

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



March 2015



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hopefully most of

you have been able to get outside to enjoy the bright sunshine and relative warmth of the last few weeks. It seems that Ann Beamish was proven wrong this year that Lee's Scarlet would get a dusting of snow. Aren't we glad?

One of my personal favourites at this time of year is the species *R. chamaethomsonii*. My plant is a Greig selected form of the species. It is now approximately eight feet wide and three feet tall. I purchased it in a Scotch pot at our NRS spring sale in 1997 from Peter Kearns a most knowledgeable and able grower from Cowichan at that time. *R. chamaethomsonii* has exquisite dark red tubular bell-shaped flowers with heavy substance in trusses of up to four. It is also a prolific bloomer and a very easy plant to grow. I hope to bring some examples of it to our next meeting unless the early morning frosts change my plans. Remember if you have plants blooming and they're big enough to cut a few branches, please bring some samples to our next general meeting on March 12th.

Speaking of both our Plant Sale and Truss shows and our next meeting, you must come to hear noted plantsman, Gordon MacKay our presenter for March. He is the owner of Alba Plants in Victoria and has been one of our vendors at our annual plant sales, including Sunday, May 3rd 2015

of course. One of the plant hunters he will be speaking about is George Forrest. If you haven't read George Forrest, Plant Hunter, our library does have a copy, it is excellent reading!

If you're interested in going on the Cowichan Valley Rhodo Club's Garden Tour in May, there are two seats left for the tour. Contact Bill Dumont at: wedumont@shaw.ca. It is going to be spectacular.

I must remind you once again to bring something for the Nanaimo Rhodo Club's basket of goodies which will be donated to the ARS Annual Convention in May. June and Yvonne will be eager to receive your donation.

See you all soon.

Chris

EXECUTIVE

President	Chris Southwick	390-3415
Past President	Art Lightburn	468-7516
Vice President	Brenda Lewis	751-3639
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Treasurer	Krystyna Sosulski	729-0948
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	Dorothee Kieser	390-4136
	Gaylle McRae	758-7589

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Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey	
Social	Susan Lightburn	
Bargain Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533
Website	Craig Clarke	

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NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY, March 12 BEBAN PARK SOCIAL CENTRE 7:30 pm

Gordon MacKay
"Plant Hunters Georges Forest & Sherriff"

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

TWIGS and STEMs



Goodies for March Meeting

Elaine Hutchison, Ann Beamish, Doug Blenkarn

Allen McRae will be absent for Truss show, needs someone to set up banners.

[Click here](#) to learn how Steve Hootman became a plant hunter.

Our March Speaker

Gordon McKay is speaking on plant introductions of **George Forrest** and **George Sherriff**. Gordon will have some of the Alba Nursery Plants at the meeting.

Gordon was involved in landscaping as a teenager in a family business in Glasgow Scotland and developed a passion for ornamental plants when studying at the renowned Threave School of Gardening. After visiting Vancouver Island on a project, he settled here and has established [Alba plants](#), a specialty plant nursery. He is part of the therapeutic horticulture team of Providence Farm and has recently taken a position as Horticulture Instructor at Camosun College.

[Click here](#) for article in Fraser South newsletter on *R griersonianum*, a George Forrest introduction.

Raffle Plants



Rhododendron schlippenbachii — 4', -31°C, E-EM, 4/3-4. A deciduous species loved by all who see it. It's upright and open with thinly textured leaves in whorls of

5 at each stem tip and it shows off its star-like, delicate pink flowers either just before or along with the leaves. The distinctive, thin foliage will not tolerate excessive sun exposure. The obovate dark green leaves turn crimson, orange or yellow in autumn. For added interest, flowers sometimes are tinged with reddish spots



Rhododendron 'Songbird' — (russatum x 'Blue Tit') 3', -20°C or hardier, E-EM, 3-4/4. There are many small "blue" rhododendrons, sometimes so many it is hard to separate them all. However, this one will stand out for its bright purple-blue flowers which seem to glow as if by some mystical power. The foliage is glossy green and makes a superb compact plant



Rhododendron 'Nancy Evans' — ('Hotei' x 'Lem's Cameo') 3', -15°C, M, 5/4. Take a look at this plant's parents, and it goes without saying that it must be a wonderful rhododendron. Shining, golden-yellow flowers combine with good foliage to produce a magnificent plant. It is simply excellent and it flowers young, so you won't have to wait forever for your reward.

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Rhododendron Species Project at Milner Gardens & Woodland.

A collection of species rhododendrons will be established at Milner. The five chapters of the ARS on Vancouver Island have pledged \$20,000 to the project which will be matched by Milner Gardens. This idea was promoted by the late Harry Wright of the North Island Chapter in the 1990s and is finally being realized as resources become available.

An advisory board has been created with representatives from each of the five chapters and from the Milner Gardens and Woodland Society.

Jim Cadwaldr, a landscape architect and formerly the executive director of the gardens, has donated his time to produce a landscape plan. He has been working with Wilfred Worland, a retired architect & Milner volunteer, Geoff Ball, the executive director, Pamela Murray, the lead interpretive guide at Milner, Art Lightburn and John England of MARS.

Approximately 5/8 of an acre has been designated for the project behind the gift shop and reflecting pool. A plan has been prepared for layout of entrance/exit, paths, and tree removal/retention. Construction is expected to begin this fall.

Last week the plant selection committee of the advisory board met to review the final draft of the landscape plan. A holding area will be established to collect the plants and maintain them until they are large enough for planting out. Volunteers will be responsible for looking after them.

Criteria for selection of plants for the collection include rare or endangered species, parents of hybrids at Milner, geographical representatives, and companion plants.

Fundraising will also be a priority because more funds are needed to complete the project. Donations made to Milner Gardens and Woodland Society are tax deductible.

More honours for one of our own.

Dick Beamish, co-editor of *The Sea Among us: The Amazing Strait of Georgia* will be accepting a Roderick Haig-Brown Award for this book. [Click here](#) to read the full article about this acknowledgement . Well done, Dr. Beamish!

Rhododendron Banners

This is the stand made by Allen McRae for the banners. Allen is looking for a volunteer to set it up at the Truss Show & Sale May 3rd.



Rhododendron beesianum at Milner.

... 2015 · ARS · CONVENTION ·

Sidney, ·BC, ·Canada¶

May ·6 ·— ·10, ·2015¶

Fabulous ·Rhododendron ·Garden ·Tours¶

Location: ·Mary ·Winspear ·Centre¶

Come join us at the convenient
Mary Winspear Community
Centre, 2243 Beacon Ave. in
spectacular Sidney-by-the-Sea,
BC, Canada.¶



International¶
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Jim Barlup, Washington State¶

Marc Colombel, France¶

Kenneth Cox, Scotland¶

Harold Greer, Oregon¶

Guan Kaiyun, China¶

Lionel de Rothschild, England¶

Hartwig Schepker, Germany¶

Convention ·Sponsors:¶



'Charmagne Lace', the official convention
rhododendron, is a magnificent hybrid
created by Jim Barlup.¶

Check ·www.2015rhodo.ca· for ·Registration ·Forms, ·
Schedule ·and ·Garden ·Tours.¶



NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



Gift Basket for Upcoming ARS Conference

As we did for our own conference in 2012, the BC chapters in District 1 are putting together baskets for the silent auction at the upcoming ARS Conference in May 2015. For our own basket, we're looking for donations that represent the Nanaimo area – possible items could include local delicacies (no perishables), CD's or books from local artists and authors, small items depicting local fauna or flora, or ... Please bring any donations to our upcoming meetings. Thank you so much in advance for your cooperation and generosity!

Yvonne and June

The 15th Annual N.R.S. Bus Tour Saturday, May 16, 2015



Continuing our tradition of visiting a great mixture of gardens, nurseries and special places, we're heading north and west through Parksville, Qualicum and out to the Alberni Valley this year.

Cost: \$40 per person (includes wine tasting)

Where do we meet? Chapters/Woodgrove Mall parking lot. The bus will be leaving at 7:30 am. We expect to return by about 6:30 pm

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

Call John to reserve a seat at 778 424-3605

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Getting to know each other...

By June Bouchard

This month, I am honored to introduce you to Jean Rhodes. Jean has been involved in the rhodo world for decades, first on the lower mainland and later on Gabriola Island. With her husband Bob, they developed a beautiful garden and a passion for rhododendrons including propagation and hybridizing. Thank you Jean for agreeing to be “spotlighted” this month.

1. How long have you been growing rhododendrons?

I have been growing rhodos since 1958 and very intensely since 1969 when I married Bob Rhodes.

2. How long have you lived on Vancouver Island?

We bought our property on Gabriola in 1971 where we camped for 10 years as a break from looking after our 1,000 plant rhodo garden in Maple Ridge. While our house was being built and for 4 years, Bob made cuttings of all our favorites (about 450), which we potted on to 1 gal. size and each time we came we brought some over and stashed them in a big damp sawdust pile. We moved to Gabriola permanently in 1988 and started our new garden.

3. Describe your best day in the garden. ☺

My best day in the garden is when it is in reasonable shape and visitors come to share it.

4. What other interests do you have?

My other interests are music (classical, operatic, folk) – I sing in two choirs (church and Island Singers); photography; keeping track of a large family; and handcrafts.

5. Do you have a favourite rhododendron?

My favorite rhododendron is of course, R. "Jean's Favorite" a sky blue and white *augustinii*, but I like all the smaller varieties that go well in a rockery.

6. What do you like about the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society?

I like the N.R.S. because the group is friendly, and becoming more and more knowledgeable as everyone learns and shares.

7. Anything else you might like to share????

When Bob became ill with Parkinson's, I had to take over the entire garden as well as look after him, so the garden got neglected and quite a few plants died with Bob. Now I am interested in bringing it back. I shall be looking carefully at new rhodos when we have our spring plant sale!

Art & Susan's trusses at February meeting



NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Rhodos worth Growing



Rhododendron 'Cilpinense' — (ciliatum x moupinense) 3', -15°C, E, 3-4/3-4. What an attractive hybrid this is for both foliage and flower! The leaves are small to medium sized and are deep forest green. The flowers sparkle in the sunlight like big apple blossoms, a blush pink touched with deeper pink. Yes, this is beautiful!

Rhododendron 'Snow Lady' — (leucaspis x ciliatum) 30", -20°C, E, 3-4/4-5.

An aptly named plant reminiscent of newly fallen snow. Soft fuzzy green leaves enhance the pale petal color dressing it up like a real 'lady'. Flowers well in deep shade. Much appreciated because it buds easily and blooms early.



Dorothee's Apple Cake Recipe

Peel 4 tart apples. Cut into 1/4s and take out core. Make incisions into top of quarters (but keep piece intact). Butter an 8 by 8 inch pan and preheat oven to 350°.

Dough:

Sift together

1 1/3 c flour

2 t baking powder

1/4 t salt

Cream until light and fluffy

1/4 c butter

Beat in gradually 3/4 c sugar

1/2 t vanilla

1 egg, well beaten

Stir in flour mix together with

1/4 c milk

3 T candied orange peel

Ladle dough into pan and push in apple 1/4s to make a pleasing pattern (I usually have 4 rows of 4 pieces)

Put 1 t melted butter on each apple piece

Sprinkle 1 T brown sugar on each apple piece.

Bake for about 30 minutes until top is crispy/light brown.

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

February 5, 2015 General meeting Minutes

1. Welcome to all! Chris welcomed two guests, Denise Cunningham and Lynn Lapin as well as a new member Elaine Fell
2. President's Report: Chris mentioned the Cowichan Valley Rhodo Society has invited members to join their overnight trip to Juan de Fuca Apr 16/17 with garden tours. Coho ferry \$45 return/walk on, Lunch \$12, Bus \$55. Bill Doumont contact by March 1st. email wedumont@hotmail.com
3. Secretary's Report: Correspondence received from Yvonne Hardy thanking us for her sunshine card, and the Salvation Army thanking us for our Christmas donation of \$139 from our auction.
4. Treasurer's Report: Balance as of January 14, 2015 is \$12,918.83. Krystyna gave a full report which is available on request.
5. Congratulations Susan Lightburn for winning so many awards in the ARS photography contest. See latest ARS Journal for full details! Well done Susan! Susan also makes our cards which we send for sunshine and thank you.
6. Membership: We have one new member tonight and 45 full memberships encompassing 64 people and an additional 4 associate members(main memberships with other clubs)
7. Program; Art Lightburn announced that March will be Gordon McKay.
8. Milner Species Garden Update: Currently work is going on to determine the number of plants which will be needed and what plants. The next meeting on this is Feb 17. We are fortunate to have several members on the committee.
9. Bus Tour: John Denisiger reported it will most likely be May 15/16 will be going north this year, Nanoose, Parksville, Port Alberni with stops at nurseries and wineries. Bookings will be taken in late March.
10. Opportunities: ARS Spring Conference Registration Forms are now available, will have come in the Journal, and are on line and a few on the desk tonight.
11. Spring Conference Basket: Yvonne and June are looking for donations for our silent auction basket for the convention.
12. Raffle: Val and Ann have: cyclamen, Star Gazer Lily, pseudo chrysanthemum, Lucy Liu, Euchriphia.
Door Prizes won by: Dick Beamish, Yvonne Hardy, and John Ayres, raffle plants: David Mitchell, Krystyna Sosulski, and Mary Jane
13. Executive Meeting will be held Feb 19th at Dorothee Kieser's home at 2:00pm
14. Raffle Volunteer: Gayle McRae will be away for the show and asked for a volunteer to man the raffle table (hat included). Dorothee Kieser gracefully volunteered and will be looking for assistants.
15. Program: A rousing panel discussion was held with Jean Rhodes, Glen Jamieson and John Deniseger. Planting and watering were the main items and a great deal of incredibly useful information was exchanged. Collectively we had at least 100 years of experience.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM