

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



January 2012



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year everyone!

The year ahead is going to be an important one for our club. In September, we will be hosting the ARS Western Regional Conference. Our conference organizing committee is hard at work putting together an event that we can all be proud of. As the year unfolds, we will be counting on all of you for your help and continued support.

We will of course have our usual mixture of events throughout the spring, including plant sale, truss show, garden tours, etc. As always, you'll be able to find out more at our meetings and in the newsletter.

Thanks to everyone's generous support, our Christmas Auction was a great success, raising \$1456, ten percent of which went to the Salvation Army. We also delivered boxes of food to the Loaves and Fishes. Special thanks are due to David and Joyce Mitchell, our great auctioneers, and to Sandra Dorman who just seems to be able to bring it all together. Local businesses continue to contribute to our auction; keep them in mind as you look for special gifts or garden items throughout the year.

Now back to my plant and seed catalogues as we dream about spring and the beginning of the gardening season here on the coast...the days are already getting longer, aren't they?

See you at the January meeting....

NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

BEBAN PARK SOCIAL CENTRE

7:30 pm

ART AND SUSAN LIGHTBURN

"Travels to China: Part 2"

EXECUTIVE

President	John Deniseger	390-3605
Past President	Paul Lawry	806-2370
Vice President	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Secretary	June Bouchard	390-3605
Treasurer	Gerry Moore	756-1427
Directors	Glenda Allard Barr	390-2822
	Chris Southwick	390-3415
	Debbie Gaboury	758-1204
	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533
	Burkhard Dressler	758-1738

COMMITTEES

Advertising	vacant	
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Membership	Debbie Gaboury	
Program	Glenda Allard Barr	390-2822
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey	
Social	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Bargain Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society
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email: nanaimo@rhodos.ca

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Conference Corner

Rhodos in Paradise:
Destination Vancouver Island
September 21 – 23, 2012

TWIGS and STEMs



GOODIES FOR JANUARY MEETING

Chris Southwick

Ann Beamish

Reinhold Gorgosilich

CLUB PLANT INVENTORY

Michael Miller is collecting an inventory of rhododendrons club members have growing in their gardens, in order to prepare a foliage display for the conference in September. Please email a list of your plants to Michael at milvik@shaw.ca



Our conference is certainly getting closer now. Our planning committee is pretty busy putting all the touches to the details, which sometimes need to be revised, as we adjust to changing conditions and needs. Gerry Moore has presented us with a draft budget which will be very much like the final one. This has been no small task and we are most grateful to him for all his hard work. At our last meeting June showed us the work that she and Bob Derksen, our webmaster, have in progress – our website. It isn't expected to be live until early Spring, but what we saw makes us excited. Of course, we have all the planning for such details as facilities, food, plant sale, garden tours, the Milner Garden day, various speakers, and special meetings well underway. However with the sad news of Harry Wright's sudden passing, we had to find someone to step up and chair the meeting of Hybridizers on the Sunday morning. Paul Wurz has agreed to do that task and we thank him. A new garden had to be added to the Saturday tours as one person had to drop out of his commitment. That garden is Wolfgang Ruff's at Nanoose. We do plan to hold a Silent Auction during the conference and to that end have asked all District One clubs if they would like to donate a basket filled with things distinctive to their area. We are now seeking a person from **our** club who might be willing to take on this task for us. We will be asking again at the next general meeting. If you would be interested and able to do this for us, we'd like to know very soon, please let either Chris or Gaylle know. There will be more to come on conference details over the remaining months. We'll keep you posted.

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Minutes of December 10, 2011 Meeting

Attendance: approx. 35 people
Meeting started shortly after 6:30.

1. Vice-president Sandra Dorman welcomed everyone. Thank you all for your food contributions to the potluck, for donations to the auction and for non-perishable items for the food bank.
2. Special announcements:
 - Correspondence: letter of thanks from Gwen Wright and family.
 - Norm Todd's books have arrived and are available to purchase at \$12.00 each.
 - Special fundraiser for the conference: Garden Journals and 2012 Day Planners available to purchase at \$10.00 each.
 - Program for January will be part two of Art and Susan Lightburn's trip to China.
 - **IMPORTANT:** February meeting is postponed by one week to Thursday, February 16th.
3. Our auctioneers, Santa and Mrs. Claus, arrived around 7:00 to officially start the bidding.
4. Once again, our auction was a success thanks to the contributions of our auctioneers (Joyce and David Mitchell), our auction team (executive members and Allen & Gayle McRae), local businesses, and of course, our membership for their generous support and participation.
5. Special thanks to Sandra Dorman for organizing the potluck and chairing the meeting.

The very best of the season to everyone!!!



NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Auction Donors

In addition to many of our own members, the following local businesses donated items to our December 8, 2011 auction:

Long Lake Nursery
The Quilted Duck
Green Thumb Nursery
Vancouver Island University Horticulture Department
Nature and Backyard Store
International Composting Corporation
Buckerfields
Shar-Kare
Mackay Concrete
Coast Bastion Hotel
Diana's Garden Centre
Canadian Tire
Art Knapp Nursery
Sharecost
The Port Theatre

Please keep these businesses in mind when you do your shopping, and thank them for their generosity.

Salt Spring Island Master Gardener Course

Salt Spring Island has long been known as a place for its unique and diverse gardening community. In February of 2012 the first Hastings House Master Gardener Course is scheduled to be hosted at Hastings House Country House Hotel. This 6 week course, each Saturday will be taught by experts in their field from all over the Pacific Northwest. Anyone with a desire to learn about the practical aspects of gardening with a hands on application is eligible to take this program.

Course Date: February 4th - March 10th
Course Fee: \$499.00 (includes breaks and lunch)
Register by calling Hastings House at
(250) 537-2362

Course Schedule:

1. Soils: Feb 4th
2. Pests and Diseases: Feb 11th
3. Vegetables and extending the Season: Feb 18th
4. Small Fruits and Pruning: Feb 25th
5. Plant Materials: March 3rd
6. Garden Design: March 10th



The styles of homes and gardens continually evolve through time, but one iconic feature will never change, the garden gnome.

Garden gnomes will forever adapt to modern styles and trends, but their popularity and demand will never diminish.

Modern garden gnomes are classified into three main categories. The "Worker Gnome" is characterized by their possession of tools. The "Leisure Gnome" is characterized by the emphasis on relaxation. Lastly, the "Culture Gnome" is characterized by the arts, typically the gnome has a musical instrument.

The name gnome is said to come from the latin word "genomes", meaning earth dweller. In fairy tales gnomes have often been mistaken as goblins, dwarves and even elves, however gnomes are far from what goblins, dwarves and elves portray. Gnomes are magical creatures from the underground.

Gnomes have historically been described as small stout beings and are known by their bright red pointed hats, solid coloured clothes and their long white beards. Though sightings of female gnomes are rarely reported, gnome women have the same characteristics of the male, excluding the beard.

It is believed that gnomes move through the earth as easily as humans walk upon it. They first appeared in European folklore, in the early 1800s, as benevolent creatures who possess magical powers used to protect, reward and punish. They are believed to be created with the purpose of protecting the earth and assisting nature. For hundreds of years farmers, merchants and housewives have featured these creatures on their land believing that these little creatures will help them achieve success.

Garden gnomes are based on legendary myth, magic and fairy tales. Gnomes are believed to be the guardians of the treasure found underground, mainly gold. They are the guardians of many of the earth's natural resources. It is believed that they have magical power over these treasures, and can use this power to either reward or punish humans.

Owning a lawn or garden gnome is a delightful experience! They help bring our imaginations to life. Maybe you should consider putting a little magic back into your garden this spring!!!