

MAY



2003

VICTORIA DAY

Volume 11



Issue 9

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May 8th Meeting:

Norman Todd of Firwood Nursery will speak to "Lepidotes" the rhododendron with scales.

Every time you talk to or listen to Norman you learn something new about rhododendrons, the consummate professional of the genus. How can this young man of 39 years have achieved so much knowledge and experience about plants and their culture.

It is written of Norman "Erudition in the field of rhododendron dry and a high level of literacy - all attended by a pervading wit - are the famous attributes of Norman Todd."

No one should miss any rendition by this amiable Scot.

Our last speaker will be Norman Todd, no one should miss his presentation.

Things are heating up for a tremendous finale of our 11th season of the society. We will be electing a new slate of executive members. Volunteer if you can, we all can give a little of our time to help. A good way to get involved is to assist with one of our committees and learn the ropes.

The Truss Show and Plant Sale is set for Saturday May 10th at Beban Park. Let's make this a great display - bring along your rhododendron trusses - bring your friends and neighbours - and help out - this is our chance to show off the society.

Don't miss the open gardens - viewing other gardens is a great way to get new ideas for our own gardens.

Our final function on June 7 is our wind up BBQ at the home of Joyce and Craig Clarke's.

**See you at the Show.**

NB: Anyone going to Rhododendron Lake? The last week of May and the first week of June is usually the best time for the blooming of the macrophyllum.

### EXECUTIVE

President	Richard White	752-6519
V/President	Mary Taylor	756-3984
Secretary	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Treasurer	Barb Coy	758-8497
Directors	Dave Ball	729-0456
	Yvonne Harding	756-3574
	Allan McRae	758-7589
	Helmut Neuman	714-1840
	Josie Robertson	390-4270
	Anne Williamson	390-2604

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### NRS EMAIL ADDRESS

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### PAST ISSUES

<http://rhodos.ca/nanaimo/newsarchive.htm>

### ARS WEBSITE

[www.rhododendron.org](http://www.rhododendron.org)

### Rhododendron & Azalea News

<http://www.rhododendron.org/news/home.htm>

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### DISTRIBUTION

Gill Taylor

# Mother's Day

## Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Committees

**Library** - look after books and the purchases.  
**Program** - speakers.  
**Advertising** - information of events to the media.  
**Social** - refreshments at the meetings and socials.  
**Front entrance table** - plant raffle, door prizes, guest welcome.  
**\$ table** - members' plants for sale.  
**Meeting coordinator** - organize and set up cupboard, audio and visual for speakers, chairs and tables.  
**Open gardens** - members gardens.  
**Spring Bus Trip.**  
**Raffle** - acquire raffle items, tickets and sales.

Would you like to assist our committee chairs?

NB: Members required at our Show to look after a table to sell raffle tickets, hand out brochures and pamphlets on information on memberships and general rhododendron information. Call Richard at 755 7505 if you can assist.



## MAY GOODIES

Janet Atkinson

Anne Williamson

Ray Lauzier

Paul & Linda Lawry

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR NRS Garden Visits

May 2, 6:30pm - 8:30pm	Delores Mason
May 16, 6:30pm- 8:30pm	Jim Greig (Nanoose)
May 16, 6:30pm- 8:30pm	Richard White (Qualicum)
May 17, 1:00pm- 4:pm	Janet Atkinson
May 23, 6:30pm- 8:30pm	Michael Miller
May 23, 6:30pm- 8:30pm	Doug Blenkarn

Description and directions on pages 6, 7, 8

Information submitted by the Blenkarns



Paul & Lynn Wurz  
 4307 Gordon Rd.  
 Campbell River,  
 287-4301  
 Pwurz@oberon.ark.com

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## NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY WEST COAST GARDEN TOUR

Once again, we've chartered a bus and we're heading off in a new direction this year. Two years ago we went south to Victoria, last year we went north to Campbell River and Courtenay, and this year we're going west to **Port Alberni and Tofino**.

**When:** Saturday, May 24, 2003

The bus will be leaving from the north end of Woodgrove Mall (near Chapters) at 7 am.

**Cost:** \$25 per person (non members welcome)

### Itinerary:

<b>0700</b>	Leave Woodgrove Mall
<b>1st Stop</b>	Urban Greenery Nursery – Port Alberni
<b>2nd Stop</b>	Ken and Dot Gibson's – Tofino
<b>Midday</b>	Stubbs Island by boat from Tofino Bring a picnic lunch.
<b>Afternoon</b>	Depart Stubbs Island for Tofino
<b>1500</b>	Depart Tofino
<b>1530</b>	Drive through entry to Ucluelet to see Rhododendron donations and plantings
<b>Late afternoon</b>	Dashwood Nursery – Port Alberni
<b>19:00</b>	Return to Nanaimo

**As always, we'll have door prizes and fun on the bus – bring a pen or pencil and some paper.**

*Please note that we're asking for everybody to be paid up by the next meeting, the bus is full but we have a waiting list . I not paid by May 8th , your place will be offered to those on the waiting list.*

## May Meeting

Our speaker, Norm Todd of Firwood Nurseries offered to bring a few specialty plants for sale at the meeting. Because the meeting happens only two days before the Truss show and Plant Sale on May 10, he will not be bringing a large number of plants.

If you have any particular requests, phone Craig at 390-4090 or send an email to [nanaimo@rhodos.ca](mailto:nanaimo@rhodos.ca) and he will pass your requests to Norm.

# Mother's Day

## Nanaimo Rhododendron Society - Minutes of April 10<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting 2003

1. The meeting was called to order by President Richard White at 7:40 pm.

2. Richard welcomed members and guests. Attendance 38.

**3. Secretary's report.** Correspondence received: A letter from Milner Gardens regarding the upcoming events in the garden. It was moved/seconded/carried that the minutes of the March 2003 meeting be adopted as printed in the newsletter.

**4. Treasurer's report:** The balance in the Bowen Park Legacy Fund is \$156.05  
The balance in the general account is \$1600.15  
The balance in the library fund is \$207.81

### **5. Committee Reports:**

**Library:** David Ball is preparing a book order and needs 3 more titles to obtain the discount.

**Newsletter:** Send articles to Paul & Linda Lawry.

**Program:** May: Norm Todd.

**Open Gardens:** Doug Blenkarn announced that 7 gardens will be open to members this season.

### **6. Old Business**

**Bus Tour** May 24<sup>th</sup>. The bus is full, a waiting list is started; the cost is \$25 each.

**May truss show and plant sale** May 10<sup>th</sup>: flyers are made up for distribution, bring trusses for display.

**CVIBGS Show** – thanks to Barb for preparing our booth and thanks to all our volunteers.

**Elections at May AGM** – Michael Miller and Maurice Mauch volunteered to canvass the membership.

### **7. New Business**

**Sound system** – thanks to Michael Miller for setting it up.

A new idea for fund raising is to conduct plant auctions at meetings.

June picnic will be hosted by Craig & Joyce Clarke

Michael Miller is placing a bulk order with the Heather Farm in Sardis and is looking for others interested to participate.

**8. Next executive meeting** will be hosted by Mary Taylor April 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

**9. Door Prize winners:** Phillip Paul, Kathy Montgomery, Barb Little, Linda Lawry.

**Raffle winners:** Reinhold Gorgosilich, Robert Hayashi, John Deniseger, Allen McRae, Val Harvey.

**Name Tag Draw:** Paul Lawry.

**10. Speaker:** Lindsay Gibson gave a very interesting presentation on many beautiful Japanese gardens and emphasized features involved in their design.

# Mother's Day

## STRAITS RHODODENDRON

*Melastoma malabathricum* Sendudok (Malay)

By Ria Tan, 2001

This showy bush rapidly colonises wastelands as their seeds are dispersed by birds. As such, the Straits Rhododendron is often considered a weed.

The beautiful flowers last only one day, opening after sunrise, closing the same day, with the petals falling off on the a few days later. The flower has two different kinds of stamens.

The seeds are tasteless and can be eaten, but stains the tongue black. In fact, the word melastoma is Greek for "black mouth". Mangrove and wetland wildlife at Sungei Buloh Nature Park

**Main features:** Average 1m but may grow up to 3m tall.

**Stems:** reddish, covered with small rough scales.

**Leaves:** Simple, narrow with 3 prominent longitudinal veins. Bristly underside.

**Flowers:** Five petals; dark purple to pinkish; on rare occasions, white.

**Fruits:** Oval with purple pulp; contains many tiny seeds.

**Status in Singapore:** Common.

**World distribution:** Madagascar, India to Australia. Very common in Southeast Asia.

**Classification:** Family Melastomataceae.

Uses: The young leaves are eaten raw or cooked and taste sour. The pulp around the seeds also be eaten (Indonesia). The seeds are used to produce a black dye, the roots, a pink dye. In some places, the leaves are fed to silkworms.

Traditional medicinal uses: Leaves are used to treat diarrhoea and dysentery (Malaysia, Indonesia); wash for ulcers, to prevent scarring from smallpox; and to treat piles.

Role in the habitat: The fruits are the favourites of birds like the flowerpeckers and doves which also disperse the seeds. Squirrels and monkeys are also fond of the fruits. The plant is the host for caterpillars of butterflies such as the Common Sailor (*Neptis hylas*) and the Grey Count (*Tanaecia lepidea*). Being among the first to colonise wasteland, the plant helps prevent soil erosion and to allow regeneration of vegetation in such places.

### LINKS

Bat Conservation International Products derived from plants visited by bats: Uses of various parts of the plant.

Tropical Flowers of the Singapore Botanic Garden by James Teiw: brief facts, photos.

Guide to the Wildflowers of Singapore, online version on the Singapore Science Centre: fact sheet, drawings, photos.

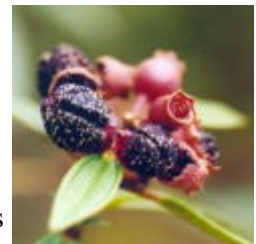
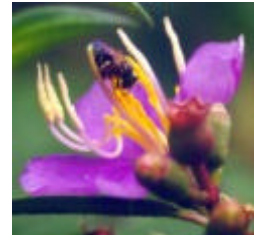
### REFERENCES

To buy these references & others, visit Nature's Niche

Ivan Polunin, "Plants and Flowers of Singapore", Times Editions, 1987 (p. 98: description, habitat, distribution, photo).

Wee Yeow Chin, "A Guide to Medicinal Plants", BP Singapore Science Centre, 1992 (p. 100: description, chemical compounds, uses, photo).

E. J. H. Corner, "Wayside Trees of Malaya: Vol II", Malayan Nature Society, 4th ed., 1997 (p. 484-486: description, habit, distribution).



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# Mother's Day

**Friday, May 2, 2003, 6:30pm-8:30pm - Garden of Delores Mason - 2560 Cosgrove Crescent**

Heading south on the Island Highway, turn off at the Nanaimo Golf Club and on to Highland Blvd. Take the first left onto Cosgrove Crescent. If coming from the south you can access Highland Blvd from Brooks Landing and find Cosgrove Crescent prior to reaching the golf course.

Delores has been developing her garden for the past thirty years. The front garden is divided by a circular drive. Native fir, cedar and junipers occupy the area between the road and driveway and provide a screen. Surrounding the front of the house more recent and extensive planting has replaced the original lawn. Huge grandiorite boulders have been tastefully arranged and provide contrast to the circular aggregate stepping stones. An arbor and trellis with clematis montana and honeysuckle respectively, provide vertical elements. Over 20 small and medium sized rhododendrons, viburnum, kolkwitzia (beauty bush), corylus avellana, 'contorta' (Harry Lauder's walking stick), calluna vulgaris (heathers), spiraea, salix repens (creeping willow), magnolia, oxalis (shamrock), and many others are present. A small bed of fawn lily are carefully protected.

One enters the rear garden via the carport. The surrounding fence with the adjacent taller native and exotic planting provides privacy and deer protection. A chicken coop, greenhouse, deck and arbors are the backdrop for extensive and varied cultivars. An everdiminishing lawn gives way to raised boxes. Driftwood has been artfully used as borders for walks and beds and in an arbor. Recently the paths have been surfaced with rounded stones collected after years of Delores' digging. English and informal is her description of the garden. A huge variety of perennials are roughly grouped by colours. Pots of all sizes and designs are placed strategically. The slopping topography provide a distant view of Georgia Strait and the elevated deck permits one to relax and survey the garden from above.

**Friday, May 16, 2003 – 6:30 PM- 8:30 PM – Garden of Jim and Jean Greig – 1411 Dorcas Point Road, Nanoose**

Going north on the Isl. Highway soon after you pass the Arlington Hotel turn right on Northwest Bay Rd (at the stoplight immediately before the Petro Canada Service stn) and cross the E and N railway tracks three times. Then go past Stewart Rd (on your right) and turn right on Claudet Rd which is just around the corner. Down Claudet and turn right at the first junction, Dorcas Point Rd and the Greig/Zanatta joint driveway is almost at the end on the left (1411 Dorcas Point Road).

As you drive up the driveway you will notice fenced vegetable gardens, both with raised beds (there is rock and clay underneath). Being on the edge of woodlands there are lots of deer and rabbits to contend with. Rennie and Evelyn Zanatta's on the left is very intensively cultivated and is notable for the grape and kiwi vines along the fences. Jean and Jim Greig's, on the right, is in more of a 'pocket' in the trees and gets somewhat less sun so is not quite so 'lush'. Blue poppies, meconopsis baileyi, will probably be out and if you do not grow them and want to try, Jean will have some seed.

As you approach the house you will see there are a number of parking places on either side of the drive. On the left as you go down past Rennie's waterfall to-wards their house notice the pool, the rock work and the Zanattas' nice sheltered sun trap for morning coffee in front of their main entrance. Around to your left past the roses there are easy steps down to the beach.

If you circle around the front of the Zanatta house and come back up the hill notice the group of large rhodies north to-wards the Greig house - a classic example of what happens when you try and put too many plants into too little space, although most are less than ten years old! If you wish to come and look at the view and orient yourself by all means come through the front door and have a seat on the deck.

As you leave the properties, half way between the vegetable garden and Dorcas Point Road notice on your left R. auriculatum. It is about twenty feet high, half grown and forty years old, blooms in late July (not profusely here because of the shade), and is gradually recovering from having the centre broken out of it from a falling branch from the fir tree above it.

Going on to Q. Beach make sure you turn left at the stop sign at the end of Dorcas Pt Rd and right when you come to the junction where Claudet Rd. meets Northwest Bay Rd.



# Mother's Day

## **Friday, May 16, 2003 – 6:30 PM- 8:30 PM – Garden of Richard and Linda White – 391 Quatna Road, Qualicum Beach**

Head north on the Old Island Highway (Oceanside route) drive into Qualicum Beach and turn left onto Hemsworth Road. (Sign for Qualicum Heritage Inn will be on your right) Turn at next right on Quatna Road and the third house is the Whites. If coming from the new highway take the Qualicum Beach turn-off and drive through town and follow Memorial Avenue to the Old Island Highway. At the beach turn north to Hemsworth and right to Quanta.

Neighbouring properties, including the Qualicum Heritage Forest, have mature trees which provide a fine borrowed view to this community of well manicured gardens. Tall cedar hedges border the garden that totally encircles the house. A front bed with a pyramidal scotch pine, a weeping sequoia and Japanese maple provide contrasting colours. Both Richard and Linda tend the garden, the size and maturity of which belie the fact that the garden is only two years old. Richard was able to purchase several mature rhododendrons from a relocating enthusiast. 120 rhododendrons with equal numbers of species and hybrids dominate the planting. Companion plants include lilies, hardy lavatera, pieris, magnolia, empress tree, ginko, gunnera and others combine to produce a dense planting. Pockets of native plants, a perennial bed, a vegetable bed and a fronting bed of annuals complete the picture.

## **Saturday, May 17, 2002 – 1:00 PM- 4:00 PM - Garden of Janet Atkinson – 177 Piper Crescent**

Piper Crescent accesses Hammond Bay Road on either end and is located between Piper's Lagoon Park and Neck Point Park.

Janet has created her garden over the past 16 years. Rhododendrons and pieris backed by a mature cedar hedge form the southern boundary. The front garden is expansive, varied, and deer proof with an ever diminishing grassed area. Rhododendron, locust, spirea, ceanothus, mock orange, maple, magnolia, pieris, holly hedges, walking stick flourish with flax, iris, self seedings, limnanthes (poached egg plant), senecio, saxifraga and others filling the gaps. Janet weeds twelve months a year. A cedar hedge borders the back garden where the vulnerable plants thrive. Here we find jasmine, clematis, forsythia, magnolia, sorbus, and buddleja. The protananthera (Australian mint bush) is outstanding. A reduced lawn area makes way for a large pond and several raised boxes, containers and pots. You quickly become aware that lilliam is favoured with over 50 varieties. The elevated side deck provides a view of both gardens, Pipers Lagoon and Georgia Strait.

## **Friday, May 23, 2003 – 6:30 PM- 8:30 PM – Garden of Michael Miller – 2489 Nadley Crescent**

Proceed south or north on Bowen Road and then west onto Rosstown Road (opposite south side of Beban Park). Take first left onto Mountain Vista go 1.1 km and take first left onto Nadley Crescent.

The last ten years have seen a front lawn replaced by a densely planted berm and patio rock garden, thus creating both privacy and view. Basalt boulders separate the roadway from a raised bed filled exclusively with such native B.C. plants as R. macrophyllum, arbutus, red and evergreen huckleberry, red flowering current, oregon grape, juniper, kinnikinnick, partridge foot, foxglove, trillium, mosses, sedum, etc. A recessed graveled patio is surrounded by a rockery and raised beds filled with various alpine plants, rhododendrons, manzanita, sempervivum, fatsia, mock orange, pieris, spring bulbs and others.

The back garden is accessed by a path on the north side. An outstanding wisteria has been trained and extends 60 feet along the property line. A vigorous bed of skimmia border the house. In the back, tall cedar fencing encloses the garden and is largely hidden by dense and varied shrubs and trees. A small greenhouse/ shed, work and composting area is screened by a climbing hydrangea. Michael has several uncommon trees, koelneuterio paniculata (golden rain tree), cornus, and palmatum and several others whose name escape me. Recently a second water feature in a central bed has reduced the grassed area. Beds are full with small and large rhododendrons, kalmia, viburnum, hibiscus, helleborus, black bamboo, pieris to name a few. Sedum, mosses, iris, ferns and others fill any gaps. The deck provides a view of Mount Benson.

# Mother's Day

**Friday, May 23, 2003 – 6:30 PM- 8:30 PM - Garden of Doug Blenkarn – 4834 Blue Jay Trail**

Proceed north along Hammond bay Road past Pipers Inn Pub. Take the first left onto Malaspina Road. then take the second left onto Laguna Way which becomes Lost lake Road. Take the first right onto Blue Jay Trail. 4834 is the 5th house on the right. Alternately access is from Rutherford Road and Lost Lake Road. Blue Jay Trail is a loop round connecting onto Lost lake Road.

The house and garden are hidden from the street by a natural area. Proceed down the driveway or alternately down the garden path by the mail box.

Over the past 20 years, the front slope has undergone thinning of the native vegetation and replacement with deer proof plants. More than 100 rhododendrons dominate. Companion plants include magnolia, acuba, camellia, hydrangea, quince, sequoia, clematis integrated with native salal, sword fern, Oregon grape and pine. Over 10 ground covers are on trial in different areas. A bark mulch foot path interrupted by stone and wooden steps bisects the garden. Planters, statuary, birdbath and mask are situated closer to the front door. Other containers are on the front view deck. A fenced side garden serves as a dog run, propagation site and area for immature and ailing plants.

## **NRS Eleventh Annual Truss Show and Plant Sale**

**Saturday, May 10 Centennial Building Beban Park**

This is our opportunity to familiarize the public with rhododendrons. Bring as many entries as you can so that people can see the full variety of sizes, foliage & flowers that are possible.

The classes are as follows:

1. **Red hybrids** (e.g., 'Malahat')
2. **Blotch/flare hybrids** (e.g., 'Scintillation')
3. **Pink hybrids** (e.g., 'Cotton Candy')
4. **White hybrids** (e.g., 'Loder's White')
5. **Salmon/orange hybrids** (e.g., 'September Song')
6. **Purple/blue hybrids** (e.g., 'Blue Ridge')
7. **Yellow hybrids** (e.g., 'Haida Gold')
8. **Smaller, alpine species** (e.g., *R. impeditum*)
9. **Larger species** (e.g., *R. macrophyllum*)
10. **Azaleas** (truss or spray) e.g, *R. schlippenbachi*
11. **Hammerhead truss** - formed from two or more buds
12. **Scented hybrid or species**:(e.g., *R. edgeworthii*)
13. **Display only** - not entered in the competition.
14. **Popular choice** - voted by people attending the show.

We still need volunteers to assist with the truss show and plant sale. It helps to have a number of people filling bottles with water and placing the trusses on the tables. Bring your trusses before 9 a.m., do your shopping for rhodos from 9 - 10 a.m. before the public arrives and then you can assist with the plant sale. Call Craig Clarke (390-4090) for details. Invite your friends and neighbours to the show. Non-members are welcome to submit trusses for the show. Remind them that there will be a number of specialty growers offering many exceptional rhodos and other perennials & *Admission is free!*

**7-9 a.m. Set up for show 9-10 a.m. Members only 10- 2 Open to general public**



# Mother's Day

## National ARS Convention - Olympia 2003

Hello to all of you folks registered for the convention from Canada.

We are happy you are going to join us for the convention. We also hope you will find plants you wish to purchase. We have some exciting new hybrids and also some wonderful species which I am sure you will find you must have!!!! There will also be vireyas and companion plants.

I am working with Doug Denkers on the plant sales and want to advise you concerning purchasing plants and taking them back to Canada. We will have a person from the Washington State Department of Agriculture at the plant sales area on Sunday morning at 11:00 am. She will prepare Phyto certificates for those who wish to take plants back into Canada. She will be there from one to two hours depending on the time required. The Convention is paying for her time to prepare the certificates.

I would suggest and strongly advise you to contact your Plant inspection people to make sure of what you can bring into Canada. A contact is Eric Odense at 604-666-7073. You may also wish to contact the USDA & Plant Health Inspection Service at Blaine/Canadian Border crossing at 360-332-8891. Internet site: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov> No plants are allowed from parts of Oregon nor from California.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [HRHelm@bainbridge.net](mailto:HRHelm@bainbridge.net) or at 206-842-5464 on Fridays or in the evenings or at 360-779-1347 during the day Monday through Thursday.

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# Mother's Day

## Milner Gardens and Woodland

Milner Gardens and Woodland in Qualicum Beach is pleased to announce that it will be opening to the public for its third season on **Thursday, April 3, 2003**. New this season, Milner Gardens and Woodland will be offering shoulder season rates for the months of April and October. Admission for these two months will be Adult \$7.50 and Student \$4.00. Regular admission will be in effect from May through September at Adult \$10.00 and Student \$6.00.

Special events planned for 2003 include a spring and fall Plant Sale, a Rhododendron Festival, a musical event in partnership with the Vancouver Island Symphony, and Art and Photography in the Garden. New this spring, Milner Gardens and Woodland is proud to announce the launch of its **“Roots & Shoots Intergenerational Gardening Program”**.

Milner Gardens and Woodland is located at 2179 West Island Highway in Qualicum Beach and is open to the public April 3<sup>rd</sup> to October 26<sup>th</sup> -Thursday to Sunday and public holidays, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. For information, please call (250) 752-6153. Email: milnergardens@shaw.ca or visit the website at [www.milnergardens.org](http://www.milnergardens.org).

## The Vancouver Rose Society

Presents "An Evening with Dan Hinkley". Dan Hinkley, horticulturist, explorer, author and co-founder of Heronswood Nursery, Bainbridge Island, Washington, will be the guest speaker of the Society on Monday, May 5, 2003 at 7:30 PM at the Canadian Memorial Church, 15th & Burrard, Vancouver.

Dan will be speaking on "Plant Marriages: Exceptional Combinations of Flower, Foliage and Structure". Tickets available at all Gardenworks, The Avant Gardener, West Vancouver and Southlands Nursery - \$15.00 members, \$20.00 non-members. For more information call Pauline 604-985-6383 or Lesley 604-261-6417.

The Vancouver Rose Society is offering to garden clubs tickets to this event at the \$15.00 membership price. If your members are interested, I can provide a group of tickets to your club (you could make a fund raiser out of it by adding to this price) or members can send a self-addressed and stamped envelope to Pauline DeCloedt at 1163 Cortell Street, North Vancouver, B.C., V7P 2A2.

## FREE LECTURES @ DIG THIS

SATURDAY, MAY 3 – 11:00 A.M. – Pond Construction w/Rob Gray

THURSDAY, MAY 15 – 2 P.M. – ABCs of Dahlias w/ Ray Lauzier

SATURDAY, JUNE 14 – 11:00 A.M. – Bonsai w/ David Rose