



## June, 2015

### President's Message

Despite the unseasonably warm and dry weather, our favourite genus keeps right on performing. The later species and hybrids are now blooming and some buds on plants in my own garden are just now swelling.

A number of our members volunteered their time at the Sidney ARS Convention in early May. In addition, your contributions to the NRS auction basket created a wonderful display which was hotly contended! It was good to see all of the island clubs supporting the efforts of the Victoria Chapter. The conference organizers decided to donate the remaining plants from the Convention Plant Sale back to each club. The executives of those clubs, including ours, decided to donate those plants to the Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney to start a rhododendron garden at that very central location. What a great place to introduce visitors in that area to our great genus!

Please check out the minutes of the last general meeting (later in this newsletter) to see how successful our Annual Show and Sale was on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Not only did we do well financially, but just as importantly, we helped teach visitors to the event how interesting and easily grown rhododendrons are in our climate. Educating the general public regarding rhododendrons and their variety and beauty is one of our club's main goals. Thank you **all** for your support in this endeavor. There were just too many helpers to mention by name!

Your executive discussed the show and sale and in September, will be asking the membership for input regarding a possible change in date from the Mother's Day weekend to the weekend prior to Mother's Day. It appeared to be a very successful change this year.

#### 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
Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Gaylle McRae	758-7589
Glenda Barr	390-2822

#### COMMITTEES

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	

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Email: [nanaimo@rhodos.ca](mailto:nanaimo@rhodos.ca)

#### Next Meeting

Thursday Sept. 10, 7:30 pm Beban Park Social  
Centre

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

President's Message *continued from page one*

I have just returned from a fantastic two week garden tour to southern England. Included in the tour was a visit to the



Chelsea Garden Show. Wow, that was an experience. Stay tuned for further information next year about that trip. Although the gardens we visited were justifiably world famous and in some cases very large, well-established and full of incredible plants with pedigrees from the early plant hunters of the world, in my opinion, western North America has rhododendron gardens that truly are world class as well. I am counting such gardens as the UBC Botanical Garden and the Rhododendron Species Foundation in that category. Over the next few years, I believe that the Milner Gardens and Woodland will be approaching that class with the addition of the Species Collection. Thank you for continuing to support it. The first species garden working party will be taking place on June 18<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 until noon. Note that the site is very rough and it is recommended that volunteers wear boots, use heavy gloves and clothes appropriate for working in a wild forest environment. Please meet in the Milner Parking lot if you'd like to help out. Those wishing to carpool, please let me know by email.

*R. magnificum* discussed by Thomas Clarke, Head Gardener at Trelissick Garden, Cornwall

I encourage you all to attend our year-end wind-up at Gayle and Allen McRae's lovely home on Oakridge Drive pm Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> starting at 4:00. We will be acknowledging those who have gone beyond the call of duty for our club and we always have a fun time!

Finally, I want to acknowledge in this newsletter, "retiring" director, Dorothee Kieser for her contributions to the NRS. Thank you, Dorothee!

Chris Southwick  
President

## Upcoming Rhododendron Calendar

**NRS Annual Wind-up – 4:00 June 13<sup>th</sup> at Gayle and Allen McRae's - 3570 Oakridge Drive, Nanaimo**  
**Milner Garden Work Party – June 18<sup>th</sup> 8:30 – noon - Milner Garden and Woodland, Q. Beach**  
**Alpine Gardeners of Central Van. Island – Mon. June 29<sup>th</sup> 1 – 3 pm East Hall Qualicum Beach Civic Centre \$5 – presents Krista Kaptein of the Strathcona Wilderness Institute – "Beyond Paradise" – regarding the flora of Paradise Meadows, Strathcona Provincial Park.**  
**1st Executive Meeting of the 2015 – 2015 calendar: August 20<sup>th</sup> – Chris Southwick's home 2pm**  
**1st General Meeting of the 2015 – 2015 calendar: September 10, 7:30 Beban Park Social Centre**

## SEEN IN PASSING...

A River otter heading inland with a flatfish, probably to feed her young.

Rampant growth on our rhododendrons, probably over fertilized in the winter and spring.

Nice new plants purchased at the conference for our raffle table next year.

R. CIS blooming in Doug Blenkarn's Sprout Lake Garden





## Rhodos Worth Growing

**Rhododendron 'Crimson Pippin'—**  
(*yakushmanum* x *sanguineum* ssp. *haemaleum*). 2', -  
23°C, M, 5/4. Silver indumentum and bright currant-red  
flowers held in loose trusses of 10 with a nice calyx.  
Compact plant with very deep green leaves and the  
flowers are the darkest red of  
any *yakushmanum* hybrid.

**Rhododendron 'Ingrid Mehlquist' – Besse  
Howells x degrobianum ssp yakushmanum 2-  
3' -30 °C** Frilly white flowers emerge from  
pinky buds in small but very full and abundant  
trusses. This is an exceptional rock-hardy yak  
hybrid with great foliage. The low, compact  
plant buds heavily from a young age and has  
been identified in scientific studies as being  
highly resistant to phytopthera (root rot  
disease).



## Milner Species Initiative Update

A meeting of the advisory board was held at Milner Garden and Woodlands. The Memorandum of Understanding is ready to be signed by the Vancouver Island clubs. Volunteer work parties will be organized. The first is June the 18<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 until noon. Meet at the carpark at 8:30 with appropriate brush clearing clothing. If you are interested in helping out and would like to car pool, please email Chris Southwick at [csouthwick@shaw.ca](mailto:csouthwick@shaw.ca). Much progress has been done on the plant selection portion thanks to the leadership of both John Deniseger and Art Lightburn.

## Barb & Brian Staton May program

Our May program was a most enjoyable slide presentation by **Barb & Brian Staton** depicting the trip that 12 members of NIRS chapter took to visit gardens on Whidbey Island, Washington. The presentation featured spectacular gardens of members of the Whidbey Island chapter, as well as the famous Meerkerk Gardens. Some of the gardens included the gardens of **Frank Fujioka** and **Katie & David Dickerson**, Lounsberry's Park owned by Norma & Jack Lounsberry, the magnificent gardens of **Sharron & Craig Reide** and a final garden visit made to the **Bachert's "Kettle Garden"**. In addition to some of their own photos, Brian and Barb gave credit to **Antje**



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*& Peter Guertler* and *Noni & Dave Godfrey* for sharing some of their photos. For those who missed the program, many of the pictures featured can be found the NIRS website's gallery page.



R. Horizon Monarch  
featured in Meerkerk Garden



Frank Fujioka's garden is an amazing colour palette.

Just a quick reminder that our NRS Potluck Wind-up Party is coming soon.....

**Saturday, June 13 – 4:00 pm**  
**Home of Allen & Gayle McRae, 3570 Oakridge Dr. Nanaimo**

Don't forget to bring cutlery, plates, cup or glass  
A potluck dish that you love to make and share  
Something you like to Barbeque, a chair to relax on  
Beverage of your choice (wine/beer/?)  
Coffee and tea will be provided.



## SUMMARY of NRS Show – May 3, 2015

Class	Prize	Plant	Winner
Red hybrid	1 <sup>st</sup>	Heart's Delight	Ann & Dick Beamish
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Hallelujah	Ann & Dick Beamish
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rubicon	Ann & Dick Beamish
Blotch/flare hybrid	1 <sup>st</sup>	Kathie Jo	Ann & Dick Beamish
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Furnivall's Daughter	Ann & Dick Beamish

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	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Phyllis Korn	Susan & Art Lightburn
<b>Lax truss</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>R. vellereum</i>	Chris Southwick
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Biskra	Ann & Dick Beamish
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Medusa	Susan & Art Lightburn
<b>Pink hybrid</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	Point Defiance	Ann & Dick Beamish
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mother of Pearl	Ann & Dick Beamish
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Creole Belle	Ann & Dick Beamish
<b>White hybrid</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	Yeti	Doug Kitts
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Yaku Angel	Doug Kitts
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Blewbury	Chris Southwick
<b>Salmon/Orange</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	Lem's Orange	Ann & Dick Beamish
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Naselle	Ann & Dick Beamish
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mango Tango	Ann & Dick Beamish
<b>Purple/blue</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	Black Widow	Ann & Dick Beamish
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Elsie Watson	Chris Southwick
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Blue Boy	Doug Blenkarn
<b>Yellow</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	Horizon Monarch	Chris Southwick
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Crest	Susan & Art Lightburn
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mindy's Love	Ann & Dick Beamish
<b>Best Scented</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>R. edgeworthii</i>	Ann & Dick Beamish
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	---	
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	---	
<b>Hammerhead</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	Sugar Pink	Ann & Dick Beamish
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	---	
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	---	
<b>Alpine species</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>R. cephalanthum</i>	Chris Southwick
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>R. campylogynum</i>	Chris Southwick
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>R. charitopes</i>	Chris Southwick
<b>Elepidote species</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>R. decorum</i> 'White Leather'	Craig & Joyce Clarke
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>R. elliottii</i>	Ann & Dick Beamish
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>R. rex</i>	Ann & Dick Beamish
<b>Lepidote Species</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>R. oreotrepes</i>	Susan & Art Lightburn
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>R. yunnanense</i>	Chris Southwick
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>R. augustinii</i>	Susan & Art Lightburn

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<b>Azalea</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	Koromo Shikibu	Chris Southwick
Truss or spray	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Arneson Gem	Craig & Joyce Clarke
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Hardijzer's Pink Beauty	Jan Moles
<b>Foliage</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>R. mallotum</i>	Susan & Art Lightburn
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>R. edgeworthii</i>	Susan & Art Lightburn
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>Fabia x bureavii</i>	Susan & Art Lightburn

**Best In Show:** *R. edgeworthii*.....Ann & Dick Beamish

**Best Scented:** *R. edgeworthii*.....Ann & Dick beamish

**Best Hammerhead:** Sugar Pink...Ann & Dick Beamish

**Most points:**.... Ann & Dick Beamish

**Popular Choice:** 1. Black Widow.....Ann& Dick Beamish

2. Vincent Van Gogh...Ann & Dick Beamish

3. Horizon Monarch....Chris Southwick

### May 14, 2015 Annual General Meeting Minutes Nanaimo Rhododendron Society

**19:30**      **Welcome** – Past President Art Lightburn in President Chris Southwick's absence welcomed 42members and guests

#### **19:40 Business Meeting**

**Report on Show and Sale May 3, 2015** Art reported an excellent turnout by the public and thanked all those who participated to make it so successful particularly mentioning Doug Blenkarn and Brenda Lewis for their extraordinary efforts.

Advertising for the show was successful and ads were paid for in the Coffee News for Nanaimo and Central Island as well as ads in the Daily News and The Bulletin. Free advertising was also achieved thanks to Glenda Barr on the CBC and Jan Moles for the rest majority of this work.

Treasurer Krystyna Sosulsky reported that the sale had 9 vendors and grossed\$10,387.55. The NRS table was very successful thanks to the many donations from club members and donations of rhodos from Ken and Madeleine Webb. A donation of \$190.0 to the Victoria Club will be made on their behalf. The raffle took in \$285. The club cleared a very credible \$1950.

**Convention Report** Nanaimo has 15 plants to use for raffle prizes at upcoming meetings.

Nanaimo Chapter has a box of Ian Efford's book *The Public Rhododendron Gardens of Vancouver Island* for \$20 each.

Terry Richmond from the MARS chapter received the ARS Silver Medal at the Convention.

Susan Lightburn won two first place and two runner up ribbons for her photography submissions at the convention

**Milner Garden Update:** John Deniseger reported that the new Species Rhododendron Garden will be another 2 years as there is a great deal of planning to be done as well as fund raising. The intent is that the garden will have approximately 250 plants in Geographic themes such as: Japan, Nepal, Eastern Europe and Yunnan. John is currently working on a grid to indicate plants and their location as well as the identification of species used to create the hybrids currently in Milner Garden.

**Bus Tour:** John Deniseger reported that there was one seat available on the May 16 bus tour. The bus will leave Woodgrove Chapters location at 0730 and will return at approximately 1800.

**Wind Up** will be June 13 at Allan and Gaylle McCrae's home more information will be in the Newsletter.

## **COMMITTEE DIRECTORS REPORTS**

**Secretary** Ann Beamish no report

**Library** Ann Beamish showed Ian Efford's book and encouraged members to purchase one or more. We also have The Pocket Guide to Rhododendron Species, by J.F.J. McQuire and M.L.A. Robinson. This book is for sale on Amazon.com and we are encouraging members to purchase it via the ARS website as the ARS receives some of the proceeds.

**Membership** Sandra Dorman reported that Beth Walrond has joined our club and Glen Jamieson and Linda Derkatch have joined as associate members (they are primary members of MARS).

**Sunshine** Edith Higgins reported she had sent some cards this period.

**ELECTION** John Deniseger conducted the election of officers and directors.

### **OFFICERS:**

**President** Chris Southwick, **Vice President** Brenda Lewis

**Secretary** Ann Beamish, **Treasurer** Krystyna Sosulski,

**Membership** Sandra Dorman, **Library** Ann Beamish

### **DIRECTORS:**

Gaylle McCrae, Art Lightburn, Susan Lightburn, Craig Clarke, Sandra Dorman, Glenda Barr.

### **New Business**

Burkhardt Dressler queried whether our constitution is out of date and why it is password protected on the website. Craig Clarke responded.

### **20:15 AGM Meeting adjourned**

Following the AGM, Barb and Brian Staton provided an excellent program describing the North Island Rhodo Club's visit to Whidbey Island last year. At executive meetings, we do more than conduct NRS business. We also socialize and often have some great food. Hence the following recipe from the May executive meeting ☺

### **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

- 1 -Heat oil in a heavy bottom pot, add onions & cook for 4-5 min until softened.
- 2 -Add garlic & spices and stir to combine. Add sweet potato and stir & cook a few minutes
- 3 -Add stock, tomatoes, black beans & green lentils if desired, stir to combine.
- 4 - Bring mixture to a boil & cover & simmer for 10 minutes.
- 5 - Add quinoa & cook until quinoa is fully cooked & sweet potatoes are soft. Add more vegetable stock if required.
- 6 - 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.

**Thank you Brenda Lewis for the great recipe!**