

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



March 2011



FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I write this, it's snowing outside with forecasts of some very cold weather coming over the next few days. Our early Rhododendron blooms, which are just starting to open, are definitely at risk. At least the daffodils and other spring bulbs are "bullet proof". Planning for our spring events is progressing well. What's coming up over the next little while?

- We'll be placing an order for plants through the Rhododendron Species Foundation
- An opportunity at the March meeting to join Milner Gardens at a special discounted price
- We'll start reserving seats for our annual spring bus tour at the March meeting
- Don't forget the Botanical Society Garden show at Beban park in mid March
- Check the newsletter for more info on the conference, garden tour, wildflower walks and more

Happy Gardening! The snow can't really last much longer...can it?

See you at the March meeting!

John

EXECUTIVE

President	John Deniseger	390-3605
Past President	Paul Lawry	806-2370
Vice President	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Secretary	June Bouchard	390-3605
Treasurer	Gerry Moore	756-1427
Directors	Glenda Allard Barr	390-2822
	Chris Southwick	390-3415
	Debbie Gaboury	758-1204
	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533
	Burkhard Dressler	758-1738

COMMITTEES

Advertising	vacant	
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574
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 10 BEBAN PARK SOCIAL CENTRE 7:30 pm

Barrie Agar

"Wildflowers"

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The 11th Annual N.R.S. Bus Tour
Saturday, May 14th, 2011

TWIGS and STEMS

Goodies for March Meeting

Allen McRae
Earl Daneluk
Susan Lightburn

Rhododendron Species Foundation Spring Plant Sale

Club members have the opportunity to order Rhododendrons and/or companion plants from the RSBG Spring Plant Catalog.

You can access the catalog by going to their website [RSF Spring 2011 Plant Catalogue](#). Look over the Spring Catalog.

Please write down your selections and bring them to the March meeting. For those that can't access the internet we will have a catalog at the meeting that you can look at to make any selections you might like.

Gerry Moore will put the order together at the meeting and coordinate the order, payment and pick-up at UBC April 4 – 8.



This year we will visit Nanoose, Qualicum, the Comox Valley and Campbell River.

Cost: \$40 per person

(includes tours/tastings at Little Qualicum Cheeseworks and Mooberry Winery; does not include Milner Gardens admission of \$7.50 as many NRS members are also Milner members; free admission for Milner members)

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 and appropriate clothing. Bring a friend...

Call John to reserve a seat 390-3605

Our March Speaker Barrie Agar

Barrie Agar, head gardener at Royal Roads University will be presenting a slide program on wildflowers at the March 10th meeting.

Barrie is a wildflower aficionado and brilliant photographer who lives in the Cowichan Valley. She has a wealth of horticultural knowledge to share, and she does so with an entertaining sense of humour.

We will also be planning a field trip in April to a wonderful spot for wildflowers.



R sutchuense var. Geraldii by Ken Gibson

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NRS Meeting Minutes for February 10, 2011

1. Meeting called to order at 7:35 PM
2. Number of people present: approx. 45
3. President, John Deniseger, welcomed everyone, including a few guests. Mention of what feels like a possible early spring – what's in bloom? Many gardens already have a few rhodos in bloom including Lee's Scarlett, Olive, and more.

4. **Secretary's Report:**
M/S/C to adopt the minutes of the last meeting as printed in the newsletter.
5. **Correspondence:**
From the Rhodo Species Foundation:
 - a. 2011 Membership Directory
 - b. A copy of Rhodo Species 2011; vol. 6 (Lots of excellent articles incl. one by Doug Justice on UBC and one by Roy Taylor on the early days of UBC Botanical Garden)
 - c. Both will be kept in the library.
6. **Treasurer's Report:**
 - a. NRS general account: \$4,205.91
 - b. ARS conference 2012 account: \$864.25
 - c. A great big thank you to Mike Miller for his tool donation which brought \$240.00 to the conference fund.

7. **Committee Reports:**
 - Program:
 - o March: Barrie Agar from Royal Roads University on wild flowers.
 - o April: Art and Susan Lightburn on their China travels.
 - Social: A card was sent to Mary Parker who just had surgery. Please let Sandra know if you know of anyone who might need some cheering up.
 - Bargain Table: Check the bargains at the back and don't forget to bring things in for the bargain table when you're dividing your plants, etc.
 - Raffle/Door Prize: Thank you Yvonne for filling in for Ann.
 -

 - Library: check our library – excellent reading materials in there.

8. **New business / announcements / reminders:**
 - a. At the March meeting, Geoff Ball from **Milner Garden** will be doing a short presentation to our club. There will be a special 25% discount offer for new Milner memberships.
 - b. **Annual Truss Show and Plant Sale – on Saturday, May 7th.** A great BIG thank you to Doug Blenkarn who has agreed to take on the Truss Show part of the event.
 - c. **NRS** will once again have a plant table at the sale. Members are encouraged to keep the table in mind as they divide perennials, thin out their plants, etc.
 - d. **Spring Bus Tour on May 14th** – heading north this year: Details in next newsletter; seats available at our March meeting.
 - e. **Rhodo Species Foundation:**
 - i. All 5 chapters from the island are getting together to purchase plants at a reduced price- \$300.00 for each chapter. We'll include these plants in our club table at our plant sale in May.

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- ii. You can order plants from the RSF as well – Gerry will coordinate the order.
- iii. Check the next newsletter for full details.

f. ARS Seed Exchange:

- i. Reinhold recommends the seed exchange – very interesting hybrids.
- ii. Easy to order – go to ARS web page <http://www.rhododendron.org/seedexchange.htm>
- iii. Click on 2011 Seed Exchange on the right to order – you pay on delivery - \$3.00 per packet.
- iv. Talk to Reinhold if you have any questions.

g. 2012 Conference update:

- i. Our next meeting is on Sunday, Feb. 13th.
 - ii. Thank you to Michael Miller who has offered to take on the foliage display part of the event.
 - iii. Mike is inviting members to bring leaves from their rhododendrons to our April meeting to showcase the variety of foliage – details in the next newsletter.
- h. Our big upcoming fundraiser for the conference is the **May 22nd Garden Tour**. All gardens are confirmed as well as 5 vendors for this event. We're looking for volunteer garden sitters – a sign up sheet is circulating. Note that all volunteers will be getting a free ticket so they can tour gardens on their “off shift”. There will also be a BBQ potluck for all volunteers right after the event.

9. **Raffle/Door prizes winners:** Many happy winners!

10. Program for tonight:

An entertaining talk and beautiful photography by Dick Beamish on “A walk through my garden!” We're looking forward to part 2! ☺

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM

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In Memoriam



Rick Grant

March 30, 1949 – February 15, 2011.

We are saddened by the recent loss of Rick Grant to cancer. He lived life fully with equanimity and humour. Although he was more interested in music and theatre, Rick cheerfully helped Kathryn at club events and hosted visits to their garden. We will miss him greatly.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Kathryn and daughters Christie and Joanna.

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Conference Update

Chris Southwick and Gaylle McRae

Thank you to Mike Miller for volunteering to take care of the foliage display for the 2012 Conference. He has some excellent ideas and would like to get us started thinking about this by inviting members to bring a whorl of leaves to the **April** meeting.

We also have two initiatives that we'd like our club's support to do well. The first is that as you may recall, Brian Jubinville is chairing our advertising committee. He has an excellent idea of collecting photos from members that depict the mid-island area and showing them at the Vancouver Washington conference this spring as a reminder about what delegates can expect if they attend our conference in 2012. If you have some shots of site-seeing spots (downtown walkway, protection island, cathedral grove, and of course local gardens like Bowen Park, Milner, etc., etc., as well as good shots of your own garden) please send them to Brian Jubinville (on-line) at jubinville@shaw.ca.

In addition, for the conference itself, Burkhard will be putting together a digital slide show at the 2012 conference. The theme would be very similar to Dick Beamish's show - something like The Nanaimo Rhododendron Year. We plan to run the presentation continuously on a large digital screen probably close to the registration desk of the conference.

All our members should be invited to take a few good quality, medium resolution pictures of their best rhodos over the coming season and have the digital files ready in September or October, on a CD, DVD, or memory stick. Up to about 5 images/member I would not mind receiving by e-mail (burdre@telus.net).

I do not think that our guests would be interested to read on the images in which garden the pictures were taken, but names of rhododendrons and dates when photographs were taken will be shown.

Our committee continues to make great headway with planning. We're certainly a social group and some of our meetings have involved food which makes it more than work.

The next meeting is at Chris's house on Sunday, April 3rd at 10:30 am.



R. macrophyllum at Rhododendron Lake.