

The Rhodomentum



Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Newsletter

June 2019



Hi everyone!

It's been another busy spring for the NRS. Our regular meetings, annual bus tour, plant sale and truss show, all contributed to another successful spring, full of colour and new ideas. Thank you to everyone who helped make these events a success.

Looking ahead to next year, we're exploring the idea of a propagation group which should be a lot of fun. Our program committee has done a great job putting together an interesting group of speakers and topics for next year. Don't forget that the 2019 ARS Western Regional Fall Conference will be in Parksville from September 27-29th.

Our year end BBQ and picnic will be on Saturday June 8th at Art and Susan Lightburn's, starting at 4pm. Hope to see everyone there!

Have a Great Summer!
John and June

EXECUTIVE

President	Vacant	
Vice President	Rosina Schmidt	751-3386
Past President	Allen McRae	758-7589
Secretary	Jan Moles	758-2574
Treasurer	Liz Higgins	390-9340

Directors

Art Lightburn	468-7516
Susan Lightburn	468-7516
Don Noakes	778 441-4783

COMMITTEES

Advertising	Jan Moles / June Bouchard
Library	Ann Beamish / Sandra Dorman
Newsletter	June Bouchard / John Deniseger
Membership	Krystyna Sosulski
Program	Committee
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey
Social	Susan Lightburn
Bargain Table	Reinhold Gorgosolich
Website	Craig Clarke
Bus Tour	David & Joyce Mitchell

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DON'T MISS – NRS Wind-Up Party at Susan and Art Lightburn's Place

Saturday, June 8th, 2019 – 4:00pm

See details below – on page 5.

Twigs and Stems



Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Milner Gardens and Woodland: Open daily 10:00 am to 5:00 pm (last entry at 4:30) Check their website for other events and details. Don't miss the Fairy Houses - June 20-23!!!

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

Eaglecrest Garden Club: Qualicum Beach Civic Center, June 19th, 7:00pm. Barry Roberts on "Into the Hydrangea-Verse"; Guests \$3

Nanaimo Horticultural Society: First United Fellowship Church, 595 Townsite Rd, Wednesday, June 12th 7:30 PM - Dorothee Kieser on "Winter Vegetables".

Nanosee Garden Club: Valerie Melanson on "Gardening in Your Kitchen"; Nanosee Library Center & Event Hall, June 7th; 1:15pm.

Qualicum Beach Garden Club: Jamey Lauinger on "Growing cacti and succulents". QB Civic Center, Tuesday, June 11, 7:30pm.



Rosina Schmidt,
our Vice-President,
has put her name
forward to be our
new club
President!!!
Thank you,
Rosina!

We want to start a Propagation Group!



to teach us novices, I offer to coordinate a propagating team come this September. Please join me.

You'll hear more at the September meeting and in upcoming newsletters.

Rosina Schmidt

The time has come for the NRS to have its own rhodo propagation group. It is getting harder and harder to find rhodo vendors for our plant sale. We can propagate from cuttings and seeds for our own future plants for raffles, plant sales, and each other. With the help of our splendid experienced NRS members

Minutes of our May 9th, 2019 meeting – from Jan Moles

Meeting opened at 7.35 by acting president / chair Don Noakes.

1. President's report:

- AGM has been moved to September 2019.
- Rosina has agreed to have her name put forward for President in the new year.
- A fine plant display was provided by various club members; Chris Southwick described the trusses on show and discussed how they should be prepared for entry to the Truss Show.



2. Treasurer's Report:

Balance in Bank as at 11 APR 2019	8,450.69
Revenue 11 Apr – 9 May	105.07
Expenses 11 Apr – 9 May	1,086.22
Balance in Bank as at May 9, 2019	
7,469.54	
Less cheques written but not cashed	53.88
Chq 1500 Jan Moles reimbursement of supplies Truss Show	
Cash Available Balance on 9 May	7,415.66

3. Secretary's Report:

Correspondence - we were in receipt of Species Catalogue 2019 from ARS. It is being put into library.

4. Fall Conference with MARS – Friday, September 27th to Sunday, September 29th:

Registration is underway, you can register online.

NRS will be looking for volunteers to help at the registration desk – on Friday slots are 2-4pm, 4-6pm, Saturday 8-10am, 10-12 am – many people came forward.

Early bird price is \$95, hard to beat for 1 lunch, 2 breakfasts, workshops, speakers, bus tours.

The banquets are an additional \$50 each.

5. Bus Tour report:

Joyce and David not present, but it is reported that 40 people were on the tour – they visited 4 private gardens and 1 public garden (HCP – Glendale); Russell Nursery; and Unsworth Winery.

A very good time was had by all.

6. Windup Potluck:

This will be at 4pm on 8th of June at Art and Susan Lightburn's home.

Details will be in the newsletter.

7. Truss Show and Sale – Saturday 11th May:

Judges will be Calvin Parsons from Victoria and Allan Murray from Cowichan.

Chris Southwick: Save-on Foods and Country Grocer are lending us carts.

Jan Moles: registration forms and List of rhodo classes on the desk at the front.

Hall opens at 6:30 pm for registration of trusses on Friday, 6:30 am on Saturday morning.

8. Membership (Krystyna Sosulski)

Nothing to report.

9. **Social:** In Susan's absence, Gayle McRae made coffee for the meeting. Thank you very much to the providers of the goodies.

10. Milner Gardens:

John Deniseger: there will be another work Bee on Tuesday, May 14th - 9am to noon – another 50 perennials to be planted, and shade protection to be erected. Volunteers please talk to John. The previous planting of 450 companion plants went very well, and a big thank you to all of the helpers.

Raffle: – 2 plants to be raffled

NEXT Executive Meeting – May 16th: hosted by Ron and Rea Sutton in Fanny Bay.

We would like to thank our guests Heather Klassen, Larissa Thelin and Jessica Pyett for a very interesting and informative presentation on the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region and MABRRI's research.

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Summer reading for the gardener – by June Bouchard

When you're done with the deadheading, weeding, mowing, etc., get yourself a comfortable chair in the shade, a cool drink, and a good book on gardening! Here are a few suggestions from our own shelves that might be of interest, some newer titles and some older gems – you might already have some of them – or check your local library, bookstore or thrift shops for some new treasure...

Woodland Gardening with rhododendrons, magnolias, camellias and acid-loving plants (2018) by Kenneth Cox.

Tottering in my Garden – A Gardener's Memoir (1994) by Midge Ellis Keeble

An Ecology of Enchantment – A year in a country garden (1998) by Des Kennedy

Cougar Annie's Garden (1999) by Margaret Horsfield

The Public Rhododendron Gardens of Vancouver Island (2015) by Ian E. Efford

Let us now praise famous gardens (1951) by Vita Sackville-West

Pretty Tough Plants – 135 resilient, water-smart choices for a beautiful garden (2017) by the experts at Plant Select.

The Science of Gardening (2018) by Linda Chalker-Scott

... add your own titles to this list...



Happy Reading!!!



NRS WIND-UP PARTY

Hi Rhodo Fans – A reminder for our NRS Potluck Wind-up Party!

Saturday, June 8 – 4:00 pm

Art and Susan's home and garden

1489 Bay Drive

Nanoose Bay

Don't forget to bring cutlery, plates, cup or glass

A potluck dish that you love to make and share

A chair to relax on and a

Beverage of your choice

Pork tenderloin, coffee, tea and punch will be provided



We will be having a draw for plants or garden tools and accessories (no lawnmowers or rototillers). We're asking everyone to please bring a plant or item that some other member would appreciate.

****Bring your friends, neighbours, or visiting relatives to help celebrate our year-end**

Please car pool if you can – limited parking.

Bring your good cheer and be ready to Party!!

See you ALL at the Wind-up Saturday, June 8th

Our 19th Annual Bus Tour – Wasn't that a great way to spend a sunny spring day!



Mix together a sunny spring day, beautiful gardens, lots of prizes, a bus load of enthusiastic gardeners, the generosity of our garden hosts and a little wine and you have the recipe for a wonderful day. David and Joyce Mitchell did an amazing job putting it all together! Thank you for all of your hard work – we can't wait for next year's tour!



Our intrepid leaders, David and Joyce.... the last stop of the day at Unsworth Winery!



Jean Rhodes and Evelyn Weesjes reminiscing...



You never know what you'll find around the next corner at Russell Nursery.
(Rosina Schmidt photo)



From Jan Moles – our Truss Show coordinator: Thank you everyone – an eye-opening truss show again! This year's entries numbered 199 from 11 entrants; entrants submitting as many as 43 trusses, or as few as 2. The number of entrants was two less than last year, but we had a couple of misses due to late timing. There was only one novice entrant and especially congratulations to her; I hope to see more new entrants next year.

Thank you again to all of my stalwart helpers who made the Truss show a great success, from the registration desk, to the management of and arranging of the show tables, filling the water bottles (a horrible task), assisting the judges in their task, and last but not least, to the judges Calvin Parsons from Victoria and Allan Murray from Cowichan, who did a great job for us. One of our regular entrants could not quite make it on time this year, and as a result their entries went on to the display table, and excellent trusses they were – they could have been winners; my favourite is shown on the bottom right....

This year, we recorded some of the judge's comments as they processed each class, but only where there was something specific to say that would enhance the entry and in general where we could improve the show.

- The positioning in the bottle is VERY important; use as many corks as required to achieve a good result.
- Make sure the leaves are arranged around the truss and not bunched up, use the corks to assist.
- Where new growth is overshadowing the truss, in general it should be removed.
- We had an entry which should have been a hammerhead.

A general comment for the whole display was that the trusses were too crowded, especially in light of the fact that we did have some extra space. We had a hard time making the deadline of 8am to start judging this year; lots of classes to be checked for the entries, and over half the entries arrived on Saturday morning – but we made it!



Foliage winners: 1st Mallotum (on left), 2nd Sinogrande (on right) and 3rd bureavii.



Worker bees setting up the Truss show, with the plant sale in the background.



The Winners of 'Red' Class, Noyo Chief (centre) taking Best in Show



Well, what class is that exactly....



.... We think it is Midnight Mystique on the display table. I love the colour.

The Winners from our 2019 Truss Show			
Class	Prize	Plant	Winner
Red hybrid	1 st	Noyo Chief	Chris Southwick
	2 nd	Rubicon	Ann & Dick Beamish
	3 rd	Black Widow	Susan & Art Lightburn
Blotch/flare hybrid	1 st	Hachmann's Charmant	Ann & Dick Beamish
	2 nd	Phyllis Korn	Joyce & Craig Clarke
	3 rd	Trilby	Ann & Dick Beamish
Lax truss	1 st	Ostbo's Red Elizabeth	Ann & Dick Beamish
	2 nd	Thor	Ann & Dick Beamish
	3 rd	Carmen	Chris Southwick
Pink hybrid	1 st	Fantastica	Susan & Art Lightburn
	2 nd	Newcombe's Sweetheart / Cody	Earl Daneluk / Ann & Dick Beamish
	3 rd	Razor Bill	Chris Southwick
White hybrid	1 st	Blewberry	Chris Southwick
	2 nd	Snow Pearl	Ann & Dick Beamish
	3 rd	Helene Schiffner	Ann & Dick Beamish
Salmon/Orange	1 st	Honey Butter	Chris Southwick
	2 nd	Lem's Best Orange	Ann & Dick Beamish
	3 rd	Milton	Linda & Gerry Moore
Purple/blue	1 st	Anah Kruschke	Earl Daneluk
	2 nd	D. W. Evans	Ann & Dick Beamish
	3 rd	Elsie Watson	Chris Southwick
Yellow	1 st	Windsong	Ann & Dick Beamish
	2 nd	Horizon Lakeside	Earl Daneluk
	3 rd	Lemon Embers	Ann & Dick Beamish
Best Scented	1 st	Lady Alice Fitzwilliam	Susan & Art Lightburn
	2 nd	Fragrantissimum	June Bouchard & John Denisegeer
	3 rd	Hans's Fortune	June Bouchard & John Denisegeer
Hammerhead	1 st	Summer Cloud	Earl Daneluk

	2 nd	Trude Webster	Ann & Dick Beamish
	3 rd	Horizon Lakeside	Ann & Dick Beamish
Alpine species	1 st	Schweliense	Chris Southwick
	2 nd	Arctic Tern	Chris Southwick
	3 rd	Sargentianum Maricee	Chris Southwick
Elepidote species	1 st	Bureavii	Susan & Art Lightburn
	2 nd	Catawbiense Album	Ann & Dick Beamish
	3 rd	Yakushmanum	Chris Southwick
Lepidote Species	1 st	Lyi	Ann & Dick Beamish
	2 nd	Baileyi	Chris Southwick
	3 rd	Diversipilosum	Susan & Art Lightburn
Azalea	1 st	Hino Crimson / Periclymenoides	Susan & Art Lightburn (x2)
Truss or spray	2 nd	Glowing Embers / Girard's Fuschia	June B & John D / Susan & Art L
	3 rd	Kiusianum Komo Kulshan	Susan & Art Lightburn
Foliage	1 st	Mallotum	Susan & Art Lightburn
	2 nd	Sinogrande	Ann & Dick Beamish
	3 rd	Bureavii	Chris Southwick
Best in Show		Noyo Chief	Chris Southwick
Best Scented		Lady Alice Fitzwilliam	Susan & Art Lightburn
Most Points		49.5	Ann & Dick Beamish
Best Hammerhead		Summer Cloud	Earl Daneluk
People's Choice		Black Widow	Susan and Art Lightburn

Best in Show, Best Hammerhead and Best Scented are chosen by the judges.

"Most points" is calculated from 1st 2nd and 3rd positions by the registration team.

People's Choice is awarded by the public, the incentive to vote being the people's choice raffle rhododendron.

From Gayle McRae: Raffle Winners at the Show/Sale

1. Hachman's Charmant- Susan Scott
2. European Beech Tree—Lucy Gerrard
3. Azalea Irene Koster---Brenda Brown
4. Greeting cards by artist Sue Klapwijk--Dave Watz
5. Hosta Patriot---Rea Sutton
6. Sedum "Mr. Goodbud" Stonecrop--Leila Guest

Winners of the People's Choice Raffle: Rhododendron "Golden Gate": Mr. & Mrs. D Laughton from Qualicum Beach. **All prizes have been delivered to the happy winners.**

Plant Sale – did we ever sell a lot of plants!!!



NRS new member, Debbie Francis, volunteering at the coffee table. (Rosina Schmidt photo)

plunge; we accepted credit card purchases for the first time. There was lots of positive feedback from happy shoppers, thanking our club for our collective efforts in organizing the

That was a busy day! At the cash registers, there were long lineups as enthusiastic gardeners seemed to buy everything in sight. This year we finally took the



Gerry and Linda Moore taking a break from the cash register – that was a long, long lineup!



Craig Clarke and Bryan Jubinville, discussing things in detail at the Master Gardeners table. (Rosina Schmidt photo)

event every year. Thank you to Brenda Lewis, our plant sale coordinator, and to everyone who helped make it a successful day.



Jan Moles and Liz Higgins working at the truss show. (Rosina Schmidt photo)

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

Patience, or is it stubbornness? (by John and June)

How long will we wait for a plant to bloom? Apparently, quite a long time! We bought *R. bureavii* in 1996, planting it in a relatively shady spot. A great foliage plant with superb indumentum, we knew that we'd be waiting a while for it to bloom. In 2012, we dug it up to bring it to our new garden in Bowser. Initially we planted it in a far too sunny location, leading to some scorched leaves. In 2017, we moved it to a much better spot. It must like the new location as, after 23 years, it's finally blooming for the first time!!! We just had to share a couple of photos....



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/

Nanoose Bay Garden Club: nanoosegardenclub.ca/

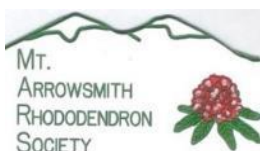
LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT YEAR!

NRS Program:

Our club's program committee (Chris Southwick, Dorothee Kieser, Art and Susan Lightburn, Glenda Barr, and John Denisegeer) have been busy. Working together (isn't it always easier, when we work together?), they have booked speakers for the entire 2019-20 season. You'll notice a fairly diverse range of topics while adding more rhododendron content. As the year progresses, we hope to add more demos and short presentations on topics of interest.

Date	Speaker	Topic
September 2019	Garth Wedemire	Gardens in Wales
October 2019	Main speaker: Margaret Cadwaladr Demo: Paul Wurz on Rhodo cuttings	The Making of Dart's Hill Garden (White Rock)
November 2019	Bill McMillan	Rhododendron Pests and Diseases
December 2019	Christmas potluck and auction	
January 2020	John Denisegeer and June Bouchard	Gardens of New Zealand's North Island
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

ARS 2019 Western Regional Fall Conference:



Coming this Fall!!

ARS 2019 Western Regional Fall Conference

'Rhododendrons by the Seaside' – hosted by the Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society

Sept 27-29, 2019 at the Parksville Community and Conference Center

It's going to be a special event you won't want to miss. Great speakers, tours, workshops, plant sale and more. Registration opened on April 2nd; don't miss out, book early. For more information and to register, visit our website at: <http://marsrhodos.ca/ars2019/>



Wishing you all a wonderful summer!!!