

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



March 2010
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our weather has been a little too warm and it seems that the plants are responding by starting to bloom early. You might want to cover some of your less hardy Rhodos with sheets or burlap to protect the buds from freezing.

We had a great turn out for our February meeting – 54 persons in attendance for Dr. Richard Hebda's presentation. The March presentation will be by Art Lightburn, who has been attending our meetings and donating plants for our mini auction.

We would like to have some Friday evening Garden Tours – see the article in this newsletter. Consider offering your garden for our members to enjoy.

Craig Clarke has volunteered to chair the May Truss Show & Plant Sale. He will be needing assistance – you can contact him or any member of the executive if you are willing to volunteer your time.

Hope you are enjoying our lovely weather, but don't forget to come to the meeting Thursday.

Paul

EXECUTIVE

President	Paul Lawry	816-2370
Past President	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Vice President	John Denisegeer	390-3605
Secretary	June Bouchard	390-3605
Treasurer	Gerry Moore	756-1427
Directors	Glenda Allard Barr	390-2822
	Linda Lawry	390-2370
	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
	Chris Southwick	390-3415
	Debbie Gaboury	758-1204
	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533

COMMITTEES

Advertising	vacant	
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574
	Helene Sullivan	758-7023
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Membership	Debbie Gaboury	
Program	Glenda Allard Barr	390-2822
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey	
Social	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Bargain Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society
Box 241, #1 – 5765 Turner Road
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4
Website: nanaimo.rhodos.ca
email: nanaimo@rhodos.ca

NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH 11

BEBAN PARK SOCIAL CENTRE LOUNGE

7:30 pm

ART LIGHTBURN

'The Scottish Rhododendron Silver Jubilee'

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

TWIGS AND STEMS



GOODIES FOR MARCH

I hope you know who you are,
as Sandra did not tell me!

MILNER GARDEN AND WOODLAND presents

GARY LEWIS

Western Australian plants suitable for
growing locally

March 25 7:00 pm
Qualicum Beach Civic Centre
\$10 at the door



OUR MARCH SPEAKER ART LIGHTBURN

This trip included a 3 week UK tour, traveling by train. The PowerPoint presentation will include a visit to some of the more well known gardens of South England and Southwest Scotland: Wisely, Kew, Exbury and of course, the gardens around Edinburgh, including the Royal Botanical Gardens of Edinburgh and the Cox's garden (Glendoik) in Perth.



Garden Tours

The executive has approved the re-introduction of scheduled tours of NRS members' gardens. Our gardens represent an untapped resource. Aside from the social and enjoyment aspect, garden visits provide a great educational opportunity for all concerned and can be an excellent opportunity to enlarge our membership. It is proposed that we arrange garden tours for most Fridays from 6-8PM, from mid April to mid June. Ideally, 2 gardens in reasonable proximity will be available for visiting. Obviously the success of such a program will depend on members' willingness to open their gardens and to attend at least some of the gardens offered. Information about each garden will include the address, directions and general descriptions of the garden and will be mentioned at the meetings, in the newsletter, and via email. Your participation is being encouraged. If you are willing to open your garden and for any further information, please contact:

Doug Blenkarn
250-756-0951
ddblenkarn@shaw.ca

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

The 10th Annual N.R.S. Bus Tour Saturday, April 24th, 2010



Continuing our tradition of visiting a great mixture of gardens, nurseries, and special places, it's our turn to head south towards Victoria this year. Details will be announced at the March 11th meeting.

Cost: \$40 to \$45 per person (will be finalized in time for the March 11th meeting)

Where do we meet? At the Northfield/Nanaimo Parkway 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...

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

NRS Meetings Minutes

Date: Wednesday, February 10, 2010

1. Meeting called to order at 7:35
2. Number of people present: 54
3. President, Paul Lawry, welcomed guests:
A lot of guests tonight for our special presentation; welcome everyone.
4. **President's report:**
 - We will try to keep the business part of the meeting shorter this evening.
 - We have finally purchased our new projector and the final cost was under budget.
 - Please note the wonderful rhododendrons that are already in bloom so early in the year. Thank you Ann Beamish for bringing in most of the rhodo flowers.
 - Please check our raffle table as well as our bargain table.
5. **Secretary's Report:** M/S/C to adopt the minutes of the last meeting as printed in the newsletter.
6. **Correspondence:** No new correspondence.
7. **Treasurer's Report:** Our treasurer is away on holiday.
8. **Committee Reports:**
 - Program: Our March program will be Art Lightburn talking about gardens he visited when he attended the Edinburgh Conference.
 - Membership: We now have 49 registered members.
 - Social: Sandra is away; thank you Linda for making coffee in her absence.
 - Bargain Table: Some great bargains – see Reinhold.
 - Raffle/Door Prize: Check the raffle table and make sure to buy your tickets at the break. Thank you Val and Ann for taking care of the raffle table each month.
 - Other:
 - o Memorial for Beryl Riches was on Friday, February 12th.
 - o Don't miss our **annual plant sale** which will be on Saturday, May 8th at Beban Park.
 - o We will have an **information table at Art Knapp** on Saturday, May 1st. Sign up sheet for volunteers will be available at our next meeting.
 - o Our **10th annual bus tour** will be on Saturday, April 24th and we're going south this year. A few highlights include gardens of Alan and Sandy Campbell's, Ken and Madeleine Webb's, Nick and Evelyn Weesje's, and quite likely some wine tasting. The cost is not confirmed yet but likely will be \$40 to \$45 per person. Please let John know if you're interested.
 - o Auction of special plant generously donated by Art Lightburn: *R. auriculatum*. Sold to Craig Clark for \$20.00. Money to go towards the 2010 ARS Convention fund.
9. Raffle/Door prizes winners: Many happy winners! ☺

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10. Program for tonight:

Richard Hebda gave a very interesting and informative presentation entitled:

Facing Climate Change in our Landscape and in our Gardens (Climate Change: Unprecedented Transformation is Underway – Reduce Emissions and Prepare for Change!)

Meeting adjourned at 9:15.



The Ultimate Rhododendron Conference April 9 – 11 at UBC Botanical Garden

With about a month to go, the conference is already 75% filled and instructors Ron Knight and Douglas Justice are delighted with the response. **There are still spaces left at both level 1 and level 2.** Level 1 classes, with Ron, are all about rhododendron gardening and provide an excellent opportunity to more deeply involve potential and newer rhododendron club members in the wonderful world of rhododendrons. Level 2 classes, with Douglas, are for veteran collectors who want to know more about classification, identification, culture and care of species rhododendrons.

Friday April 9th is the garden tour day. Douglas Justice (Curator of UBC Botanical Garden) and Todd Major (former Director of the Park and Tilford Gardens) will be conducting morning tours of UBC Botanical Garden. In the afternoon, Gerry Gibbens (Head Gardener for the Sino-Himalayan Garden) and Roy Forster (original designer of the Rhododendron Walk) will be leading tours at VanDusen Botanical Garden. A large selection of species and hybrid rhododendrons will be offered for sale on Saturday and Sunday. If you wish to register, please visit www.rhodos.ca to print a registration form. Mail it as soon as possible.

For further information, email Ron Knight at:
rcknight@telus.net

Conference Corner

**Rhodos in Paradise:
Destination Vancouver Island
September 21 – 23, 2012**

We are looking for an organized, detail-oriented person to chair the plant sale committee for the conference. The job entails contacting and booking growers, scheduling volunteers with the volunteer coordinator, picking up and programming the cash registers and arranging for someone to prepare Phytosanitary Certificates for people taking their purchases out of the country. Help is available from members who have coordinated our spring plant sale over the years.

Speaking of volunteer coordinator, are you that person? This job will mean gathering the names of members of our club and other island clubs who wish to help with various jobs at the conference, scheduling shifts in collaboration with the chairs of various committees, and generally making sure we show our guests a good time. Volunteer jobs will include hospitality, registration, plant sale, to name a few.

Finally, we could use some help with advance fundraising. If you are good at soliciting raffle donations or have other fundraising ideas, we need you!

Please contact Kathryn or Chris if you would like to take on any of these important jobs!

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Rhododendron of the Year Awards

A new feature on the ARS District 1 Website: www.rhodos.ca is a page which summarizes the "Rhododendron of the Year Awards" for the Pacific Northwest and Southwestern British Columbia (ARS District 1) for the years 2002 to 2010.

Rhododendron of the Year Awards are made in four categories for each of eight geographical regions of the United States and Canada. These include elepidote rhododendrons, lepidote rhododendrons, deciduous azaleas and evergreen azaleas. Twenty-nine plants have been selected for the year 2010. See the following webpage for more information: <http://www.rhododendron.org/royawardsintro6.htm>



Plants selected for the 2010 Rhododendron of the Year Awards were drawn from the American Rhododendron Society's "Proven Performers" lists. These lists are developed and updated each year by the local ARS chapters and are made up of plants that do very well in members' own gardens over many years.

The purpose of the ROY awards is to educate the public about the wide range of rhododendrons that can be grown successfully in people's gardens. To be selected for a ROY award a plant must:

- have excellent foliage and flowers
- have an attractive growth habit
- prove itself hardy for the specific region
- be pest and disease resistant

Plants selected for the "Northwest Region" (our region) for 2010 are:

- **'Seaview Sunset'** (elepidote) - a Frank Fujioka cross of 'Nancy Evans' and 'Canadian Sunset'



- **'Too Bee'** (lepidote) – a Warren Berg cross of 'Patricia' and R. keiskei 'Yaku Fairy'
- **'Gibraltar'** (deciduous azalea) – a selection by Edmund de Rothschild
- **'Rosebud'** (evergreen azalea) – a Joe Gable cross of 'Louise Gable' and 'Caroline Gable'

See the webpage: <http://rhodos.ca/ROTY/roty.html> for Rhododendron of the Year Awards for the Pacific Northwest and Southwestern British Columbia (ARS District 1) for the years 2002 to 2010.