

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



## January 2013



### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Susan and I would like to wish all members, associate members and families a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. It's a nice time to sit by the fireplace and read or chat.

The Christmas Party and Auction was a fun end to a good year for the NRS, and lots of delicious finger foods were provided. Thank you to all the members who pitched in to help make our final event of 2012 a well attended success. Thank you to all the members who donated plants, etc., and to Madeleine and Ken Webb, associate members, for their auction donations and 9 potted plants for future club use. We have delivered a large heavy box of food dry goods to the Loaves and Fishes and made a \$110.00 donation to the Salvation Army. Also, a special thanks to Ann Beamish, our secretary, who did a great job of organizing the donation aspect of our auction and to Santa and his helper for making it a fun evening for all.

It is time now to start looking forward to the club functions for 2013. In the Newsletter you will find a copy of the 'Rhodos In Paradise Conference' Committee's recommendations for the sharing and disbursement of some of the funds the club conference earned. Please read it and bring comments or questions to the January Meeting. Approving the recommendations would leave approximately \$8,800.00 profit in the bank in addition to our regular budget amount.  
(continued page 2)

### EXECUTIVE

President	Art Lightburn	468-7516
Past President	John Deniseger	390-3605
Vice President	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Secretary	Ann Beamish	758-2574
Treasurer	Burkhard Dressler	758-1738
Directors	Glenda Allard Barr	390-2822
	Debbie Gaboury	758-1204
	Craig Clarke	390-4090
	Paul Lawry	816-2370
	Susan Lightburn	468-7516

### COMMITTEES

Advertising	vacant	
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Membership	Debbie Gaboury	758-1204
Program	Glenda Allard Barr	390-2822
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey	
Social	Susan Lightburn	468-7516
Bargain Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society  
Box 241, #101-5170 Dunster Road  
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4  
Website: [nanaimo.rhodos.ca](http://nanaimo.rhodos.ca)  
email: [nanaimo@rhodos.ca](mailto:nanaimo@rhodos.ca)


### NEXT MEETING

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 10      BEBAN PARK SOCIAL CENTRE      7:30 pm**

**EARL DANELUK**

**'A Tour of my Garden'**

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

**TWIGS and STEMs**   
\*\*\*\*\*

**GOODIES FOR JANUARY MEETING**  
*Chris Southwick  
Liz Higgins  
Jan Moles  
Edith Higgins*

\*\*\*\*\*

**OUR JANUARY SPEAKER**  
**EARL DANELUK**

*Our member, Earl Daneluk will present a tour through his Lantzville garden. Earl started with the purchase of five rhododendrons seven years ago, and has developed a serious rhododendron habit! Now he has over 1400 rhododendrons growing on his one acre property. Earl has learned much along the way, and is happy to share his successes and failures. Come out and see what has worked in a local garden, and what can be accomplished with a little determination.*

From the President *continued from page 1*

Plans and arrangements for the annual Mother Day's weekend Truss show and Plant sale are underway. A member's bus tour will be arranged (watch for details), and we would like to have volunteers to organize garden tours for the club members. The response to our requests for a public garden tour fundraiser has, with a few exceptions, not been overwhelming. Without fifteen garden recommendations or suggestions, the committee will need to cancel any plans for this year's public garden tour.

The mild November and December weather has me preparing to cover or move the more tender plants (*R. excellens*, *R. malloium*, *R. edgeworthii*, etc.) in case of a hard frost in January or February without a snow cover.

Happy New Year to all! Looking forward to seeing you at the January meeting.

Art

---

## Seen In Passing...

Small *Felis concolor* checking out the deer and rabbit population around Craig Bay.



The top buds on Royston Red frosted in late November.



Green tips of snowdrops starting to show.

First time flower buds on *R. sutchuenense* and 'Fragrant Red'.

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## Conference Committee Recommendations for Partial Sharing and Distribution of Funds

- a. Increase VIU Horticultural Program student bursary from existing annual \$300 bursary to two \$500 bursaries for the next 3 years. One of the bursaries would be on behalf of the NRS while the other would be on behalf of the Vancouver Island Chapters of the ARS. The intent is to acknowledge the contributions of the Island chapters to our conference and help raise the NRS profile in the community, while increasing the bursary amount to reflect the increasing cost of post secondary education. After 3 years, the NRS bursary contributions would be reviewed.
- b. Milner Gardens and Woodland is proposing the development of a significant Rhododendron Species Garden. While the details have yet to be worked out, this will require a significant fund raising effort. We are recommending that the NRS set aside \$2000 for up to 3 years in a special account for this potential project. The funds would be donated to Milner Gardens if and only when the details of the project are finalized and underway. If the project is not underway by November 2015, the potential NRS funding would be reviewed.
- c. Use up to \$500 of the conference profit to help offset the costs of a “special bus tour” next spring. This would be a way of recognizing the contribution of club members to the success of the conference.

---

## Cranberry Stuffed Squash

2 medium acorn squashes  
1 cup chopped pears  
1/2 cup cranberries  
3 Tbsp. orange juice concentrate  
3 Tbsp. maple syrup  
1 1/2 tsp. cinnamon  
1/2 tsp. allspice

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Slice squash lengthwise and place cut side up on foil-lined baking pan.

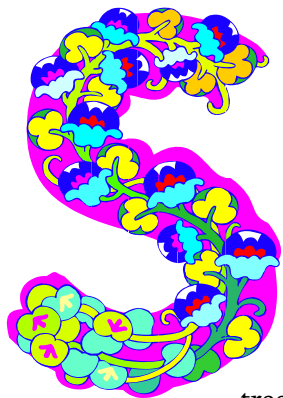
In medium bowl, combine pears, cranberries, orange juice concentrate, maple syrup, cinnamon, and allspice. Spoon mixture into squash cavities.

Brush cut edges with any remaining liquid. Bake 45 minutes, or until squash is tender.

from Allison at VegSource [www.vegsource.com](http://www.vegsource.com)



# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



## Companion Plants

S is for *Styrax*  
of the Snowbell or Storax Family  
Family: *Styracaceae*

There are shade trees, and then there are shade trees! If you like a massive great lump of branches and leaves that nothing will grow near, there are maples and conifers that will do just fine. But if you like graceful branches, dainty leaves and fragrant flowers gently sheltering your blooming rhodos and perennials, then the Snowbells are the trees for you.

Of the 120 or so species in the world native to Asia, Europe and southern U.S.A., only a handful are generally available. Although most are shrubby forms, attaining heights to 12 feet, a select few will grace a woodland garden as a lovely light-textured tree to 25 feet or slightly more. Rare finds would be *Styrax hemsleyana*, *S. obassia*, or *S. wilsonii*, but the most popular and certainly the most widely used among plant breeders is *S. japonicus*. This species, from Korea and Japan, was introduced into cultivation in 1862, was awarded an FCC in 1885, and has been gaining popularity ever since. It is hardy to Zone 7 and forms a graceful spreading tree, with fan-like branching. The pure white bell flowers appear in late spring and dangle enchantingly beneath the branches. For this reason, it should be planted where you would walk under it, so as to enjoy the blooms to best advantage. Round seed pods are produced and decorate the branches throughout the winter.



*Styrax japonicus* 'Pink Chimes'

Selections have been made for features such as pink flowers – 'Pink Chimes'; weeping branches – 'Pendula'; and prolific blooms – 'Snowfall'. There is also a very different selection by the late J.C. Raulston called 'Emerald Pagoda', which has larger, leathery leaves, much larger blooms, and greater heat tolerance than the species. It truly is an outstanding plant, and should be much more widely known.



*Styrax japonicus* 'Emerald Pagoda'

All these selections will thrive in moist loam soil of moderate acidity and good drainage. Bear in mind that their propensity to grow late in the season, which may result in soft growth that doesn't harden off quite properly, might cause a bit of tip die-back in winter. A position out of cold winds with soil a bit on the lean side should keep this to a minimum, and the tree quickly compensates with the new growth in spring.

Find a place next to your garden tea table, along a path where you walk to admire your best rhodos, or by the bench where you sit to watch your fish swimming lazily around the pond, and you've got a place for a *Styrax*.

Happy Planting!

Colleen Forster