



Volume 12

MAY 2004



Issue 9

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May is an important month for your rhododendrons and your club as a whole. While your rhododendrons are continuing to bloom and provide that wonderful splash of colour their new growth is starting as the blooms finish so it is important to provide sufficient water at this time. I know it is difficult but when watering try and keep the water from the blooms, it reduces their bloom period.

The clubs big event, our Rhododendron Truss Show and Plant Sale, is coming up on May 8th and we need all your support to ensure a successful day. The Show and Sale is open to the public from 10am to 2pm but members will be able to have first selection of the plants for sale at 9am. So bring along your neighbours, friends and relatives to buy plants and other wares that our suppliers will be offering.

Please volunteer to help out during the show. Set up from 7 to 9; assist with plants sales; the truss show; our demonstration, raffle and information table; and the clean up at 2pm .

Our next meeting, May 13, is our Annual general Meeting when we **elect our executive board**. Please stand for any positions and support those who are elected. For a strong and viable club we all need to work together, so please nominate those you think would

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EXECUTIVE

President	Richard White	752-6519
V/President	Paul Lawry	390-2370
Secretary	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Treasurer	Barb Coy	758-8497
Directors	Allan McRae	758-7589
	Mike Miller	758-2879
	Helmut Neuman	714-1840
	Chris Southwick	758-0993
	Mary Taylor	756-3984
	Anne Williamson	390-2604

COMMITTEES

ADVERTISING	Allan	758-7589
LIBRARY	Chris/Brenda	758-0993
NEWSLETTER	Paul & Linda	390-2370
PROGRAMS	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
RAFFLE TABLE	June & John	
SOCIAL	Anne	390-2604
\$ TABLE	Yvonne	756-3574

MAY 13 NRS MEETING

BEBAN PARK AT 7:30

MIKE MILLER

“My trip to NEPAL”

&

ELECTION NIGHT



MAY VOLUNTEERS

SNACKS

CRAIG & JOYCE
PAUL & LINDA

RAFFLE

JOHN & JUNE

\$ TABLE

YVONNE



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

Growers of Specialty Rhododendrons

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www.rhodos.ca/nanaimo/newsarchive.htm

ARS WEBSITE

www.rhododendron.org

Rhododendron & Azalea News

www.rhododendron.org/news/newsindex.htm

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Paul & Linda Lawry
Email: plawry@telus.net

Our **November regular meeting** would normally be on the 11th, but being a stat holiday we have to move dates. We have booked Beban Park rooms 7 & 8 for November 2nd (Tuesday).

We have confirmed that Steve Hootman from the RSBG will be our guest speaker, and will present his Northern India Rhododendron Trip.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

make good candidates and let your name stand if that person is you. Some of us went on a Wildflower Walk with Charles Thirkill. He is going to have another in a few weeks, I will let you know when at the meeting.

See you at the meeting,

***Request for Public Assistance April
2004***

Camellia Recall

**Camellias from Monrovia Nursery, California
Due to Potential Infection with
Sudden Oak Death.**

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the British Columbia Landscape and Nursery Association (BCLNA) are seeking the co-operation of the public in a recall of all Camellia plants originating from the **Monrovia Nursery** — a large nursery in California that exports plants to many garden centres and nurseries throughout Canada. This recall is due to the recent finding that some Camellias from Monrovia are infected with Sudden Oak Death (SOD).

Please call the recall number below if:

You purchased a Camellia between September 1, 2003, and March 2004, and you know it came from Monrovia Nursery (identifying features include green pots with the Monrovia name, or Monrovia plant tags). You have a Camellia plant and you do not know where it came from. You have a flowering plant and you are unsure if it is a Camellia. If you have a plant or plants identified or suspected to be a Monrovia Camellia, the CFIA and BCLNA will send a representative to your home to remove the plant(s). Please have ready the name of the garden centre where you bought the Camellia and the approximate purchase date.

DO NOT touch the plant. Leave it undisturbed in your garden. Suspect plants should be removed ONLY by qualified staff to prevent further spread of the disease. Plants can be tested only at an accredited laboratory. DO NOT take the plant or its leaves to a garden centre.

If you have a suspect Camellia removed from your garden, you will receive a certificate that can be redeemed at a garden centre.

Although it is not a human health concern, SOD infects and kills many common urban and native plants

and trees, including, but not limited to oak, maple, rhododendron, rose, and blueberry plants.

**For More Information on Sudden Oak Death
1-877-666-4179 www.inspection.gc.ca**

Here is the bulletin that gives more information about

YVONNE'S CHEESE STRAWS

This is the treat that Yvonne passed around on the bus tour. Printed by popular demand and threats by Dick Beamish!

**1/2 lb. (250 g) all purpose flour
3 oz. (100 g) of margarine or butter
6 oz. (200 g) grated aged cheddar cheese
salt/pepper and dry mustard
Iced water to mix.**

Preheat oven to 400° F

Add salt/pepper and mustard to flour and mix well. Rub in margarine. Mixture must look like fine breadcrumbs.

Add grated cheddar cheese and mix.

Add sufficient iced water and mix with hands to form firm but pliable dough.

Roll out on floured surface 1/4" thick.

Cut into strips and baste with beaten egg or with egg mixture.

Bake in preheated oven at 400 degree F.

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society - Minutes of April 15th 2004 Regular Meeting

1. The meeting was called to order by President Richard White at 7:40pm. Forty members & guests present.
2. Richard welcomed new members Bill Walley & Gary Anaka.
3. **Secretary's report.** M/S/C to adopt the minutes of the last meeting as printed in the newsletter.
Correspondence received: Invitation from Wanda McAvoy to attend Fraser Days Ceremony May 29th; letter from Downtown Partnership requesting that we sponsor the Hanging Basket program; letter from Malaspina. University-College requesting that we send our \$300 bursary.
4. **Treasurer's report:**
The balance in the Bowen Park Legacy Account is \$156.18
The balance in the general account is \$2925.96
The balance in the library fund is \$249.46
5. **Committee Reports:**
Library: New acquisitions : books on Primulas, The Small Garden, & Maples.
Social Refreshments will be sold at the Truss Show on May 8.
Program May - Michael Miller will give a short talk on his recent trip to Nepal.
November – Steve Hootman will speak on his expedition to India.
Advertising Paul Lawry will prepare posters & bring to the executive meeting on April 22.
6. **Old Business**
Spring Bus Trip – April 24, 2004 will depart from Northfield & Parkway at 7:30 a.m.
Truss show & Sale – May 8, 2004 need volunteers for set-up at 7 am, also members are asked to help distribute posters.
Year-end BBQ – June 5, 2004 will be hosted by Paul & Linda Lawry.
Richard White & Craig Clarke picked the club order of plants from the Rhododendron Species Foundation at UBC Botanical Garden.
7. **New Business.**
It was moved/seconded/carried to purchase a rhodo for donation to the Fraser Days Committee.
Early Truss Show – Richard White & Chris Southwick gave some tips on displaying trusses.
Elections at Annual General Meeting – Darlene Budd, Norma Ginther & Barbara Little volunteered to canvass the members willing to stand for election to the club executive.
8. **Executive Meeting** will be hosted by Mary Taylor on April 22nd at 7 pm.
9. **Door prize winners** – Janet Atkinson, Hélène Sullivan.
Name Tag Draw – Fred Hechler, Mark Nixon.
Raffle Draw – Ray Lauzier, Chris Southwick, Rafe Hutchinson, Maurice Mauch, Reinhold Gorgosilich, Ann Williamson.
10. **Program.** Ron Knight gave a very informative and entertaining presentation on how to plant and care for rhododendrons.
11. Meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Garden Tour to the South

What a great bus trip. After the initial scare of being overbooked we found Philip and Joy already on the bus. Thanks to John Deniseger and Chris Southwick who organised the show. Linda and I certainly enjoyed ourselves, even Linda did not mind the constant harassment. Paul did an admirable job of entertainment, and must have been in show business in a former life.

Our first stop, at the University of Victoria Finnerty Gardens, we saw a well laid out selection of species and hybrid rhododendrons. Most of these we can grow in our gardens at home. Many of us had never visited these gardens, even though we lived in the area for many years. The warm sunny day certainly helped with the poking through the rhododendrons looking for name tags and good photo opportunities.

Next we joined the Victoria Club at their Truss Show and Plant Sale. After the initial shock of seeing the one hundred person line up we managed to get in fairly quickly. The number and quality of the trusses was excellent. It is good to see how other chapters run their show and sale and to benefit from their qualities.

The Abkhazi Gardens, "The Garden That Love Built", was a treat. The work and love which went into the creation of the gardens is a wonderful story. The books are a good read. The purchase of the property by The Land Conservancy (TLC) has certainly been a chal-

lenge,

but with help from many groups, including the NRS, their goal will be reached.

A quick run up the Saanich peninsula to the home of John Trelawney. We are welcomed by John who gave us a fascinating tour and history of his work in progress. What an excellent collection of rhododendrons and exotic plants he has. The layout of the landscape is superb, and what a dream location. His tender plants are thriving. Thanks to Craig for giving up one of his *Macrophyllum* as a gift to John. Our last stop was the home of Al and Sandy Campbell, Stonefold, at Shawnigan Lake. Another masterpiece in the making. Al and Sandy must spend all their spare time in the construction and maintenance of the garden. We certainly enjoyed this visit and were ready for the coffee and **chocolate chip cookies** provided by Sandy. Thanks also to Terry and Verna Richmond for supplying the other liquid refreshments.

During the last drive back to Nanaimo we were entertained by Paul and some ladies, in the back of the coach, with their singing. Luckily Dick and Richard did not break out the rugby songs.

Thanks to all of you who came on this trip and we loved those goodies which were circulated around the bus. Maybe Paul can include the recipe for the cheese sticks and the peanut brittle.

Richard.

Gardening Hints & Tips by Jennifer Moore

Green worms on Roses - Pair garlic close to roses, you will lessen the number of green worms eating their leaves. Cut banana peels into 1 inch pieces and place at the base of the bush also helps.

Squirrel deterrents - Place animal or human hair with tulip bulbs to deter squirrels from eating them. Placing bone or blood meal with bulbs and on top of the soil will help as well. The best deterrent - Plant daffodils with tulips - The daffodil bulbs are poisonous to them, therefore they may dig them up but will leave them alone.

Cumin Powder vs Cayenne Pepper - Do not use cayenne pepper when deterring any pesky animals - studies have shown hummingbirds will have abnormal young after ingesting it and the animals in contact will harm themselves.

Dog/Cat deterrents - Moth balls or flakes or cumin powder spread along the ground. Don't use Coco mulch - they are attracted to the chocolate smell.

Mulch vs no Mulch - Mulch is the best weed deterrent - 4-6 inches of mulch is needed to ward off any seedlings that may sprout in your soil. Mulch also keeps the necessary moisture in too!

Deer deterrent - Place a half bar of Normal Irish Spring Soap into a pantyhose stocking and place it near where the deer enter your property. - They hate the smell!

Spidermite on Houseplants - Remove tobacco from a cigarette and mix it into the top of the soil - when watering it will leach into the soil and be absorbed by the plant, causing its leaves to taste horrible.

Planting Any Bulbs - Always plant in odd numbered clumps - a minimum of three is best. This prevents any "soldiers standing to attention" look!

Planting Potatoes - Potatoes should be planted in a ditch and as they grow fill in the ditch and keep mounding. The potatoes are formed along the stem and roots and the more growth the heavier the yield.

Planting Tomatoes - Tomato seedlings should be planted in a ditch on their sides. Simply remove all of the leaves except the top and lay the seedling on the side. Cover the roots and stem and leave the top "tuft" of leaves on top. The stem will grow roots and this will make the plant have a stronger and healthier root base - thus less watering and more tomatoes! To have a sweeter tomato, add a handful of Epsom salts to the ditch, sprinkle lightly with soil then add your plant.

Watering should always be done in the early hours of the morning and water deeply (a long period of time) rather than sprinkling. The plants will go deeper to find the water and when a drought comes during the summer you won't need to water near so often.

Hanging baskets, windowboxes and containers - Place the contents of a new diaper into your soilless mix. The water-holding crystals will swell when you water and will release the

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moisture over time. This way you needn't water so often!

To help with mildew on roses, phlox and beebalm - mix a spray bottle with water, 1 tsp vegetable oil and 1 Tbsp baking soda. The soda will stick to the plant and stop any more spores from attacking the plant. The best solution is to make sure when you plant these plants - try to find varieties that are resistant and have a good air circulation available to them.

Ant, Slugs and Flies - In a plastic container mix together 2 Tbsp white sugar, 2 drops dish soap and then fill the remaining area with water. They are attracted to the sugar smell, fall into the container and the soap makes it slippery so they can't come out!

Blackspot and Mildew - Place chopped cat tails (horse tails) into a pail of water and let ferment for approximately 10 days. Strain and pour into a spray bottle - spray on your plants.

Attracting Beneficial Insects (Lady bugs and Praying Mantis) - Mix together 1/4 cup white sugar, 1 tsp honey, 1/3 cup warm water and 2 Tbsp yeast. Let rise for 10 minutes before using. Use 2 Tbsp to 2 cups water in a spray bottle and spray on plant leaves. Leftover mixture can be refrigerated for 3-4 days.

Attracting Earwigs, Slugs and Ants - Use the same mixture as above without diluting, and add 1 Tbsp oil. Place in garden where they are appearing - they will go to eat, only to fall in!

Rose Blackspot and Begonia Whitespot - Add 1 tsp Baking Soda into a spray bottle filled with water. Shake well and spray every 7-10 days.

Aphids Remedy - #1 In a blender place 1 garlic clove, 1 small onion, 1 Tbsp Cumin Powder and 1 liter water. Blend well, strain and pour into a spray bottle. Add 1-2 drops dish soap. Use!

#2 In a blender place 3-5 Jalapeno Peppers, 1 garlic clove, 1 liter water. Blend well, strain and pour into a spray bottle. Use every 7-10 days or as needed.

Sedum Propagation - Cut a stem from the main plant, remove the lower 2/3 leaves and place the remaining stem in moist soil. Keep moist for 2-3 weeks. You will notice new leaf growth at the sides starting to grow.

Hosta Propagation - No need to dig your entire plant into pieces! Simply remove the soil around the crown of the plant with your hands. The white part of the "rosette" will be seen. Cut this rosette as close to the base of the plant as possible. Place this cutting into water and it will grow roots after 8-12 weeks.

Walkways and Pathways - Always have a gentle curve if possible. It not only softens the line but is easy on the eye, easier to plant around or cut grass.

Tiering of plantings

In nature you will see many layers of plant material - The upper tier is tall trees, then below it is the secondary level of tall shrubs and short trees. The third level consists of tall perennials, short shrubs or vines on trellis'. Then the level of medium perennials and annuals and dwarf shrubbery. Lastly, is the groundcovers. This is the proper technique in planting your gardens where possible.

OPEN GARDEN CALENDAR

THE GRANTS

Kathryn and Rick Grant invite you to visit their garden on **Sunday, May 9 from 1 to 4 p.m.** To get there, take the Island Highway south toward Ladysmith. Pass the airport, then pass the south end of Cedar Road (traffic signal; Junction Centre on your right). Take the next left, Brenton-Page Road. Follow this road along the length of Ladysmith Harbour about 8 km. You will pass the sign for the Page Point Inn. At this point the road changes its name to Shell Beach Road. Keep going until you see a cemetery on your left, then Pilon Road on your right. The next right is Fairtide Road. We are at **11761 Fairtide Road**, at the corner of Cove Road. We'll have coffee on and there might even be some chocolate chip cookies (**but none for Paul**). Bring your mother, or if you are a mother, bring your kids. Hope to see you then.

THE PAULS – (Home of 600 Rhodos)

Philip & Joy Paull – 1305 Spruston Way, Cassidy – Sylvan Glen – **Saturday, June 5 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Proceed south from Nanaimo on the Island Highway. After passing the Cassidy Inn, on your left, take the first right turn onto Spruston Road. Proceed 2.2 km along Spruston road and down the straight laneway into Sylvan Glen.

WIND-UP GATHERING – JUNE 5

Will be at Paul & Linda's home – 7056 Aulds Road, Lantzville. Turn towards the Mountains off of the Parkway onto to Aulds Road. You will be travelling across the RR tracks and continue to ARBUTUS CRESCENT. Pass Arbutus Crescent (first one) and continue to the (second) intersection of Arbutus and Aulds Rd. Our home is on this corner – has a chain link fence – is gray with green trim. You may park across the street or turn right onto Arbutus and park anywhere along the side of our property. We have a side entrance gate or you can park at the back and use the back driveway entrance. Those bringing BBQs may enter the front driveway and drop them off and then park outside. We would like all cars to park on the outside – in case of rainy weather – We can then set up the BBQs on the driveway and use the covered porch for the social event. Please bring chairs. We will provide disposable plates/cutlery/cups also Coffee and Tea (green or Red Rose.)

ANNUAL TRUSS AND PLANT SALE

SATURDAY, MAY 8TH (DAY BEFORE MOTHER'S DAY)

10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

CENTENNIAL BUILDING – BEBAN PARK -NANAIMO

WEAR YOUR NAME TAGS

Volunteers needed for the following:
setting up, assisting sellers and buyers, truss show and cleaning up