

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



March 2012



FROM THE PRESIDENT

It may only be early March but I find myself looking ahead. Soon we'll be back on daylight savings time, and the days will be longer (and warmer). It seems that there are far more buds on our rhodos this year than last year. They appear to have thrived in our cooler summer and milder winter conditions. Take advantage of the opportunity this spring to enjoy "the show".

I'm also looking ahead to May's AGM, including our annual election. Our club, like the rhodos, can only thrive under the right conditions. As always, we rely on everyone doing their part and taking their turn. In May, we'll be looking to renew and refresh our executive. We know that at least the positions of President, Treasurer and Secretary will be open. Something for you all to think about as we move forward.....I'll be talking about this at our March meeting.

Also, at the March meeting, Geoff Ball, executive director of Milner Gardens and Woodland, will be there to update us on their activities, while offering special membership rates.

See you at the 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
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Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4
Website: nanaimo.rhodos.ca
email: nanaimo@rhodos.ca

NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH 8 BEBAN PARK SOCIAL CENTRE 7:30 pm

BILL McMILLAN

"Rhododendrons: Culture and Care"

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Conference Corner

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

TWIGS and STEMs



GOODIES FOR MARCH MEETING

Linda Moore

Gayle and Allen McRae

Bonnie Steele

OUR MARCH SPEAKER BILL McMILLAN

The talk, titled Rhododendrons: Culture and Care (or Rhodos 101), touches on the classification and characteristics of rhododendrons and covers basic growing, care and pruning techniques, as well as diseases and pests you might encounter. Since he retired in 1999 Bill has been the Curator of the Rhododendron and Hosta Garden at the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific (Glendale Gardens) and has also been propagating rhododendrons from seeds and cuttings. Bill is a past president of the Victoria Rhododendron Society (VRS), chaired their Annual Show and Sale for 5 years and was Registrar of the American Rhododendron Society Annual meeting held in Victoria in 2005. He also volunteered at Abkhazi Garden attempting to identify their rhododendrons. He regularly speaks to Master Gardener and HCP College classes and rhododendron and garden clubs. He expanded his knowledge during two trips to China (2005, 2006) to examine rhododendrons and other plants in their native habitats.

Our Nanaimo conference draws closer, especially to those of us on the planning committee. Through the hard work of many individuals, things are really shaping up. The main news is that our website is nearly ready to go live - we expect that to happen in early April. It will have a full schedule of all the activities, including tours, dinners, and special speakers, plus, of course, registration details.

We also have begun the process of advertising to other clubs in district # 1 and beyond – by mail and in person. We have already visited the Victoria club and know that some of them plan to attend. We are most grateful to the propagators like Ken Webb and his group, and Al Campbell, who are busily producing plants for us. Other chapters are also supporting us by donating a silent auction basket and by coordinating the raffle, which is so appreciated.

We are in discussions with the Cowichan club regarding the addition of a tour related to the *Cowichan Wine and Culinary Festival* to our itinerary. This would likely happen just outside of our regular weekend events.

Chris is drawing up a list of all the volunteer needs. Please think about adding your name to the volunteers. Chris and Yvonne will be asking for your names within the next month or two. Together we are going to make this an island event of which we can be truly proud.

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Thursday, February 16th, 2012 Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:30.

Number of people attending: more than 50!!!

1. Welcome!

- Many guests tonight – welcome and thanks for coming!
- Spring is just around the corner – many things in bloom (Witch Hazel, Viburnum, Snowdrops, Winter Aconites, etc), even some rhodos. Thank you Ann and Dick for bringing trusses of rhodos in bloom: Lee Scarlet, Heatherside Beauty and *R. rirei*.

2. Correspondence:

- Information from the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific.
- Latest catalogue of the Rhodos Species Foundation.
- Info on garden tour of France, Belgium and Holland organized by Glen Jamieson; June to forward email to membership.
- Norm Todd's books: we have more copies of this very popular book for \$12.00 each. Please see June if you want to purchase a copy.
- See June if you want more info on any of the above.

3. Treasurer's Report:

- Balance in NRS account: \$3954.45
- Balance in 2012 Conference account: \$3966.85

4. Social / Sunshine:

- Reminder of who is to bring goodies for next meeting.
- Reminder that coffee is decaf and "by donation".

5. Program:

- March: Bill Macmillan from the Victoria Rhododendron Society will present "Rhodo 101: Basics of Growing Rhododendrons".
- April: Earl Daneluk on hybridizing.

6. Conference update:

- Many volunteers will be needed for the upcoming conference – a sign up sheet will be circulated at our March meeting – start thinking about where you would like to help.
- Other island clubs are helping out – we're very grateful for their support.
- A reminder to "fill the basket": any local items welcome for our club's contribution to the conference silent auction.
- Gaylle and Chris are attending other clubs meetings to promote the upcoming conference. Thank you Bryan Jubinville for providing the video for these presentations.
- Photo contest organized by Mary Parker: please see poster circulated for details. Poster will also be in the newsletter.
- Foliage display: Mike Miller is inviting members to submit a list of species rhododendrons they may have in their garden. Please email your list to Michael directly at milvik@shaw.ca
- Web Site: Stay tuned for a preview of our conference web site at one of our upcoming meetings – many thanks to Bob Derksen for endless hours of work to set this up.

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

7. Bus Tour:

- Mark your calendar: our annual bus tour will be on Saturday, April 28th.
- We're going south this year.
- Stops so far include: Hatley Gardens at Royal Roads University, the Victoria Rhododendron Society sale and show, several private gardens, Fruit Trees and More by Bob and Verna Duncan (tonight's speakers), wine tasting, and more...
- You can sign up for this tour at the March meeting.

8. Local garden tours:

- We will likely have some local gardens open again this year.
- Details at upcoming meetings and in the newsletter.

9. Annual Plant Sale and Truss show:

- Mark Saturday, May 12th on your calendar for this very popular annual event.
- As always, volunteers will be needed – a sign up sheet will be circulating at our upcoming meetings.
- Thank you Burkhard Dressler for coordinating the plant sale and Doug Blenkarn for coordinating the Truss Show.

10. Raffle:

- Many happy winners. ☺
- Thank you Ann and Val for coordinating the raffle table.

11. Tonight's program:

- A very informative presentation on "Growing Subtropical / Mediterranean Fruit in South Coastal British Columbia" by Bob Duncan. We look forward to visiting this garden at our tour in April.

12. Our next meeting will be Thursday, March 8th.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15.

Volunteers Needed

The 2012 Conference Committee will require your help! Specific dates and time slots will be required, but we'd like to first offer you some of the activities that we'll need support for. Please give some consideration for volunteering even a small amount of time to the following activities:

- Setup
- Take-down
- Registration desk
- Creating welcome bags
- Plant Sale
- Introducing speakers and programs
- Thanking program presenters
- Selling Raffle tickets
- Silent auction
- Tours
- Foliage Display
- Photo Contest

Sign-up sheets will be available at the April and May NRS meetings.
Thank you! Chris and Yvonne



NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

The 12th Annual N.R.S. Bus Tour Sunday, April 28th, 2012



Continuing our tradition of visiting a great mixture of gardens, nurseries, and special places, this year we're heading south through Cowichan to the Saanich Peninsula and the Victoria area.

Cost: approx \$40 - \$45 to be confirmed at March meeting

Where do we meet? At the Chapters parking lot near Woodgrove Mall – the bus will be leaving at 7:00 am.

Don't forget to bring a picnic lunch and appropriate clothing. Bring a friend...

You can reserve a seat at the March meeting or call John to reserve a seat at 390-3605

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



Vancouver Garden Tour May 2012

The Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society has organised another exciting two-day tour of special gardens of the Vancouver area on May 11 and 12-peak blooming times for rhodos and many other plants in several impressive private and public gardens. Local Garden Club members and others will also be joining us. Features planned:

- Deluxe highway coach transportation from downtown Duncan to Vancouver on Friday morning with a return to Duncan on Saturday evening.
- A relaxed cruise over breakfast aboard the *Queen of Oak Bay* from Nanaimo to Horseshoe Bay terminal.
- Visits to some spectacular private gardens in West and North Vancouver including lunch at the beautiful 3 acre Park and Tilford Gardens with 8 separate themed gardens. We'll also visit the impressive UBC botanical gardens and the Van Dusen Garden.
- Overnight at the comfortable Delta Airport Hotel and a fun Friday evening in Richmond for a Chinese Hot Pot dinner experience.
- A visit to several specialty nurseries -plant buying opportunities to fill up the bus!
- Return to Duncan via Swartz Bay on BC Ferries *Spirit of Vancouver Island* featuring sumptuous Pacific Buffet dining and their decadent dessert bar.

The total cost including all meals except Friday breakfast on the ferry (2 lunches, 1 breakfast, 2 suppers), coffee breaks, garden entry fees, hotel, bus transportation, ferry fares, gratuities and taxes is \$320 per person (double occupancy). Single supplement is \$75 extra. Advance booking is now required to guarantee your seat on this great tour. This is your opportunity for a nice, well organised trip with fellow gardeners and rhodoholics and see some impressive gardens while enjoying a visit to the lower mainland and we do the driving! CVRS trips have a solid reputation for quality service, food and content.

Departure will be from the Duncan Train station at 7 am on May 11 with a return by bus to the Duncan train station by 8 pm on May 12. Participants should be in good physical condition but the sites are mostly well accessible.

To join the tour you must send a cheque for \$150 per person made out to Bill Dumont, 1753 Peerless Road, Cobble Hill, BC V0R 1L6 by March 20, 2012. Please provide an **email address, street address, postal code and phone number** and advise of any food allergies/requests. Balance will be payable by May 1, 2012. For further information please contact Bill TO CONFIRM at 250 743 9882 or wedumont@hotmail.com. This tour will sell out quickly so don't delay in submitting your deposit. First come first served!!

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

ARS 2012 NANAIMO RHODO SOCIETY PHOTO CONTEST

Fall Conference September 21st - 23rd, 2012



R. stenopetalum 'Linearifolium'



R. makinoi



R. edgeworthii



White Gold

Categories

1. Macro/closeup of plant parts
2. Individual or groups of plants in the wild or public/botanical garden **Not private gardens.**
3. Individual or group of plants in a private garden.
4. Truss - species or hybrid
5. Foliage - species or hybrid

Prizes

No entry fee. All 6 winning photos will receive a great prize.

Rules

No digital enhancement of photos.

Size - 8 x 10 photo. We will mount them on black Bristol.

Rhododendrons, azaleas and vireyas must be the obvious and integral part of the photo.

ID - No identifiers on the front of the photo, put your name, name of the rhodo, and the location (if known) on the back. You must be the photographer.

Limit - One for each category. Photos must be at the Conference site by Friday evening 7pm unless you make other arrangements.

Date photo taken - within the last 2 years of conference (September 2010)

Hanging - Cut off date for the number of photos being entered is **September 1st**.

People's Choice voting of all entries will close by 6pm Saturday 22nd.

Judging will take place by 4pm Saturday 22nd and the winners will be announced at the banquet.

Photos must be picked up by noon on Sunday 23rd.

Please consider donating your photos for our silent auction. Let us know when your photos are submitted.

Photos courtesy of Mary Parker and her garden

Any questions may be directed to Mary Parker 1- 250-754-1981. maryjparker99@shaw.ca

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