

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



June 2013



FROM THE PRESIDENT

The genus rhododendron is experiencing another year of strong growth in our area. The cool, damp, but mild winter suits our plants well. The stretch of sunshine, although welcomed, has turned a lot of the flowers brown. Oh well, we can't have everything. A big "thank you" to all the members that are retiring from their positions on the executive and a "thank you" and "welcome" to the members that have stepped forward to be part of our team, which without our Society could not function. The plant Sale & Show went well with a fabulous show of Trusses (we ran out of bottles). The Sale went well with a steady stream of customers arriving right up to closing time. Our first time on the Nanaimo Bus Tour was a great experience. A well-organized tour of gardens & nurseries on Salt Spring Island ending with a wine taste testing at the Salt Spring Vineyard, and then a shopping spree at Thimble Farm Nursery and mail order plant supplier. There were many varieties of plants, with some very hard to find selections. We are now looking forward to the wind-up gala at our home on June 15. Check out the notices!

See you all on June 15th.
Art Lightburn

EXECUTIVE

President	Art Lightburn	468-7516
Vice President	John Deniseger	390-3605
Secretary	Ann Beamish	758-2574
Treasurer	Krystyna Sosulski	729-0948
Directors	Craig Clarke	390-4090
	Susan Lightburn	468-7516
	Dorothee Kieser	390-4136
	Ray Lauzier	756-2927
	Bryan Jubinville	956-6178

COMMITTEES

Advertising	Bryan Jubinville	
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Membership	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Program	Ray Lauzier	756-2927
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey	
Social	Susan Lightburn	468-7516
Bargain Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533
Website	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Sunshine	Sandra Dorman	
Awards	Craig Clarke, Chris Southwick, John Deniseger, Gayle McRae	

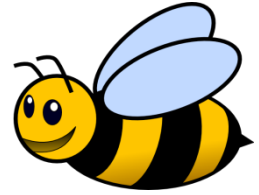
Nanaimo Rhododendron Society
Box 241, #101-5170 Dunster Road
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4
Website: nanaimo.rhodos.ca
email: nanaimo@rhodos.ca

NEXT MEETING

SATURDAY, JUNE 15 ART & SUSAN LIGHTURN'S HOUSE 4:00 pm

END OF SEASON BARBEQUE

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



Hear Ye, Hear Ye
Wind-Up Time!

Time to celebrate the end of another successful NRS year. Come to the annual NRS wind-up at Susan & Art Lightburn's home (1489 Bay Dr. Nanoose Bay), Saturday, June 15, 4:00 pm. There will be a potluck, barbeque, social and games. Also, help us honour our members who have worked hard to make our association the success it is. More information, address and map will be sent out to members.

As for the wind-up part, here is the crafty plan. Bring:

- a chair to sit upon
- a plate to eat off
- cutlery to eat with
- the adult beverage of your choice, if desired
- a mug for the adult beverage of your choice,
- your potluck contribution, for sharing with others
- Barbeque item(s)
- utensils to serve your potluck contribution, if
- any friends, neighbours, or visiting relatives whom you think would enjoy meeting us and learning more about the NRS

TWIGS and STEMs



GOODIES FOR JUNE MEETING

Potluck barbeque

GABRIOLA HOME & GARDEN TOUR

Sunday June 23

10 am to 5 pm

\$20

Tickets available at:

Buckerfields

Dig This

Blue Poppy Garden Gallery

Diana's Garden Centre

Artworks on Gabriola

LIBRARY BOOKS DUE

*Please return your borrowed books at the
Barbeque on June 15*



NRS Rhodo Info Table at Art Knapp's

April 28, 2013

Thanks to those attending the NRS Info
Table at Art Knapp's
Morning shift: Art & Susan Lightburn and
Glenda Barr
Afternoon Shift: Craig Clarke, Paul Lawry,
Sandra Dorman

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

IN MEMORIAM

Roy Taylor - Born in Olds, Alberta, April 12th 1932, died in Nanaimo, BC, May 2nd 2013



Many of you will remember Roy Taylor who, together with his wife Janet, generously opened their beautiful garden to our club a number of times over the past few years, including as part of our conference last September. Sadly, Roy passed away on Thursday, May 2nd. Roy's career revolved around botany and horticulture, including many years as Director of the UBC Botanical Garden (UBC BG), and most recently at Milner Garden and Woodlands as Director and Chairman from 2000 to 2012. Roy also made important contributions to the world of rhododendrons. He was on the board of The Rhododendron Species Foundation (RSF), as the UBC BG supported the RSF in cloning plants sent from the UK for the Foundation. In 1981, Roy was involved with the Art Exhibition "Cloud flowers: Rhododendrons east and west" produced by the UBC BG - with a group of contemporary Canadian artists

who drew the plants to natural size. The exhibit toured across Canada, with one stop in the U.S.

Roy will be dearly missed. Our most sincere sympathies to his wife Janet.

For further details, please see <http://www.botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/blog/roy-taylor-obituary>

SEEN IN PASSING

Bright yellow plant sale signs everywhere!



Rhodo enthusiasts enjoying coffee



Leaving Beban Park: a convertible VW bug full of Rhododendrons

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NRS Bus Tour 2013

On Saturday, May 18th, forty three avid Rhodo enthusiasts got up early to catch an early ferry to Saltspring Island. We saw beautiful gardens, and had the opportunity to explore the Saltpring Island Saturday market, sample local wine and as always, visit a nursery or two. Thanks are due to Steve and Trudy Lynch, the residents at Grace Point and to Susan Bloom for generously sharing their gardens with us and to "Banana Joe" for leading us through Grace Point's exotics. A special thank you to our good friend and Saltspring resident, Vlad Pomajzl, who through his Saltspring contacts, helped us set up this tour.

John



RHODOS WORTH GROWING



Friilly Lemon – a deciduous Azalea with deep yellow double (triple?) flowers that draw attention. Hybridized by Exbury.

Langley Serenity – an unregistered hybrid from Bev & Les Clay's garden (Rhodohaven). A tidy (so far) plant with dark green twisted leaves and soft multi-coloured bloom that is reflected in its name.



NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Getting to Know Each Other

By June Bouchard

This month, we have the pleasure of introducing Kathryn Grant to you. Kathryn is a long time club member and former director. We all know her work as the editor of our beautiful monthly newsletter. But as you can read below, there is so much more to Kathryn... Thanks for sharing with us Kathryn!



1. How long have you been growing rhododendrons?

I joined the club before I really started growing rhododendrons but seriously got into it in 1995 when we built our house. The first plant I planted in this new garden was a rhododendron – Cosmopolitan – which is now at least ten feet tall; it's a glorious plant!

2. How long have you lived on Vancouver Island?

I was born in Nanaimo. I went to UVIC and my first job was in Prince George where I lived for 2 ½ years. I then moved to Vancouver for a few years before returning to Nanaimo in 1986 where I met Rick who was introduced to me by my sister.

3. Describe your best day in the garden. ☺

I like just puttering around, see what needs to be done, doing a bit of this and a bit of that – “Putter, putter, putter!” I actually enjoy weeding; I do it section by section and find it very therapeutic. I also appreciate taking the time to just look at the garden and enjoy it.

4. What other interests do you have?

I love singing and I am currently the president of the Malaspina Choir. I really enjoy knitting, sailing (I have a sailboat), and playing with my 2 ½ year old grand-daughter Zoe. Other interests are cooking, entertaining, traveling and walking my dog, Maggie, while trying to keep her under control!

5. What's your favourite rhododendron?

It's hard to say but I love the Augustiniis – my favourite colour! I'm developing a collection of them and now have at least 10 of the Augustiniis and their hybrids.

6. What do you like about the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society?

I enjoy the variety of people. I remember when I first joined the club noticing so many intellectually minded people - people with various interests – I like that part very much. I also appreciate that everybody pitches in and helps to make events run smoothly.

7. Anything else you might like to add????

I learned my love of gardening from my mother – she always had a garden. I also learned about native plants and birds from her. It turns out I'm the same type of gardener as she is – I can't have a tidy garden if I try, but that's the way I like it to be! ☺

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Which Rhododendrons are Good For Growing in Containers?

By Norman Todd

I grow thousands of rhododendrons in containers — black ones — for selling; and I hate them. I don't know why some understanding entrepreneur does not come out with a light coloured plastic pot. If the summer sun beats on black pots the soil can reach sterilization temperatures and cook the roots.

So a good rule in selecting a container is to choose a light toned one. Glazed ceramic pots are good especially if of some thickness to provide some insulation for the plant's roots. Wooden ones are good too but not if the wood is treated with a phytotoxic preservative. An effective way to keep cool roots is to place a pot within a pot and fill the space with perlite or some other heat protecting material.

Many growers start out growing a small leafed rhododendron as a bonsai. The classic forms and protocol of bonsai growing intrigues my mind and I have a couple of books on the subject. I have sat in on a few lectures, but I am woefully inept at following the discipline. Still, I have a few "bonsais" at the back door and they give me a lot of pleasure. They don't have 100-year-old gnarled trunks; they are not even of kindergarten age; they are still in day-care. Still, they are very satisfying. Occasionally, one can find an old misshapen plant in a nursery that can be pruned and wired to give a geriatric look.

There is a growing interest among some rhododendron fanciers in trying their hand with some of the *Madenia*. These are the semi-tropical ones, many of which are wonderfully fragrant. *Rs. edgworthii*, *rhabdotum*, *crassum*, 'Else Frye', 'Fragrantissimum' are all good candidates. I have an 80 cm. 'Heaven Scent' that is just 80 cm. away from this computer that must have 100 flower buds. I have to admit that the pot, though still almost portable stayed where it was through last winter when we had the coldest temperature (-9° C) we have ever experienced in the 30 years we have been in this place. My laziness overcame my common sense and I did not move it to a protected place and it did lose half its flower buds, but the smelly show was still worthwhile.

Some of the *Madenia* get really tall and as a lot of them are epiphytic in nature growing like orchids in the crotches of tree branches they tend to be open leggy plants so they do respond to some pruning. Do this early in the year so the dormant growth buds can break and grow and perhaps develop a flower bud. I have found that 'Mi Amor' breaks readily from the older wood.

The Japanese are of course the masters on container growing and many of their prized azalea trophy plants are hundreds of years old. At the Regional Conference at Harrison Hot Springs two years ago they had a workshop on bonsai. All those who attended came home with an azalea in a bonsai pot. Mine was certainly cruelly mistreated and ended up being shaped like a haggis but it is a treasure.

The Lapponica are good candidates for containers. Mounds of *impeditum* or *fastigiatum* arranged on a stairway look wonderful. Strangely, a plant most find somewhat challenging to grow in the ground — *campylogynum* ssp *myrtilloides* — does very well in a container. Its larger cousin — *campylogynum* ssp *celsum* — performs equally well and is easier to bloom. Both are absolutely choice.

There is no shortage of material. The smallest garden or a balcony can become a veritable Eden with a few bums and a couple of twisted freaks. Of course there is a draw-back. They have to be watered in the summer. In very hot weather maybe even twice a day. But so have we and one regime is to think of the plants when you fill your own glass.

From Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society newsletter, May 2008

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society

May 9, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order by President Art Lightburn at 7:35 pm

President Lightburn thanked Jane Lauzier, Ann Beamish and Susan Lightburn for the evening snacks.

Guests were introduced: Mona Richardson, Erna Murdoch and Susan Mountjoy

President Lightburn talked of the weather challenges and the impacts of rhododendrons with the recent early heat wave. The full sun is burning some blooms, especially the yellow blooms. Constant water is required as it has been unusually dry. Members' participation and help is requested for Friday evening and Saturday for the show and sale. Members are asked to bring trusses on Friday evening if at all possible. Workers at the show and sale will be provided with conference aprons to be easily identified.

Attendance from District and Vancouver Island at the Seattle ARS Conference was very high. The overall attendance was about 250. In the photography section, all entries by Canadians won prizes and there were three First Prizes by Nanaimo club member Susan Lightburn

Elections:

John Deniseger acted as the Elections Committee Chair in the absence of Chris Southwick

The following members in Executive positions are retiring:

Vice-President - Sandra Dorman

Treasurer - Burkhard Dressler

Membership - Debbie Gaboury

Programs - Glenda Allard Barr

Executive Secretary - Paul Lawry

The following NRS executive were all filled by acclamation:

President - Art Lightburn

Vice President - John Deniseger

Secretary - Ann Beamish

Treasurer - Krystina Sosulski

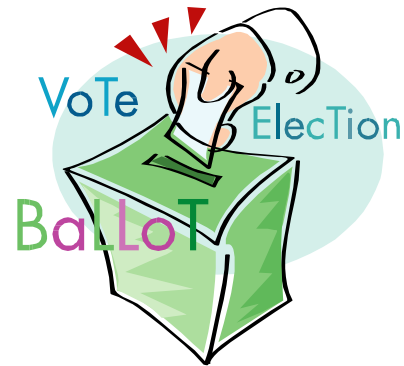
Director - Bryan Jubinville

Director - Craig Clarke

Director - Susan Lightburn

Director - Ray Lauzier

Director - Dorothee Kieser



Secretary's Report - Ray Lauzier acted as recording Secretary in the absence of Ann Beamish

Treasurer's Report - Burkhard Dressler filed his report and it was available at the front table.

Bus Trip - John Deniseger reported there was only one seat left on the day trip to Saltspring Island. It leaves at 7 AM sharp from the parkway parking lot, and timely departure is necessary to make the Vesuvius - Crofton ferry. Members are to bring a bag lunch as the lunch stop will be in Susan Bloom's garden, likely on the beach.

Sandra Dorman's Sunshine Report

There were four cards sent this month:

Linda Lawry's mother passed away

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Linda Lawry was suddenly taken seriously ill at the Seattle conference and had to come home early

Liz Higgin's husband's health is improving

Roy Taylor passed away last week and a card was sent to Janet

A tour of the Hailey Rhododendron Grove in Bowen Park was recently led by Michael Miller to ten ladies. Michael believes the Hailey Grove needs some attention and maintenance, but the display was quite spectacular on the day of the tour.

The Rhododendron *sinofalconeri* donated by Joyce and Craig Clarke was auctioned off for \$25 to Ray Lauzier.

Unfortunately door prizes and raffles were not recorded due to the distraction of the recording secretary.

The evening program was an excellent presentation on Japanese Gardens in Japan by Barrie Agar.

Prince Edward Island Smoked Salmon with Pasta and Simple Dill Cream Cheese Sauce

Chef Michael Smith



This is one of the most popular dishes on my table. Our friends love its bright, familiar flavours and we love how easy it is to make. You can toss steaming, wet, just cooked pasta with melting cream cheese to form an incredibly smooth luxurious sauce. The smoked salmon adds extravagance balanced by other familiar flavours: dill, lemon, onion, mustard, and capers. A five star dish for sharing!

Serves four

- 1 lb penne or your favourite shaped pasta like bowties, long pastas like spaghetti don't work as well
- 1 cup room temperature cream cheese
- 1 bunch of fresh dill, chopped 4 green onions, sliced
- 1 lemon, juiced and zested
- 1 heaping spoonful of Dijon mustard
- 1/4 cup capers
- 8 ounces smoked salmon, or more
- sprinkled sea salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Bring a large pot of salted water to the boil. Season it liberally with salt until tastes like a day at the beach on Prince Edward Island. As the pasta cooks it will absorb the salted water and become properly seasoned. Cook *al dente*, until the pasta is cooked through but still pleasantly chewy.

Scoop out some of the starchy cooking water. Drain the pasta but not quite all the way. Leave it a bit wet. Toss the pasta back into the pot along with a splash or two of the reserved water, perhaps a half-cup or so in total then immediately add the rest of the ingredients. While the pasta is still steaming hot it will easily melt the cream cheese and form a rich creamy sauce. Season with salt and pepper. Serve immediately.

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

	Prize	Plant	Winner
Red hybrid	1 st	Britton Hill	Ann & Dick Beamish
	2 nd	Trilby	Ann & Dick Beamish
	3 rd	Rubicon	Ann & Dick Beamish
Blotch/flare hybrid	1 st	Lodestar	Ann & Dick Beamish
	2 nd	Mrs Betty Robinson	Ann & Dick Beamish
	3 rd	Blue Peter	Ann & Dick Beamish
Lax truss	1 st	Thor	Ann & Dick Beamish
	2 nd	C.I.S.	Doug Blenkarn
	3 rd	September Song	Ann & Dick Beamish
Pink hybrid	1 st	Jan Dekens	Ann & Dick Beamish
	2 nd	Creole Belle	Ann & Dick Beamish
	3 rd	Sugar Pink	Ann & Dick Beamish
White hybrid	1 st	Hoppy	Ann & Dick Beamish
	2 nd	Senator Jackson	Doug Kite
	3 rd	Yeti	Doug Kite
Salmon/Orange	1 st	Apricot Fantasy	Doug Blenkarn
	2 nd	Lem's Best Orange	Anne & Dick Beamish
	3 rd	Lem's Cameo	Art Lightburn
Purple/blue	1 st	Elsie Watson	Allen & Gaylle McRae
	2 nd	Black Widow	Ann & Dick Beamish
	3 rd	Blueboy	Ann & Dick Beamish
Yellow	1 st	Karen Triplet	Valerie Harvey
	2 nd	Phyllis Korn	Doug Blenkarn
	3 rd	Nancy Evans	Ann & Dick Beamish
Best Scented	1 st	Lady Blue Fitzwilliam	Chris Southwick
	2 nd	Countess of Haddington	Doug Kite
	3 rd	Ilam Cream	Ann & Dick Beamish
Hammerhead	1 st	Gala	Ann & Dick Beamish
	2 nd	Helen Schiffner	Ann & Dick Beamish
	3 rd	Vincent Van Gogh	Ann & Dick Beamish
Alpine species	1 st	<i>sargentanum</i>	Burkhard Dressler
	2 nd	<i>trichostumum</i>	Art Lightburn
	3 rd	<i>cephalaxithum</i>	Chris Southwick
Elepidote species	1 st	<i>yunnanense</i>	Chris Southwick
	2 nd	<i>yakushmanum</i>	Doug Blenkarn
	3 rd	<i>augustinii</i>	Art Lightburn

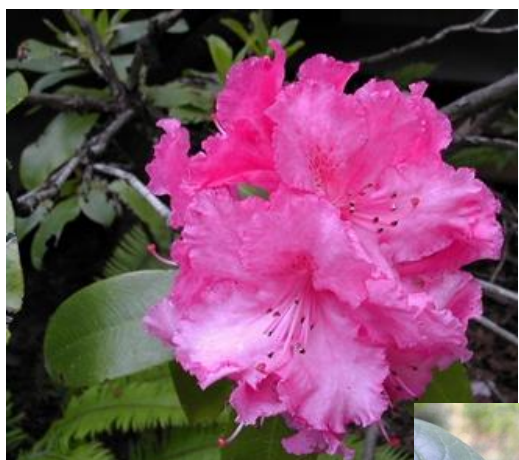
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Lepidote Species	1 st	<i>kiusianum</i>	Art Lightburn
	2 nd	<i>davesi</i>	Chris Southwick
	3 rd	<i>flammeuse</i>	Art Lightburn
Azalea Truss or spray	1 st	Conescens	Art Lightburn
	2 nd	Kaempferi	Art Lightburn
	3 rd	Arnasen's Gem	Art Lightburn
Foliage	1 st	<i>hodgsonii</i>	Ann & Dick Beamish
	2 nd	<i>argrophyllune</i>	Art Lightburn
	3 rd	<i>bureavia x fabia</i>	Art Lightburn

Best in Show: Jan Dekens
 Hammerhead: Gala
 Best Scented: Lady Blue Fitzwilliam
 Paull Trophy – most points
 Popular Choice: Black Widow

Anne & Dick Beamish
 Anne & Dick Beamish
 Chris Southwick
 Anne & Dick Beamish
 Anne & Dick Beamish

12 participants submitted a record 237 specimens. The success of the Truss Show is dependent on many: for the storage and delivery of display bottles, shelving and table cloths, documentation and displaying of entries, the participants, judging, and finally the big clean-up. A big thank-you to all!



R. Jan Dekens



R. hodgsonii



R. Black Widow