



JANUARY 2015

President's Message

The rhododendron community calendar looks like an exciting one this year, especially with the upcoming American Rhododendron Society's annual spring conference in Sydney. Their lineup of garden tours and speakers is a "who's who" of the rhododendron world. The Victoria Rhododendron Society committee has organized the conference in an interesting format with garden tours during the day and speakers in the evening. Meals and tours are optional, so if you only want to attend the lecture, that is a possibility to consider. Check it out on-line or pick up a hard copy of the registration at our next general meeting on January 8th.

Thanks again for a very successful Christmas party and auction on December 11th! For a small group, we certainly know how to have fun and to support our community. With just under \$1400 raised in the auction, we will be contributing approximately \$140 to charity plus the non-perishable items we donated to those less fortunate. Thank you for frequenting the businesses of our generous sponsors.

I'm really looking forward to Earl's presentation on his trip to Europe. I'm sure it was a trip of a lifetime for dedicated rhododendron enthusiasts and I look forward to photos of incredible plants and world famous nurseries and gardens! Don't miss it, Thursday, January 8th.

Happy New Year to you all from cold and clear Grande Prairie, Alberta where it is currently twenty-two below with a slight wind chill making it the equivalent of thirty below. There is a reason that I'm only visiting and not moving! We are so very fortunate to live in a gardening paradise.

Best wishes for 2015.

Chris

EXECUTIVE

President	Chris Southwick	390-3415
Past President	Art Lightburn	468-7516
Vice President	Brenda Lewis	751-3639
Secretary	Ann Beamish	758-2574
Treasurer	Krystyna Sosulski	729-0948
Directors	Craig Clarke	390-4090
	Susan Lightburn	468-7516
	Dorothee Kieser	390-4136
	Gayle McRae	758-7589

COMMITTEES

Advertising	Jan Moles	
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Membership	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Program	Art Lightburn	468-7516
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey	
Social	Susan Lightburn	468-7516
Bargain Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533
Website	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Sunshine	Edith Higgins	390-9340
Bus Tour	John Deniseger & June Bouchard	
Truss Show	Doug Blenkarn	
Spring Sale	Ann Beamish	

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society
Box 241, #101-5170 Dunster Road
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4
Website: nanaimo.rhodos.ca
email: nanaimo@rhodos.ca

Next Meeting

Thursday January 8, 7:30 pm Beban Park Social Centre
EARL DANELUK
2014 Rhododendron Exhibition, Germany and Denmark

Twigs and Stems



Goodies for January Meeting
June and John
Gayle McRae
Dorothee Keiser

Qualicum Beach Seedy Saturday
'SOW THE SEEDS!'
Saturday February 7
10 am to 3:30 pm
Qualicum Beach Civic Center
www.qbseedysaturday.com

ARS Spring 2015 Convention
May 6 - 10th, 2015
Sydney by the Sea
<http://2015rhodo.ca>

OUR JANUARY SPEAKER
EARL DANELUK

The January program is Earl Daneluk's slide show presentation showcasing many hybrids and species encountered in his attendance at the "2014 Rhododendron exhibition", Hachmann's nursery, and his visits to public and private gardens in Germany and Denmark.

Earl has become an avid collector, hybridizer and propagator of rhododendrons since moving to the Lantzville area from Calgary. Attending as many conferences and buying as many Rhodos as possible has given Earl and Judy a large and modern collection with many of the newest hybrids.

Rhodos Worth Growing



R. lutescens

6', -15° C. Sunny yellow flowers bloom amidst bronzy red foliage. Open and upright, the new growth is bright red, and creates quite a display in itself. The medium sized leaves, which range in color from dull dark green to a lovely bronzy red, are oblong or lance shaped. Very sun tolerant.



R. 'Rubicon'

('Noyo Chief' x 'Kilimanjaro') 5', -12° C . Fantastic cardinal red flowers with black spotting on the upper lobes. Anthers are white and add to the attractiveness of the truss. Plant has wonderful, glossy green leaves with deep veining. A superior plant that is exceptional.



Milner Update

The Milner Garden and Woodlands Species Initiative is well underway with the number of professionals using their skills to advance a comprehensive garden and trail plan with consideration to traffic flow affecting the whole of the Milner Garden and Woodlands, and the different requirements of successfully growing a wide variety of species rhododendrons. The plant selection committee will be meeting in January to discuss the direction the collection will take.

Black Bean Sweet Potato Chili

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 medium-large sweet potato, peeled & diced
- 1 large red onion, diced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1-2 tsp chili powder
- ¼ tsp chipotle chili powder
- ¼ tsp ground cumin or less
- ¼ tsp salt
- 3 cups vegetable stock
- 1 x 15 oz can black beans, rinsed
- 1 x 28 oz can diced tomatoes
- ¼ c dried quinoa, rinsed
- ¼ c green lentils, rinsed (if not using add extra ¼ c. quinoa)
- 4 tsp lime juice – (I forgot this when I made it but would add it next time)

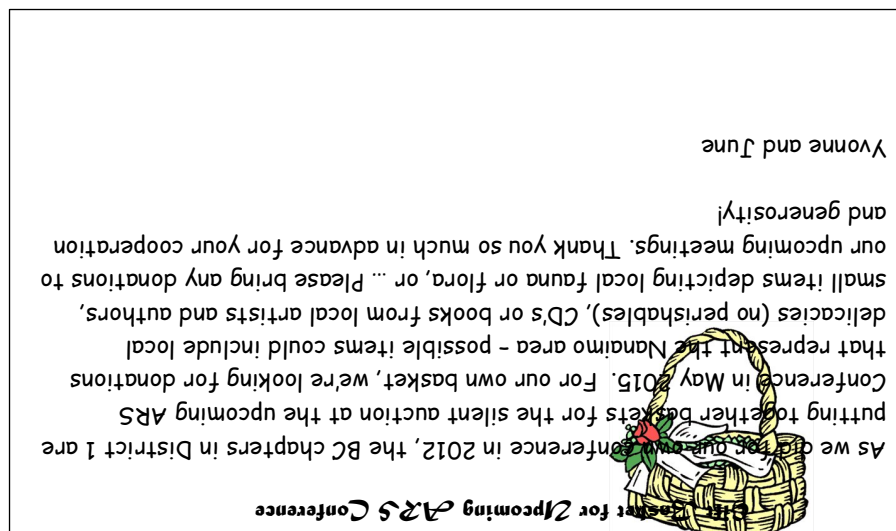


Garnish suggestions: avocado, cilantro, grated cheese, sour cream

- Heat oil in a heavy bottom pot, add onions & cook for 4-5 min until softened.
- Add garlic & spices and stir to combine. Add sweet potato and stir & cook a few minutes
- Add stock, tomatoes, black beans & green lentils if desired, stir to combine.
- Bring mixture to a boil, cover & simmer for 10 minutes.
- Add quinoa & cook until quinoa is fully cooked & sweet potatoes are soft. Add more vegetable stock if required.
- Add the lime juice & remove the pot from the heat. Garnish if desired.

I put this in the slow cooker after I had brought mixture to boil & simmered for 10 minutes.
Put quinoa in and left on low for a couple of hours

Brenda Lewis



NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

RAFFLE PLANTS



Diane Titcomb
(Marinus Koster x Snow Queen) 4' -20° C Huge white flowers with pink edging form perfect trusses. Large green foliage. (Larson 1958)



Starbright Champagne
(['Yaku Sunrise' x 'Hansel'] x 'Lem's Cameo') 4', -17° C, An unusual star shaped flower, each petal is long and pointed! The flowers are a dark champagne color with a dark purple throat. Great foliage on a dense, very rounded growing plant, makes this a delight in the garden. (Frank Fujioka 1983)



Seen In Passing

Lee's Scarlet bravely flowering for Christmas

a bald Eagle team capturing a pair of pileated woodpeckers, frequenting our trees



And now we welcome the new year. Full of things that have never been.

Rainer Maria Rilke

Q: What do you call a grumpy and short-tempered gardener?

A: A Snap Dragon.

Q: What do you call a country where the people drive only pink cars?

A: A pink carnation.

Q: What do you get if you cross a four-leaf clover with poison ivy?

A: A rash of good luck.

Q: Why don't you ever iron a four-leaf clover?

A: You might press your luck.

Q: What do you call a mushroom who buys everyone drinks and is the life of the party?

A: A fun-gi.

Q: What insect is musical?

A: A humbug.

Q: What do you call it when worms take over the world?

A: Global Worming.

Q: Everyone knows how the Green Giant dresses when he works in the field. But when he goes to a corporate board meeting, what does he usually wear?

A: A three peas suit.



Jake decides that he wants to start farming chickens so he goes to the chicken farmer and buys 1000 chicks.

The next month Jake goes back and buys 500 more.

The following month he goes to the chicken farmer again and buys another 500 chicks, at which point the chicken farmer comments; "Your chicken farm must be coming along well now." Jake looks glum and replies, "Sadly no. I'm not sure what I'm doing wrong. Either I'm planting them too deep, or upside down, or too close together..."

Tips for Beginners: Pruning Large-Leaved Rhododendrons

Warren Baldsiefen

The article appeared in the Rhodieview, Vol. III, No. 3/1991 and was reprinted from the Baldsiefen Nursery catalog.

Any rhododendron is suitable for woodland or informal use where a reasonable amount of space is available. Here it is only necessary to arrange the planting so that the robust growers do not over-crowd those of relatively restricted growth.

It is around the foundations of the home, spots of limited area or the rockery that the choice is limited to the smaller-leaved and dwarfed types. Wise selection in the beginning will eliminate the need for most of the pruning. There are, however, times when pruning is justified and essential.

Large-leaved rhododendrons are the most difficult to prune but only for the lack of understanding. These plants put out their first growth in a flush that terminates with a rosette of leaves. Generally in the colder areas of the East and North the flush varies from 4 to 10 inches, but more often around 6 inches. On young plants, two flushes per year are the rule. On older plants that set flowers freely, it is the rule that one flush is made followed by a flower bud. This latter is due to both a natural reduction in vitality after the juvenile stage is passed and the use of tremendous energy in blooming which delays the commencement of growth.

Large-leaved rhododendrons may be pruned anytime without harming the plant, but there are times that are more expedient. These plants, with few exceptions, retain their leaves two years. This means that on young plants there will be four rosettes of leaves and fewer on older plants. It is permissible to prune back to any of these rosettes, depending on how drastically it is desired to prune. Always make the cut about a quarter of an inch above the rosette. The flush of growth will burst out from the auxiliary buds of the rosette.

The most favorable time to prune when there are no flower buds is in the early spring just before growth begins. If done at this time, the growth cycle is least disturbed, and bud set the same season will be uninhibited. In so pruning, it is important to cut back every terminal or watch when growth begins. The terminals left uncut commence growth earlier usually with a long single shoot. These single shoots should be pinched off when the new growing tips are about an inch long. This will encourage multiple branching from that terminal. This step is important in shaping or reshaping a plant. Cutting back develops a heavily branched, sturdy shrub. If this is done when the plant is about 3 feet or less, it can eliminate future need for pruning.

Pruning old rhododendrons presents a different problem. When old rhododendrons become unthrifty in appearance, the cells in the vascular bundles have become hardened or plugged and no longer function normally. Any revitalizing to be accomplished must be done on new wood, supplied by drastic pruning. This is best done in the spring or early summer but spring preferred.¹

One method is to cut the plant down to several inches above the ground. This is more successful with those having multiple stems coming up from the ground. In hybrids, which often have one stem, they may sometimes die from this. A less drastic means is to reach down into the shrub and cut out about one-third of the old wood. Do this for a period of about three years. In this way, there remains sufficient leaf surface to supply nutrients for reestablishment of new shrubs.

¹Editor's note: the best time is right after flowering when new growth is beginning.

2015 ARS CONVENTION SIDNEY, BC, CANADA KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Jim Barlup (USA) has been actively hybridizing rhododendrons since 1975. His former career as a professional photographer provided him with an array of artistic skills that have influenced his colorful palette of hybrids. Among his credits is that he was the official photographer of the Beach Boys first album. As a nurseryman, he acquired the technical skills of plant science. This combination of knowledge has allowed him to become a recognized world-class hybridizer. In 2004 he was awarded the ARS Gold Metal for his outstanding hybrids and his generous sharing of seed, pollen, cuttings, plants and knowledge.

Marc Colombel (France) is from Brittany, France. An ARS member for nearly 30 years, his main interest in Rhododendrons is hybridization. He did his first hybridization in 1985 and by the end of 2013 he had made 900 different crosses. He published the book “*Rhododendrons: Mode d’emploi*” and created the Société bretonne du Rhododendron of which he was the President for 14 years. He has written about 200 articles for the bulletins of the Society. He created his first web site in 1996. The goal of this web site (www.rhododendron.fr) is to share knowledge and to educate visitors with the help of files.

Kenneth Cox (Scotland) was born in 1964 into a family of renowned plantsmen, Kenneth Cox is grandson of plant-hunter, writer and nurseryman Euan Cox and son of Peter Cox, VMH. The three generations were and are considered the world’s leading experts on rhododendrons. Kenneth, himself a nurseryman and author of numerous books on rhododendrons, has carved out his particular niche in the world of plant-hunting in leading 9 expeditions to South and South-East Tibet and Arunachal Pradesh, India, from 1995. Kenneth is managing director of the family firm, Glendoick Gardens Ltd in Scotland, a garden centre and mail order nursery specialising in Rhododendrons, Azaleas, and Ericaceous plants,

Harold Greer (USA) along with his wife, Nancy, owned Greer Gardens in Eugene, Oregon. He is past president of the American Rhododendron Society, and served with the board of directors for over 25 years. He also holds the title of being the youngest person to ever serve as president. He is recipient of the American Rhododendron Society Gold Medal, plus two Bronze medals and is recognized internationally as a rhododendron expert. Harold has contributed enormously to the world of rhododendrons through his books, plants, service and dedication. He is an experienced photographer and his pictures have been published in many books and publications including the cover of the Smithsonian magazine.

Guan Kaiyun (China) is now professor and deputy director of Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography and director of Turpan Eremophyte Botanic Garden, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). He is also the vice- secretary general of the International Association of Botanic Gardens, and vice-president of Rhododendron Society of China. He has published 135 scientific research papers and 23 books or monographs, holds ten patents and registered twenty-seven new plant cultivars. He is author or co-author (translator) of several rhododendron books such as “Rhododendrons of China” (3 volumes) and “The Book of Rhododendrons”.

Lionel de Rothschild (England) is chairman of Exbury Gardens, the world-famous rhododendron gardens situated in the New Forest, some 90 miles southwest of London. He is the grandson and namesake of the man who created these gardens in the 1920s and ’30s, one of the most famous rhododendron enthusiasts ever. Lionel grew up at Exbury and is profoundly knowledgeable about the gardens: he has photographed and written on them, has co- authored and co- photographed a book on all the Rothschild gardens and has written about nineteenth-century rhododendron hybrids in the UK.

Hartwig Schepker (Germany) is the Scientific Director of the Botanic Garden and Rhododendron-Park, Bremen, home to one of the largest Rhododendron collections in the world, including hardy and non-hardy species and hybrids. He is the Secretary of the German Rhododendron Society and co-editor of the society’s publication “Rhododendron und Immergrüne”. Hartwig has been on several rhododendron trips in South East Asia and North America, including four journeys to Arunachal Pradesh. His main objective is to promote the important ecological functions of Rhododendrons in their native habitats.

Plus two special presentations by Laura Grant and Dr. Ben Hall.