



January 2016

President's Message

Happy New Year one and all! It is always exciting to look forward to longer days and a new gardening year. Already there are signs of spring with snow drops poking their cheery heads up and blooming their little hearts out.

Thank you to the many people who made the effort to attend the Christmas pot luck and auction. It was a very cheery event and wonderful to see how many attended. Thank you all for your donations both to the auction itself as well as to Loaves and Fishes Nanaimo.

We have many good speakers and events to look forward to in the next few months. I look forward to re-living last May's trip to England and specifically to the many lovely gardens we toured in Cornwall. Earl Daneluk was along on that trip as well and we may interject a few times as Bill Doumont gives his program.

We hope to have a plant to auction in order to support our efforts to raise some money to send to Nepal. If you have a plant that you're willing to donate, please let me know by email: csouthwick@shaw.ca or by telephone (250) 390-3415. I'll send out some information separately before the meeting so that you can sharpen your pencils in anticipation!

Cheers,
Chris



EXECUTIVE

President	Chris Southwick	390-3415
Vice President	Brenda Lewis	751-3639
Secretary	Ann Beamish	758-2574
Treasurer	Krystyna Sosulski	729-0948
Directors	Glenda Barr	390-2822
	Craig Clarke	390-4090
	Susan Lightburn	468-7516
	Dorothee Kieser	390-4136
	Gaylle McRae	758-7589
	Art Lightburn	468-7516
	Sandra Dorman	390-0136

COMMITTEES

Advertising	Jan Moles	
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	585-2706
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: nanaimorhodos.ca
email: nanaimo@rhodos.ca

Next Meeting

Thursday January 14, 7:30 pm Beban Park Social
Centre

BILL DOUMONT

Twigs and Stems



GOODIES FOR JANUARY

Val Harvey

June Bouchard and John Deniseger

Doug Blenkarn

14th ANNUAL QUALICUM BEACH

SEEDY SATURDAY

February 6, 2016

10 am – 3:30 pm

Qualicum Beach Civic Centre

747 Jones St., Qualicum Beach

Seed Swap, speakers, farmer's market, vendors,

café, door prizes, raffle

Rhododendron and Gardening Calendar

- Mount Arrowsmith Rhodo Society Gen. Meeting
Wednesday, Jan. 13th, 7:30 pm
Speakers: Linda Derkatch and Glen Jamieson – Gardens of New Zealand
- **Nanaimo Rhododendron Society General Meeting**
Thursday, January 14, 7:30 pm
Speaker: Bill Doumont – Gardens of Cornwall
- **Nanaimo Rhodo Society's Executive Meeting**
Thursday, January 21st, 2pm at Glenda Barr's
- Qualicum Beach Seedy Saturday
February 6, 2016
- **Nanaimo Rhodo Society's Annual Bus Tour**
Tentatively booked for Saturday, April 23rd
- **Nanaimo Rhodo Society's Annual Show and Sale**
Sunday, May 1st
- **Nanaimo Rhododendron Society General Meeting**
Thursday, February 11th,
Speakers: John and June – Designing and Building a Garden
- **Nanaimo Rhododendron Society General Meeting**
Thursday, March 10th, Tentatively Gordon McKay
- **Nanaimo Rhododendron Society General Meeting**
Thursday, April 14th
- **Nanaimo Rhododendron Society General Meeting**
Thursday, May 12th

OUR JANUARY PROGRAM

Bill Dumont (CVRS) with our Chris Southwick and Earl Daneluk will present a slideshow and talk of their outstanding, extensive Spring 2015 garden tour in south England, concluding with the world famous Chelsea 5 day garden show.



NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

An Update on the Rhododendron Species Garden Project at Milner Gardens and Woodland

John Deniseger

The species garden project at Milner Gardens and Woodland continues to take shape. In 2015, a partnership was created between Vancouver Island University (Milner) and each of the 5 Vancouver Island ARS chapters, to move the species garden project forward. The partnership includes a rhododendron species garden advisory committee with representatives from each club as well as Milner. A number of sub committees have also been formed including plant selection, garden design, companion plants, and fundraising. Last summer, volunteers from the NRS, MARS and NIRS gathered at Milner to help with the initial clean up and clearing of the site for the species garden. While much more land clearing remained to be done, it gave the group a much better sense of the site's layout. In November, thanks to joint funding from the Vancouver Island Rhodo clubs and Milner, a local contractor was hired to complete significant clearing of the site required to make it suitable for growing rhododendrons. Next steps include refinement of the garden design, site contouring, irrigation installation, further sourcing of plant material and continued fundraising including an application for a grant from the ARS. If you'd like to get involved, there will be opportunities...stay tuned!!!!



Seen in Passing

- ❖ Many of the medium to large-leaved rhododendrons (*R. sutchuenense*, *R. iriei*, *R. glanduliferum* and their hybrids) rolling the leaves into cigars in self-defense of the -4° or -5° C frost.
- ❖ New Year's Eve bringing perfect weather for observing beach fires, local fireworks and noisemakers in Craig Bay.

THRIPS Problem on Rhododendrons

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Al Campbell from the Cowichan Rhodo Club discussed a problem that rhodo growers are beginning to see on Vancouver Island. The following is a photo taken from the internet. Notice the silvery sheen to the top of the leaves.



Allan asked Candice Coghill from Cultivate Garden and Gift in Parksville about this issue and here is her reply:

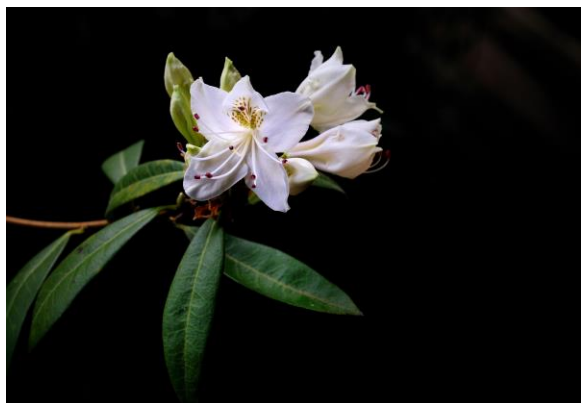
“Most definitely is thrips that you have on your rhododendrons. I only had to wait a minute to let my eyes focus and the thrips were crawling all over the bag. It will be a hard battle to get them under control. I’ve attached a decent article on how to control them. <http://northcoastgardening.com/2009/06/how-to-kill-thrips-organically/> I would seriously consider tossing the rhododendrons that are really infected. (Maybe you could take new cuttings off them first?) If that isn’t an option I would consider a few things.

Repotting – washing all infected soil off and wash the plants down – I would not do this inside the greenhouse. Remove as many infected leaves as possible.

Biological controls – I would use both the Cucumeris and Hypoaspis – I can special order these in for you if you are interested. While not listed as a pest – you could try spraying them with Trounce as the active ingredient is Pyrethrum.”

Candice Coghill
Assistant Manager
Cultivate Garden & Gift

Rhodos Worth Growing



Rhododendron yunnanense is native to a large area of Asia, from Burma and Tibet through Yunnan and Szechwan in China. As you might expect of a plant with such a large range, there can be a lot of variation within this species. The plant typically has a willowy habit that is excellent for massed plantings. It grows best in partial shade, so is a good choice for woodland gardens. Plants are described as being fully evergreen to semi-deciduous, meaning there can be pronounced leaf abscission in the fall, although plants retain some foliage in the winter. *R. yunnanense* “Tower Court” form (in my garden Ed.) In bloom, *R. yunnanense* is a cloud-like mass of flowers from early to mid-May. The entire plant is literally covered with open, funnel-shaped flowers that can be white through various shades of pinks to pale lavenders. White flowers are frequently spotted with red. Leaves can reach up to 10 cm in length and have scales on both the upper and lower leaf surfaces. *R. yunnanense* commonly reaches a height of

up to 2 metres in our gardens, but in the wild it can be twice that height. It is reliably hardy to -17°C making it a excellent choice for local gardens. Norma Senn



Rhododendron williamsianum — (HY, hy, Williamsia) 18", -20°C, EM, 3/4. Regarded as one of the loveliest in the genus, grows in a perfectly rounded shape, and has delicate, dainty little bell-shaped flowers hanging like fairy lanterns amidst the dense foliage. This dwarf species is compact, tight and low spreading, not usual for this series. New growth is a lively bronze. Blooming in various shades of pink, the flowers are up to 2" long and held in loose trusses of 2-3

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Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Thursday, November 12, 2015

Meeting commenced at 1930 with 43 in attendance

1. Welcome to all!
2. **President's Report**
Chris asked if members in attendance would be interested in attending a **2018 ARS Convention** in Bremen, Germany. The ARS is tentatively planning a Convention there are interested in how many North American ARS members would consider attending. This convention would be in conjunction with the German Rhododendron Convention at Bremen Rhododendron Park. This will be the same year as the famous Rhodo (Exhibition) in Westerstede, Germany. There will be a possibility of pre- and post-convention tours arranged to visit our chapters in Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden and Finland. After a SHOW OF HANDS a good number (over a dozen or so) were interested.

Next meeting is our annual Christmas potluck and auction. We bring finger food and have a great social time. We also ask all members to contribute plants or items for our auction, as well as other items which can be placed into a separate raffle draw. We encourage you to bring a friend. This has traditionally been our easiest and most enjoyable fundraisers and we hope that everyone will bid on the items donated. We give 10 percent of the total money raised at the auction to Loaves and Fishes, as well as the non-perishable food items that members and friends bring that evening. – Save December 10th on your calendar. Santa will be there!!

To those who have ordered books: Ian Efford's "Gardens of Vancouver Island" (\$20) books have arrived. If you haven't already seen Krystyna before the meeting, please see her with her \$20 at the break or after the meeting. If any of you are still interested in purchasing one of the Mary Greig books (make a great Christmas present for those interested in BC history and/or gardens) – please see Chris. There are still books left and Chris will bring more to the next meeting. Thank you all for supporting Judith Walker's efforts.

Chris explained the silent auction to start raising money to send some support for the victims of the Nepalese earthquake. Ken Cox challenged all of the rhodo clubs around the world to get behind this appeal. Chris donated a sizable R. Biskra in a ceramic pot. Members bid on the item during the meeting and at the end of the meeting it was "won" by Earl Daneluk for \$80.00.

3. **Secretary's Report:** no correspondence
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Balance as of October 31, 2015 is \$11,421.56
5. **Membership:** Sandra reminded members that this meeting will be the last for no penalty and thanked those present for their prompt responses.
6. **Program:** Art Lightburn: January 2016 speaker will be a panel of Bill Dumont (from Cowichan), Earl Daneluk, and Chris Southwick reporting on their trip to England; February will be John Deniseger on "Why Rhododendrons?" and March will be Gordon McKay
7. **Milner Species Garden Update:** Art and others encouraged all to attend the light up at Milner which really is a treat. Currently work is going on by a considerable group and there are many facets to this project. Species garden is gaining momentum. Trees are coming down soon to let in the light to the future garden.
8. **Sunshine** Edith commented that fortunately she did not send any cards this month.
9. **Bus Tour:** John Deniseger reported the trip will likely be the weekend of April 23, 2016 and we will be going south this year to Cowichan and Saanich Peninsula.
10. **Garden Tour:** Second garden tour will be organized by Gaylle McCrae, Art Lightburn, and June Bouchard. They are looking for suggestions for gardens other than rhododendron ones in addition to rhodo ones. Gaylle got two suggestions

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before the end of the meeting to follow up on so please look around your neighbourhood or when you are out and about and if a garden piques your interest let the committee know. The dates are May 14th/15th (may be one or two days – depending).

11. **Raffle Table:** R. Cherries and Merlot went to Ann Beamish, *R. mallotum* to Jean Greig, and R. Sooke to Rosina Schmidt.
 12. **Dollar Table** Reinhold had a number of excellent plants and a jar of honey donated by Art and Susan Lightburn.
 13. **Next Regular Meeting December 10 starting to set up at six and eating at 6:30. Please bring donations for the auction, non-perishable items for the Food Bank, as well as finger foods, plates, cups, and cutlery.**
 14. **Next Executive Meeting Thursday November 19, 2pm at Gayle and Allen McRae's**
 15. Program: We enjoyed a delightful program on Art and Susan Lightburn's amazing trip to India.
 16. Meeting adjourned at 2135
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Root Weevil Control on Rhododendrons

Root weevils are the most important pests of rhododendrons and azaleas in the Pacific Northwest. About a dozen kinds of root weevils attack these plants, but usually only five of them are of any significance. These are the obscure root weevil, *Sciopithes obscures*, black vine weevil, *Otiorhynchus sulcatus*, woods weevil, *Nemocestes incomptus*, *Dyslobus* spp. (no common name), and the clay-colored weevil, *Otiorhynchus singularis*. The first three are probably the most important.



Damage

Although the larvae of several of these weevils do feed on the roots of many ornamentals, this type of damage usually is serious only in potted nursery stock or in very sandy soil. In the landscape environment, adults cause objectionable damage, consisting of mild-to-severe notching of new leaves, depending on species or variety of plant.

Description and Biology

The obscure root weevil is brown, displaying a wavy brown line across the back near the rear. It is about 5 to 7 millimeters long (1/4 inch). The black vine weevil is about 9 millimeters long (2/5 inch), black or brownish black, often with small flecks of yellow or white. The clay-colored weevil is similar but lighter in color and smaller. The woods weevil is light to dark brown with gray spots on its back. It is about 5 to 7 millimeters long (1/4 inch). *Dyslobus* are grayish black weevils ranging from 7 to 10 millimeters long (1/4–2/5 inch).



Black Vine Weevil adult

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Larvae of all species of root weevils are very similar in appearance. They are legless white grubs with brown heads. The pupa, white in color, is about the same size as the adult. It is very soft and has the outline of the parts of the adult weevil.



Root Weevil Larvae

The life history is similar for all species. Weevils overwinter as adults (inactive during cold weather) or as larvae in the soil. In late May and June *Otiorhynchus* larvae change to pupae, which are inactive and do not feed. Transformation to the adult stage occurs in June and July. Adults feed on plant foliage and begin to lay eggs 3 to 4 weeks after emergence. Obscure root weevil adults emerge beginning in August and are more numerous from August to October. As larvae emerge from the eggs, they burrow into the soil to feed on roots.

Woods weevil has a life history very similar to the other root weevils except the different stages of growth overlap. It is possible to find adults, eggs, larvae, and pupae all at one time in one location; however, a major peak in adult numbers occurs in late autumn.

Root weevils feed and develop on a wide variety of plants. Weedy fields, woodlands, and fencerows (especially salal or huckleberry thickets), all serve as sources of infestation for adjacent rhododendron plantings. Because these weevils cannot fly, they may require several years to spread entirely across a large planting from an outside source or from an infested plant brought into a clean planting.

Biological Control

Various insect killing nematodes are available for control of immature root weevils as a soil drench. Limited data relative to the success of this technique is available; however, it is available for your use should you want to try it. They are best used when soil temperatures are 52°F or above (usually late summer to early fall). Also nematodes should be applied to soil previously saturated with water and should never be applied in direct sunlight, as UV light kills them quickly.

Chemical control

At the moment, there are no insecticides registered for general control of larval root weevils in a non-commercial garden setting in BC. {Ed. This paragraph has been changed from the original text}

Mechanical Control

Apply bands of sticky material to the trunk of the shrub to keep weevils down. Weevils are night feeders. They generally move to the trunk, or any other access to the foliage, the following evening. If a sticky band is present, they either will not cross it or may become trapped in it. This technique is less effective where taller plants overhang the rhododendrons. Indications are that prolonged use of this material on bare bark may be somewhat damaging. Snugly fitting a strip of polyethylene (Visqueen) around the trunk and applying the sticky material to the strip can avoid potential problems.

Cultural control

Recent research by WSU entomologists has shown some species and hybrid rhododendrons are less susceptible to adult weevil feeding than others. The following is a list of some rhododendron species and hybrids that are highly to

This article was published by A.L. Antonelli, Ph.D., Washington State University Extension entomologist, WSU Puyallup, and R.L. Campbell, Ph.D., WSU Research entomologist, retired, College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences, Washington State University Extension Department Extension Bulletin 0970E, 2007.

It has been reproduced with permission of Dr. Art Antonelli and has been modified in the section on chemical control to reflect the state of the regulations in British Columbia.

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moderately resistant. In most home landscapes, hybrids are more common than species. Unfortunately, hybrids are generally less resistant than species rhododendrons. Dark red flowered hybrid or species rhododendrons are generally susceptible.

SPECIES RHODODENDRONS

SHOWING RESISTANCE TO FEEDING BY ADULT ROOT WEEVIL

Species	Series	Colour	Rating ¹
<i>heliopsis</i>	Heliopsis	white, rose	100
<i>impeditum</i>	Lapponicum	purplish blue	100
<i>scintillans</i>	Lapponicum	purplish blue	100
<i>burmanicum</i>	Maddenii	yellow to greenish	100
<i>dauricum</i>	Dauricum	lavender rose	97
<i>intracatum</i>	Lapponicum	mauve	97
<i>minus</i>	Carolinianum	rose, white	93
<i>desquamatum</i>	Heliopsis	rose, violet	93
<i>ferrugineum</i>	Ferrugineum	rose, white	93
<i>hemsleyanum</i>	Fortunei	white	93
<i>cuneatum</i>	Lapponicum	rose	90
<i>fastigiatum</i>	Lapponicum	blue-purple	90
<i>yakusimanum</i>	Ponticum	white, rose	83
<i>ungernii</i>	Ponticum	white, pale pink	83
<i>rubiginosum</i>	Heliopsis	pink, rose	83
<i>irroratum</i>	Irroratum	white, ivory, rose	83
<i>racemosum</i>	Virgatum	white, rose	80
<i>russatum</i>	Lapponicum	blue-purple	80
<i>carolinianum</i>	Carolinianum	pink, mauve, white	80
<i>oreodoxa</i>	Fortunei	rose, white	80
<i>oreotrephes</i>	Triflorum	mauve, purple, rosy	77
<i>vernicosum</i>	Fortunei	rose, white	77
<i>adenophorum</i>	Taliense	white, rose	77
<i>campylogynum</i>	Campylogynum	rose	77
<i>xanthocodon</i>	Cinnaborinum	pink, purple	77
<i>diaprepes</i>	Fortunei	crimson	73
<i>pubescens</i>	Scabrifolium	ivory, yellow	73
<i>lepidastylum</i>	Trichocladum	white, pale rose	73
<i>pemokoense</i>	Uniflorum	white, rose	73
<i>arizelum</i>	Falconeri	pale yellow	73
<i>glaucophyllum</i>	Glaucophyllum	lilac-pink	73
<i>decorum</i>	Fortunei	white, yellow, rose	73
<i>cardiobasis</i>	Fortunei	crimson	73
<i>praestans</i>	Grande	white, rose	73
<i>hippophaeoides</i>	Lapponicum	white, pink	73
<i>euryisiphon</i>	Thomsonii	chartreuse	73
<i>imperator</i>	Uniflorum	white, rose	70
<i>concatenans</i>	Cinnaborinum	magenta-rose, pink	70
<i>yunnanense</i>	Triflorum	lilac, rose	70
<i>ciliatum</i>	Maddenii	ivory, rose	70
<i>discolor</i>	Fortunei	white, pink	70
<i>davidsonianum</i>	Triflorum	white, pink, rose	70

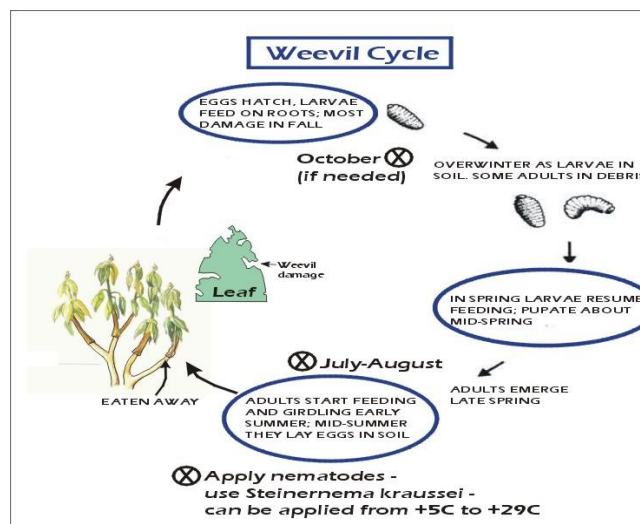
¹ The higher the number, the less feeding is expected. A 100 rating indicates complete resistance

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HYBRID RHODODENDRONS

SHOWING RESISTANCE TO FEEDING BY ADULT ROOT WEEVILS

Hybrid	Colour	Rating
P.J. Mezzitt (P.J.M.)	pink	100
Jock	pink	92
Sapphire	blue	90
Rose Elf	white, flushed violet-pink	89
Cilpimense	white	88
Lucky Strike	deep salmon-pink	83
Exbury Naomi	lilac tinged yellow	81
Virginia Richards	Chinese yellow/crimson	81
Cowslip	cream, pink	80
Luscombei	rose-pink	80
Vanessa	soft pink	80
Oceanlake	deep violet-blue	80
Dora Amateis	white, lightly spotted green	79
Crest	yellow	79
Rainbow	carmine-pink	76
Point Defiance	pink	76
Naomi	pink	76
Pilgrim	rich pink	76
Letty Edwards	yellow	76
Odee Wright	yellow	76
Moonstone	yellow	73
Lady Clementine Mitford	pink	72
Candi	bright rose	72
Graf Zeppelin	bright pink	71
Snow Lady	pure white	71
Loderi Pink Diamond	delicate pink	71
Faggetter's Favourite	cream with pink	70



Reprinted from Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society newsletter, January 2012