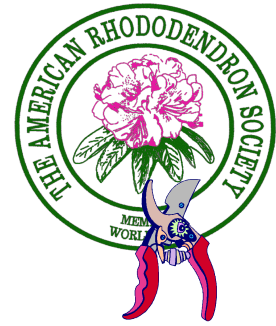


NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



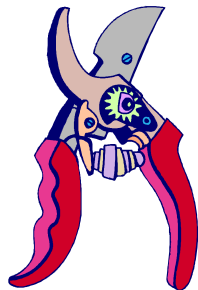
May 2006
May 2006



FROM THE PRESIDENT

This warm weather is sure nice. My rhodos are coming out fast and furiously. I hope I still have some trusses left for our Truss Show in May. By the way, if you can help out on May 13th, please let Paul Lawry know. At our May 11th meeting, Ron Knight will speak to us on propagation. This should be a very informative presentation. Thanks to those of you who donated plants at the last meeting. We need donations for the \$ Table and the Raffle Table. The May meeting is our "Annual General Meeting" - think about running for the Executive, or volunteering to help out in some way. Thanks to Ann Beamish and Helene Sullivan for taking over the library and to Darleen Budd for taking over the nominations for the General Meeting. Paul needs "cardboard flats" for the May 13th Plant Sale.

Good gardening, Allen



EXECUTIVE

President	Allen McRae	758-7589
Vice President	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Secretary	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Treasurer	Gayle McRae	758-7589
Directors	Valerie Harvey	754-6659
	Debbie Gaboury	758-1204
	Glenda Barr	390-2822
	Pat Schulson	245-3369
	Mike Miller	758-2879
	Chris Southwick	758-0993

COMMITTEES

Advertising	Mike Miller	758-2879
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574
	Helene Sullivan	758-7023
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Program	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey	
Social	Pat Schulson	245-3369
Dollar Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society
Box 241, #1 – 5765 Turner Road
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4

Website: nanaimo.rhodos.ca
email: nanaimo@rhodos.ca

NEXT MEETING

MAY 11, 2006

BEBAN PARK

7:30 PM

RON KNIGHT

“FREE PERENNIALS FROM CUTTINGS”

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

TWIGS AND STEMS



**Goodies for May meeting:
Donna Porter
Paul Lawry
Janet Atkinson
Mary Hardy**

.....
MALASPINA CHOIR
and
VICTORIA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
present
DIDO AND AENEAS
By Henry Purcell

Sunday May 21 2:30 p.m.
Port Theatre

(watch for your secretary in the alto section)

.....
Would the winners of the trophies at last year's
truss show please bring them to the May
meeting

.....
North Island Rhododendron Society
Plant Sale and Truss Show
May 7 10 am – 2 pm
Comox Band Hall, 3320 Comox Road

.....
NIRS Garden Tour
May 14 10 am – 4 pm \$7
Info: Dave 250-335-0717

.....
Cowichan Valley Garden Tour
Sunday May 28
Tickets \$15 at

Art Knapps, Long Lake Nursery

www.cowichanfamilylife.org/upgarden.htm

Tickets \$10 at 49th Parallel Grocery, Dig This
or at Aggie Hall on the tour day

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY
GENERAL MEETING
April 13, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 by President Allen McRae. There were 41 members and guests present. Allen welcomed guests and thanked Michael Miller for the work he did organizing our booth at the garden show in March.

Secretary's report: minutes of the March meeting were adopted. Correspondence: invitation to George Fraser Day in Uclulet; notice of MARS show and sale; Rhododendron Species Foundation Yearbook.

Garth Wedemire spoke about the ARS Fall Western Conference in Harrison Hot Springs September 22-24, 2006.

Treasurer's report: balance at March 16/06: \$1849.72. Income \$82.00, Expenses \$80.00. Balance April 13/06: \$1851.72. Library fund: \$26.32.

Bus Trip: May 6, 2006 to Port Alberni. Cost is \$30/person. Paul brought a sign-up sheet.

Propagation: some of the seeds planted at the February meeting have germinated. Plant them up when they have a second set of leaves.

MARS is placing an order with the Species Foundation. If you want to place an order call Ron McMaster.

Truss Show and Plant Sale: May 13. Flyers were distributed for posting. Bring trusses in Friday night between 7-9 pm. Set-up begins at 6:30 am. No registration of trusses after 8 a.m. because judging will be taking place. Paul spoke on preparing your trusses for show. Volunteers are needed for cash register. NRS will have a club table for sales – donations of plants are welcome.

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

AGM next month – nominating committee needed.

Plants were donated by Ray Lauzier, Dick Beamish, Phil Paull and Michael Miller for the raffle.

Doorprizes were won by Chris Southwick, Donna Porter, Garth Wedemire, Allen McRae. Raffle winners were guest Beth LaBaron, Anne Beamish, Ray Lauzier, Gayle McRae, guest Sandra, Gary Anaka, Jean Rhodes, Janice Quick.

Sandra and Trevor Evelyn invite members to visit their garden; please call first. Jean and Bob Rhodes also invite visitors.

Paul Wurz was welcomed with a rousing rendition of “Happy Birthday”. Paul then spoke on the Lofthouse hybrids.

Ron Knight Our May speaker

Ron Knight is a retired biology teacher and school administrator. He is a confirmed rhodoholic, and is currently Assistant-director for the American Rhododendron Society’s BC Division. Ron is a busy guest speaker at garden clubs on the Sunshine Coast and at rhododendron clubs on Vancouver Island and in Greater Vancouver. He writes a monthly column entitled “Back to Basics” for the Vancouver Rhododendron Society’s on-line magazine *The Indumentum*.

Over the past decade, Ron and his wife Carla have created Caron Gardens on the Sunshine Coast. In this one-acre woodland garden, they display over 500 different rhododendrons, sell plants, host garden club tours, and teach a variety of gardening courses. Visitors are welcome at any time. Contact information, maps, rhododendron availability lists, workshop schedules, articles, and garden photos are available on the Caron Gardens website: www3.telus.net/rcknight

Ron’s topic on May 11th is “Free Perennials from Cuttings”. He will be demonstrating how to take

and maintain stem-tip cuttings (rhododendrons and other shubs), internodal cuttings (vines), and heel

cuttings (heaths/heathers). Ron will show slides of the very simple equipment and materials he uses, based on ideas from a recent visit to Esveld Nurseries in Boskoop, Holland. Caron Gardens rhododendrons will be available for sale after the meeting.



CARON GARDENS

Edible Flowers to add to your salad

Borage: Tastes slightly like cucumber.

Calendula: Sprinkle individual petals lightly on a salad.

Nasturtium: Both flowers and leaves add a peppery flavour to mixed greens.

Viola: The delicate flavour of the violas is great with mesclun greens.

Note: taste the flowers before adding, as some have a strong taste



NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Tips on Displaying Trusses and Sprays

[From the April 1996 Victoria chapter newsletter]

A day or two before the show, go around and make a list of the blooms you will pick the day before the Truss show. Bottles in six-pack carriers are useful for transporting blooms.

Picking blooms always takes more time than you think it will! When choosing trusses, look for ones with straight stems with the bloom at the top. Don't choose ones with crooked stems that are growing at odd angles (e.g., pointing down). When choosing sprays, look for ones that will present themselves gracefully in a bottle.

Prune judiciously if need be to enhance the shape of the spray. Avoid choosing entries with bruises. Sometimes rain damage is inevitable, but avoid it if you can. Look for freshness. It is better to have one or more unopened flower buds (for they frequently open after they have been picked) than to choose blooms that are already open and heading over the hill. Some judges like to see one or two unopened or partially opened buds.

Choose blooms with good-looking foliage. Avoid ones with chewed or otherwise damaged leaves. Once again, some judicious snipping of damaged leaves can be done - but don't go too far because some foliage is needed (and you must NOT trim off the bitten parts of a weevil-chewed leaf!). For a truss, one nice whorl is best - and flowers from one bud only. For sprays, more foliage will often be needed for balance, and of course, more than one flowering bud is allowed.

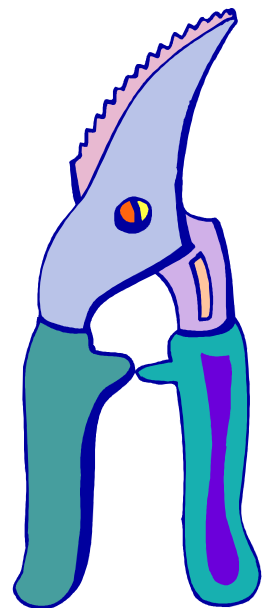
After cutting a truss, plunge it deeply in luke-warm water. Later, you can make an oblique cut across the stem making sure to leave the right length to make the exhibit look balanced - and do this under water. This will help the truss to take up water and keep it fresh all day. You may then store your exhibit in its water-filled bottle in the refrigerator.

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!

Thanks to the following people who helped out at our booth during the March Garden Show:

Glenda Barr
Ann Beamish
Alan & Trish Boyden
Ann Davey
Rick & Kathryn Grant
Yvonne Harding
Bill & Mary Hardy
Valerie Harvey

Michael Miller
Philip & Joy Paull
Liisa Rullo
Rosina Schmidt
Karen Schulz
Pat Schulson
Chris Southwick



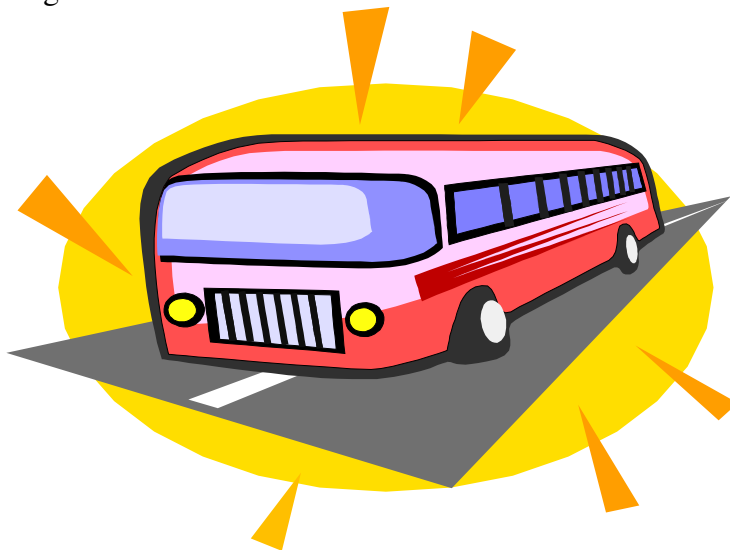
Set-up crew is needed for the plant sale Saturday May 13 at 6:30 a.m.
Clean-up crew is needed at 2 p.m.

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Spring Bus Tour – Port Alberni Saturday, May 6th

This year, our bus tour will be to Port Alberni under the expert guidance of Terry and Verna Richmond, Nanaimo Associate members. Terry and Verna are long-time Alberni residents. Terry has sold many hundreds of plants to all of these owners and knows each of the gardens very well. Here is a brief synopsis of the proposed trip.

- 8:00 am Leave Woodgrove Mall
- 9:00 am Arrive at Port Alberni Mall to pick up Terry and Verna
- 9:15 am Mary Lougheed – retired teacher – knowledgeable gardener – purchased several hundred rhodos from Terry over the years – will have her home plant sale on during our visit – garden approximately 15 years old.
Mary’s neighbour, Judy Jack’s home is on our tour. Mary and Judy are good friends. Both Properties have creeks and ponds. Judy’s property is approximately 10 years old.
- 10:30 am Arrive at Claudia Romanik’s garden. Claudia is a retired school principal. Her property is approximately an acre in size and is the old family homestead of approximately 60 years at least. Lots of rhodos and many other plants besides – very diverse garden.
- 11:15 Urban Greenery – nursery – Sheena has re-married and moved her nursery into town. This will be a treat as usual. Terry assured us that her new digs will be ready for us.
- 12:00 Lunch at the Quay – on the water. Bring a bag lunch and have it supplemented from some of the vendors at the Quay.
- 1:15 Arrive at Garth McFarlane’s property on Sproat Lake. This is a waterfront property with a wonderful bonsai collection as well as rhodos.
- 2:15 Arrive at the Mieth’s – a true westcoast garden according to Terry. Mr. Mieth (pronounced Myatt – Danish), is a fantastic woodworker. This property has wonderful views of both the lake And Mt. Arrowsmith. It has at least 100 species of rhododendrons.
- 3:45 Arrive at Arrowsmith nursery.
- 5:15 Home to Woodgrove Mall



NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

A letter from Don Smart...

My name is Don Smart and I am District 2 Director and President of the Cascade Chapter. I have volunteered to head up a project that, hopefully, will bring in needed revenue for the ARS. I would ask you to get the information about this project to your chapter members. It involves asking for hybridizers to participate in the project and for a volunteer group to review new rhododendron and azalea hybrids submitted for consideration.

Over the past couple of years, one of our NW hybridizers, Frank Fujioka, and Kristi O'Donnell, Director of Meerkerk Garden on Whidbey Island, WA, have worked together on a similar project. There have been 2 of Frank's hybrids that have been named by people making a substantial donation to the garden.

The ARS would like to do the same thing and allow hybrids to be named by people making a donation to the ARS. The donations would be in excess of \$5000 and would benefit many of the ARS programs.

We want to have a new hybrid from both the East and the West coast regions. To do this we need to have hybridizers that will volunteer to place one of their new creations into the arena for consideration. On the west coast, Frank Fujioka has volunteered to allow one of his new hybrids to be named in this manner. We would like to have some other hybridizers on the west coast and need to have some of the hybridizers on the east coast volunteer to help us in the same way. These need to be new hybrids that you have evaluated and decided that they have merit and should be registered. You will need to be able to provide information about the hybrids this spring. Information should include all of the information you would submit for registration and include pictures of both the plant and the truss.

The second part of this project will be to evaluate the submitted hybrids and choose which 2 hybrids will be available to be named by donors. We need several volunteers to help in this process.

Once the plants are selected, we will publicize the project and plants to the ARS members and the general public. The process is not in place, yet as how we will collect bids, etc, but we would like to have that in place by the fall of 2006. This will allow us to set a deadline for donation bids, and announce winners by the 2007 convention. Names chosen by donors will have to be approved by our registrar, Jay Murray.

If you have a new rhododendron or azalea hybrid that you would like to submit for consideration, please contact Don Smart at donolyn@comcast.net, or 1618 290th Ave NE, Carnation, WA 98014. If you would like to participate in the selection process, also please contact Don Smart.

Thanks you for your consideration,
Don Smart