



# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



## HAVE A GREAT GARDENING YEAR

### JANUARY 2005

Volume 14

Issue 5

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I trust that you all had a great "Holiday Season" . I was just listening to the radio about arctic weather heading south-hope you have taken in geraniums and other plants which are vulnerable to the cold.

Our Christmas Party meeting was a great success. The food was excellent and enjoyed by all. I would especially like to thank all of our members who contributed in anyway to making it a success. It was a real team effort. The auction raised nearly \$1000, \$98.50 plus the hamper donations were given to the Salvation Army.

Getting back to our January 13th program. Mike Miller is going to be showing us a lot of slides which he took on his trip to Nepal last year. This should be a great presentation.

I hope to see you all at the January 13th meeting.

Allen

#### EXECUTIVE

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\$\$ TABLE	Yvonne	756-3574

#### NEXT MEETING

**JANUARY 13**

**BEBAN PARK – 7:30 PM**

**MIKE MILLER**

**“My Trip to Nepal”**



# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



## VOLUNTEERS FOR JANUARY

RAFFLE	JUNE & JOHN
\$ TABLE	YVONNE
SNACKS	MICHAEL MILLER CHRIS SOUTHWICK BRENDA

**SILVER SALUTE**  
VICTORIA'S 25th ANNIVERSARY



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# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



## Dr. Bill Pennell

### Awarded Outstanding Service Award

Long-time NRS member Dr. Bill Pennell received Malaspina University-College's Outstanding Services Award at Malaspina's fall convocation on December 20. The award recognizes Dr. Pennell's 23 years of service and outstanding contribution as professor in the Fisheries and Aquaculture department.

Dr. Pennell is described by his colleagues as a highly respected professor, teacher, mentor, and role model with a passion for his work and the institution. "He's an internationally recognized researcher with over 30 scholarly publications, and extensive involvement in provincial, national and international activities that bring distinction to Malaspina University-College," said Dr. David Thomas, Malaspina's Vice-President of Instruction and Research.

In his 2003 Pennell received an Honorary Lifetime Achievement Award from the Aquaculture Association of Canada. Pennell was instrumental in the development of the fisheries and aquaculture department and its technical and Bachelor's degree programs, and influenced and promoted the development of the Resource Management Officer Training (RMOT) program at Malaspina in the mid-1980's. Today, Malaspina's Fisheries and Aquaculture Department is internationally renowned, largely due to his efforts. Pennell also helped secure, along with other grants, \$3.4 million for the newly opened Centre for

Shellfish Research and Malaspina's research vessel. Dr. Pennell's research interests are diverse and include marine invertebrate husbandry and salmonid fish culture. He has received funds from numerous granting agencies for various projects including the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the Science Council of B. C., Aquanet, Malaspina University-College and B.C. Ministry of Education. Perhaps his most significant research contribution was his role as chief editor and chapter author for the book, "Principles of Salmonid Culture."

Dr. Chris Foote, Chair, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, said, "In Bill Pennell one finds the wisdom, vision and accomplishment of an excellent professor. Combine this with his humility, love of life, and uproarious sense of humour and you have a person, professor and friend with few equals."

*Adapted (by Kathryn Grant) from Nanaimo Daily News, December 20, 2004.*

### Northwest Flower & Garden Show

If you have a passion for gardening and want to join the region's top horticultural talent to celebrate Spring, then you don't want to miss the 17th Annual Northwest Flower & Garden Show. Be the first to see the emerging trends of the season, get inspired and learn something new from the industry experts while shopping for that special one-of-a-kind gardening gadget. It's all possible and under one roof at the 2005 Flower Show.

When: Wednesday – Saturday 9-9 Sunday 9-6

Where: Washington State, Convention Centre

For more info: [www.gardenshow.com](http://www.gardenshow.com)



# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



## CHRISTMAS AUCTION A BIG SUCCESS!

by Kathryn Grant

Once again, over fifty NRS members and friends gathered on December 9th to celebrate the season and raise some money for the club and the Salvation Army at the same time. Over \$1000 was generated due to the generosity of local businesses and our members. And the food was good too!

Thanks to all who helped set up and take down the room, to June Bouchard and John Deniseger, who organized the raffles, to Anne Williamson, who looked after the food and beverages, to all the Executive members who solicited donations from businesses, and to Paul Lawry for ably filling the role of auctioneer.

We would also like to thank the following members, who donated items for auction: Donna Porter, Brenda Lewis, Paul & Linda Lawry, Debbie Gaboury, Richard White, Philip Paull, Barb Coy, Dick Beamish, Mary Hardy, Gail McRae, Terry Mack and Michael Miller.

The following businesses donated items for auction: Turley's Florist, Long Lake Nursery, Malaspina U/C Horticultural program, Flying Fish, Art Knapp, Concrete Jungle, Buckerfields, Hanson's House and Home, Canadian Tire, Green Thumb Nursery, P.B. Cruise Booksellers, Carpe Diem. **Be sure to thank these businesses for their support whenever you shop.**

Thanks also to those whose donated items for the raffle (we didn't write everything down!). See you there next year.

## January

### Gardenwise – BC Garden

- ☼ Plan summer gardens and indoor seed planting; order seeds
- ☼ Weather permitting, prune grapes, fruit trees, small fruit and late-flowering deciduous shrubs
- ☼ Remove heavy snowfall from bushes and evergreens to prevent branch damage
- ☼ Water plants under rooflines and close to the house, especially in dry winters
- ☼ Spray deciduous trees and shrubs with dormant oil and lime sulphur
- ☼ Clean up beds

### GREER GARDENS, INC.

**At last, a deer and elk repellent that really works.**

We are hearing great things about this repellent. It does not smell offensive. After 24 hours, it will not wash off, which makes it effective for about 3 months in summer and up to 5-6 months in winter!!

It is an all natural product that won't harm your pets or children. Easy, twice-a-year application, and it works for all herbivores!

We have two forms. Both are \$24.95 (US) plus shipping and handling.

**90574 PLANTSKYDD SPRAY — 1 QUART.** This will treat about 100 plants about 1' high.

**90575 PLANTSKYDD SOLUBLE POWDER— 1 POUND.** This will treat about 200 to 300 plants 1' high and has a longer storage life after opening. The best buy.

**To order call toll free 1-800-548-0111.**



# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



## Revision of Plant Hardiness Zones in Canada

by Craig Clarke

The United States Department of Agriculture released the first plant hardiness zone map for North America in 1960. It was based only on winter minimum temperatures. Agriculture Canada scientists created a similar map in 1967. The Canadian hardiness zone map was produced from a wider range of climatic variables including minimum winter temperatures, length of frost-free period, summer rainfall, maximum temperatures, snow cover, January rainfall and maximum wind speed.

In 2000, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada issued an updated and revised map of plant hardiness zones which lays out the different zones where various types of trees, shrubs and flowers will likely survive. The updated map was based on 1961-90 climate data. The 2000 edition incorporated modern climate mapping techniques and included the effects of elevation, longitude and latitude.

Changes between the 1967 and 2000 maps are most pronounced in western Canada. In British Columbia, the hardiness index has increased by one or two sub zones over 70% of the surface area. Only in north eastern B.C. did the hardiness index decrease or remain unchanged.

The new hardiness map is divided into 17 sub zones, ranging from zone 0a (coldest) to zone 8a (the mildest). Zone 8a is associated with the survival of shrubs such as *Aucuba japonica* and *Viburnum tinus* and native trees such as *Arbutus menziesii* and the western flowering dogwood *Cornus nuttallii*. Zone 8a includes Victoria, the Saanich Peninsula and Mill Bay area as well as parts of the Fraser Valley. Nanaimo is located in zone 7b. I have placed a link from the climate page on our club web site to the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada web page containing both the 1967 and 2000 editions of the hardiness maps.

## Winter forecast

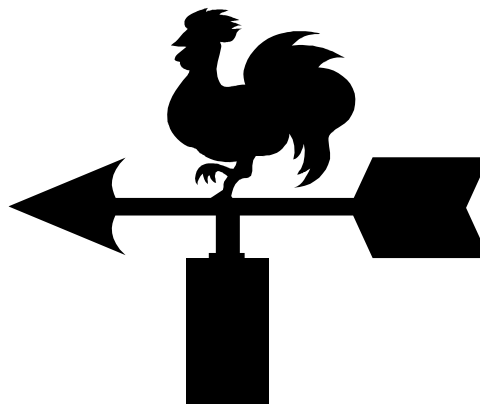
By Craig Clarke

How will our tender plants fare this winter? Should we have them well protected against a cold snap? Of course nobody knows for sure, but it is prudent to assume that the temperature will drop to -10°C for at least one or two nights during the winter.

The long-range outlook is for normal to above-normal temperatures. Environment Canada's long-range outlook at the beginning of December called for normal temperatures & below normal precipitation in Vancouver and Victoria for the December – February period. The Climate Prediction Center of the US National Weather Service Forecast calls for slightly above average temperature and below average precipitation for December through February in the Pacific Northwest.

Obviously there can be a couple of days of hard frost in an otherwise mild winter as we had last year. The below average precipitation is probably of more concern to gardeners because winter is normally the time to recharge our water supplies for the drier months of summer. Reduced winter precipitation can result in less water available in summer both from groundwater basins and from melting of mountain snows. According to the BC Government River Forecast Centre, snow packs on the Vancouver Island Mountains are well below average for December.

THE  
YEAR  
OF  
THE  
ROOSTER





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## WHEN AND HOW MUCH DO I PRUNE MY RHODOS?

Answer provided by the  
"The Garden Helper"  
<http://thegardenhelper.com/Rhody.htm>

Rhododendrons can be pruned as much or as little as you like. The how and when are more important than how much, when it comes to pruning this species. Most pruning of large flowered Rhodys should be done in the early spring at blooming time. You lose some of the flower buds, but the plant will put its energy into producing the new growth buds, which will in turn provide the food and energy for the following years flower show.

Personally, I prune to attain the shape of the plant I want. If it is necessary to cut the plant *way* back, it is best to do it in two stages. Cut half of the branches, half-way back, and then the following spring, you can cut the other half. Doing the cut back using this method, you will force new growth from the cut branches, utilizing energy from the established branches. (*I hope that makes sense!*) This will also cause far less shock to the plant. That is only a general rule to follow, you CAN cut more than half when it's necessary. I have a beautiful Rhody which was no more than an empty stump when I brought it home, and its now 12 feet tall.

- Prune as early in spring as possible, to give the cuts the best chance to heal
- Use sharp, *clean* tools, and make smooth cuts
- Always cut back to a growing point, preferably an outward growing bud or branch
- Removing branches from the middle of the plant will allow more air flow and light into plant
- Always make the cuts at a slight angle so that moisture will readily run off
- If the cut branch is larger than an inch, I would paint the cut with a pruning seal or grafting wax
- With Rhodys, the most important pruning you can do is deadheading the old buds before they go to seed
- Always remove dead wood regardless of the time of year