



MARCH 2003



Volume 11

Issue 7

RICHARD'S MEMO

Next month, I will be attending the ARS District 1 President's meeting. This is our voice to the Society, so anything you wish me to pass on, please let me know at Thursday's meeting.

One of the agenda items will be the proposed dues increase for regular membership to the ARS in the amount of \$7 US. \$5 will go to the ARS and \$2 to the local chapter. This will mean a \$7.50 Cdn increase. Your executive has discussed this and recognize that an increase is required for the American Rhododendron Society to remain solvent and, in general, to have a strong society we should support the governing body.

We looked at ways to cover any increase which may be forthcoming:

- a) Chapter to cover with general funds.
- b) Raise funds through a 50/50 draw at each meeting.
- c) Hold a raffle each year, with the proceeds used for dues increase.
- d) Increase dues a little each year to cover increases.

We will discuss the options at the meeting. The ARS National Convention is in Olympia, April 30 to May 3, 2003. This is a great opportunity for us to share ideas with other members from all over the world and broaden our horizons. A tremendous experience is awaiting you. See you at the meeting. Richard.

EXECUTIVE

President	Richard White	752-6519
V/President	Mary Taylor	756-3984
Secretary	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Treasurer	Barb Coy	758-8497
Directors	Dave Ball	729-0456
	Yvonne Harding	756-3574
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	Helmut Neuman	714-1840
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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

<http://rhodos.ca/nanaimo/NewsFeb2003.pdf>

PAST ISSUES

<http://rhodos.ca/nanaimo/newsarchive.htm>

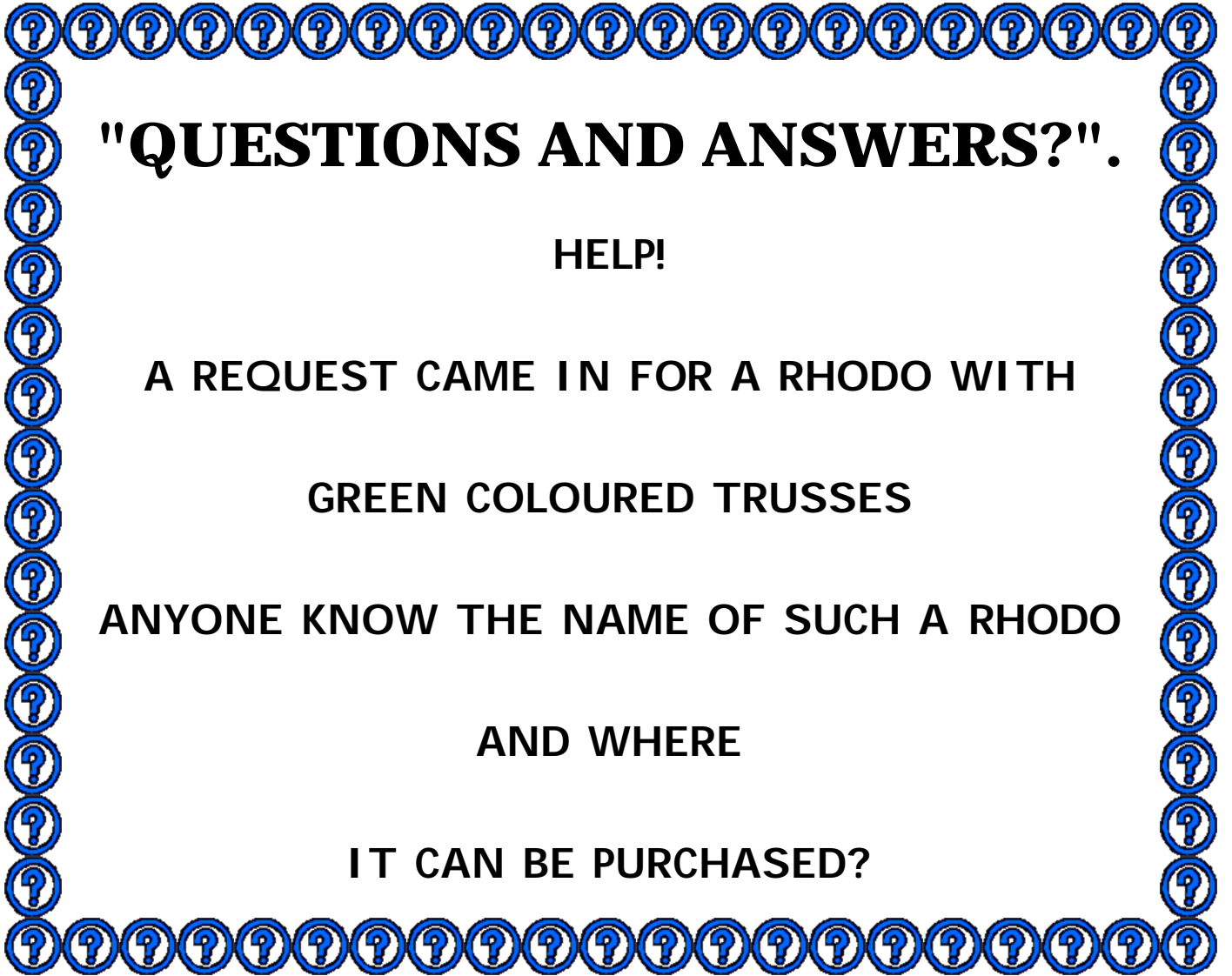
ARS WEBSITE

www.rhododendron.org

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

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"QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS?"

HELP!

**A REQUEST CAME IN FOR A RHODO WITH
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Volunteers to man NRS booth during the CVIBGS Spring Garden Show.

Beban Park Social Centre. March 14 - 16, 2003.

Friday March 14

1.00 - 4.00 p.m. Yvonne Harding.

4.00 - 7.00 p.m. Bill & Mary Hardy.

7.00 - 9.00 p.m. Doug Blenkarn & Chris Southwick.

Saturday March 15

9.00 -12.00 p.m. David Ball & Janet Atkinson.

12.00 – 3.00 p.m. Reinhold Gorgosilich & Chris Southwick.

3.00 - 6.00 p.m. Richard White

6.00 - 9.00 p.m. Bard Coy.

Sunday March 16

9.00 - 12.00 p.m. Craig Clarke, Linda & Paul Lawry

12.00 - 3.00 p.m. Richard White.

3.00 - 5.00 p.m. Barb Coy.

If anyone else wishes to join in, please feel free to come along. We all will have to purchase tickets to enter the Show and of course we will have time to wander around and check everything out. We will require set up after our Thursday meeting, and volunteers to dismantle at 5.00 p.m. on Sunday.

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Nanaimo Rhododendron Society - Minutes of February 13th Regular Meeting 2003

1. The meeting was called to order by President Richard White at 7:35 pm.

2. Richard welcomed members and guests. Attendance, 31.

3. Secretary's report. Correspondence received: letter from Rhododendron Species Foundation with receipt for membership renewal & passes to the garden; letter from the BC Council of Garden Clubs with a receipt for membership and liability insurance. It was moved/seconded/carried that the minutes of the January 2003 meeting be adopted as printed in the newsletter. Letters have been sent out to growers inviting them to participate in the May 10th plant sale.

4. Treasurer's report: The balance in the Bowen Park Legacy Fund is \$157.04
The balance in the general account is \$2232.07
The balance in the library fund is \$397.11

5. Committee Reports:

Library: David Ball has placed an order for books but it has not arrived yet. A book just added to the library (thanks to Chris Southwick who picked it up) is *Frank Kingdon Ward's Riddle of the Tsangpo Gorges* by Kenneth Cox. Margaret Cadwaladr kindly donated a copy of her book *In Veronica's Garden*.

Newsletter: Paul Lawry asked for articles for the newsletter.

Program: March speaker: Clint Smith; April: Lindsay Gibson; May: Norm Todd.

Open Gardens: Doug Blenkarn asked for volunteers to open their gardens to members this season.

6. Old Business

The donation of rhodos to Ucluelet has been postponed until spring.

Preparations are underway for the Truss Show & Plant Sale on May 10th

Bus Tour: John Deniseger reported that the bus tour to the west coast will take place on May 24th. It will include stops at Urban Greenery in Port Alberni, Ken & Dot Gibson's garden in Tofino, Stubbs Island, Ucluelet and Dashwood Nursery. The cost will be \$25.

7. New Business

May truss show and plant sale: the Centennial Building is booked and MARS will loan us their black cloth for the display of trusses.

The Nanaimo Seed Exchange will hold their seedy Sunday on March 2nd.

8. Next executive meeting will be hosted by David Ball February 13th at 7pm

9. Door Prize winners: Janice Quick, Dolores Mason.

Raffle winners: Bill Hardy, Beryl Riches.

Name Tag Draw: Ted Little.

10. Speaker: Margaret Cadwaladr gave a very interesting presentation on the history and development of Milner Garden.



MARCH 13 NRS MEETING: Clint Smith's presentation will be "Celtic Rhododendrons" Which will include Rhododendrons from Ireland and Scotland.

Also he will be bringing 20 to 25 rare or unusual 1gal hybrid and species rhododendrons for sale to each chapter.

The American Rhododendron Society
SILVER MEDAL AWARD

You have been an active advocate for the American Rhododendron Society & done much to promote its advancement. You are an outstanding authority on the genus & with your knowledge are much sought after as a speaker at the local, national and international level. New enthusiasts & old-timers alike have enjoyed your talks on rhododendron history, hybridizing, culture & landscaping. You have used these engagements to promote the Society by cultivation new memberships, nurturing new chapters and supporting the Seed Exchange as well as holding a variety of chapter offices. Your effort on behalf of the Rhododendron Species foundation has been tireless.

Your joy & love of rhododendrons is contagious. You have a ready smile & an outgoing personality that allows you to "connect" with people. You have given freely of your time, talent & plants.

For your outstanding service, the American Rhododendron Society is proud to award the Silver Medal to

Clint Smith



MARCH GOODIES

- Mary Hardy
- Ann Davey
- Val Harvey
- David Scobie



LIBRARY NEWS

NEW ARRIVALS FOR YOUR READING PLEASURE

We were most fortunate to welcome Margaret Cadwaladr at our last meeting and even more so when Margaret donated, and autographed, her book "In Veronica's Garden" to our library, thank you Margaret for such a wonderful gift.

In Veronica's Garden

Margaret Cadwaladr

In Veronica's Garden is the remarkable true story of a garden and the larger than life personality of its creator. This is a record of the development of the Milner Gardens and Woodland, a stunningly beautiful garden nestled into the Canadian West Coast Douglas-fir forest

Insects and Gardens

Eric Grissell

Per Timber Press "If the estimates of some scientists hold true, there may be as many as 29 million species of insects still to be discovered. Although our society has declared war on insects, to the tune of about 1 billion pounds of pesticides applied in the United States in a recent year, insects are not likely to surrender. In this intriguing book, professional entomologist and amateur gardener Grissell suggests that it might be time to declare a truce with the enemy. Gardeners may be surprised to discover the hidden wonders of the insect world when these creatures are welcomed into the garden"

Aroids Plants of the Arum Family

Deni Brown

Per Timber Press "Aroids are best known for their dramatic foliage and unique floral structure, but because they grow in environmental conditions ranging from tropical rain forest to semidesert, wetlands, and mountain regions, they are not readily recognized as a group. In this compelling natural history, Deni Brown emphasizes the habitats and ecology of aroids, their anatomy and reproduction, their medicinal and folk uses, and their potential as food crops"

Dirr's Hardy Trees and Shrubs

Michael A., Dirr

Per Timber Press "This lavishly illustrated encyclopedia describes the best woody plants, from *Abeliophyllum* to *Zenobia*, adapted to cooler climates. It shows both habitat and details —flower, fruit, fall color – for more than 500 species and describes some 700 additional cultivars and varieties, many of which are illustrated"

Lasagna Gardening

Patricia Lanza

The author introduces us to a new gardening system that works, so we do not have to. Turn in your tiller for a stack of old newspapers, grass clippings and peat moss. Pat Lanza show us how to create a lush successful, easy-to-care for gardens without hours of back-breaking digging or tilling.

The book is full of tips and time saving techniques and how to grow vegetables, herbs, berries, and flowers using the lasagna method. A no-till, no-dig method that will save you many hours of hard work, so you can enjoy your garden even more.



Dig This~5299 Rutherford Rd, Nanaimo 756-0049

FREE LECTURE SERIES *is back again!*
Saturday, 11:00am at the store.

March 8 ~ Seed Starting w/Richard White (owner Hazelwood Herb Farm)

March 22 ~ West Coast Gardening w/ Mary Palmer (author ABC's of West Coast Gardening)

PLUS...

March 29 ~ Nanaimo Horticultural Society's Great Garage Sale, Brechin United Church, 1998 Estevan Rd, 9:00am -2:00pm. Phone Leslie @ 756-0049 for more info.

April 26th Nanaimo Horticultural Society's Plentiful Plant Sale, Rutherford Mall, 9:00am-2:00pm. Contact Leslie @ 756-0049 for more info.

NIRS PLANT SALE AND GARDEN TOUR DATES

Plant Sale May 4th 10:00 -3:00

Garden Tour May 10th 10:00 - 4:00

For more information contact: Bernie Guyader : jbg@telus.net

KEN GIBSON sent the following blooming information on his Rhodos: (Sent mid Feb)

R nobleatum coxinenum three weeks passed
R Heatherside Beauty flowers falling
R Christmas Cheer flowers falling
R Harry Carter some browning last nite .. has been outstanding ---3 bushes
R Princess Abagasi-Irratum two weeks out
R Prince Abagasi -- irratum two weeks out
R smittii bright red two weeks out
R barbatum bright red two weeks out
R PJM just coming out
R Goldilock's just coming out
R cream crest just coming out
R Seata ...out (really nice)
R dauricum out
R mucronulatum out
R Giganticum...beautiful flower will attempt to send
R Peter Faulk...first red Hybrid (only a few flowers out)

I missed a few but this is a round-up of the early birds



NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY WEST COAST GARDEN TOUR

Once again, we've chartered a bus and we're heading off in a new direction this year. Two years ago we went south to Victoria, last year we went north to Campbell River and Courtenay, this year we're going west to **Port Alberni, and Tofino.**

When: Saturday, May 24, 2003

The bus will meet be leaving from the north end of Woodgrove Mall (near Chapters) at 7 am.

Cost \$25 per person (non members welcome)

Our Itinerary

0700 – leave Woodgrove Mall
1st Stop - Urban Greenery Nursery – Port Alberni
2nd Stop – Ken and Dot Gibson's – Tofino
Midday – Stubbs Island by boat from Tofino
- Bring a **picnic** lunch for Stubbs Island
Midafternoon – Depart Stubbs Island for Tofino
1500 – Depart Tofino
1530 – Drive through entry to Ucluelet to see Rhododendron
donations and plantings
Late afternoon – Dashwood Nursery – Port Alberni
19:00 – Return to Nanaimo

As always, we'll have door prizes and fun on the bus.



THE BUSY MONTH OF MARCH

<http://www.thegardenhelper.com/>

Shrubs and trees

- In most areas it is still possible to do dormant spraying of fruit trees until the 15th, after that date dilute the spray by 1/2. Spraying should be done on a still day with the temperature above 40 degrees F.
- Late March and early April is a good time to transplant shrubs and trees. As soon as the soil is workable, but before buds have swelled or broken open, you can move shrubs and trees.
- Fertilize shrubs and trees if this wasn't done in February. Use an acid type rhododendron fertilizer to feed evergreens, conifers, broad leaf evergreens, rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias. Use an all-purpose fertilizer to feed roses and other deciduous trees and shrubs. If you use granular type fertilizers, be sure to water it in thoroughly.
- Finish pruning fruit trees this month - before the buds swell.

Perennials, annuals, and bulbs

- There is often a strong temptation to start removing winter mulches from your flower beds.... *WAIT!!!* Pull the mulch off gradually as the plants show signs of new growth. The purpose of winter mulch is to act as a protector from sudden changes of temperature and chilling winds, so keep in mind that it is still winter. Acclimatize your plants by removing the mulch over a period of days, allowing the light and air to reach the new growth slowly. It is much better to remove the mulch a little later than to remove it too early.
- Roses can be pruned this month. Severe pruning results in nicer, long stemmed flowers and more compact bushes. Begin to spray roses for blackspot. Feed roses.
- Sow seeds of summer blooming annuals indoors. Seeds which were started indoors last month may be transplanted from the flats into peat pots and given dilute fertilizer.
- Alternating thawing and freezing can tear plant roots and even force the plant right out of it's hole. If you notice any plants that have heaved, push them back into the earth, and tamp *lightly* with your foot.
- Divide and transplant summer blooming perennials and fertilize established ones as soon as new growth appears.
- Plant tender bulbs and tubers (gladiola, lilies and dahlias). You may continue planting additional bulbs every two weeks until mid June to ensure a continuous source of bloom.
- Prune winter Jasmine after flowering; cut honeysuckle back to 3ft.
- Cut back established penstemons. Divide snowdrops while in leaf.
- Remove all dead blooms from bulbs.
- Fertilize any bulbs that have finished blooming with bone meal or bulb booster.
- Plant Primroses and Pansies
- Pinch off tips of Sweet Pea seedlings and Mums, when they are 4 inches tall.

(Continued on page 10)



(Continued from page 9)

Fruits and veggies

- ❑ Take a little time to prepare the vegetable garden soil for planting. The addition of well-rotted manure, processed manure, peat moss or compost are good additives for building compost humus in the soil.
- ❑ Peas and sweet peas may be planted right now as well as perennial vegetables like Asparagus, Rhubarb, Horseradish and artichokes. Eggplant, brussels sprouts, cauliflower, celery, leeks, onions, early potatoes, and radish seeds may be planted in the garden about mid month. Spinach, Chard, Cabbage, Cauliflower, and other hardy vegetables can be seeded or set out late in the month.
- ❑ Plant Strawberries, Blueberries, Currants, Loganberries, Boysenberries, Grapes and fruit trees.
- ❑ Add some steer manure around your [Rhubarb](#). Time to start tomatoes, lettuce, and many other vegetables [from seed](#).

Odds and ends

- ❑ The most dreaded tasks of all is weeding, but it is one that really needs to be accomplished before the weeds have a chance to flower and go to seed. Remember once the weeds go to seed you can be fighting that weed seed for up to seven years or more. Most weeds can simply be pulled or cultivated out of the garden while they are young.
- ❑ Turn the compost pile, adding any course mulch which was removed from the garden to it.
- ❑ Keep an eye out for Aphids (spray off with water) and Cutworms (Cutworm Dust).
- ❑ Repair damaged areas of the lawn.... Dethatch, rake or aerate. Apply Dolomite Lime to sweeten the soil if needed. Most lawns will need a spring feeding but if thatching or liming needs to be done, do those jobs first.. If moss is a problem, a combination fertilizer and moss killer can be applied, to do both jobs in one easy application. Over-seeding can be done as the last step, after the lawn has been fertilized.
- ❑ [Test your soil for pH](#) to see if any amendments are necessary. A general rule of thumb is to add 4 lbs. of lime per 100 sq. ft. of garden for every pH point *below* 6.5, or 1 lb. of sulfur per 100 sq. ft. for every pH point *above* 7.5. Sawdust, composted oak leaves, wood chips, peat moss, cottonseed meal, and leaf mold lower the pH while ashes of hardwoods, bone meal, crushed marble, and crushed oyster shells raise the pH. The best way to adjust pH is gradually, over several seasons.
- ❑ March is a good time to note areas of poor drainage. If there are pools of water in your yard that do not drain. Fill in the low spot or scoop out a channel for the water to drain away.
- ❑ Clean out all of your birdhouses now, so that they will be ready when the birds return.
- ❑ Repair any fencing, arbors, or trellis work that is weak or has broken over the winter ... before you get too busy!
- ❑ Check the plants under the eaves of the house and under tall evergreens to see that they have sufficient moisture.