

The Rhodomentum

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Newsletter



January 2017



President's Message



Happy New Year everyone. The NRS had a very successful Pot Luck and Auction in December. Thanks to everyone who helped out and attended the event. Looking forward to seeing you all soon.
Allen



EXECUTIVE

President	Allen McRae	758-7589
Vice President	Art Lightburn	468-7516
Secretary	Ann Beamish	758-2574
Treasurer	Gayle McRae	758-7589
Directors	Glenda Barr	390-2822
	Craig Clarke	390-4090
	Susan Lightburn	468-7516
	Dick Beamish	758-2574
	Chris Southwick	390-3415

COMMITTEES

Advertising	Jan Moles /Gerry Moore
Library	Ann Beamish/Sandra Dorman
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant/June and John
Membership	Krystyna Sosulski
Program	Doug Kitts
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey
Social	Susan Lightburn
Bargain Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich
Website	Craig Clarke
Bus Tour	John Deniseger & June Bouchard

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

Next Meeting

Thursday January 12, 7:30 pm Beban Park Social Centre

GARTH WEDEMIRE

"Rhododendron Species Foundation and Garden"

Twigs and Stems



GOODIES FOR JANUARY

John and June
Joyce and Craig Clarke
Glenda Barr

QB SEEDY SATURDAY

Mark your calendar! The 15th annual Seedy Saturday will be held on Feb. 4th 2017 at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre from 10am to 3:30pm. Our exciting theme this year is Flourish and Nourish with Linda Gilkeson's "Flourishing Food Gardens all Year Round" and Amy Robson's "Nourishing your Soil; the World Beneath your Feet." As usual, we have the Seed Swap, local garden related Vendors, Master Gardeners, Seedy Cafe and the "Shoots with Roots" family program. Admission is by donation, with proceeds going to school and community garden projects. Don't forget there are Raffles and Door prizes to be won! Check out our new website for more information.

<https://www.qbseedsaturday.ca>



OUR JANUARY SPEAKER GARTH WEDEMIRE

Garth joined the Vancouver chapter in 1975 and was a founder and first president of the Fraser Valley chapter. He was awarded ARS Bronze medals in 1989 and 2001 as well as the ARS Silver medal in 2013. Garth serves on the board of the Rhododendron Species Foundation. He has helped set up and maintain chapter websites in District 1 (including ours since 2002). His extensive knowledge and skilled photography have made him a popular presenter over the years. Garth and his wife Sue live in the Comox Valley after moving from Maple Ridge to accommodate their expanding plant collection. Many of Garth's photographs are published on the popular website *Hirsutum.info*.



R. augustinii
Photo by Garth Wedemire

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Rhododendron Nepal Earthquake Appeal School opens December 2016 By Ken Cox

Hangdewa lies in the Milke Dande Region of Taplejung, North East Nepal near the Sikkim Border, south of the great peak of Kanchenjunga. Like most villages in Eastern Nepal, life was never the same again after April 25th 2015. On that day:

'A huge magnitude 7.8 earthquake hit the Nepalese countryside close to 50 miles from the capital Kathmandu. The worst earthquake to hit Nepal for 80 years was followed by a second quake two weeks later. 8,891 people were killed, more than 22,300 injured, more than 893,000 homes were destroyed or damaged, as well as schools, clinics, temples and ancient buildings. The disaster affected over 8.1 million, many living in remote and mountainous areas of the country.'

The day the earthquake struck, I was on my way to Canada on a lecture tour, which would culminate in a conference on Vancouver Island, of the American Rhododendron Society. Like many others, I was shocked and appalled at the destruction and loss of life and wanted to do something to help. '*Lalugiras*' or rhododendron is the national flower of Nepal and this gave me the ideal to fundraise for the disaster using the rhododendron as a rallying point. My family business at Glendoick is a rhododendron nursery: we grow, hybridise and collect rhododendrons in the wild and we write books about them. I advise on rhododendron gardens and supply them with plants. And I know many rhododendron fans around the world.

Perhaps I could persuade the international rhododendron community to raise funds and help with the rebuilding of Nepal.

I announced my plans at the Canada Rhododendron Conference and other lectures and sent out details to rhododendron societies as far apart as New Zealand and Australia, Vancouver Island, Germany, France, Norway and Scotland. Almost everyone agreed to help.

Participating groups

- The Scottish Rhododendron Society, Rhododendron Species Conservation Group, & Matt Heasman
- Glendoick Gardens and Garden Centre
- Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society (Vancouver Island, Canada)
- Nanaimo Rhododendron Society, (BC, Canada)
- German Rhododendron Society
- The Rhododendron, Magnolia & Camellia Group (UK)
- New Zealand Rhododendron Association
- Norwegian Rhododendron Society
- Societe Bretagne de Rhododendron
- Australian Rhododendron Association



Construction of the school

Plant sales were held, lecture fees donated and money was raised. I wanted to make sure that the money raised went directly to a worthwhile project.

Happily I had good contacts in Nepal. From 1995-2000 I led treks to South East Tibet using a Nepal crew of expert Sherpas, mountain guides and cooks using the team of Exodus Expeditions. Karma Lama (son of one of Chris Bonington's Everest team of Sherpas) suggested I contact Mingma Sherpa who worked with me in Tibet on several expeditions. He suggested helping his family's home village in the Milke Dande, famous for its rhododendron trekking. The village lost many buildings in the earthquake including schools, health posts and monasteries. Mingma Sherpa organised this project for his village.

In November 2016 the new school was opened, funded by rhododendron societies around the world, and over 50 children are using it. There are several classrooms for 3 class levels from nursery upwards. There are currently 5 teachers at the school. Students are provided English medium private education with 8 subjects: English, compulsory math, optional math, Nepali, Science, social studies, Health & population and Tibetan language.

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



The map shows the location of the village, with Kanchenjunga in the north and Sikkim to the east



The School on Opening Day, with the first pupils, the teachers and those who helped build the school.

How long will this appeal run?

The school is now open but teachers' salaries are a struggle and I would like to continue fund raising for this for 2017 if there is support to do this, to help pay the teachers in the new school

More information is available on the Glendoick Website

<https://www.glendoick.com/Nepal-Earthquake-Appeal>

Google 'Milke Dande Rhododendron Trek' to find out more about this region of Nepal. Better still, go and see it for yourself and help Nepal's struggling economy.



The 2018 ARS Convention will be in Bremen, Germany. It will start around May 7, 2018, with optional tours before the convention and after the convention. The schedule may and probably will change slightly in the next couple months.

- 1st Pre-Tour: Optional 5 days visiting Dutch Gardens including Keukenhof Gardens
- 2nd Pre-Tour: Optional 2 days at RHODO 2018 Rhododendron Festival and Bremen
- 3rd Pre-Tour: Optional 6 days public and private garden visits in Denmark & Sweden
- Convention: 7-day convention in Bremen from May 20 to 26 including 3 tour days
- Post-Tour: Optional 4 days visiting gardens in Finland.

Calendar this now! It is a do-not-miss event. You can choose to start in Holland or Germany with one of the 3 pre-tours or start with the convention. Then you can choose to finish in Germany after the convention or in Finland after the post-convention tour. That means there are 8 possible combinations ranging from 7 days & nights for just the convention to 24 days & nights if you do everything which includes the 3 pre-tours to the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark and Sweden; the convention; and the post-convention tour to Finland.

January Raffle Plants



Hachmann's Feuerschein

-20° C H: 100-140 cm W: 120-160 cm.
Particularly rich-flowering, pure red, trumpet-shaped, large single flowers.
Bachmann. 'Nova Zombie' X 'Mars'.



Black Magic

-26° C 4 feet (120 cm) in 10 years
One of the deepest reds there is and good sized trusses are held well. Dark green foliage, and it's flowering when most have finished.
Harold Greer. 'Jean Marie de Montague' X 'Leo'

Milner Report



100+ Rhodos assembled in the Milner Garden and Woodland sales area, huddled under tents and mulched against the cold and snow. Time will tell.

Seen in Passing...

The heavy wet snow and freezing just before the last meeting revealing much damage to our Rhodods. An 8 foot tall R. decorum tipped out of the ground and broke off at the base. Aargh!
- Art and Susan



Grilled Marinated Shrimp

*Recipe By:*Robbie Rice

"This makes the best shrimp! Remove from skewers and serve on a bed of pasta with sauce for a great meal."

Ingredients

- 1 cup olive oil
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 1 lemon, juiced
- 2 tablespoons hot pepper sauce
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 2 teaspoons dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 2 pounds large shrimp, peeled and deveined with tails attached
- skewers



Directions

In a mixing bowl, mix together olive oil, parsley, lemon juice, hot sauce, garlic, tomato paste, oregano, salt, bag with shrimp. Seal, and marinate in the refrigerator for 2 hours.
Preheat grill for medium-low heat. Thread shrimp onto skewers, piercing once near the tail and once near the head. Discard marinade.
Lightly oil grill grate. Cook shrimp for 5 minutes per side, or until opaque, basting frequently with reserved marinade.

Printed From Allrecipes.com 12/29/2016

Rhododendron and Azalea Hardiness

We use divisions of hardiness which have now been adopted by R.H.S. In the UK, it is rarely extreme cold that causes damage so don't pay too much attention to minimum temperature ratings. Damage from late or early season frosts when plants are soft or not hardened off is much more common and can be very damaging or fatal. In continental Europe the minimum temperature ratings are more relevant.

You can search our online catalogue by hardiness

H6 Hardest, -24C (-10F) and below suitable for inland areas in N. Europe:

H5 Very hardy: -18C (0F) and below, coldest UK inland areas, amongst hills, much of N Europe.

H4 Hardy: Suitable for most of UK areas, including fairly well inland, coastal Europe.

H3 Fairly hardy: Low elevations and sheltered gardens, fairly near east coast. Limit of hardiness at Glendoick. Such plants are damaged in our severest winters or by late or early frosts.

H2 Rather tender. Low elevations fairly near west coast and on east coast. Not reliably hardy outdoors at Glendoick but reliably hardy in Argyll, Cornwall, West Wales, Ireland and similar climates.

H1 Tender (mild frosts only). Mildest U.K. west-coast islands and south/western coastline. Greenhouse culture for colder areas.

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

From Glendoick.com.