

# JANUARY 2004



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### **NRS MAILING ADDRESS**

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

### **NRS WEBSITE**

[www.rhodos.ca/nanaimo](http://www.rhodos.ca/nanaimo)

### **NRS EMAIL ADDRESS**

[Nanaimo@rhodos.ca](mailto:Nanaimo@rhodos.ca)

### **PAST ISSUES**

[www.rhodos.ca/nanaimo/newsarchive.htm](http://www.rhodos.ca/nanaimo/newsarchive.htm)

### **ARS WEBSITE**

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

### **Rhododendron & Azalea News**

[www.rhododendron.org/news/newsindex.htm](http://www.rhododendron.org/news/newsindex.htm)

### **NEWSLETTER EDITORS**

Paul & Linda Lawry

*Email: [plawry@telus.net](mailto:plawry@telus.net)*

*Telephone: [250] 390-2370*

### **DISTRIBUTION**

Linda Lawry

## **EXECUTIVE**

President	Richard White	752-6519
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PROGRAMS	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	
RAFFLE TABLE	June & John	
SOCIAL	Anne	390-2604
\$ TABLE	Yvonne	756-3574

## **NRS MEETING**

**JANUARY 8 – BEBAN PARK AT 7:30**

Charles Thurkill

presents:

Wildflowers of Nanaimo  
from his book  
"The Nature of Nanaimo"

**BRING YOUR CUP TO THE MEETING**

Many thanks to those of you who volunteered to make the Xmas Auction a success!

**JANUARY VOLUNTEERS**

**SNACKS**


**NORMA GINTHER  
JANICE QUICK  
RAY LAUZIER  
BRENDA LEWIS**

**RAFFLE**

**JOHN & JUNE**

**\$ TABLE**

**YVONNE**



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

**Growers of Specialty Rhododendrons**

**Is there an \*organic\* solution to the “weevil” problem some of my rhodies and azaleas seem to have?**

Root Weevils can be a big problem - particularly with rhododendrons & azaleas- in the Pacific Northwest. I know of the following \*Organic\* methods of dealing with them:

**1. Trapping:** Try placing boards or pieces of cardboard under the rhododendrons for a few days. The weevils will congregate underneath and can then be gathered up and destroyed. Another similar method is to sprinkle bran inside crumpled newspapers and to leave these under the plants for a few days until the weevils congregate. Weevils only go up the plants at night so you can also go out (about 9 o'clock in the evening), spread newspapers under the rhododendrons, and shake the bushes vigorously. The weevils, which fall to the newspapers, can be gathered up in the papers and disposed.

**2. Prevention:** Like slugs, weevils like to hide under plant debris so clear out any old leaves or other debris from under the plants. If you have the type of rhododendron with only a few main stems and no leaves touching the ground, one of the best protections is Tanglefoot. (Available at most nurseries) Tanglefoot is not a poison...just very sticky goop that the bugs get trapped in when they try to cross a barrier of it. Don't spread the goop directly on the stems. Instead circle the stems with a band of duct tape and spread the sticky stuff on that. Since the weevils don't live on the plant all the time, but instead go up to feed at night, this can be very effective.

**Moira Carlson**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Christmas Party and Auction. Well you did it again, another successful pot luck dinner and auction. Thank you all for your contributions and purchases. These functions enable us to continue as a Society, keep our dues to a reasonable level, bring in speakers for our enjoyment, rent our venues, provide plant shows and make donations to many worthwhile projects and needy persons.

In reading books on intrepid plant explorers, famous gardens around the world, the estates of Lords and Ladies, and their sedulous gardeners, I can't help but ponder how boring our gardens could be without their contributions. Just look around your garden and take away those plants introduced from around the world, yes, it doesn't leave much. Native plantings are a wonderful part of our landscape, but as gardeners we need the new, the exciting, the different, the rare, the colorful, the interesting, the unusual and, dare I say, the expensive. Well, Linda can attest to the price of some of the rhododendrons I have purchased. Exploration of the world in the sixteenth to nineteenth centuries opened many countries to new and exotic plant species. A nurseryman in Holland paid \$4,000 for one tulip bulb, British Lords paid \$1,000 to \$4,000 for new orchids and certain Dukes were known to pay over \$1,000 for new introduced rhododendrons. Additions to the garden were an obvious status symbol and garden parties and balls were held at blooming and fruiting times to show off what they had.

Do we still do this today? Of course we do, but beautiful gardens are not restricted to the rich, we all can participate. With new and improved methods of plant collection, propagation, growers and nurseries available to all, we can imbibe in garden pleasures. We can reduce our costs by becoming involved in plant societies and take advantage of the networking they provide. Our club members can propagate the new and unusual from cuttings and seed, distribute amongst ourselves, and maybe other clubs. So, who has a greenhouse? Who has the expertise? Who has pots, flats, heating cables and grow lights? Who has the space? A number of our members already grow and distribute wonderful plants at our meetings. Thank you all and see you at the January meeting. Richard.

### Special Thanks to the following businesses who donated items for our Christmas Auction:

Art Knapp Plantland	Green Thumb Nurseries
Dig This	Gardenware and Supplies Ltd.
Turley's Florist and Potting Shed	Ken Mackay Concrete Forming
PB Cruise Bookseller	Holland Acres Nursery
Sharecost Rentals and Sales	The Concrete Jungle
The Quilted Duck Gift Cottage	Island Specialty Nursery
The Backyard Wild Bird & Nature Store	Buckerfields
Share Kare Feeds & Pet Supplies	Mid Island Consumer Services Co-operative Garden Centre
Long Lake Nurseries	Canadian Tire
Allan Campbell	Malaspina College

**Please give them your support, to these generous businesses, in the coming year.**

**BRING YOUR CUP TO THE MEETING**

**Many thanks to those of you who volunteered to make the Xmas Auction a success!**



## PRESENTATIONS – ODDS & ENDS

Charles Thurkill will be giving a presentation on "Wildflowers of Nanaimo" from his book "The Nature of Nanaimo" on **Jan 8, 2004**. Charles is a Fishery Biologist who does contract work for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, teaches School and is actively involved in stream restoration and habitat regeneration. His first book "Nanaimo - City of Living Streams" is well received. Charles, an avid photographer, will give us a good account of the wildflowers to look for when we go hiking or visit parks and open spaces. He will have a few copies of "The Nature of Nanaimo" for sale.

Agnes Lynn of Victoria will give us a presentation on "Unusual and exotic plants, and rhododendrons" on **Feb 12, 2004**. Her presentation will focus on the over 400 plant species growing at her home at Ten Mile Point. Agnes is an avid gardener who belongs to most of the garden clubs of Victoria. You won't want to miss this presentation.

Ron McMaster will be here **on April 15, 2004** Make your Rhodos think they're growing in the Himalayas. Ron shows slides of many different species growing in the Salween area of China. They were taken by people who went with Clive Justice on an expedition to that area a few years ago. The slides show the Himalayan environment. The audience will be asked to summarize the key environmental factors that are present in the Himalayas and which one is the most different in coastal BC (the hot, dry summer). Diagrams on an overhead projector and slides of Caron Gardens will be used to suggest how rhododendrons in general can be planted and cared for in order to mimic the Himalayan environment.

Based on observations in his own garden during the past 10 years, it is his belief that when rhododendrons are planted and cared for properly, disease and insect damage is very minimal. At Caron Gardens, people often ask how are the rhodo leaves such a dark green colour, and with so few weevil bites. The answer is, "I don't do anything but plant them properly and water and feed them well".

**\*Spring Bus Trip\* \*Any Ideas?\* \*Bring them to the Meeting\***

**\*April NRS Meeting has been changed to April 15 - the 3rd Thursday of the month.\***



### Christmas Auction

Raffle.....	\$ 107.00
Auction.....	845.00
SubTotal.....	952.00
Less Expenses.....	216.00
Net.....	736.00

**Thank you to the following members for their generous donations:**

Janet Quick  
Mary Hardy

Brenda Lewis  
Al & Gayle Mac Rae

Philip Paul  
Richard White

Dick Beamish

Bill Hardy