



# FEBRUARY 2014

# President's Message

EXECUTIVE		
President	Art Lightburn	468-7516
Vice President	•	8 424-3605
Secretary	Ann Beamish	758-2574
Treasurer	Krystyna Sosulski	729-0948
Directors	Craig Clarke	390-4090
	Susan Lightburn	468-7516
	Dorothee Kieser	390-4136
	Ray Lauzier	756-2927
	Bryan Jubinville	956-6178
	Gaylle McRae	758-7589
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COMMITTEES		
Advertising	Bryan Jubinville	
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Membership	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Program	Ray Lauzier	756-2927
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey	
Social	Susan Lightburn	468-7516
Bargain Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533
Website	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Sunshine	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Awards	Craig Clarke, Chris Southwick,	
John	Deniseger, Gaylle	
McRae		

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Box 241, #101-5170 Dunster Road Nanaimo, BC V9T Website: nanaimo.rhodos.ca email: nanaimo@rhodos.ca 2014 is off to a great start for us gardeners, with snowdrops up, Kramer's Red, Lees Scarlet, R moupinense and R sichotense all in bloom, and the buds swelling on many other plants. The mild weather has allowed me to get a head start on revamping irrigation, cleaning up winter debris and the inevitable pruning of ornamentals and fruit

trees. I have removed a number of trees to let in more light as the rhodos suffered much more mildew than normal with the long dry summer. I am already irrigating; the amount of winter rains is far below normal.

Susan and I are busy making arrangements for a trip to North East India, including Bhutan. We will never again complain about the bureaucracy that we Canadians face after trying to book online a train trip in India.

Bryan Jubinville has arranged for the City of Nanaimo to declare May as Rhododendron Month, so we will be seeing what we can make of this.

Nanaimo is hosting the April 3 ARS District one meeting at the Longwood Brew Pub. There will be much on the agenda about the 2015 conference in Sydney. All members are welcome to sit in on the meeting and support the executive members that give so much of their time. Ask Art, Craig, or John for details.

Our neighbours are downsizing and have sold their home (the one with the Japanese bridge over the pond), so we are looking forward to meeting the new occupants.

As we get active in the garden, please remember to pot up plants, etc., to be used as fundraisers in our Show and Sale.

See you at the February 6th Meeting

Art

#### **NEXT MEETING**

### THURSDAY FEBRUARY 6 BEBAN PARK SOCIAL CENTRE

7:30 PM

CHRIS SOUTHWICK: "Developing a Rhododendron Garden"

JOHN DENISEGER & JUNE BOUCHARD: "Mosaiculture at the Montreal Botanical Garden"



# Seen In Passing

Juncos and other sbb's are scattering my mulches and leaves on the walks and driveway in their search for edibles. Hopefully, they are getting some of the leaf-chewing pests we all put up with.



## Raffle Plants



### Yaku Sunrise 2' -24° C

Rose with darker edges, recurved deep green leaves, broad

Lancaster



**Madenii Cross** 

White (pink striping)

Very, very fragrant

Needs winter protection

## Getting To Know Each Other...

### By June Bouchard



Rhododendron Lake, Vancouver Island, June 2013

This month, we're going to get to know Art Lightburn a little better. Not too surprisingly, Art has been interested in rhododendrons for a long time. Over the years, he has been with the Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society and more recently, with the NRS, including as president for the past 2 years.

Thank you so much Art for sharing a bit of yourself with us and for all your hard work as president of our club.

# 1. How long have you been growing rhododendrons?

My interest in rhododendrons started on the Queen Charlotte Islands (read: Haida Gwaii) after hearing of/and viewing "small trees with pinky purple flowers" growing in a long abandoned, remote homestead on Masset Inlet, around 1977.

#### 2. How long have you lived on Vancouver Island?

Susan and I moved to Nanoose from Haida Gwaii in 1987. Once an Islander always an Islander.

#### 

I have many, many good days in the garden, but the ones that I remember the most are the days that I discover "first-ever" blooms on a plant that I have waited years for.

#### 4. What other interests do you have?

My interests have changed over the years: chronologically - hot rods, hunting and fishing, wood working, gardening (mostly rhododendrons) and traveling.

#### 5. Do you have a favourite rhododendron?

I will quote the late Harry Wright that my favourite rhododendron is the one in bloom that day. I very much like the Asian simplicity of the Korean rhododendron R. albrechtii; for foliage, R. bureavii x fabia; and for flower, the large fragrant flower of the Maddenii R. excellens.

### FEBRUARY GOODIES

Earl Paneluk Gaylle McRae Eliane Leclerc

# 6. What do you like about the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society?

The Nanaimo Rhododendron Society is made up of friendly, informative, educated, and helpful individuals focused on gardening and growing rhododendrons. Susan and I, both, feel privileged to work with the members and executive of the NRS.

#### 7. Anything else you might like to share????

Networking with, and travelling to, other rhododendron societies and joining in their functions gives us something to look forward to each year-

### **Rhodos Worth Growing**



Oudijk's Sensation

Well mannered, floriferous

4' -23° C Dietrich Hobbie



**Vibrant Violet** 

Hardy, compact, slow growing, floriferous

3" -18° C Frank Fujioka

### Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Minutes of January 9, 2014 Meeting

# Welcome guests and Happy New Year to all! President's Report:

Rhodos in bloom – how many people have rhodos that started to bloom? Lee's Scarlet, Harry Carter and Cilipinense are among the early bloomers this year. **IMPORTANT:** February meeting date has been changed to Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup> as there is another event at Beban the following week – our usual meeting date.

Need for new Director: For health reasons, Ray Lauzier has had to step down as director – anyone interested in joining the NRS executive please let Art know. RSF order: The cut off date for ordering from the Rhododendron Species Foundation is January 17<sup>th</sup> – we are sending an order as a group - please let Art know if you would like to place an order.

Mark your calendar: Our annual plant sale will be on, May 10<sup>th</sup>. Consider potting plants for our sale table as you divide your perennials or as you thin your garden. MARS will be hosting Ciscoe Morris at their February meeting on Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> – his topic will be "Creating a Wildlife-friendly Garden". Ciscoe Morris is a well-known Pacific Northwest gardening expert, TV personality and garden writer in Seattle. Cultivate Garden Centre and Arrowsmith Greenhouses will have

#### Hello Chapter Presidents

As you all know, District One is hosting the ARS 70<sup>th</sup> convention in Sidney in May 2015. VIC RS by its location is the major player and but each district chapter is taking part in some way. Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society (MARS) is organizing the silent auction, a staple of conventions. Although we have more than a year to wait, we can plan for the event now.

MARS is asking each chapter to prepare a basket of items for the auction that could be theme-related, such as items for the gardener, chocoholic, coffee aficionado or any subject that your group wishes. There's lots of time to plan ahead.

As well, the Silent Auction committee is asking all members everywhere to send us the names of potential donors. We know a lot of possibilities in our area but we may not be aware of donors in your chapters who would be willing to contribute. We will do the pursuing; we just need the contacts. Aside from the baskets we will be seeking out about 30 items.

Many thanks for your attention to this. Send possible donor names to me, Marilyn Dawson at <a href="mailto:dawsom@shaw.ca">dawsom@shaw.ca</a> wildlife-friendly plants for sale. <a href="http://www.ciscoe.com/">http://www.ciscoe.com/</a> Doors open at 6:45 and talk start at 7:30.

#### **Committee Reports:**

#### Secretary:

Correspondence: A thank you note from the Salvation Army for the donation at Christmas Auction (10% of our sale). Thank you cards from VIU students who have received NRS bursaries.

<u>Library</u>: New from Cowichan Club: Celebrating 25 years of CVRS – will be available in the library. Also 2 new books coming this month – stay tuned for titles.

<u>Treasurer</u>: Revenue from auction was \$1463. plus \$77.00 for the raffle – one of our best years! It was a very successful auction.

Membership: We have 69 paid up members including 42 renewals and 6 associates. Please see Sandra if you haven't received your receipt, your membership card or your name badge.

<u>Sunshine</u>: A Christmas card was sent to long time member Phillip Paul. A get well card was sent to Ray Lauzier. Condolences to Suzanne Lightburn and Val Harvey who have recently lost their mothers.

Advertisement and PR: Bryan working on various options to publicize the NRS. Also, thank you to Jan Moles for sending info to local newspaper thanking community organizations who have donated to our auction. It appeared in the "Good Deeds" column of the *Daily News* on December 27<sup>th</sup>.

<u>Webpage</u>: Craig answered a couple of questions about the web page.

<u>Social</u>: Suzanne will start sending email reminders to people who have signed up to bring goodies to monthly meetings.

<u>Bus Tour</u>: Our annual bus tour will be on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> and we will be going north this year. Details



will be coming over the next couple of months but we will be going to Paul Wurz's Hidden Acres in Campbell River for sure.

Earl Daneluk reminded people of the upcoming trip to Germany and Denmark: 29 gardens, departure May 20<sup>th</sup>, cost is \$4000. (incl. air fare) or \$4400. for single supplement, still room on tour. Please contact Earl for

further details.

Reinhold is looking for 4" and 6" pots – as many as he can get. Please make arrangements with Reinhold or bring to next meeting.

**Door Prize and Raffle** – many happy winners **Tonight's speaker:** Paul Wurz from Hidden Acres on
"The Latest and Greatest Rhodos" with great pictures of
beautiful rhododendrons!

#### **Container Soil Mix**



A formula of a soil mixture for successful container- growing of rhododendrons as recommended by Alan Campbell.

The mix most growers use for plants grown in the ground—one-third bark mulch or wood chips, one- third compost, and one-third sand—doesn't work for containers, he said; it needs aggregate as well. To the bark—compost—sand mixture should be added one-fourth lava rock chips or pumice and (or) turkey grit or shale. Shale should also be used as a mulch to prevent hardening of the surface.

With this mixture, there is no need to change the soil; the plant needs only water and liquid fertilizer.

His formula is based on principles in the text Soil Science and Management by Edward Plaster who has a Master's degree in agriculture education from the University of Minnesota.