

March 2009 March 2009



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Finally some rain, maybe spring is finally here – my snow drops are out and the daffodils are starting to pop up. But don't be in a rush to rake the debris from around your plants; we may still have cold weather coming.

As mentioned previously, the Truss Show and plant sale will be held at McGirr School this May 9^{th,}, Please sign up to assist at the show even if it is only for a few hours. We will need help on Friday evening, May 8, to set up the tables and register the trusses. On Saturday we will have to unload the plants from the grower's truck and cart them into the Gym. We are also looking for cashiers and members to wander around and assist buyers. For further details please contact me at 390-2370.

Our annual bus tour will be on May 16 – we will be going to Tofino (see notice). Sign up ASAP so you don't miss out.

We raised \$35.00 at the last meeting towards the purchase of an audio system and we will continue to have the "mini-auction", - donations appreciated!

Attached to this edition of the newsletter is a survey. Please read and fill out the questionnaire – the input from you will assist the executive in future planning. The surveys can be returned to the address at the right or bring them to the meeting. We would like them returned ASAP but no later than the April meeting. Please call me if you have any questions.

EXECUTIVE

President Vice President Secretary Treasurer Directors	Paul Lawry John Deniseger June Bouchard Chris Southwick Glenda Barr Linda Lawry Sandra Dorman Barb Coy Rosina Schmidt	390-2370 390-3605 390-3605 758-0993 390-2822 390-2370 390-0136 758-8497 751-3386		
COMMITTEES				
Advertising	Michael Miller	758-2879		
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574		
	Helene Sullivan	758-7023		
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	245-7879		
Membership	Debbie Gaboury & Barb Coy			
Program	Glenda Barr	390-2822		
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey			
Social	Sandra Dorman	390-0136		
Dollar Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533		

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Paul



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GOODIES FOR MARCH MEETING

Helene Sullivan Pat Schulson Rosina Schmidt

NANOOSE EDIBLES presents GARDENERS WORKSHOP: Year-round food self sufficiency from your home garden

> March 15, 1 – 4 pm Nanoose Place Or March 16, 7 – 9:30 pm Bowen Park Complex, Room 1 \$45 (250) 468-2332 neorg@telus.net for a registration form

MILNER GARDENS AND WOODLAND SPRING HARBINGER DAYS

March 7 & 8 10 am to 3 pm admission by donation

enjoy the early spring colour and relax with a cup of tea and scones in the Tearoom

RHODENDRON SPECIES FOUNDATION Spring catalogue is available online:

http://www.rsf.citymax.com/f/2009SpringDistributi onCatalog.pdf

Allen McRae (allengaylle@shaw.ca) has kindly agreed to coordinate the orders from members. A print copy of the catalogue will be available at the March meeting. The plants will be available for pickup from UBC the week of April 20 – 24.

N.R.S. Bus Tour 2009 Saturday, May 16th, 2009



This year, it's time to head west towards Port Alberni and Tofino. We've put together a great mixture of gardens, a visit to Stubbs Island, a nursery, and even a special stop at a local winery.

Cost: \$40.00 per person (includes wine tasting, tea and cheese)

Where do we meet? Chapters at Woodgrove



parking lot – the bus will be leaving at 7:00 am.

Don't forget to bring a picnic lunch

Sign up early so you don't miss out. Bring a friend...

Our March Program

In March our program will be "Rhododendron Culture on East Vancouver Island - how to meet the challenges and maximize the enjoyment". We will be presenting an "Expert Panel", consisting of Ken Webb, Terry Richmond and Dick Beamish. For those who don't know Ken, he's from Victoria, and specializes in propagation. Terry lives in Port Alberni, and has extensive and diverse experience with rhododendrons, having had his own nursery. Dick Beamish has been growing rhodos locally for many years, and his home on Hammond Bay Road is often noted by locals for the early blooms on the roadside. The question to start things off will be asked of each panelist, "What would be the first piece of advice you would give to someone just starting to grow rhododendrons?"

It will be a fairly general Q&A session, to best meet the needs of the members. Questions can be emailed to me at <u>applegal2@msn.com</u> and I will then pass them along to the panel to allow them to be better prepared.

NRS Meetings Minutes

Date: __February 12/2009_

- 1. Meeting called to order at <u>7:35</u>.
- 2. Number of people present: <u>40</u>
- 3. President, Paul Lawry, welcomed guests! Welcome back Mary Taylor!

4. President's report:

- **New!!!** At each meeting, we will have a mini-auction at the beginning of the meeting to raise funds for a new sound system and a digital projector.
- Auctioned off tonight:
- Crater Lake X ?: \$20.00 to Allen McRae
- Pachy X Makinoi: \$15.00 to Dick Beamish
- 5. Secretary's Report: M/S/C to adopt the minutes of the last meeting as printed in the newsletter. Moved Allen McRae; seconded Glenda Barr
- 6. Correspondence: Thank you card from Salvation Army for donation from our Christmas Auction.
- 7. Treasurer's Report: \$3,209.47 in our NRS books, with \$173.70 sent off to the Salvation Army which is 10 percent of the \$1737.00 we made at the auction/raffle at Christmas.

8. Committee Reports:

- Program:
 - March meeting: expert panel coming confirmed Dick Beamish and Ken Webb, more to be confirmed. Please forward questions to Glenda's email <u>Glenda barr@telus.net</u> (note underscore between Glenda and Barr) to be sent to panel ahead of time.
 - April meeting: Glen Jamieson from MARS on Tropical Rhododendrons of Borneo
- Membership:
- Social:
 - o Goodies for next month: Hélène Sullivan, Pat Schulson, Rosina Schmidt.
 - Cards were sent to members who needed cheering.
 - o If you know of anyone needing cheering, let Sandra know.
- Dollar Table:
- Raffle/Door Prize:
- Library:
- Other:
 - Our **annual bus tour** will be going west this year. Mark Saturday, May 16th on your calendar. The visit will include Stubbs Island and ken Gibson's garden in Tofino; the rest of the itinerary and the cost to be confirmed by next meeting. There will also be a sign-up sheet at that time.
 - Our annual Plant Sale and Truss show will be on Saturday, May 9th at McGirr School this year instead of Beban Park. A sign-up sheet for volunteer helpers was circulated. Invitation to attend will be sent to growers within the next couple of weeks. Suggestion to get from growers ahead of time a list of what they will be bringing. Also, if you have specific requests of rhodos you'd like growers to bring, please let someone from the executive know as soon as possible.
- 9. Raffle/Door prizes winners: Lots of great prizes and numerous lucky winners!!!
- 10. **Program for tonight**: Carla and Bill Bischoff did an excellent presentation on Cyclamens as a great companion plant to rhododendrons. Bill highlighted the variety of cyclamens and gave a great overview of the history and background to this beautiful genus. He mentioned that he club could join the Cyclamen society of England; you can get free seeds!!! Also not that from the society's website, you can download lots of great information. A reminder that seeds need to germinate in the dark and the best time to collect the seeds is July and August. Carla was a great source of pertinent information at the back table where a great selection of cyclamen were available for purchase.

Meeting adjourned at <u>9:35</u>.

Cyclamen species By Bill Bischoff

Cyclamen alpinum, syn. C. trochopteranthum is a species in the C. coum group from southwestern Turkey where it grows in rocky areas, deciduous woodlands, and scrub. Flowers occur in spring and vary from pinkish carmine to white with a darker stain around the mouth. The petals are twisted, like a ship's propeller. The leaves are rounded or heart shaped with shallow toothing and silver green markings. This Cyclamen will thrive in a sunny rock-garden.

Cyclamen africanum is very similar to Cyclamen hederifolium in appearance, but is one of the least hardy species, whereas C. hederifolium is one of the most hardy. It is from North Africa. It blooms in the fall sometimes with leaves and sometimes not. It has pale pink to deep pink flowers with auricles and the flowers arise erect from the tuber. Each petal has a basal purple or crimson magenta V-shaped blotch. It requires a dry summer dormancy, with watering commencing in late summer to fall and continuing through the growing season, and protection from the frost.





Cyclamen balearicum is a species in the repandum complex from the Balearic Islands and south eastern France where it grows in shaded or semi-shaded places, in pinewoods and scrub land. It blooms in spring and has small white fragrant flowers with pale pink veins and leaves that are less lobed than C. repandum, with a more grey and marbled pattern. Some of the leaves are silvery grey or silver.

Cyclamen cilicium is a species in the cilicium group that blooms in autumn. It grows from tubers that root from the base. Leaves are unlobed and the pink and white flowers are without auricles. It is easy to grow and flowers prolifically. It is endemic to south eastern Turkey where it grows in the shade and may receive some moisture while dormant during the long, hot summers.





Cyclamen colchicum is found in a

limited region of the Caucasus Mountains in woodland on dolomitic limestone. It was once thought to be a subspecies of Cyclamen purpurascens, but it has thicker and more leathery leaves with veins sunk into the leaf surface and a finely toothed horny margin which gives it a beaded effect. It has carmine-pink flowers which appear from July to October with the leaves.

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Cyclamen coum is one of the hardier species and one of the easiest to grow. It flowers in early winter or spring and is from the mountains of Bulgaria, Turkey and Lebanon, usually in shaded places. Leaf color can be shiny green or silvery or have silvery-green zones as in the leaves pictured below.

Cyclamen coum ssp. coum has kidney-shaped to rounded leaves with untoothed or slightly toothed margins. Flowers are small with white eyes at the base of the petals.

Cyclamen coum ssp. coum forma albissimum has pure white flowers without any markings. Collected in Israel at the 'Golan Heights', has plain, unmarked leaves.





Cyclamen creticum is a native of Crete where it is found in open rocky places or under bushes. Heart-shaped leaves are toothed and dark green splashed with silvery markings and flowers are usually white or occasionally pale pink and fragrant. This species is tender and blooms in the spring.

Cyclamen creticum forma pallide-roseum is the name used for pink-flowered forms of this species.

Cyclamen cyprium is an autumn flowering species with white fragrant flowers from Cyprus where it grows mostly in mountain woodland. It has corky tubers that root only from the base. The leaves are lobed and olive green marked or splashed with grey, green or pewter. The thin small flowers are auricled with a purple or magenta "M"-shaped mark at the base of each petal.



Cyclamen elegans syn. Cyclamen coum ssp elegans is

a species in its own right, but closely related to C. coum. It has heart-shaped leaves that are marbled above usually with a hastate pattern. Both the leaves and the larger flowers are much more pointed than other Cyclamen coum. The flowers are mid pink with a darker pink blotch. It is from Northern Iran where it grows in forests at low elevations, near the Caspian Sea. It is rare in cultivation and probably less hardy.

Cyclamen graecum This interesting and charming autumn-flowering species forms an entity of its own, with several characters that are unique to the genus. The species Cyclamen graecum is grown for its autumn flowers as well as for its handsome and often striking foliage, which comes in a great range of patterning and



colouring. It is native to southern Greece, the Greek Islands, southern Turkey and Cyprus and blooms from September to November and has pale to deep pink flowers with 3 magenta pencil-line streaks at the base of each petal and auricles around the mouth. The tuber is globose and corky and fleshy roots come from the center underside. Cyclamen leaves change even in the same season (but also from season to season as the plant matures). The populations of **C. graecum** on the Mani Peninsula in the Peloponnese region of southern Greece are notable for large flowers and leaves and strong coloration. As an interesting BTW, Mr. Christopher Grey-Wilson mentioned in his Cyclamen

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book that in the autumn of 1992 he was in the company of Jack Elliott whilst leading a Field Studies Council expedition to the Peloponnese. The previous day he said they had been remarking that the pure white C. graecum seemed to be extremely scarce, and that it must be pure luck to come upon one. The following day, on the outskirts of Gythion, the first and only white C. graecum was spotted, but they never saw another one like it in the following ten days, search as they might.

Cyclamen graecum ssp. anatolicum is found in Turkey, Rhodes, and Cyprus. It has leaves with beaded and lobed margins, sweetly scented white to pink flowers with poorly developed auricles and a basal blotch that is more solid and does not usually extend along the veins..

Cyclamen graecum ssp. candicum is from the White Mountains of Western Crete. It has smaller white, sometimes flushed with pale pink, flowers above compact dark, pointed foliage that is often intricately marbled and reddish purple or crimson beneath.

Cyclamen graecum ssp. graecum is found on mainland Greece and some of the Islands. It has ovate leaves that are green or grey-green and pink flowers with well-developed auricles that are mostly unscented and marked with a basal blotch that extends along the veins. Its flowers appear above, or before the wonderfully patterned leaves.

Cyclamen graecum ssp. graecum forma album This beautiful white flowered form of Cyclamen graecum, is an exquisite plant, and as easy to grow as the normal pink ones. A good plant can produce in excess of 100 blooms and is a truly arresting sight in full flower. This rare white flowered plant was only found in 1980 in the Greek Peloponnese. It has been stated that this particular species requires a long summer baking in order to perform well and a warm, secluded and sheltered site should be chosen.

Cyclamen hederifolium is one that is most easily grown. It is easy to grow in sun or semi-shade and is one of the hardier species. Its flowers are produced in late summer to autumn just before the leaves. Photos one, two and three are by Arnold Trachtenberg. Photo four is by Angelo Porcelli, taken in habitat in Apulia, Italy. Photos five, six and seven illustrate some of the wonderful leaf patterns of this species, illustrations of fabulous foliage taken by Bill Dijk.

Cyclamen hederifolium var. confusum is a tetraploid variety which occurs in the southern extremities of the species range. This variety has bright green leaves with a poorly defined hastate pattern that are shallowly lobed with obscure marginal teeth.

Cyclamen hederifolium var. poli is a rarely seen form or variety of this very variable species. Its sagittate leaves are the main feature, and it is reported to have scented flowers, too. First records of this curious variant were made in the early nineteenth century by Michele Tenore and other Italian botanists. It was formally named by Stefano Delle Chiaje, (1794-1860), whose name is spelled Delle Chiaie in modern Italian. Funny, at that age someone speculated it was a hybrid with Arum italicum!





Cyclamen intaminatum comes from western Turkey, where it grows mostly in deciduous woodland sites. It is one of the smaller species so is usually grown as a container plant, even though it is winter-hardy down to at least 20 degrees F. The plants shown were grown from seed and are four

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years old from sowing. These plants have plain green leaves, but marbled leaves are also known.



Cyclamen libanoticum comes from a very small area in Lebanon. Its affinities within the genus Cyclamen are open to debate. This is the first bloom on a batch grown from seed (February 2005). Photo one by Jim Shields. The second photo is by John Lonsdale

Cyclamen mirabile is an autumn blooming species very similar to Cyclamen

cilicum. It is found in woodland and hilly rocky places in southwest Turkey. It has pale to deep pink flowers with toothed petal lobes and a stain around the mouth. The heartshaped leaves, which appear about the same time as the flowers have a hastate pattern in grey-green, cream or silver and scalloped margins. Sometimes the new leaves are flushed pink.



Cyclamen mirabile 'Tilebarn Nicholas' a selection from Peter Moore, has leaves with a green tree shaped center surrounded by a silver band. The young leaves have a pink tinge that fades with time.

Cyclamen peloponnesiacum syn. Cyclamen repandum ssp. peloponnesiacum from the Peloponnesian Peninsula of southern Greece has silver splashed leaves or sometimes speckled leaves and pink flowers with a deeper carmine- base. It is one of the last species to break dormancy for me, sometimes not until March. The leaves are heart shaped. It self seeds freely. Grow it in a sunny location.

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Cyclamen persicum is the species used for all the largeflowers cultivars that are available for purchase. It is from the eastern Mediterranean where it grows in open rocky areas and in scrub. It blooms in winter or early spring with fragrant plain white, white with a carmine mouth, or pinkish carmine flowers. Leaves are variable.

Cyclamen pseudibericum is a very attractive species from Turkey. It has purplish carmine large fragrant flowers with a dark stain around the mouth and a white rim. The heart shaped leaves have toothed margins and sometimes are beautifully marked with silver and green.



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Cyclamen purpurascens is the only evergreen Cyclamen. It is native to mountain woods and rocky places



in the eastern Alps. Flowers appear from late summer to late autumn and are pale to deep carmine and do not have auricles around the mouth. It is nicely scented, but not as easy to grow and flower as some of the other species. It benefits from being kept cool and not allowed to dry out in summer, being planted deeply, and being well mulched. I have to watch my plants for mites, which hasn't been much of a problem with the other species I grow. The first photo was taken by Mary Sue Ittner and the second by Hans Joschko. He wrote: These plants grow without any problems in my garden from many different locations: Lake Lugano (Italy), Lake Garda (Italy), the woods near Vienna (Austria), Savoyen (France), Istria (Croatia), and Lake Plitvice (Croatia). Photos three, four and five are by John Lonsdale.

Cyclamen purpurascens forma album is a white form that has only been found in the wild a few times over the years. Photo by Hans Joschko who writes: "I have two of this really rare plant, and I hope that it multiplies well in the future."

Cyclamen purpurascens forma carmineolineatum named by P.A.H. Hendrikx in 2000 is a new form that closely resembles C. purpurascens forma album Grey-Wilson. It is distinguished from the latter by the presence of a distinct carmine zone around the mouth. Photo from Hans Joschko who writes: "I have found only one plant of this type in a large population of Cyclamen purpurascens in the French Alps (Savoyen) opposite Mt. Blanc."

Cyclamen repandum, a species from southern Europe is one of the last species to break dormancy for me, sometimes not until March. The leaves are heart shaped with a narrow and deep sinus making them almost triangular. They are angled and lobed and often toothed. Flowers often appear with or soon after the leaves and are white to pale or deep pink, often with a pink or purplish red zone around the mouth, or carmine magenta or reddish purple. Petals are sometimes twisted.

Cyclamen repandum ssp. repandum grows in dappled shade in leaf litter, rock crevices, or at the bases of trees. Leaves are green with a grey-green or silver hastate pattern, but without flecking. Flowers are carmine-pink or carmine-magenta. Grown from seed not designated by subspecies, this plant seems to fit the description for this subspecies.



Cyclamen rohlfsianum is the most tender species, originating in Libya. It is autumn flowering and has large lobed leaves that are usually wider than long and are deep green with silver patterns. The flowers are distinctive as they have a protruding cone of stamens. The tubers are large and uneven and the flower stalks coiled from the base upwards as in C. graecum.

editor's note: the photographs referred to in this article were not provided images have been taken from the Cyclamen Society website <u>http://www.cyclamen.org/indexCS.html</u>

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society

Questionnaire 2009

We need your help to get a feeling for what you want from and for your Rhododendron Society. What kind of programs and special events would you like for this year?

PLEASE RETURN ASAP BUT NO LATER THAN THE APRIL MEETING. complete the questionnaire and *bring it to the meeting* or mail it to: Nanaimo Rhododendron Society, Box 241, Nanaimo, B.C. V9R 5K9. and you can also reply by email to: <u>rhodogarden@gmail.com</u>.

1) You attend meetings: (Check one or more)

To hear from experts
To learn basic skills
To socialize with other rhodoholics and other gardeners
To share your knowledge
For plant sales
To check out books
To win the door prize
Other(explain)
2) Do you come to meetings regularly: Yes No
If you do not attend regularly, is there anything you would like to encourage you to come more frequently? Comments
3) Is the 7:30 starting convenient? Or would a different time suit you better if so, what time?
4) Do you attend social events: Christmas Auction/party Spring Picnic
Any suggestions for these or other events?
Comments
5) Would you like to have the minutes of the executive meetings?
Printed in the newsletter
Available at monthly meetings only
6) Do you have suggestions for articles in the newsletter?

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY Any suggestions for format changes?

	ing to assist with new	vsletter articles?	Yes_		No	
) Monthly program:	a) The business por					
	The right length	Too long	Too short_			
	b) The feature prog					
	The right length	Too long	Too short_			
	cts particularly intere					-
) Would you like led Primarily Rho Companion p All gardening	lants in a Rhodo gard subjects? niques ? (propagation	oward (check on				-
0) Do you prefer e	ducational presentat	ions? or tu	n' presentation	is? or a i	mix (including	games.
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17) Are you interested in plant sales:		
Plants donated by members?		
Nursery sales: Rhodos?		
Specialty plants?		
Other plant sale suggestions:		
18) Do you contribute plants to the member's plant sales?	Yes	No
If not, would you consider contributing plants to the sales?	Yes	No
19) Your comments on the fund raising activities: Too much fund raising?		
OK to raise funds to continue programs and activities on exis	-	
Increase fund raising for activities listed in Question 21. If s		
willing to help with fund raising activities?	Yes	No
 20) The major fund raisers are the annual rhodo sale in May and the continue having The May sale? The Xmas auction? 	Christmas auction.	Would you like to
Are you willing to help with these activities?	Yes	No
Suggestions for improving the May sale (e.g., more demos, pres	entations)	
 21) Please rate the following club activities which depend on the fun least important) Hailey Gardens (Rhodo Grove) Participate in Horticultural show Library 	nds we can raise (1=	most important, 4=
Expert Speakers for club program		
Please give us your comments.		
If you would like to comment further or have the club executive answ	wer any questions for	or you on any of the

above topics, make sure to include your name on the questionnaire.

If you can offer to help with any of the society's activities please let us know.

Your Name	(opt	tional)
Phone Number	(op	tional)

Thank you for your input. Your 2009/2010 Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Executive