Conference Raffle:**
  - A total of 298 tickets were sold! Congratulations to Michael Miller for selling the most tickets – 7 booklets (70 tickets)!!! Thanks everyone for your support!!!
  - Michael drew the winning ticket of a \$100.00 gift certificate to The Mahle House which went to Eric Anderson of Nanaimo.
11. **Raffle/Door prizes winners:**
  - Door prizes: Brian Jubinville and Pat Schulson
  - Name tag draw: Mary Jane Derkson
  - Raffle draw: Rosina Schmidt, Eileen Jubinville, Michael Miller, Baerbel Dressler, Pat Schulson

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12. **Program for tonight:** June and John showed us a Power Point presentation from their trip to Nepal last spring: The Ups and Downs of Nepal.

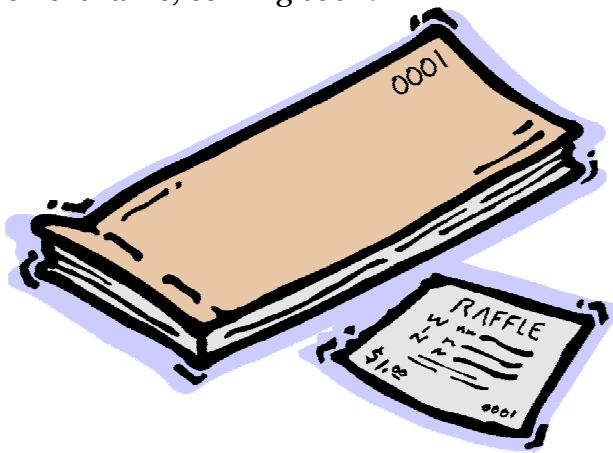
Meeting adjourned at 9:15.

## Conference Corner

### Rhodos in Paradise: Destination Vancouver Island

We have our conference name! Thanks to June and John for suggesting the name, and to all who voted.

The January raffle netted the conference fund \$506 and was won by Eric Anderson. The winning ticket was sold by Michael Miller. Thanks to you all for selling tickets. Watch for the next raffle, coming soon!



### Burokrats

The European Commission has just announced an agreement whereby English will be the official language of the European Union rather than German, which was the other possibility.

As part of the negotiations, the British Government conceded that English spelling had some room for improvement and has accepted a 5- year phase-in plan that would become known as 'Euro-English'.

In the first year, 's' will replace the soft 'c'. Certainly, this will make the sivil servants jump with joy. The hard 'c' will be dropped in favour of 'k'. This should klear up konfursion, and keyboards kan have one less letter.

There will be growing publik enthusiasm in the sekond year when the troublesome 'ph' will be replaced with 'f'. This will make words like fotograf 20% shorter.

In the 3rd year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling kan be ekspekted to reach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible.

Governments will enkourage the removal of double letters which have always ben a deterrent to akurate speling.

Also, al wil agre that the horibl mes of the silent 'e' in the languag is disgrasful and it should go away.

By the 4th yer people wil be reseptiv to steps such as replasing 'th' with 'z' and 'w' with 'v'.

During ze fifz yer, ze unesesary 'o' kan be dropd from vords kontaining 'ou' and after ziz fifz yer, ve vil hav a reil sensibl riten styl.

Zer vil be no mor trubl or difikultis and evrivun vil find it ezi tu understand ech oza. Ze drem of a united urop vil finali kum tru.

Und efter ze fifz yer, ve vil al be speking Deutche like zey vunted in ze forst plas.



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## Companion Plants

O is for Oxydendrum  
of the Heath Family  
Family: Ericaceae

Sorrel Tree, Lily-of-the-Valley Tree, Sourwood – none of these names will prepare you for the ever-changing beauty of this plant. *Oxydendrum arboreum*, the only species, with no recorded cultivars, has features at every time of the year to please the senses.

In winter, the reddish new twigs give way with age to thick, squarely segmented 'alligator hide' bark, on a trunk that, interestingly enough, is oval, not round as trunks generally are! In spring, the glossy deep green leaves up to 8 inches in length emerge from drooping branches. These have an acid taste, and were once used in tonics. In late summer, all the branch tips are wonderfully decorated with panicles of small, creamy, somewhat fragrant flowers that swoop out five to ten inches. These are very reminiscent of Pieris or the Bell Heathers, and honey produced from them is well sought after. Autumn descends and the leaves blaze into colours of red, orange and purple, often before the blooms have finished and turned to spikes of grey-green seed capsules. What a medley of interest to tuck amongst moderate growing rhodos, and grace the seasons!

The Sorrel Tree is native to south-eastern U.S.A, and grows slowly to 20 or 30 feet tall, with an irregular crown and a peculiar tendency to lean a bit. It will spread 10 to 15 feet in a generally pyramidal shape, but also can sucker and be more shrubby. It is hardy to Zone 5 and is adaptable to many exposures and soils, but prefers acidic well-drained humus in a mixed border or woodland. Choose a site carefully as they resent being dug up and moved. Seed germinates well without any special treatment, but cuttings are not reliably successful. It has

no serious pests, and pruning is rarely required. The wood is heavy and dense, and though currently it has little value as timber, it remains popular for turnery and was once used as sleigh runners. Not available in every plant center, I recommend you ask them to search one out for you. Happy planting!



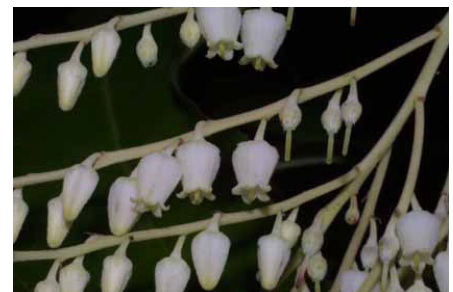
*The swooping panicles of pieris-like blossoms accentuate Oxydendrum's graceful habit*



*The deeply fissured bark of a mature tree*



The somewhat glossy ovoid leaves give brilliant fall colour



*Colleen Forster*