

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



## NEWSLETTER

## JANUARY

## 2002

Volume 10

Issue 5



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CHRIS SOUTHWICK

It is always a pleasure to see those first signs of colour in the winter garden. The various hellebores are performing as are my winter jasmine, Cyclamen coum and Viburnum Bodnatense Pink Dawn. Even some of my crocuses are pushing their little green tips above the ground. I've noticed R. Rosamundi performing in various gardens in the neighbourhood. I know the worst of winter is yet to come, but it is always exciting to think of the gardening year about to begin. What could be more exciting for a rhododendron gardener than plump flower buds on plants that haven't bloomed before. My R. Elsie Watson looks promising!

Thank you to all those who were able to make it to our annual Christmas auction and social. It was great fun with everyone attending going home with at least one door prize! We were able to contribute over one hundred items to the Salvation Army Food Bank and will be donating 10% of the proceeds of our auction to the same charity. Thanks to your generosity.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**JAN 10 – NRS MEETING – 7:30 P.M.  
BEBAN PARK**

**Richard White** will be talking about his trip to the ARS Spring Annual Convention last spring in Eugene, Oregon. He will be showing pictures of the various gardens that he and Linda toured while in the U.S.

Prior to the coffee break, **Leslie Sutton**, the manager of Dig This, will be doing a short talk on new garden gadgets to make gardening easier.

**February** will be Steve Hootman, one of the executive directors of the Rhododendron Species Foundation.

**March** will be Carol Dancer from Victoria.

### VOLUNTEERS


<b>RAFFLE:</b>	<b>JUNE BOUCHARD TERRI MACK</b>
<b>DOLLAR TABLE:</b>	<b>MICHAEL MILLER</b>
<b>GOODIES:</b>	<b>VAL HARVEY ANN DAVEY KAY HAYASHI</b>

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## NRS MAILING ADDRESS

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## NRS WEBSITE

[www.hedgerows.com/Canada/  
clubbrochures/nanaimorhodosoc.htm](http://www.hedgerows.com/Canada/clubbrochures/nanaimorhodosoc.htm)

[www.rhododendron.org/adminsector/  
chapterinfo.htm#Nanaimo](http://www.rhododendron.org/adminsector/chapterinfo.htm#Nanaimo)

## ARS WEBSITE

[www.rhododendron.org](http://www.rhododendron.org)

## RHODODENDRON & AZALEA NEWS WEBSITE

[http://members.aol.com/RandANews/news.  
html](http://members.aol.com/RandANews/news.html)

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## DISTRIBUTION

Gill Taylor

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# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## The American Rhododendron Society Presents Rhododendron and Azalea News

<http://members.aol.com/randanews/news.html>

Click and Read the News to Show Your Support!

**Articles:** Life's Chosen Few (Todd), Vireyaholic (Jackson), Snippets from Sayward (Silkins), You're Really a Rhododendron Fan When...(Johansson)

**About Rhododendrons:** Winter Injury (Douglas), Mailing Cuttings (Schannen), Seed Exchange Info, Rhododendron oldhamii (White), Sudden Oak Death, 'Lord Roberts' (Pertson), Deadheading (Hall), Rhododendron macrophyllum (Helm), 2001 Show Winners, Rhododendrons registered by Dr. Kehr and other information.

**Gardens & Arboreta:** The Neglected Garden (McCarter), The Garden Spot (Draisey), Rhododendron Lake, News of Tyler Arboretum, Wave Hill Gardens, More!

**About People:** Tribute to August Ernest Kehr 1914-2001, Flowers that Suit Him to a "B" (Watness), Awards, In Remembrance and many other news items.

**Books:** What's in the ARS Journal! Book Review (Pertson), 'Netiquette' (email etiquette), Recommended Books for Rhododendron Growers and news items about books, websites and recent updates. Much more!

**Calendar:** Convention and Conference information. Meetings (speakers and programs), Shows, Plant Sales, Special Events. **Links:** This is a new page. Formerly on the Books page until it became too big. Nothing but links to Websites of interest to those interested in plants, especially with rhododendron (azalea) interests. **Mailbag:** Now combined with former Exchange Page. Email from the readers, Wanted, Help Found, **Bits and Pieces:** Is just what it says with a sonnet by Margaret deWeese, hint for trapping moles, Did you Know....? Flower Therapy, etc. **Ideas:** Sharing information between groups. **American Rhododendron Society Page:** News of Society conventions and activities, officers, directors, committees.

Archived R&A News <<http://www.lib.virginia.edu/science/guides/s-rhodo.htm>> fully indexed at the Alderman Library, University of Virginia.

**BETTYSPADY@AOL.COM** Editor Rhododendron and Azalea News

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The Concrete Jungle

**The Quilted Duck Gift Cottage**

Turley's Florist & Potting Shed

**Westhaven Nurseries**

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**Auction \$1266. Cheque for \$126.6 sent to the Salvation Army.**

**Raffle \$228.**

**Membership \$170.**

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# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## **“R. GEORGE FRASER ” - BILL DALE**

There may be some doubt as to the parentage of R. George Fraser, but there is no questioning the origin of this plant. It came to Victoria via a circuitous route.

R. George Fraser was a cross of the west coast native R. Macrophyllum and the east coast native R. Maximum. Fraser received the pollen of R. Maximum from his good friend Joseph Gable of Stewartstown, Pennsylvania. When the resulting hybrid bloomed he collected seed and sent it to Gable. He planted the seed and when it bloomed he was quite taken with it. In the book, Hybrids and Hybridizers by Philip Livingston and Dr. Franklin West, Gable is quoted as saying, “ But some half dozen years ago in a thicket of 10-12 foot maximums I noticed a fine pink truss of flowers. Since the flower was so fine I immediately cut and dug and tore all plants and branches of maximum away that were touching or close to this plant, since then it has developed amazingly”. This hybrid was named “George Fraser” by Gable.

At the time there were two truly authentic plants of “George Fraser” to exist. One of these grew in Gable’s original garden in Stewartstown. The other was discovered in the Gable section of the rhododendron collection in the Tyler Arboretum at Lima, Pennsylvania that Dr. John Wister had bought from Gable in the 1950s. Dr. West told myself of the plant when he attended the ARS convention in Victoria in 1989. It was arranged that Dr. West would send cuttings of the plant to Lynn Watts of Bellevue, Washington. When Lynn managed to root these he sent one to the Van Dusan Garden in Vancouver and another to myself in Victoria. Mine is now about 8 feet tall and has bloomed for me although, sparsely.

I have taken cuttings since and will be taking a plant of this to Ucluelet next year to be planted near the “Welcome to Ucluelet” sign.

The hybrid “ George Fraser” has touched the lives of several rhododendron growers who have received awards from the ARS. Both Fraser and Gable received the rarely given Pioneer Achievement Award. Gable was given the ARS Gold Medal in 1953; Dr. John Wister was given the ARS gold medal in 1961; Lynn Watts the ARS Silver Medal in 1997; Dr. Frank West the Bronze Medal and I received the Bronze Medal in 1989. A picture of this plant was on the front of the ARS Journal, Spring issue of 2000.

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