



# March 2016

## President's Message

Our gardens are reflecting the recent warm weather. There are many interesting plants in bloom in my garden including highly fragrant *Edgeworthia chrysantha*. According to the University of Washington website, "*Edgeworthia chrysantha* has been a much sought after collector's plant for years, but it's becoming more readily available. It has a really architectural look to its multi-stemmed habit and light, cinnamon colored stems. It makes a rounded shrub with lush foliage during growing season as it begins to set buds for the following winter's blooms which are a deep creamy yellow and possess a fabulous scent. They can be finicky to get established. Make sure you choose a spot with sun/part shade, and it benefits from a protected location as well as it's not as hardy as the Daphnes here in the Pacific Northwest. Rich, well-drained soil is a must along with regular irrigation during the summer and fall while buds are setting and avoid moving it around as with most Daphnes, mature specimens will sulk if transplanted." Its common name is Chinese Paper Bush or Yellow Daphne. Its origin is China and has a height and spread of six to seven feet. Mine is already larger than that! One of the many things that John Deniseger recently reminded us that is so great about gardening, is that it helps introduce us to others who love plants and to those who enjoy sharing plants. I was the lucky recipient of my *Edgeworthia* from Paul and Linda Lawry when they moved from their previous home.

What about rhodos, you say? Well, I have many blooming or about to bloom and have included photos of both *R. Seta* (hybrid between species *R. spinuliferum* and *R. moupinense* and one of my grandmother's hybrids *R. Harry Carter* – a hybrid between two species, *R. strigillosum* and *R. sutchuenense* (see Page 2).

See you on the 10<sup>th</sup>.  
Chris

### EXECUTIVE

|                |                   |          |
|----------------|-------------------|----------|
| President      | Chris Southwick   | 390-3415 |
| Vice President | Brenda Lewis      | 751-3639 |
| Secretary      | Ann Beamish       | 758-2574 |
| Treasurer      | Krystyna Sosulski | 729-0948 |
| Directors      | Glenda Barr       | 390-2822 |
|                | Craig Clarke      | 390-4090 |
|                | Susan Lightburn   | 468-7516 |
|                | Dorothee Kieser   | 390-4136 |
|                | Gayle McRae       | 758-7589 |
|                | Art Lightburn     | 468-7516 |
|                | Sandra Dorman     | 390-0136 |

### COMMITTEES

|               |                                |          |
|---------------|--------------------------------|----------|
| Advertising   | Jan Moles                      |          |
| Library       | Ann Beamish                    | 758-2574 |
| Newsletter    | Kathryn Grant                  | 585-2706 |
| Membership    | Sandra Dorman                  | 390-0136 |
| Program       | Art Lightburn                  | 468-7516 |
| Raffle        | Ann Davey & Val Harvey         |          |
| Social        | Susan Lightburn                | 468-7516 |
| Bargain Table | Reinhold Gorgosilich           | 758-6533 |
| Website       | Craig Clarke                   | 390-4090 |
| Sunshine      | Edith Higgins                  | 390-9340 |
| Bus Tour      | John Deniseger & June Bouchard |          |
| Truss Show    | Doug Blenkarn                  |          |
| Spring Sale   | Ann Beamish                    |          |

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society  
Box 241, #101-5170 Dunster Road  
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4  
Website: [nanaimorhodos.ca](http://nanaimorhodos.ca)  
email: [nanaimo@rhodos.ca](mailto:nanaimo@rhodos.ca)

### Next Meeting

Thursday March 10, 7:30 pm Beban Park Social Centre  
GORDON MacKAY  
"Pruning Trees and Shrubs"



#### OUR MARCH PROGRAM

Our speaker this month is the well-known and entertaining speaker and owner of Alba plants, Gordon MacKay. Gordon came to Vancouver Island on a project after studying gardening and participating in the family business in Scotland. He has taken a position as horticultural instructor at Camosun College and is well-versed on many aspects of collecting, growing and maintaining garden plants. He will speak on pruning trees and shrubs: when, where and why? Gordon will be bringing some specialty plants for sale.



Left  
R. "Harry Carter"

### The 16th Annual N.R.S. Bus Tour Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016



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

**Cost: \$42 per person**  
includes Merridale Cider tour and tasting

**Where do we meet? Save on Foods end of Country Club Mall parking lot.** The bus will be leaving at 7:30 am. We expect to return by about 6:00 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*

Right  
R. "Seta"





## Raffle Plants



### **R. luteum (Golden Comet)**

H-7.6 cm W-10cm -17°C

An outstanding deciduous azalea which produces showy, fragrant yellow flowers continuously from mid to late spring followed by brilliant red or purple fall foliage.

Part Sun, Light/Bright Shade, Part Shade.



### **R. 'Dancing Embers'**

Hybridiser: Jim Barlup, Bellevue, USA, 1998

Height in 10 years: 100 cm (3 ft)

Bloom time: midseason

Flower: broadly funnel-shaped

Leaves: elliptic

Type: elipdote

Hardiness: H4

## Rhodos Worth Growing



### **Rhododendron moupinense**

(RN, rn, Moupinensia) 76cm, -20°C, VE. The finest of the early blooming species. When all else is dreary, its large, showy, snow-white flowers with a deep red-purple blotch, begin their annual display. The 4cm oval foliage is shining and polished looking. An added bonus is the bright bronzy red new growth that gives a second display after the flowers are gone.  
*S Lightburn photo*



### **Rhododendron 'Rosevallon'**

(Possible hybrid of *R. neriiflora*) 46 cm, -15°C, early bloomer (Feb-Mar). Growth habit is variable, from compact to upright and spreading. Oblong leaves have a blue green cast above and are burgundy beneath. Fleshy tubular bell shaped flowers, to 5cm long, are bright crimson scarlet with a large calyx, usually of the same color, and are held in trusses to 12.

*S Lightburn photo*

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## Hellebore Care – How To Grow Hellebores By Becca Badgett

Flowers of hellebores are a welcome sight when they bloom in late winter to early spring, sometimes while the ground is still covered with snow. Different varieties of the hellebore plant offer a range of flower colors, from white to black. One of the earliest blooms spotted in many areas, nodding hellebore flowers are often fragrant and long-lasting.

Growing hellebores is a worthwhile task for the gardener. Aside from lovely and unusual flowers, the hellebore plant has attractive green foliage that is aesthetically pleasing in the landscape. Once established, hellebore care is minimal. This herbaceous or evergreen perennial is disliked by deer and other animal pests prone to munching on plants. All parts of the hellebore plant are poisonous, so take care to keep children and pets away.



### Tips for Growing Hellebores

When planting from seed or division, place the hellebore into well-draining, organic soil in a filtered sun or shady location. The hellebore plant will return for many years; make sure the space will accommodate growth and has proper sunlight. Hellebores need no more than a few hours of dappled light and grow successfully in shady areas. Plant the hellebore under [deciduous trees](#) or scattered through a woodland garden or shaded natural area

Soaking the soil in which the hellebore is growing helps the hellebore plant to look its best. Hellebore care includes removal of older leaves when they appear damaged. Care for hellebores should also include careful fertilization. Too much nitrogen may result in lush foliage and a shortage of blooms.

Plant hellebore seeds in the fall. A 60-day moist chilling period is needed when planting seeds of the hellebore plant. Planting seed in fall allows this to happen naturally in areas with cold winters. Wait three to four years for blooms on young plants grown from seed. Divide overgrown clumps in spring, after flowering or in autumn.



### Types of Hellebores

While many varieties of hellebores exist, *Helleborus orientalis*, the Lenten Rose, is among the earliest of winter bloomers and offers the widest selection of colors.

*Helleborus foetidus*, called the stinking, bear foot or bear paw hellebore, offers flowers in a pastel shade of green and has an unusual fragrance disliked by some; consequently it may be referred to as stinking. Foliage of the bear foot hellebore is segmented and serrated, sometimes turning to deep red in cold weather, when it is highly ornamental.

Flowers may be edged in the deep red to burgundy color. This hellebore plant prefers more sun than its oriental counterparts.

*Helleborus niger*, the Christmas Rose, features 3-inch blooms of the purest white. Many hybrids of hellebores offer a range of flower colors, colors often change as they mature.

Hellebore care is simple and worthwhile. Plant a variety of hellebores in your garden in the shade for a lovely spring flower.

<http://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/flowers/hellebore/growing-hellebores.htm>

*S Lightburn photos*

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## Nanaimo Rhododendron Society General Meeting

Thursday, February 11, 2016

1. Welcome everyone. Chris welcomed guests and former bus trip participants Susan Blackburn and Roloph Elzinga.
2. President's report
  - a) Newsletter Names: Chris pointed out possible names for our newsletter and ask people to add or comment on them...(see chart). Name to be voted on at the June windup party.
  - b) 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Garden Tour – **postponement**...NRS requires approximately \$4,000 each year to keep the club running with the basics. That involves paying for the meeting room, coffee, post box, office expenses, raffle, speakers, hall rental, etc. If we do anything more, like supporting the Milner Species Garden, or Bowen Park, we need to fundraise beyond the basics. Please think about that idea and what we the members of NRS are prepared to do. It takes all of us to keep our group running well and thriving.
  - c) Silent Auction of Rhododendron *Fabia x bureauii* donated by **Brenda Lewis** and *Sasanqua camellia* Apple blossom donated by **Yvonne Harding**. People interested bid both at the break before our speaker and then after the speaker. Chris will announce when bids close (approx. 5 minutes after the speaker). In addition **Robert Nixon** donated two plants for next month's auction. A big thank you to all three.
  - d) Elections – May. Please think about standing for a position on the executive. It is a fun group who support each other to get things done. Elections will be held in May and we need a volunteer or two who would be willing to phone to see who would be willing to stand for a position. Please email Chris at: [csouthwick@shaw.ca](mailto:csouthwick@shaw.ca) if you're willing to do some of the phoning.
3. Treasurer's report: Krystyna reported a balance of \$11, 890.98
4. Secretary Correspondence: Ann read letters from VIU's Susan Caswell, Advancement Manager, Donor Relations, thanking us for our continued support, and a letter from Michaela Carriere one of this year's recipients. The Species Foundation catalogue has arrived and is also on line.
5. Members' garden Tour: Rosina is still open for more gardens for members and prospective members to visit.
6. Program/Milner: - Art Lightburn reported that Jeff deJong, and Gordon Mackay will be presenting at future meetings Milner Garden: Art reported that Geoff Ball and Glen Jamieson will be going to the Species Foundation to check on Milner's order. Art and Susan Lightburn have donated 40 plants from their garden.
7. David Mitchell reported that he will have Milner membership renewal forms at the next meeting at a significantly reduced price \$18/single \$30/family.
8. Sunshine Edith reported that she had sent a card to Sandra Dorman following her surgery and will send a card to Jean Greig who is currently in hospital.
9. Bus Tour: John Denisiger reported that the tour(16<sup>th</sup> annual) will be April 23 going south to Saanich Peninsula, Cowichan Valley, Deep Cove and Merridale Cidery. **The tour this year will leave from COUNTRY CLUB MALL**
10. Raffle and Door prizes were drawn with our guests each successful as well as John Denisiger.
11. Executive Meeting will be at Craig and Joyce Clarkes' on February 18 at 2pm.
12. **PROGRAM** John Denisiger provided us with a very interesting program on Why He Grows Rhododendrons – the 5 senses. He also suggested a book we all should read: "Last Child In The Woods" by Louv.



# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## President

- ❖ Provide leadership to members of the Board of Directors and general membership
- ❖ Chair general meetings and meetings of the Board of Directors
- ❖ Ensure committee chair positions are filled and their functions performed
- ❖ Attend ARS District One President's meetings
- ❖ Provide liaison role with the American Rhododendron Society

## Vice-President

- ❖ Assist President where required
- ❖ Chair general and board meetings in the President's absence
- ❖ Attend ARS District One meetings with the President
- ❖ Ensure room rental is booked

## DUTIES OF THE NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Treasurer

- ❖ Keep financial records of the Society
- ❖ Pay invoices received
- ❖ Collect revenues and make bank deposits
- ❖ Reconcile bank statements
- ❖ Provide financial reports at each general and board meeting
- ❖ Provide annual financial report at Annual General Meeting
- ❖ Provide float for plant sales
- ❖ Reconcile revenue from plant sales and disburse payment to growers
- ❖ Record purchases at annual auction and collect payment
- ❖ Submit membership fees to the American Rhododendron Society
- ❖ Log onto [www.arsoffice.org](http://www.arsoffice.org) to obtain copy of monthly financial transaction report from ARS

## Secretary

- ❖ Keep minutes of general and board meetings
- ❖ Distribute minutes of board meetings to board members
- ❖ Provide minutes of general meetings to the newsletter editor for publishing in monthly newsletter
- ❖ Check NRS mailbox periodically and attend to correspondence
- ❖ Report correspondence to board and general meetings as appropriate
- ❖ Conduct any correspondence required by the society
- ❖ Maintain the records of the society
- ❖ Provide notice of Annual General Meeting to members at least 14 days prior to AGM
- ❖ Notify ARS secretary of changes to Board of Directors membership;
- ❖ Maintain current email contact information for our Society on ARS databases
- ❖ File annual report to BC Society Act office

## Directors

- ❖ Attend meetings of the Board of Directors monthly
- ❖ Take chair of one of the committees, or take on miscellaneous duties as required
- ❖ Help with set-up and clean-up of auction and plant sale
- ❖ Host one meeting of the board each year
- ❖ Provide welcome to members and guests at general meetings and other functions

## Program Chair

- ❖ Plan speakers' program for monthly general meeting
- ❖ Contact speakers and make arrangements
- ❖ Greet speakers on arrival from out-of-town; host for dinner if this is planned
- ❖ Introduce speaker at meeting
- ❖ Thank speaker at the end of the meeting, give gift if appropriate
- ❖ Liaise with other ARS clubs to coordinate speakers, share costs
- ❖ Develop a speakers' list
- ❖ Keep a record of monthly speakers

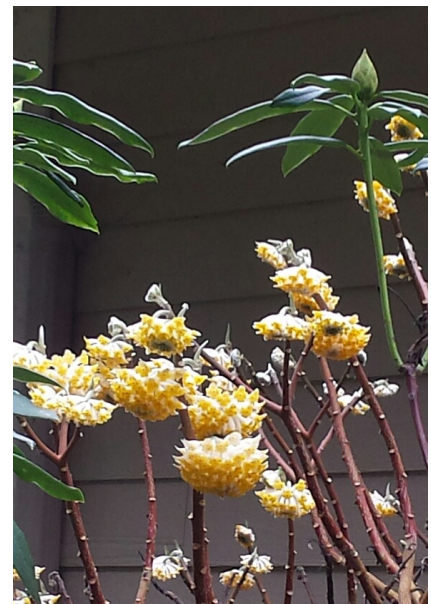
## Newsletter Editor

- ❖ Prepare newsletter monthly for distribution at the beginning of the month, September to June
- ❖ Solicit President's report, general meeting minutes, other items for inclusion
- ❖ Provide electronic copy of newsletter to webmaster for posting on the NRS website
- ❖ Have sufficient copies of newsletter made to mail to members without internet access
- ❖ Fold and mail paper copies

## Advertising Committee

- ❖ Insert notice of general meetings in local newspapers, cable listings
- ❖ Place advertisements of May plant sale and show in local media
- ❖ Place notice of May plant sale and show in gardening magazines
- ❖ Arrange publicity for May plant sale and show

## Library committee



**Edgeworthia chrysantha from Chris's garden**

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

- ❖ Keep catalogue of library holdings
- ❖ Open library at general meetings
- ❖ Ensure sign-out mechanism is in place
- ❖ Contact members who have not returned books after sign-out period
- ❖ Purchase new books as approved by the board of directors
- ❖ Profile library holdings at general meetings and/or in the newsletter

## Raffle committee

- ❖ Purchase items for monthly raffle according to budget approved by the Board of Directors
- ❖ Encourage donations by members for raffle items; acknowledge donors at meetings
- ❖ Sell raffle tickets at general meetings
- ❖ Draw winning tickets
- ❖ Submit revenue to the Treasurer

## Social committee

- ❖ Purchase coffee and tea supplies
- ❖ Set-up refreshments at general meetings; make coffee
- ❖ Provide cups (either disposable or washable)
- ❖ Coordinate volunteers for goodies at meetings
- ❖ Provide list of volunteers for goodies to the newsletter editor for inclusion in newsletter each month
- ❖ Coordinate beverages and supplies for auction party
- ❖ Coordinate (or delegate) concession at plant sale and show

## Dollar Table

- ❖ Set up dollar table at general meetings
- ❖ Set prices, collect payment
- ❖ Submit revenue to the Treasurer

## Membership

- ❖ Prepare and provide a membership application form; revise as necessary
- ❖ Collect memberships at meetings and other functions
- ❖ Maintain a membership roster, [reconcile with lists on www.arsoffice.org](http://www.arsoffice.org)
- ❖ Submit revenues to the Treasurer
- ❖ Provide membership roster to ARS (in coordination with Treasurer)
- ❖ Perform other membership development activities from time to time as determined by the Board of Directors
- ❖ Provide a “new members” package to new members
- ❖ Introduce new members at meetings
- ❖ Provide members’ profiles to the newsletter editor for inclusion in the newsletter

## Truss Show And Plant Sale

- ❖ Book Centennial Building
- ❖ Recruit volunteer to set up display and membership table
- ❖ Recruit volunteers for set-up and clean-up

### Truss Show

- ❖ Order ribbons
- ❖ Recruit judges for the show
- ❖ Determine and purchase gifts for judges
- ❖ Arrange for pick-up of show tables and tablecloths
- ❖ Recruit volunteers for set-up of show and recording entries
- ❖ Ensure volunteers keep show area clear while judging takes place
- ❖ **Order engraving of trophies with names of winners**

### Plant Sale

- ❖ Request Secretary send out letters to growers
- ❖ Follow-up with growers as needed
- ❖ Arrange for pick-up of cash registers from MARS
- ❖ Ensure cash registers are programmed
- ❖ Recruit volunteers to run cash registers, set up tables, help customers carry plants
- ❖ Ensure supplies for sale are on hand (stickers, pens, boxes to collect tags, plant flats)
- ❖ Arrange for wheel barrows, trolley, etc

## Auction and Social

- ❖ Send out letters to businesses to request donations
- ❖ Follow-up with businesses
- ❖ Collect donations
- ❖ Coordinate food plans with Social Chairperson
- ❖ Coordinate recording of auction with Treasurer
- ❖ Ensure donations get to food bank and Salvation Army, send thank-you letters to auction donors



**R. 'Emmy May' donated by Robert Nixon  
for Nepal fundraiser**



# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## Seen In Passing

Many rhododendrons in bloom already this year. One of our favourites, Rosevallon, a form or possible hybrid of neriflorum.

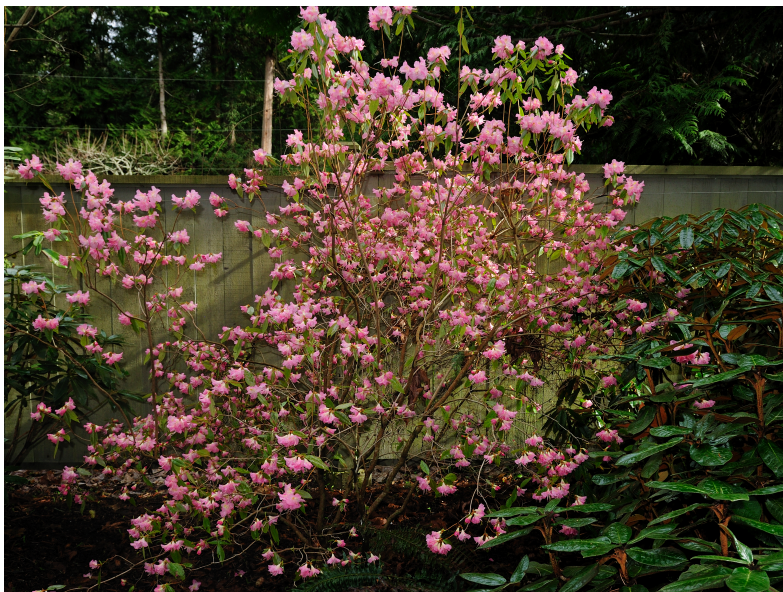
Elbow to elbow people at the Qualicum Seedy Saturday.

Continuous mild weather reducing the demand on our birdfeeders.

Some early Spring plants showing themselves beautifully.



*R. mucronulatum*



**Coral Glow**

*Photos by S. Lightburn*



**Crocus**



### Moroccan Harost Balls With Dates, Raisins And Nuts

Harost balls have been a part of Moroccan culture for centuries. They are traditionally a part of the passover feast in Morocco

| Amount | Measure    | Ingredient   |
|--------|------------|--|
| 2      | cups       | pitted dates   |
| ½      | cup        | golden raisins   |
| ½      | cup        | dark raisins   |
| ½      | cup        | walnuts  |
| 1      | tablespoon | sweet red wine (Manichewitz, zinfandel or grape juice work)—<br>(up to 2T) |

#### Preparation Method:

Process the dates, raisins, and walnuts in a food processor until the mixture is finely chopped and begins to stick together. Add enough wine to make a sticky mass. Line a baking sheet with waxed paper. Drop slightly rounded measuring teaspoonfuls of the mixture onto a lined sheet. Roll each mound with moistened palms into hazelnut-size balls. Refrigerate for at least 3 hours or until firm.

Dust the outsides of the balls with ground cinnamon. Serve harost balls at room temperature on a platter, alongside tea matzahs (a thin, crisp unleavened bread).

Yield: about 60 pieces

Exported from MasterCook

