

JANUARY 2003



Volume 11

Issue 5

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Richard was unable to submit a message for this issue. Instead I will pass on some of his notes.

Membership dues should have been paid by now. If you are remiss, please pay at the next meeting or mail in your cheque to the NRS Mailing Address : Suite 241 1-5765 Turner Rd., Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4.

For our May bus trip, I like the idea of the west coast, combo of Stubb's Island, Ken Gibson's, and Ucluelet. Please let me know if you have any other suggestions.

Remaining schedule. Looks like all are confirmed. Good work Paulette, hope everything went well.

We need someone in Nanaimo to host Clint Smith for the evening of March 13, 2003 and breakfast the next day. Who can do this? Please confirm with Paulette or myself, thanks.

There will not be an executive dinner prior to the January meeting, but plan on February 13 with Margaret Cadwaladr, 5.30 at Alexandra's (we will try this one once more).

I imagine that Margaret Cadwaladr will bring signed copies of her book and Clint Smith & Norm Todd will bring some rare and unusual rhodo's for us to purchase.

EXECUTIVE

President	Richard White	752-6519
V/President	Mary Taylor	756-3984
Secretary	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Treasurer	Barb Coy	758-8497
Directors	Dave Ball	729-0456
	Yvonne Harding	756-3574
	Allan McRae	758-7589
	Helmut Neuman	714-1840
	Josie Robertson	390-4270
	Anne Williamson	390-2604

NRS MAILING ADDRESS
Suite 241 1-5765 Turner Road
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4

NRS WEBSITE
<http://www.rhodos.ca/nanaimo>

Monthly Newsletter
<http://rhodos.ca/nanaimo/NewsDec2002.pdf>

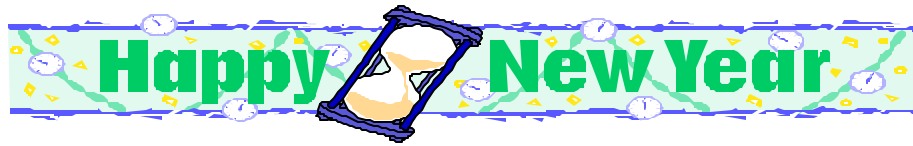
ARS WEBSITE
www.rhododendron.org

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Paul & Linda Lawry
Email: plawry@shaw.ca
Telephone: [250] 390-2370

DISTRIBUTION

Gill Taylor



Queen's Jubilee Medal

Two of our club members were awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal recently. This program is an opportunity to recognize citizens for an outstanding achievement or service to the community or to Canada as a whole; or those who have made a sustained contribution over and above what might reasonably be expected of paid employment or voluntary action. The medals were awarded in various ceremonies across Canada.

Dr. Don Noakes was awarded the medal for his exemplary contributions to the government of Canada. At present he is Head of the Aquaculture Division for Fisheries and Oceans in the Pacific Region and served as Director of the Pacific Biological Station for a number of years. His medal was awarded by the Governor General in a ceremony at the Hotel Vancouver.

Dr. Dick Beamish, previously a recipient of the Order of Canada, was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal at Government House in Victoria.



THIS YEAR'S MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE PAST DUE. IF YOU HAVEN'T PAID, PLEASE DO SO AT THE JANUARY MEETING. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND, SEND YOUR CHEQUE TO THE NRS ADDRESS LOCATED ON THE FRONT PAGE



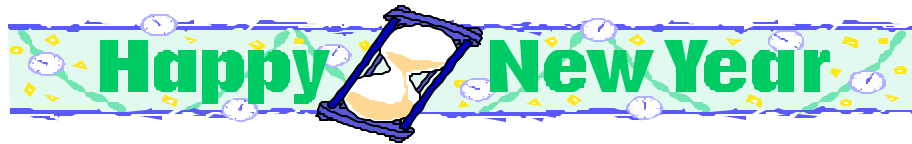
Paul & Lynn Wurz
4307 Gordon Rd.
Campbell River,
287-4301
Pwurz@oberon.ark.com

Growers of Specialty Rhododendrons

PORT DAVID
Landscaping, Stonework,
Garden Design & Irrigation

Ward Porter

Office [250]758-2494
Cell [250]714-9754



CHRISTMAS PARTY AND AUCTION

The evening started with a buffet table loaded with a variety of savories and sweets. Richard White called the meeting to order at 7:35pm. There was no regular business meeting.

Richard explained the rules of the auction, the side table raffles, and the Dutch auction. In addition, members who donated a non-perishable food item for the food bank hamper were eligible to enter the food bank draw.



The live auction was conducted by Ward Porter & Richard White. The picture shows Ward holding a beautiful quilted tablecloth donated by Mary Hardy.

Our treasurer Barb Coy kept track of the purchases as the bids were made. Revenue included \$1516.00 from the auction plus \$126 from the raffle. Deducted from this were \$200 for purchase of plants and \$144.20 for our donation to the Salvation Army, leaving a **net yield to the club of \$1297.80**. By comparison, Barb reported that income received at the September, October and November meetings totaled \$92.50 from the dollar table, \$221.00 from the raffle, and \$47.92 for coffee.

Special thanks to the businesses (see list below), members who donated items for the auction, and to all of the volunteers who helped to make the event a success.

BUSINESS DONORS TO CHRISTMAS AUCTION 2002

The following businesses gave donations to support our Christmas auction. Please give them your support in the coming year.

Art Knapp Plantland

Buckerfield's

Firwood Nursery

Green Thumb Nurseries

Holland Acres Nursery

Home Hardware

Ken Mackay Concrete Forming

Long Lake Nurseries

Turley's Florist & Potting Shed

Mid Island Consumer Services Co-operative Garden Centre

Malaspina University College

Dig This

Port David Landscaping and Stonework

Sharecost Rentals & Sales

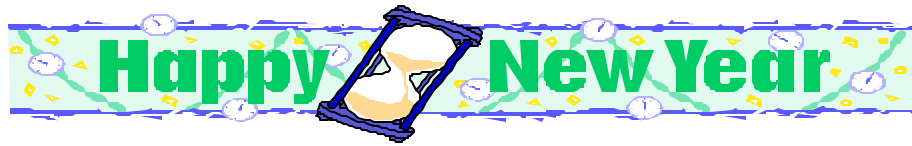
Shar-Kare Feeds & Pet Supplies

The Backyard Wild Bird & Nature Store

The Concrete Jungle

The Quilted Duck Gift Cottage

Westhaven Nurseries



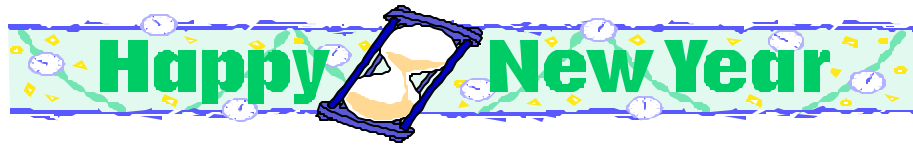
GARDENING TASKS AND PROJECTS FOR JANUARY

THE GARDEN HELPER

"<http://www.thegardenhelper.com/e>

- **Please** feed the birds and other small creatures which may not be able to find food due to snow on the ground or other causes. If there is snow on the ground and you don't have a feeder, a simple piece of plywood, a scrap of carpet or even cardboard will create a very good feeding area. It's easy to clean it off turn it over if it happens to get covered by a fresh snowfall. You don't have to be a bird watcher to enjoy the feeling that you get when you've helped out one of God's creatures.
- We had a few warm days recently, and some of my bulbs got the foolish idea that spring was near. Probably not a good idea since more icy weather is almost sure to come. Add a little compost and a thick layer of mulch to protect the tender new growth. This is an excellent use for the branches of your discarded Christmas tree.
- In the event of snow, be sure to shake or brush off the white stuff from the branches of your evergreens and shrubs. The light fluffy snow poses no real threat, but if it should become wet and frozen, the weight dramatically increases. Branches are more brittle when the plants are dormant, and the weight of the snow may snap them off.
- Dormant spraying of fruit trees, Cottoneaster, Dogwoods, etc. should be done this month.
- It's a good time to prune most of your deciduous trees and shrubs.
- Forsythia, Jasmine and Quince sprays can be cut and brought into the

(Continued on page 5)



(Continued from page 4)

house now for forcing. The warmth in the home will bring some early bloom to your room.

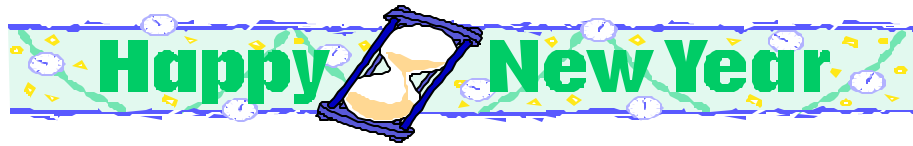
- Fireplace ashes should be saved to use a fertilizer for your Iris and other alkaline soil plants.
- If the ground is workable at all (*not frozen and not too wet*), now is an excellent time to turn the soil. Not only will this expose insect eggs to the effects of winter and hungry birds, the freezing will help to break apart heavy clods of dirt.
- Extra time this month might well be spent getting the garden tools ready for spring. Sharpen and oil tools such as shovels, shears, mowers and the like. Power tools such as weed eaters and power mowers may benefit from a good tune-up.
- It's not too early to begin to think of a strategy for new spring plantings. You might want to create a small map of your garden, and use it as a guide for ordering plants and seeds from the catalogs which will be arriving in the mail soon.

Hmmmm..... so you thought there was nothing to do in the garden this month.....

ON BEHALF OF MY WILD BIRD RELATIVES

***I PLEAD FOR YOUR GENEROSITY THIS WINTER.
DON'T FORGET TO FILL THE BIRD FEEDERS AND A
LITTLE SUET WOULD ALSO BE APPRECIATED.***





Rhododendron prunifolium

DonaldHyatt.com

Introduction:

Rhododendron prunifolium, the Plum Leaf Azalea, is one of the latest native azaleas to bloom. The orange to vivid red flowers open in late summer and measure 1.5 to nearly 2 inches across. Flower buds for the next season are usually formed before the current season's blossoms open.

First collected by R.M. Harper in 1913, *R. prunifolium* has a very small natural distribution in southwestern Georgia and eastern Alabama. There are a number of nurseries that carry this excellent native azalea since it propagates readily by seeds or cuttings. Plants should be grown with afternoon shade to prolong the flowers during hot summer months

Rhododendron prunifolium is one of the latest of our native azaleas to bloom. Plants of this species normally flower in the summer, usually starting in late June or July and continuing into August or September. I have raised a number of *R. prunifolium* seedlings but the one pictured on this page is the latest flowering form I have. In most years, this plant opens in my garden about mid-August and flowers sporadically into September. However, on years when there is a summer drought, this plant as well as several others I have raised will often wait for autumn rains before they begin to bloom. In some years, flowers have not started to open until September or even October, depending upon the weather conditions. I should note that my plants are growing on a high bank with rather dense shade, and are about 8 feet tall now. I usually do not water any established plants in my garden but expect them to survive on their own.



Don Hyatt / Stonehouse Creek Nursery
Phone: (703)-241-5421
Email: Don @ DonaldHyatt.com