

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



## February 2011



### FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Executive is hard at work organizing the club's activities for the coming spring. As always, details will follow in the newsletter and at our regular meetings. The 2012 conference committee has really made a lot of progress in planning and fundraising, including our 1<sup>st</sup> Nanaimo Garden tour!

We just received our ARS Journal this week. The Journal editor, Glen Jamieson, continues to do a great job. Of particular interest in this issue are two local articles; one by Glen which highlights Vancouver Island Chapters; and another by Alan Campbell examining hybridizers in our area. You'll also see our club listed as one of the nine ARS chapters meeting the "Briggs Challenge" in 2010.

While winter is far from over, spring is in sight. It's time to prune the fruit trees, check your plants for winter damage and dream about what it's all going to look like soon.

See you at the February meeting!

John

### EXECUTIVE

President	John Deniseger	390-3605
Past President	Paul Lawry	806-2370
Vice President	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Secretary	June Bouchard	390-3605
Treasurer	Gerry Moore	756-1427
Directors	Glenda Allard Barr	390-2822
	Chris Southwick	390-3415
	Debbie Gaboury	758-1204
	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533
	Burkhard Dressler	758-1738

### COMMITTEES

Advertising	vacant	
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574
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

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10      BEBAN PARK SOCIAL CENTRE      7:30 pm**

**DICK BEAMISH  
"A walk through my garden"**

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## TWIGS and STEMS



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### GOODIES FOR FEBRUARY MEETING

Antoinette Spoor  
Lilian Peters  
Michael Miller

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Vancouver Island Rock & Alpine Garden Society  
Presents

### Along the Silk Road 2011 Western Winter Study Weekend

February 25 – 27  
Mary Winspear Centre  
2243 Beacon Avenue, Sidney, BC

#### Speakers:

Stephanie Ferguson: expert rock and crevice gardener from  
Calgary, Alberta

Vojtěch Holubec: author of *The Caucasus and its Flowers*,  
consummate grower of alpiners and seed collector John

Massey: owner of Ashwood Nurseries, UK ; renowned for his  
expertise on Asian and European hepaticas

Hans Roemer: bulb collector and ecologist Yvonne Rorison:  
avid photographer of flowers on all continents

Bill Terry: Meconopsis expert and author of *Blue Heaven –  
Encounters with the Blue Poppy*

Dr. Bobby J. Ward: from Raleigh, North Carolina, author of *The  
Plant Hunter's Garden*

Registration: Early Bird (before Jan 28) \$135  
After Jan 28 \$155

[www.virags.ca/winterstudyweekend.htm](http://www.virags.ca/winterstudyweekend.htm)



*Rhododendron rirei* at UBC



*R. falconeri* Beamish garden

## OUR FEBRUARY SPEAKER DICK BEAMISH

Many plant lovers have noticed rhododendrons blooming along Hammond Bay Road in late January or early February. The most frequent sightings are in the garden of Dick and Ann Beamish. They have a well-established garden on the waterfront with many large rhododendrons and some exotics, such as bananas and loquats. At the moment, Rhodos 'Lee's Scarlet' and 'Nobleanum coccineum', a witch hazel and some sasanqua camellias are blooming.

Dick will be guiding the audience for "A Walk Through My Garden" at our February meeting .

Take this opportunity to learn about Dick's experience with rhododendron varieties that can bring cheer to winter days, as well as those that brighten our lives at more traditional times. Dick can also share his experience in pushing the limits of our climate zone. If you have questions about growing rhododendrons or exotics, Dick has decades of local experience to help provide the answers. Dick and Ann will have their garden open for our tour later this spring, so this is a good chance to get a preview.

In his day job, Dick is a world-renowned fisheries scientist and a former director of the Pacific Biological Station. He is a member of the Order of Canada.

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## Conference 2012 Corner

The Conference committee's last meeting was held on December 18<sup>th</sup> at the Coast Bastion Inn where we had the opportunity to meet with the Events Manager and tour the facility. We welcomed Brian Jubinville who has agreed to take on publicity / advertising; thank you so much Brian!

The Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society is coordinating the plant sale at the conference. Terry Richmond and Marilyn Dawson represented MARS at our meeting.

We still need someone to take on the job of "foliage display". If you or someone you know is interested in doing this, please let either Gaylle or Chris know.

Craig Clarke confirmed that Steve Hootman will be the Saturday evening keynote speaker; Craig is working on other presenters for the program part of the event.

John Deniseger is organizing the bus tours which will be held in the afternoon. There will be two tours and the gardens for both tours have now been confirmed.

Preparation for the upcoming fundraiser garden tour is well under way – see article on this in this newsletter.

Our next meeting will be a Sunday brunch on February 13<sup>th</sup> at June and John's. If you want to know more, you're more than welcome to join us. The more, the merrier! ☺

## Spring local garden tour update

*by June Bouchard*

As most of you know, our first ever local garden tour will be held on Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. This tour is organized as a fundraiser in support of the upcoming ARS Western Conference in 2012. There will be nine gardens to visit – thank you to all garden owners for your generosity!

We have 5 local businesses who have agreed to sell tickets on our behalf: Art Knapp and Dig This in

the north end, Diana's Garden Centre in the central area, Turley's Florist and Nursery in the downtown area and Buckerfield's in the south end.

A BIG thank you to John who has been working with the garden owners to develop the garden write-ups.

At the February meeting, we will be circulating a sign up sheet for anyone interested in "garden sitting". There will be 2 shifts at each garden: 10:00 to 1:00 and 1:00 to 4:00. Garden sitters don't have to be NRS members – interested friends are more than welcome. If you would like to volunteer but can't make the meeting, please let Gaylle or June know so your name can be put on the roster. Thank you in advance for your support.

We will need a number of volunteers in other areas as well: publicity, making/hanging posters, folding and numbering tickets, etc. We will have a master list available at the March meeting.

Please note that all volunteers will receive a free ticket and will be invited to a wrap up potluck BBQ at the end of the day. I think it will be a great day!!!

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**Steve Hootman, our January speaker**



# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

**65<sup>th</sup> Annual ARS Convention**  
**May 11-15, 2011.**  
**The World In Your Garden**  
**Rhododendrons 2011.**  
[www.ars2011convention.com](http://www.ars2011convention.com)

The Heathman Lodge  
Reservations: 888-475-3100 or 360-254-3100  
Fax: 360-254-6100  
7801 NE Greenwood Drive  
Vancouver, Washington, USA 98662

Visit our You Tube for a short film about the conference!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mcqOPvmeGo8>

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## Record Temperatures in 2010

The Canadian average temperature for the year 2010 was 3.0°C above normal, which makes this the warmest year on record since nationwide records began in 1948. The previous warmest year was 1998 at 2.5°C above normal. All of the country was above normal, with most of Nunavut and northern Quebec at least 4°C above normal.

Annual temperatures have been above normal since 1997 and have warmed over the last 63 years by 1.6°C according to *Environment Canada Climate Trends and Variations Bulletin for 2010*: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/adsc-cmda/default.asp?lang=En&n=77842065-1&printversion=true>

The world meteorological organization says this is part of a warming trend world-wide :  
[http://www.wmo.int/pages/mediacentre/press\\_releases/pr\\_906\\_en.html](http://www.wmo.int/pages/mediacentre/press_releases/pr_906_en.html)

The year 2010 was characterized by a high number of extreme weather events, including the heatwave in Russia and the devastating monsoonal floods in Pakistan:

[http://www.wmo.int/pages/mediacentre/press\\_releases/pr\\_904\\_en.html](http://www.wmo.int/pages/mediacentre/press_releases/pr_904_en.html) .

Over the ten years from 2001 to 2010, global temperatures have averaged 0.46°C above the 1961-1990 average, the highest value ever recorded for a 10-year period. 2010 was an exceptionally warm year over much of Africa and southern and western Asia, as well as in Greenland and Arctic Canada, with many parts of these regions having their hottest years on record.

Arctic sea-ice cover in December 2010 was the lowest on record.



*The Cecil & Molly Smith Garden*

The Oregon Chapters (District 4) of the American Rhododendron Society (ARS) have been busy working on what we hope will be one of the *best ever* conventions.

This convention features a host of exceptional speakers from around the world and tours from an array of outstanding public and private gardens and nurseries. Noted hybridizers will discuss their best efforts. Meetings and banquets will be staged in the much touted Heathman Lodge.