

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



February 2012



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our executive is hard at work organizing our spring calendar of events. As always, details will follow in the newsletter and at our regular meetings. Our conference committee continues to make progress in creating an event that we can all be proud of.

The strength of our club has always been and continues to be our membership. I'm sure that you've heard me say this before. Working with our executive, our conference committee and in talking to everyone in the club, I continue to be amazed by the diversity that our club represents. We have an incredible range of interests, passions, experience, and expertise woven through our membership. Our conference has given us further opportunity to tap into some of these strengths including: Suzanne Lightburn's photography, Royce Tennant's historical print collection, and Bob Derksen's abilities as webmaster, to name just a few.

I'm looking forward to our February speaker, Bob Duncan, who will be talking about "Pushing the Limits". Given the recent weather, dreaming about growing subtropical plants really appeals....

See you at the February 16th 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
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Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4
Website: nanaimo.rhodos.ca
email: nanaimo@rhodos.ca

NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

BEBAN PARK SOCIAL CENTRE

7:30 pm

BOB DUNCAN

"Pushing the Limits"

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Conference Corner

TWIGS and STEMs



GOODIES FOR FEBRUARY MEETING

Bill and Mary Hardy

Rosina Schmidt

Michael Miller

OUR FEBRUARY SPEAKER BOB DUNCAN

We have something a little different planned our meeting on Thursday, February 16th. Bob Duncan, a retired entomologist who lives in Sidney and grows citrus fruit in an unheated greenhouse, will be providing a presentation on "Pushing the Limits". Bob and his wife, Verna, have a business called Fruit Trees and More, propagating and selling over 300 varieties of fruit, from apples (over 200 varieties) to citrus, olives, pomegranates and jujubes. Basic information is available at fruittreesandmore.com. The Duncans will be selling plants, but if there is something specific you are interested in, I would encourage you to make contact ahead of time to ensure that they will bring it along to the meeting. This is an opportunity to prepare for global warming, and to learn how to situate sub-tropicals to give them the best chance to thrive in your garden. As the district representative of the BC Fruit Testers Association, I personally recognize Bob Duncan as one of the foremost resources on fruit growing in our region.

**Rhodos in Paradise:
Destination Vancouver Island
September 21 – 23, 2012**

The planning committee has been meeting every month since August and we're very close to deciding all of the details that need to be in the registration package. September 21st will be here before we know it. Eight months to go!

Every sub-committee chair has followed through with their responsibilities and we can really see the conference taking shape. June Bouchard and Bob Derksen have spent many hours creating the Conference website and it is looking fabulous! Bob's expertise is outstanding and this tool will be very helpful for conference delegates when registering. The website will likely be up and running by the first of April.

We're still collecting the Species Foundation pots (small size). If members happen to have any they could call Chris Southwick at (250) 390-3415 or email csouthwick@shaw.ca and she'll arrange to pick them up if you can't bring them to a meeting. Thank you to those who have already done so. We'll have a small work party in the spring to re-pot plants for delegates.

We've discovered that Royce Tennant has a very interesting hobby. He has one of Canada's largest collections of horticultural antique prints. At the last NRS meeting he brought some to show everyone. He will be selling them at the Conference and will be donating the proceeds to support the club. Some of these prints are originals and some are excellent copies. We'll be advertising this on the website as well. Thank you, Royce!

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Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Minutes of January 12, 2012 Meeting

Attendance: approx. 40 people
Meeting started at 7:35

1. President's Report:

- Welcome and Happy New Year!
- Thank you everyone for making our annual Christmas auction such a success. Sales added up to \$1456.00, 10% of which was donated to the Salvation Army. Thanks also for bringing non-perishable items which were delivered to Loaves and Fishes.
- Despite last fall's predictions, we've had a very mild winter so far. Dick Beamish informs us that winter is far from over and that the cold weather will be starting very soon. La Nina is still with us but a massive off shore high pressure system has been in place holding the cold weather at bay. The high pressure system has started to break down.
- **IMPORTANT: due to a scheduling conflict with Beban Park, the February meeting will be on Thursday, February 16th instead of the 9th.**
- Rhodos and NRS in the news:
 - i. Congratulations Reinhold for your article in the latest issue of the ARS Journal.
 - ii. Rhodos in bloom earlier than normal were mentioned in the December 30th 2011 issue of the Nanaimo Daily News as well as on the CHEK-TV 5:00 news on Thursday, January 12th, 2012.

2. Secretary / correspondence:

- Christmas card from Phillip and Joy Paull with a donation to the club.
- Membership renewal and donation to the Conference fund from Linda and Richard White.
- Receipt from Salvation Army for donation of 10% of our auction sales.
- Acknowledgement and thank you from the Sonshine Lunch Club in Courtenay for donation in memory of Harry Wright.
- Friends of Government House Gardens Society letting us know of an event called BC Blooms – June 22 and 23 to celebrate Queen's Diamond Jubilee and 20th anniversary of the Friends of Government House Garden Society.
- Letter from Rhodo Species Botanical Gardens asking for donation as part of their annual year-end Capital Improvement Fund Drive.

3. Treasurer's Report:

- NRS account: \$4118.51
- ARS 2012 Conference Account: \$4000.38 - \$190.00 of auction sales went to the conference account.

4. Social / sunshine:

- A card was sent to Ann Williamson who has recently lost her husband.
- Reminder to people who have signed up to bring goodies to the February meeting.

5. Program:

- **February:** "Pushing the limits" with Bob Duncan who grows citrus in an unheated greenhouse in the Sidney area. In addition to fruit trees, he also grows and sells olives,

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pomegranates, persimmons, loquats, feijoa, jujubes and more. Check the following page for more info: <http://www.fruittreesandmore.com/> Bob will bring plants to sell.

- **March:** Bill Macmillan from the Victoria Rhododendron Society will present: “Basics of Growing Rhododendrons”.
- **April:** Earl Daneluk will talk to us about Seed Culture and Hybridizing.

6. Membership:

- It's never too late to renew your membership – best time is the fall so as not to interrupt your subscription to the ARS Journal.
- See Debbie or Gerry to renew if you haven't done so already.

7. Conference update:

- Committee and chairs hard at work – meeting once a month.
- Thank you to Bob Derksen for all the work on developing our web page – stay tuned for preview, possibly at our March meeting.
- Thank you to Art Lightburn for volunteering with technical support and to Yvonne Harding for helping Chris with coordinating volunteers.
- Thank you to Royce Tennant who is donating part of his collection of 19th century horticultural antique prints. There will be a special display and sale area at the conference. Royce has the largest collection of antique botanical prints in Canada.
- Other island clubs are helping out with a variety of jobs – from the plant sale (MARS) to the silent auction (CVRS) and more. Our thanks to them all.
- We're hoping for about 200 attendees but break even is lower.
- Please bring RSF pots to Chris if you have any – they will be used for potting up table favours.
- “Fill the basket!” - Every chapter in District 1 is putting together a basket of goodies for the silent auction. Donations are gladly accepted for our own basket – anything Nanaimo-ish is welcome.
- As we get closer to the date, we will need more and more volunteers to help with a variety of jobs. Stay tuned for more details at future meetings and in future newsletters.

8. Norm Todd books:

- Sold out
- More will be available at our February meeting for \$12.00 each.

9. Three-year garden journals:

- We still have a few available at \$10.00 each.
- See or email June if interested.
- All proceeds go to the conference fund.

Program for tonight: Part 2 of Susan and Art Lightburn's Travels to China and Tibet. Amazing photography as well as inspiring and entertaining travel tales!

Meeting adjourned at 9:20.

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Fill the basket!

The BC chapters in District 1 are putting together baskets for the silent auction at our upcoming conference. Our own club is also putting one together. For our own basket, we're looking for donations that represent the Nanaimo area. To get us started, we already have a Nanaimo Bar recipe tea towel, a mug with whales, a Nanaimo Museum bag, a Diana Krall CD... Bring any donations to our February or March meeting. Thank you in advance!

SOME MEMBER FAVOURITES

Glenda Barr **Hansel**

- lovely form, gorgeous leaves with velvety indumentum - glossy on top
- flowers are just a short-lived bonus. The plant looks great year-round.

June Bouchard **R. barbatum** is one of her favourites for a number of reasons:

- it blooms early - it cheers up the late winter landscape
- the vibrant red colour is smashing where most other early rhodos are pink
- the overall shape of the plant is attractive
- the bark is quite distinct from other rhodos
- and most of all, it brings me back to our Nepal trip when we hiked under a mature forest of *R. barbatum*

Vlad Pomajzl **R. Loderi**

- bold, showy, tree-like, beautiful bark and fragrant

Mr./Ms No-name **R. Point Defiance**

- Norm Todd's "blousy" rhodo
- covers the tree normally with large cream, pink-fringed, frilly flowers

John Deniseger **Sir Charles Lemon**

- It always has something to offer. The leaves are a deep green while the orange-brown indumentum seems to glow, particularly early or late in the day. It's one of the early season bloomers which attract special attention. The trusses are pure white and stand out in contrast to the dark green leaves. The plant eventually becomes quite large becoming a feature specimen of any garden.

Elaine Hutchison **R. Nancy Evans**

- colour and colour mix
- plant appearance
- feeling I get when I look at one in bloom ("grabs" me every time before I see the name)
(Elaine is new to the world of rhodos - this is her choice so far - she's looked at lots of gardens.)

Gerry Moore **R. Phyllis Korn**

- beautiful truss
- lovely leaf
- good form
- I can see it all year in the window

Send me a description of your favourite rhododendron for our next newsletter – editor