

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



January 2008
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year to all:

I hope that you all had a happy Christmas. Chris has chosen an excellent selection of speakers this coming year and I hope that you have noted on your new 2008 Calendar the meeting dates of the NRS

We did very well at our Xmas Auction thanks to the many businesses and members who donated items and those who bid on the goodies.

Please let me know if you want to attend the Vancouver Island Species Workshops – So far I have Brenda, Sandra, Chris, Allen and I interested.

See you January 10th at the regular scheduled NRS meeting.

Paul



EXECUTIVE

President	Paul Lawry	390-2370
Vice President	Chris Southwick	758-0993
Past President	Craig Clarke	390-4090
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	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
	John Deniseger	390-3605
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	Helene Sullivan	758-7023
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Program	Chris Southwick	758-0993
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey	
Social	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Dollar Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society
Box 241, #1 – 5765 Turner Road
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4

Website: nanaimo.rhodos.ca
email: nanaimo@rhodos.ca

NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10 BEBAN PARK SOCIAL CENTRE 7:00 pm

GLEN PATTERSON

"REACHING NEW HEIGHTS IN GARDENING"

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

TWIGS AND STEMS



GOODIES FOR JANUARY

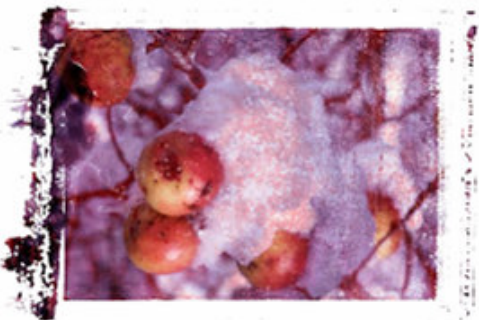
Reinhold Gorgosilich

Our January Speaker

Glen Patterson

Glen Patterson is well known in BC gardening circles for his fantastic roof-top gardens. He is an extremely accomplished gardener. He lived for many years in West Vancouver where he developed an outstanding rooftop garden that was displayed in magazines featuring Canadian gardens.

He moved to his current condominium overlooking the Coal Harbour and Stanley Park several years ago and has again developed an outstanding rooftop garden including trees and many rhododendrons. Paul Lawry and Chris Southwick attended the summer President's meeting on behalf of the Nanaimo Rhodo Society which was hosted by Glen. The attached photo was taken after the meeting - in Glen's garden. He will use the knowledge that he's gained in building his rooftop gardens to talk about aesthetics and sustainability in garden design - among other topics.



President's Meeting at Glen Patterson's

"REACHING NEW HEIGHTS IN GARDENING."

Please don't worry that my talk will be solely on building a roof garden. I know that need isn't a priority with gardeners in your area as it might be in an urban area. However, I did learn a lot in building this garden which would be generally useful particularly with reference to soil mix including ideal porosity, permeability and fertility. I think your members may find this useful! Also, I would like to include some thoughts on Garden Design for good aesthetics and sustainability! This would include a little discussion on my sentiments regarding what to do about shrinking spaces, a subject you mentioned as being of some worry to seasoned gardeners. Many of my trees and shrubs are over forty years old and one maple is actually over 100 years old. Yet, these normally fast growing plants are confined to my small garden and they seem to be quite healthy and happy!---

So, you see the content will not be just building roof gardens. "

Glen Patterson

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Species Study Vancouver Island Information

Another series of Species Study Days is being offered, this time on Vancouver Island. To register please contact Paul Lawry.

- Dates: Victoria March 15 – 16 Qualicum Beach April 5 – 6
- Participants: limited to 30 6 per Vancouver Island Chapter
- Speakers: Steve Hootman, Joe Harvey, Glen Jamieson, Norman Todd
- Worksheets will be provided where appropriate
- Costs: \$120.00 for both sessions (4 days). You may wish to ‘share’ attendance – for example, you may be able to attend the Victoria sessions but not those in Qualicum Beach. A friend could take your place for the Qualicum Beach sessions.
- Lunches: available on each day at \$10.00/person (soup & sandwiches, etc.) **midmorning coffee is provided
- Accommodation: Billeting is encouraged and can be provided at each location.
- Locations of lecture halls and gardens are being determined
- Order of lectures is being determined
- Further information to follow

Please forward your questions to:

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slightbu@shaw.ca

Bill McMillan Ph# 250-478-3515 e-mail:

wtmcmillan@telus.net



R. dalhousiae

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



Companion Plants

I is for Ilex
of the Holly Family
Family: Aquifoliaceae

We've decked our halls, mantles and tables, and celebrated the season with family and friends, but just because Christmas is over, it's no time to stop thinking about holly. Holly is not just a decoration with glossy prickled leaves and shiny red berries. It's a tidy clipped hedge that takes more abuse than a boxwood. It's a cluster of ground-to-head-high stems laden with long-lasting berries in winter. It's a stately row of black-green sentinels guiding visitors through your country property to your home. It's a cheerful golden burst of sunshine on a cold winter day. And it's a curious creation with miniature round leaves and shiny black berries in an age-old pot on a stone shelf. These, and many more, are hollies, and there's one for you, no matter what style your garden.

The hollies offer year round interest in abundance, with leaf shapes and colours, berries and form. Flowers are produced in great numbers, but give a relatively insignificant show until they mature to a great profusion of fruits in autumn – red, black, orange, and even some yellow. Bear in mind however, that a solitary plant will not, barring a few hermaphroditic exceptions, produce berries. Male and female flowers are traditionally borne on separate plants, and a proper pollinator (defined as one that blooms at the same time) is necessary to ensure good fruit set on the females. Sorry guys, no berries ever on the males!



Ilex 'Ferox Argentea' ('Silver Hedgehog')
one of the many cultivars with variegated foliage



Ilex 'Blue Princess', an example of the Ilex x meserveae group

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Evergreens with boldly patterned foliage are generally selected from either *Ilex x altaclerensis* or *Ilex aquifolium*, with such names as 'Golden King', 'Madame Briot', 'Silver Milkmaid', 'Ferox Argentea' (Silver Hedgehog), 'Lawsoniana', or 'Handsworth New Silver'. These and many green-leaved forms will have various habits, whether dense and compact, weeping, upright, pyramidal or columnar.

The Blue Hollies, a hybrid group named *Ilex x meserveae*, are generally more hardy than the English or Highclere hollies. They only come with dark green foliage and very dark stems, and all have 'Blue' in their names.



The deciduous Ilex verticillata 'Bonfire'
after leaf fall

There are also hollies that drop all their leaves in winter to reveal branches absolutely smothered in berries along their length; branches cut from these hybrids will last very well in vases of water indoors. Their foliage is ordinary and the plants are very adaptable in the landscape. These are selections of *Ilex verticillata*, with some hybridization with *Ilex serrata* and *Ilex decidua*, and go by names like 'Bonfire', 'Afterglow', 'Winter Red', 'Sparkleberry', 'Sunset', and 'Stoplight'.



Ilex crenata, showing the
boxwood-like leaves and black berries

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The Japanese holly, *Ilex crenata*, a very un-holly-like plant, appears more like a boxwood than any holly. There are fine selections of dwarfs and goldens, most with black but one with white berries.

Undemanding as to soil and exposure, hollies do resent excesses of shade and moisture, which cause lanky growth and few berries. Pruning is best done in spring or summer, and planting is best in spring. But choose the location carefully - they very much dislike being moved as mature specimens. Seedlings sprout up quite spontaneously under mother plants and are 'planted' by birds in all sorts of unusual locations, but there's no telling what sex they might be until they bloom. If named selections are to be increased, cuttings should be taken in fall. The wood of the holly is fine grained and dense, making it much sought after for turning and marquetry.

So let's remember, a holly is not just for Christmas, it's for life!

Happy Planting!

Colleen Forster

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

Alex's Therapeutic Garden Center
Art Knapp Plantland
Buckerfields
Canadian Tire
Dig This
Green Thumb Nurseries
Long Lake Nurseries
Shar-Kare
Turley's Florists
The Paine Horticultural Centre (Malaspina College)

Please express your appreciation next time you shop!
Thanks also to all the members who donated items for the auction.

