



The Rhodomentum

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Newsletter



January 2020

President's Message

Happy New Year Everyone!

Did you spot the signs of Spring yet? Spring is on its way for sure: snowdrops and daffodils are popping out; new leaf buds on blackberry bushes; the hellebores in bloom; the rainbow over the bay. It could not be long now.



It is also the very best time to plant those newly purchased rhododendrons, or replant the others that needed a more advantageous spot. The soil is just perfect for digging in the garden, not only for the flock of blackbirds scratching for the grubs, but even for old grannies like myself.

It's also the best of times to apply dolomite lime to lawns, turn the compost pile and on a sunny day, apply a second application of dormant oil/lime sulphur spray to deciduous trees and shrubs.

And while you are at it: May the Sun bring you new energy every day. May the Moon softly restore you by night. May the rain wash away your worries.... and may you be just as thankful as I am to be living in this "Garden of Eden".

Happy gardening,

Rosina

OUR EXECUTIVE

President	Rosina Schmidt	751-3386
Vice President	Chris Southwick	390-3415
Past President	Allen McRae	758-7589
Secretary	Jan Moles	758-2574
Treasurer	Liz Higgins	390-9340
Directors	Bryan Jubinville	956-6178
	Art Lightburn	468-7516
	Susan Lightburn	468-7516
	Gayle McRae	758 7589
	Don Noakes	778 441-4783
	Ron Sutton	905 331 5527

COMMITTEES:

Advertising	Allen McRae
Library	Ann Beamish / Sandra Dorman
Newsletter	June Bouchard / John Deniseger
Membership	Krystyna Sosulski
Program	Committee
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey
Social	Deborah Francis
Bargain Table	Reinhold Gorgosolich/Don Noakes
Website	Craig Clarke
Bus Tour	David & Joyce Mitchell
Sunshine	Ann Beamish
Propagation Group	Ron Sutton

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Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4
Website: nanaimorhodos.ca
email: rhodomentum@nanaimorhodos.ca

Next meeting: Thursday, January 9th, at 7:30, Beban Park Social Center
June and John - Gardens of New Zealand's North Island

Our January Program: – June Bouchard and John Deniseger

“Gardens of New Zealand’s North Island” – Join us for a walk through some beautiful gardens!

In the fall of 2017, June and John travelled to New Zealand to enjoy their second spring of the year. The



North Island had so much to offer - warm welcoming people, hot springs, beaches, hikes, wineries, Maori culture, volcanoes and a land of spectacular and remarkable gardens. They'll show us some of the gardens they visited as part of the New Zealand Rhododendron Association Conference. Then they'll take us to the island's west coast to sample some of the beautiful public and private gardens of the Taranaki Garden Spectacular.

Twigs and Stems Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Milner Gardens and Woodland: closed until February 2nd, 2020.
Spring Sunday openings, February 2nd to March 29th

<https://www2.viu.ca/milnergardens/events.asp>

Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society:
Qualicum Beach Civic Center, Wednesday January 8th; 7:30 pm.
MARS photo night.

North Island Rhododendron Society: United Church in Comox,
7:30 pm, Tuesday January 14th. NIRS photo night

Nanaimo Horticultural Society: First United Fellowship Church,
595 Townsite Rd; next meeting in February.

Nanoose Garden Club: Nanoose Library Center and Event Hall,
Thursday, January 3rd: Roundtable discussion and questions.

Qualicum Beach Garden Club: QB Civic Center, Tuesday,
January 14th, 7:30pm. TBA

Seedy Saturdays – coming soon!
January 25th, Denman Island Community School, 9:30 to 14:30

February 1st, Qualicum Beach, QB Civic Center, 10:00 to 15:30
– “Seeding the Future”



*Thank you to the
following people for
bringing goodies to the
January meeting:*

*Linda Moore, Eileen
Jubinville, Gayle
McRae.*

*"That grand old poem
called Winter..."*



- Henry David Thoreau

A Look Back at our Christmas dinner and Auction (from Rosina)



At our Christmas dinner and Auction evening, I was once again reminded, just how much I enjoy being part of the NRS! Such a great club where everyone pitches in any way they can, being through their contributions, their hands-on personal involvement, their good cheer.



And all that GREAT food! Thank you to everyone on behalf of all of us!

Some members especially went out of their way to help once again make this event such a great success:



Chris and June for organizing the evening;

Jan and Liz for being our record keepers;

Susan and Art for cooking the turkey, "hosting" our Club's rhodos, and forwarding our letters;

Gayle and Allen for cooking the ham, and making the table decorations;

Val and Anne for their diligence on the raffle plants and prizes;

Joyce and David for helping with the auction and donating the gift basket;

Ron Sutton and Allen for delivering the plants from donors to the meeting place;

Sandra Dorman, Craig and Joyce Clarke and Diana Walker for their very generous rhodo donations;

John Deniseger, who jumped in to help out wherever help was needed;

And to **Deborah Francis** for being our superb coffee maker.



What a great, great crew we have! Thank you, thank you everyone!

May this festive season bring you many happy surprises.

Rosina



Useful Links

Victoria Rhododendron Society: victoriarhodo.ca/index.html

Cowichan Rhododendron Society: cowichanrhodos.ca/

Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society: marsrhodos.ca/

North Island Rhododendron Society: nirsrhodos.ca/ws/

The American Rhododendron Society: rhododendron.org/

Linda Gilkeson's website: lindagilkeson.ca/

Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden: <https://rhodygarden.org/>

Pollination with Mason Bees – from Rosina

As per Dr. Margriet Dogterom

If you purchased the mason bee cocoons at the NRS auction, best to keep them in the garage until spring, protected from predators, like mice, etc.

No matter what kind of nest type you have in your garden, come February (the time when **Pieris japonica is blooming**), set your nests (mason bees houses) outside close to the plants you want pollinated. Put them in the sun, protected from wind and **facing east**.

Put your cocoons in a small cardboard box, making a round exit hole in it, and staple it under the mason bee house (so it will not get wet). The bees will emerge and will eventually lay their eggs in the tubes in the bee house.

Mason bees need mud close by to build the walls between individual eggs that they lay. When a bee begins foraging for pollen and nectar, she uses cues to orient herself back to the nest entrance. Decorate the nest front with a simple design using one or two colours. Like a letter X or V. Do not move the nests until harvesting the cocoons.

Around September, bring the nests inside and best to store them in the unheated garage. By the end of the year, the tubes should be taken out of the nests and the cocoons harvested and washed. This is the time when the nests (bee houses) should be cleaned also to be ready for the next spring.

*"There are two seasonal diversions that can ease the bite of any winter. One is the January thaw. The other is the seed catalogues."
- Hal Borland*



The Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society (MARS) recently celebrated its 30th Anniversary!

At their November 13th meeting, MARS celebrated their 30th anniversary! A group from the NRS arrived with a beautiful cake to share in the celebration with our neighbours to the north! Congratulations MARS!



A Visit to Perennial Ridge Greenhouses!

On Friday November 28th, a delegation from the NRS met with Rose Rogan at her Perennial Ridge Greenhouses and farm in the Cowichan Valley. After touring the greenhouses with Rose, the group chose plants which the club will purchase for resale at our May plant sale. (Rosina Schmidt photos - that's Rose on the far left of the right hand photo.)



Looking ahead to our upcoming programs:

Date	Speaker	Topic
February 2020	Sean Rafferty	Favourite Himalayan Plants
March 2020	Linda Gilkeson	Life After Pesticides
April 2020	Shannon Berch	Soil Biology
May 2020	Dick Beamish	My Favourite Trusses

The American Rhododendron Society 75th Anniversary Convention



April 29-May 3, 2020, Hosted by ARS District 4

Heathman Lodge, Vancouver, WA

20/20 Vision will include these international speakers and more:

- Kenneth Cox from Glendoick in Scotland
- Lionel de Rothschild from Exbury in England
- Jens Nielsen, plant explorer from Denmark
- Steve Krebs and Juliana Medeiros from the Holden Arboretum
- Steve Hootman from the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden

Garden tours will include:

- Crystal Springs Botanical Garden
- Cecil & Molly Smith Garden
- Portland Japanese Garden
- Lan Su Chinese Garden
- Iseli Nursery
- Woodburn Nursery
- The Stewart Garden (formerly Dover Nursery)
- Sebright Gardens

- Around the Sound [pre-tour](#)
- Willamette Valley and Oregon Coast Excursion [post-tour](#) including members' gardens

Plus plant sale, photo contest, poster session, special clinics, plus:

ars75.org

Registration Now Open!

Need a ride to one of our meetings?



Call Chris at 250-390-3415 or 250-616-2742 (cell)
or send her an email at csouthwick@shaw.ca

Raffle plants for January:



Rhododendron 'Aloha' {Vulcan x *R. degronianum* ssp *yakushmanum*, Exbury form}

Height: 3 feet in 10 years

Cold Hardiness: -23°C

Hybridized: Phetteplace

Flower openly funnel-shaped, wavy edges, 2¾" across, deep pink fading to pale

purplish-pink. Held in dome-shaped truss of about 19 flowers. Leaves olive green with orange-yellow indumentum, leaves retained 3 years. New growth has white indumentum. Dense, rounded habit



Rhododendron 'Rocket' 5' in 10 years -26C

Parentage: Cunningham's White x red catawbiense seedling

Hybridizer: Shammarello

Small evergreen shrub, highly valued for its showy flowers. Flower is funnel-shaped, very frilly, 2½" across, vivid reddish-pink blotched scarlet red with prominent protruding stamens. Held in a conical truss. Leaves are 4" long, thick, glossy, dark green and heavily veined; coppery bronze when new. Upright habit.

From Our Propagation Group – photos by Rosina Schmidt

All of those white tagged plants are NRS cuttings! That's a lot of cuttings!



*Looking forward to seeing you
at our next meeting -
Thursday, January 9th!*