



The Rhodomentum

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Newsletter

March 2022



President's Message

Hello NRS Gardeners and Happy Year of the Garden!

The garden is calling while I am sitting behind the computer with the early morning sun shining through the window. There is so much planned for the garden season ahead that I can't wait to tell you all about it. Our fabulous propagators transplanted two hundred 2019 cuttings into 2-gallon pots, and all of them will be offered for sale at our **Truss Show and Plant Sale on 30th of April 2022**. We will need everyone's help at the show, as in years past. There are still about one hundred 2019 cuttings in 1-gallon pots which need more growing time before they are ready to be transplanted.

The Committee for the **Public Garden Tour on May 14/15** is working hard on the tour particulars – our great thanks to everyone involved, the garden owners and the committee members – even though they are still keeping us “in suspense”. The schedule for the **‘Members only’** open gardens is ready (see page 6) – further details will be available at our upcoming March 10th in person meeting at Beban Centre. For the Public Garden Tour, ‘garden sitters’ are needed – two per day for each garden – one from 10 to noon and the other from 12 to 2pm. The sign-up sheets will be available at our March 10th meeting. The entrance ticket for both days will be \$15.00 and the ‘sitters’ get one for free! More details will be available at our meeting and in upcoming newsletters.

You have missed quite a lot of fun if you were not able to join us at the **Hailey Grove** work bee (see photos on p. 4). Much has been accomplished at this Nanaimo GEM, but there is still much to do, as the Grove will also be part of the Public Garden Tour. Don't miss our next work bee on 8th of March, 10-14h.

We were fortunate to have been able to arrange a presentation by **Lionel de Rothschild** for our upcoming April meeting which is going to be on Friday (not Thursday), April 22nd – more details in our April newsletter.

Nancy Greer, Harold's widow, has thanked us for our condolence card that Wanda Brenton so lovingly created. Thank you, Wanda!

Wishing you all a Happy Year of the Garden!

Rosina



OUR EXECUTIVE

President	Rosina Schmidt	751-3386
Vice President	Chris Southwick	390-3415
Past President	Allen McRae	758-7589
Secretary	Deborah Francis	
Treasurer	Ron Sutton	416 951-1373

Directors	Ann Beamish	758-2574
	Dorothee Kieser	390-4136
	Gaylle McRae	758-7589

COMMITTEES:

Advertising	Allen McRae
Library	Ann Beamish / Gaylle McRae
Newsletter	June Bouchard / John Deniseger
Membership	Jan Moles
Program	by Committee
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey
Social	Deborah Francis
Bargain Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich
Website	Deborah Francis/Rosina Schmidt
Bus Tour	David & Joyce Mitchell
Sunshine	Wanda Brenton
Propagation	Rosina Schmidt
Hailey Grove	Kevin Francis
Show and Sale	Jan Moles and Brenda Lewis

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society
Box 241, #101-5170 Dunster Road
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4
Website: nanaimorhodos.ca

March Meeting ~ in person!! 😊

Thursday, March 10th at 7:30

“Pruning Rhododendrons”

with Rose Prufer

Our March Speaker / Presentation – Pruning Rhododendrons with Rose Prufer:

One of the most common questions we get is “Can I prune my rhododendrons? And if so, how?” At our March 10th meeting, Rose will be showing us how to prune our rhodos, including how to deal with those plants damaged by last year’s summer drought and heat dome. **She’s encouraging club members to bring in potted rhodos or even branches of plants for her to use as a demonstration or for her to show our members what to do themselves.** This will be a great learning opportunity for all of us.



Rose’s Bio: Rose’s passion for plants started at a young age in North Vancouver. After working at several jobs, she realized that working with plants was something she needed to focus on. In 1985, she completed the Horticulture program at B.C.I.T. and never looked back. Her first job came as a custom propagator of rhododendrons in Maple Ridge. The owner, Lloyd Smith, had decades of experience with propagation under his belt and taught Rose so much including the grafting of maples and conifers. Years of taking various courses including Floral design to stay viable and up to date with modern horticulture kept Rose busy. Until recently, Rose was a member of the IPPS which is the International

Plant Propagators Society Western Chapter – an organization that allowed professionals to visit various nurseries and exchange information and experiences.

Rose has also been a member of the ARS for over thirty years. She has been an active member in several chapters and has taken on every position except for treasurer. Participating in plant sales and giving the occasional talks and demos has helped her learn so much and make so many wonderful friends.

Rose’s husband Art is almost always at her side helping with plants sales, games etc even though he describes himself as a “dragee”. Art’s background in the IT industry has helped Rose set up newsletters and slideshows for the rhododendron clubs.

Retired now, Rose loves sharing her knowledge and experiences with other folks who are like minded.

Upcoming NRS Programs: tell your friends

	Speaker	Topic
Friday, April 22nd **Note the date change	Lionel de Rothschild	Exbury – specific title/topic to be confirmed
Thursday, May 12th	Allison McCabe	Invasive Plants – specific title to be confirmed

Looking back at our February meeting...

Through the magic of Zoom, Master Gardener Jo Canning led us through an excellent program on the “perfect pairing” of bulbs with rhododendrons. Forty-six gardeners from various District 1 chapters, and possibly beyond, joined the fun and we learned a lot, not only about the importance of companion planting, but also about how best to “mix and match” according to various growing conditions. It was an inspiring presentation, perfect for a coolish February evening.

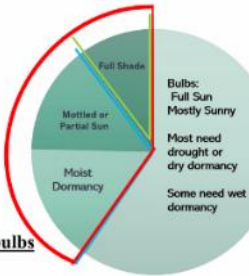
Companions: Matching Sun & Moisture Needs

**The world of rhododendrons:
... what they need**

More Narrow Range:
• mottled sun/shade
+
• moist bloom season
• moist off season

What do rhodos **create** for bulbs?

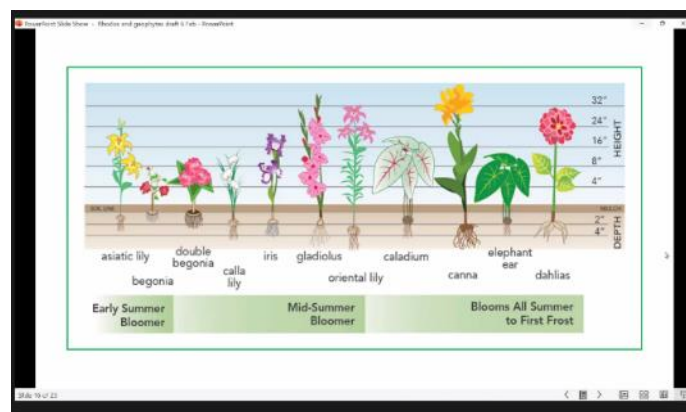
Red Arc = woodland bulbs



**The World of Bulbs
... what they need**

Found in all Combinations
• full sun
• mostly sunny
• part shade
• dappled shade
• full shade

Dormancy
• drought
• dry
• moist
• wet/bog




Spring-planted Bulbs

- Many taller than spring bloomers
- Provide colour to frost months

BUT

- Less hardy than autumn planted spring bloomers
- Often form thick root balls / clumps
- Tubers can be same level as rhodo roots
- Less tolerant of winter wet



Late Season Rhodo Companions

Summer and autumn bulbs can enhance the garden pleasure using the shape and evergreen of rhodos as a backdrop. Autumn blooming rhodos create complementary colours.



*Stay connected - check our web page -
new things added regularly!*

<http://nanaimorhodos.ca/>

Hailey Rhododendron Grove at Bowen Park - from Rosina

Just a few photos of today's (February 8th) Hailey Grove work party, attended by Deborah and Kevin Francis, Gayle and Allen McRae, Ian Knipe and Rosina. All eager beavers to make the grove a pleasure to enjoy. Three huge piles of invasive species have been removed. **To all, a great thank you!**



...



N.R.S. Calendar – Spring is coming and it's the Year of the Garden!
There are many events being planned – you may want to mark your calendars!!
And tell your friends! As always, we will be following the appropriate public health guidelines.



Tuesday, March 8th: Hailey Grove work bee: 10 am to 2 pm.

Thursday, March 10th: Regular meeting – speaker: Rose Prufer – Pruning Rhododendrons.

Tuesday, April 12th: Hailey Grove work bee: 10 am to 2 pm.

Friday, April 22nd: Regular meeting – speaker: Lionel de Rothschild – Exbury Gardens.

Tuesday, April 26th: “Year of the Garden – A Celebration of Rhododendrons” – Special Event for all Vancouver Island ARS chapter members – to be held at the Greig Rhododendron Species Garden at Milner Gardens and Woodland (details to follow in the April newsletter).

April 18th through May 28th: A number of open gardens by members for members (see p.6).

Thursday, April 28th: Garden tour of several NRS, MARS and NIRS members gardens. A bus tour without a bus – provide your own transportation – car pool as much as possible - travel in a “convoy”. A schedule and details will be provided in our next newsletter.

Saturday, April 30th: NRS Annual Plant sale and Truss Show – Centennial Bldg, Beban Park.

Tuesday, May 10th: Hailey Grove Work Bee: 10 am to 2 pm.

Thursday, May 12th: Regular meeting- speaker: Allison McCabe – Invasive Species.

Saturday/Sunday, May 14th/15th: NRS Public Garden Tour.

Twigs and Stems: Calendar of Other Upcoming Events:



Milner Gardens and Woodland: – spring openings start Saturday, March 4th. See below and check the Milner website for details: [Milner Garden Events](#)

Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society: Wednesday, March 12th; 7:30pm – “Members Photo Night”.

North Island Rhododendron Society: Tuesday, March 8th - “New Zealand - Land of the Long White Cloud” - Linda Derkach

Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society: Wednesday, March 2nd at 7pm – to be determined

Victoria Rhododendron Society: Monday, April 5th 7:30 - “Herbaceous and Tree Peonies” – Malcolm Ho-You

The Year of the Garden - Spring Open Gardens



We're being optimistic and are planning garden tours for the coming spring. Hurrah! We are having a series of open gardens for members only, beginning in late April through late May. In late April, there will be a joint NRS/MARS/NIRS garden tour for members only. In mid-May, we're planning an N.R.S. public garden tour as a fundraiser for our club. The dates of the Public Tour are Saturday, May 14th and Sunday, May 15th. The cost will be \$15 per ticket which gives people access to all of the gardens for two days.

The May 14th and 15th public gardens tours organizers are busy looking for volunteers to act as garden sitters to take tickets for the public tour. If you are interested in helping out by garden sitting, Gayle and Chris would be very happy to hear from you at csouthwick@shaw.ca or allengayle@shaw.ca

Obviously, we will have to be cognizant of the latest Ministry of Health guidelines, but we are thinking that this spring will be better for us than the last two with regard to being out and enjoying the fruits of our gardening friends' labours!

NRS MEMBERS OPEN GARDENS SCHEDULE – Spring 2022

As we slowly move into spring, we're able to start planning our club's garden events (while keeping an eye on PHO guidelines). The good news is that we're back to having a series of open gardens, thanks to the generosity of a number of our club members. **Please note that these open gardens are for members only.**

Here's the schedule as it stands so far:

April 18th, 2022 (Easter Monday): 2-5 pm – Robert Nixon – 6250 Azure Road, Nanaimo

April 28th, 2022 (Thursday): June and John – 4555 Thompson Clarke Dr. East, Bowser, BC (together with MARS)

-schedule yet to be determined as this is part of a joint tour including NRS, MARS and NIRS

April 28th, 2022 (Thursday): Rea and Ron Sutton – 7310 Cougar Smith Rd., Fanny Bay, BC (together with MARS)

-schedule yet to be determined as this is part of a joint tour including NRS, MARS and NIRS

May 7th, 2022 – (Saturday): 10 am – 3 pm – Dorothee Kieser – 6299 Pearce Rd. Nanaimo

May 16th, 2022 – (Monday): 4 – 7 pm – Chris Southwick – 6647 Green Acres Way, Nanaimo

May 23th, 2022 (Victoria Day, Monday): 2 – 5 pm - Ann and Dick Beamish – 3904 Hammond Bay Rd., Nanaimo

May 28th, 2022 (Saturday): 2 – 5 pm – Linda and Paul Lawry - 118 -5854 Turner Rd., Nanaimo



One of our members, Jean Greig, just celebrated a very special day! 😊

Happy 100th Birthday, Jean, from your NRS friends!



“Mom had a terrific time as did we all. The photo attached shows from left, Mike Sly (son-in-law), Bernice Greig (daughter-in-law), Rod Reid (Chris’s significant other), Chris Southwick (daughter) Jean Greig, Jane Drown (daughter), Nancy Sly (daughter) and Charles Greig (son). Grandson Hector Greig took the photograph. A very happy day, indeed!”



Jean and Jim Greig receiving trophy for “Best in Show” for R. ‘Horizon Monarch’ at our 1999 Truss Show.

An Update from our Propagation Group – from Rosina

On Saturday, February 12th, the propagation group got together in the sparkling sunshine at Bryan Jubinville's splendid garden. Working together, Bryan, Chris Southwick, Allen McRae, Deborah Francis and Rosina potted up about half of the 2019 cuttings into 2-gallon pots. Most of the cuttings will be available for sale this year at our truss show and plant sale.

To all hardworking propagators, our warmest thank you!



And on Sunday, February 20th, the last batch of 2020 cuttings were potted up in anticipation of our upcoming truss show and plant sale. The hostess was Chris Southwick with the helpers Jan Moles, Allen McRae, Rea and Ron Sutton, Deborah Francis and Rosina Schmidt, the photographer.

A lovely surprise was to spot R. 'Len Living', a Mary Greig cross, blooming in her granddaughter Chris Southwick's garden.

A very enjoyable work bee!



***** Our propagation group could use more 2-gallon pots. If you have pots that you'd like to donate to the group, please contact Rosina or Chris.**

Another request: donations for the raffle table at the Truss Show needed – please contact a member of the executive if you have anything to contribute.

“My green thumb came only as a result of the mistakes I made while learning to see things from the plant’s point of view.” –H. Fred Dale

Plant of the month by Ron Sutton

Azalea 'Fascination'

This evergreen azalea is one of my favourites. It is a Harris hybrid cross ('Grace Freeman' x 'Amagasa') and makes large 4.5-inch picotee bicoloured flowers of pale pink, with a large red border. This azalea is very floriferous, with the flowers pretty much hiding the shiny green leaves. Blooming starts around the end of May extending into early June. It spreads more than it grows upright, with the 10-year size estimated to be 4-5 feet wide by 2-3 feet high. Hardy to zone 7, it likes full sun to part shade.

My plant, seen in the attached photo taken June 5th, was purchased from Whitney Gardens in Washington.



Milner Gardens and Woodland

Spring Events	
Spring Friday Saturday Openings Enjoy the early Spring blooms. Gardens and Gift Shop open. Open Fridays and Saturdays March 4 – 26 11am – 3pm, viewing until 3:30pm Stay tuned for Camellia Tea Room opening details.	
Shoulder Season Begins March 31 Open Thursday to Sunday 11am to 4:30pm, viewing until 5pm	
Bunny Trail April 15 - 17	
Spring Plant Sale April 30 – May 1, 11am – 4pm at winter admission rates Members Only Early Access on April 29, 5pm – 6pm Great prices on heritage plants.	
2179 West Island Highway, Qualicum Beach 250-752-6153	
<div></div>	
<div>milnergardens.viu.ca Facebook: VIUMilnerGardens Instagram: @MilnerGardens</div>	

Spring has sprung. The time for planning the garden is over, and the time for working in the garden has arrived! ☺

March Garden Tasks (by Vancouver Island Master Gardeners Association - via Milner Gardens and Woodlands website)

March is much like the proverbial teen: stormy, calm, nasty, lovely and unpredictable. Our growing season begins during the first 3 days of the month – as the blooming Erica, Galanthus, crocus and primula can attest – yet our frost date is mid-April. Frost date is an average and can vary as much as 2 weeks in the annual cycles. Until the third week, a few degrees either way or a metre shift left or right can make the difference between a prized tender perennial overwintering or freezing, an early vegetable thriving or struggling, or a seedling tray failing. So, with the row cover at ready, and all the pots lined up to catch the sun, our monthly tasks can begin.

For more on this topic, [click here](#)



Rosina's March Gardening Calendar:

Rhododendrons:

Fertilize with 10-6-4 slow-release fertilizer;
Prune the tips;
Deadhead the early bloomers after they finished blooming.

Fruit trees:

Prune the trees and spray with dormant oil.

Mason Bees:

When bloom is a week away, set cocoons outside for release.

Vegetables:

When forsythia is blooming – plant radishes;
When apples and lilacs are blooming – plant squash, cucumbers and beans;
When spirea is blooming – plant tomatoes.

Lawn and Roses:

Aerate and top-dress the lawn; apply moss control fertilizer;
Prune back roses and fertilize with a granular slow-release fertilizer.

“Behold, my friends, the Spring is come; the earth has gladly received the embraces of the sun, and we shall soon see the results of their love!” -Sitting Bull



VIRAGS ANNUAL SPRING SHOW & SALE
APRIL 1st 1-8PM & APRIL 2nd 1-5PM
MARY WINSPEAR CENTER, SIDNEY, BC

Entry by donation

Plant show & sale, silent auction & door prizes, tea & lunches available

Crevice garden demo with Paul Spriggs,

Chris Dixon & Ty Danylchuk, April 1st 2-5pm

Info @ virags.com/the-spring-show

SYMPOSIUM
APRIL 2nd 9AM-12PM

Panayoti Kelaidis: North American

Rock Plants, 2nd Series-Revisiting Hugh Preece

Laura Caddy: Rock Gardening in the Pacific North West

Limited registration-\$35 @ virags.com/the-spring-show



For info visit

www.virags.com

Facebook @ vancouver island rock and alpine garden society

Instagram @ virags_pics

Welcome to the 2022 ARS Spring International Convention

Hosted by the chapters of ARS District 4
Portland – Tualatin Valley – Eugene – Willamette – Siuslaw



After a two-year delay of our scheduled 75th Anniversary celebration, we're excited to announce a reunion of the ARS in its founding city, Portland, Oregon. Here you will find all elements of the planned 2020 convention, including the Pre-Tour (new dates: May 2-3) and Post-Tour (new dates: May 8-10), while including even more enhancements to the original features. [Click here](#) for a preview video of the event.

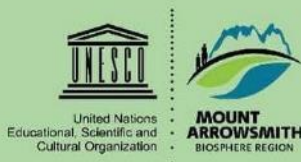
****ARS 2022 Registration opening Wednesday, December 1, 2021**

Covid Considerations

In an effort to assure the health and safety of all participants, the decision has been made to require proof of full vaccination for all registrants. You will need to confirm your vaccine status on registering, and proof will be required at the registration desk on check-in. Masks will be required in the hotel, on buses, and at all meetings and events. Please be aware that conditions may change as the convention comes closer and a revised policy may be issued. We recommend that you sign up for convention updates, below, to be apprised of changes in policy as they occur. Thank you for your cooperation.

TRADITIONAL PLANT WORKSHOP

FEATURING THE GARDEN CAFE



MAORRI

March 15th, 2022

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Qualicum Beach Community Hall

644 Memorial Avenue

ENTRY BY DONATION

Join a panel of experts, including

Geraldine Manson Dr. Nancy Turner Kim Recalma Les Malbon

as they teach about the traditional knowledge of native
plants and how to make traditional medicine.

To register and to learn more about this event, visit:

<https://traditional-plant-workshop.eventbrite.ca>

For questions, please contact Jessica.Pyett@viu.ca | 250.753.3245 (local 2802)

Thank you to our Sponsors:





*Looking
forward to
seeing you all
at our usual
venue on
Thursday,
March 10th! ☺*

