

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



May 2007
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

The bus trip to Yellow Point, Cowichan, Cherry Point, & Cobble Hill was superb. The weather was sunny and the gardens were impressive. We are indebted to John Deniseger for arranging the tour and to Paul Lawry for buying the prizes and entertaining us with games during the bus ride.

Our May 10th meeting is the last regular meeting of the season and I look forward to hearing Bernie Guyader speak on the wildflowers of Strathcona Park. It is also our annual general meeting at which we will elect a new slate of members for our club executive. I am in the process of contacting members to ask if they are willing to let their names stand for election this year. Please consider how you can volunteer to help with the operation of the club's business.

Our Truss Show and plant sale will be held on Saturday May 12. This is our opportunity to introduce the beauty of rhododendrons to the public. Bring your rhododendron trusses and invite your friends and neighbours to attend. We need volunteers to carry this off, so contact Paul Lawry to learn how you can contribute.

Craig

EXECUTIVE

President	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Vice President	Paul Lawry	390-2370
Secretary	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Treasurer	Linda Lawry	390-2370
Directors	Valerie Harvey	754-6659
	Debbie Gaboury	758-1204
	Glenda Barr	390-2822
	Ann Beamish	758-2574
	Mike Miller	758-2879
	Chris Southwick	758-0993
	John Deniseger	390-3605

COMMITTEES

Advertising	Mike Miller	758-2879
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574
	Helene Sullivan	758-7023
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Program	Chris Southwick	758-0993
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 10, 2007

BEBAN PARK

7:30 PM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

BERNIE GUYADER
'WILDFLOWERS OF PARADISE MEADOWS'

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TWIGS AND STEMS



Goodies for May meeting:
Paul and Linda Lawry

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NRS END-OF-YEAR BARBEQUE SATURDAY JUNE 9

If you would like to hold the barbeque at your house this year, please let Craig know.

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PLANTS NEEDED FOR CLUB TABLE AT THE SALE

Please bring any plants you have available to sell to the plant sale on May 12. Also, if you have flats available please bring them, and a couple of wheelbarrows would be useful.

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GARDEN VISITS MAY 18

Paul & Linda and June & John will open their gardens for a visit on May 18 from 6pm to 8 pm. Both gardens are located just inland from Woodgrove Mall and are within a 3 minute drive of one another.

Paul and Linda Lawry
7056 Aulds Road

June Bouchard and John Deniseger
6666 Green Acres Way

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY ANNUAL TRUSS SHOW AND PLANT SALE SATURDAY MAY 12 CENTENNIAL BUILDING, BEBAN PARK

Our annual truss show and plant sale will take place as usual on Mother's Day weekend, a great opportunity to buy your mother a nice rhododendron or, if you are a mother, to buy one (or several) for yourself! The sale opens to club members at 9 a.m. and to the public at 10 a.m., so if you want the best choice, be there early!

We will be setting up the show on Friday evening. Volunteers are needed to set up tables beginning at 6 p.m. Please bring your trusses in for the show Friday evening between 7 and 8 p.m. or before 8 a.m. on Saturday morning.



Volunteers are needed for set-up on Friday night and for various duties during the day on Saturday. Clean-up crew is needed at 2 p.m. on Saturday. Please let Paul Lawry know what you can help with. This is our big club event, so we hope everyone will lend a hand. It's lots of fun, and a great way to get some unusual plants. There will be a concession stand with coffee and goodies.

Here is a list of confirmed sellers at press time:
Mayo Creek Gardens, Lake Cowichan
Dappled Shade Gardens, Nanoose
Firwood Nursery, Victoria
Hidden Acres Rhododendrons, Campbell River
Holland Acres Nursery, Nanaimo
Cherry Point Rhododendrons
San Pareil Rare Plants, Parksville.

There may be others!



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GENERAL MEETING

April 12, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Vice-President Paul Lawry. There were 34 members and guests present.

Minutes of the March meeting were adopted. Correspondence from the Central Vancouver Island Botanical Garden Society regarding their AGM April 14; newsletters from various ARS chapters and the BC Council of Garden Clubs.

Treasurer's report: balance in general account \$2,189.54.

Library: new books – Exotic Forest Insect Guidebook, International Rhododendron Registry Guidebook, Hardy Rhododendrons.

Program: May – Bernie Guyader: Paradise Meadows

RSF plant order – Craig will be picking up next week.

Bus Tour: April 28, meet at the parking lot on the Parkway at Northfield Rd at 7:15. The tour is to Cobble Hill area. 1 seat left.

Local Garden visits will be May 18. Locations TBA.

Plant Sale and Truss Show May 12. Need volunteers. Those with trophies from last year please bring them to the May meeting.

M/S/C that NRS host the ARS Western Regional Conference in 2011. Chris Southwick and Kathryn Grant will co-chair the conference. We have not yet hosted a conference.

Annual General Meeting will be at the May meeting. All Executive positions are open: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Early Truss Show: several members showed flowers they brought in tonight.

Ralph Hutchinson announced the SPCA garden tour on May 6. Five NRS members have their gardens on the tour.

Raffle Winners: Bill Hardy, Earl Daneluk, Linda Lawry, Allen McRae, Ann Beamish, Charles Hardy, Barbara Little.

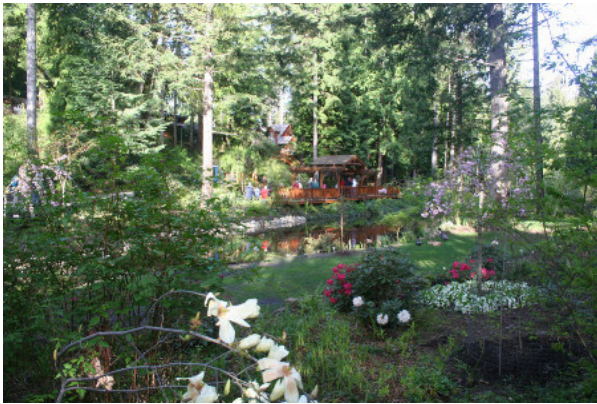
Doorprize Winners: Kathryn Grant, Ann Beamish, Sandra Dorman, Beryl Riches.

Bill and Mary Hardy will open their garden to members on April 20 after 5 pm: 5992 Waterton Place.

Carol Dancer gave a talk and slide show on the Government House garden in Victoria.

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NRS Bus Tour 2007



Thank you to everyone who contributed to another successful bus tour: through your enthusiasm; your willingness to be shepherded around the Cowichan Valley; your co-operation in making the itinerary work; and your never ending appetite for beautiful gardens, good wine and great cheese. Special

thanks to Cathy Andersen, Gwen Twyver, Ingeborg Woodsworth, Roger and Anne Slaby, and Liz and Alan Murray for opening their beautiful gardens to the club. Let's not forget Cherry Point Vineyards and Hilary's Cheese, two local businesses who gave us great tours and hospitality. And of course, thanks to Paul Lawry and Chris Southwick.

I can hardly wait until next year....when we head north....



Thanks again,
John



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BUTCHART GARDENS TO BE FIRST CANADIAN GARDEN TO EXHIBIT AT THE CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW IN ENGLAND

The Butchart Gardens will be the first Canadian garden to exhibit at the prestigious Chelsea Flower Show to be held May 22 – 26, 2007 on the grounds of the Royal Hospital in Chelsea, England.



During May the grounds of the Royal Hospital are transformed into the fabulous show gardens, inspirational small gardens and vibrant horticultural displays making up the world's most famous flower show. The show is considered the first event of the summer season and showcases the finest examples of horticultural excellence, created by the best garden designers and plantspeople. It sets the latest gardening trends, is the favourite place to launch new plants, and features the newest and most desirable gardening products. The show is extensively covered by the BBC.

“Being an exhibitor at this show offers us the opportunity to reach upscale garden lovers and captains of industry, arts and show business who may be planning or considering trips to Canada,” said Alison Partridge, director of public relations and marketing. “With the show’s national and international media coverage, plus attendance by major UK and European tour operators, we look forward to promoting Victoria and ourselves as the place to visit in Canada”.

The Royal Horticultural Society organizes the Chelsea Flower Show and has done so since its inception in 1852, when it was held in the Society’s gardens in Kensington, London. The show moved to Chelsea in 1913 and its original name “The Royal Horticultural Society’s Great Spring Show” was changed to its current name. Due to the capacity of the grounds attendance is limited to 157,000 visitors over its five day run each year. Public ticket prices vary from £40 to £17.50 depending on the ticket purchasers’ chosen entry time.

The Royal Horticultural Society was founded in 1804 in London, England as the Horticultural Society of London, and gained its present name in a Royal Charter granted in 1861 by Prince Albert. It is a charity and exists to promote gardening and horticulture in Britain and Europe. This is done through a series of flower shows and through many model gardens that are open to the public. The society celebrated its bicentenary in 2004.

The Butchart Gardens was created in 1904 by Jennie Butchart out of her husband’s worked-out limestone quarry site, welcoming over one million guests from around the world each year, and it has been designated a National Historic Site. The 22 hectare (55 acre) year round gardens are located 20 km (13 miles) north of the city of Victoria, British Columbia, on the Saanich Peninsula.





Companion Plants

C is for Calluna
of the Heather family
Family: Ericaceae

If I hear just one more person say, “Oh, I don’t like summer heathers – they always look so ratty”, I’m going to scream! Never have I seen a more mistakenly maligned plant in my life. Properly grown, they are a glorious delight, and I defy anyone who has seen them, mile after mile on the moors of England in all their wild splendour, to disagree. The singular species, *C. vulgaris*, inhabits large portions of Europe and northern Africa, from Siberia to Morocco, in vast tracts of open land and hillsides. The predominant flower colour is purple, but it sports out in pink, red, and white. For well over 100 years, avid plantsmen have made over 500 selections of form, bloom and foliage variations, and some of them are real eye-poppers!

Now, if you are one of those guilty of such slander in the past, I am about to show you the error of your ways. Site selection is probably the most important factor. These are ericaceous plants, in the same family as rhodos, and like them, we should take our lessons from Mother Nature. Full sun is an absolute must, and some slope to the ground is very beneficial. Soil should drain well but retain some moisture, especially in summer during bloom time - anywhere from July to November depending on cultivars. An acid, humus-rich soil with no manures or strong fertilizers is necessary – a lean media keeps the growth compact. If you can’t engineer even a bit of a slope, then ensure that the soil is deep and



Calluna ‘Spring Torch’

loose. And then, prepare to prune! OK OK, I know no busy band of elves prunes on the moors, but truth be told, if you took aside only one or two of those millions of plants, they probably would be ratty, but there’s safety in numbers and distance. We don’t have that advantage in our gardens, so get out the hedge clippers. March is a good time to do this - trim just to the bottom of last year’s flower spikes to make a somewhat mounded shape. Now – was that so hard? Once a year is all it takes, and a spring pruning still lets you enjoy all that wonderful winter foliage on the coloured forms.

Choosing varieties for your garden will be by personal preference. With that many to pick from, it’s like roses or rhodos – grow the ones you like to look at. I can only give guidelines of the forms that are available. The flowers can be single or double, on long or short spikes. I have taken full open spikes of ‘Peter Sparkes’ and ‘H.E.Beale’ and hung them to dry, and they make wonderful bouquets, unfortunately not too durable, but so easy you can do new ones every year. Colours range from white and pale pink to bright pink, crimson and purple. There are varieties like ‘Marleen’ that seem to bloom forever since the blossoms don’t ever actually open, just show



Calluna vulgaris

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outer colour. The foliage on some is so spectacular that even if they didn't bloom, no one would notice. Red-gold ones like 'Firefly', 'Blazeaway', 'Boskoop', and 'Sir John Charrington' are bright all year round. Silver ones like 'Jan Dekker', 'Silver Knight', and 'Grey Carpet' will gleam against dark backgrounds. Some, like 'Spring Torch' and 'Spring Cream', have coloured foliage on new growth only, almost like an early bloom, and then the proper flowers come later. Very dwarf ones can be used in troughs or rockeries, as 'Foxii Nana', 'Dainty Bess', 'Humpty Dumpty' and 'J.H. Hamilton'. The list is endless, but this should give you an idea of the lovely ones there are to choose from. Visit gardens and plant centers in summer when they are in bloom, or try to visit Wilson Nursery in Sardis (call first) to see them beautifully grown in the proper setting. I only wish I had more room in my garden to have an entire bank devoted to them, in drifts of all year colour.

Happy planting!

Colleen Forster



How do you tell the difference between the Heaths and the Heathers?

Keep the girls apart!

Heaths, with their needle-like foliage and a bloom time which extends from early winter through to summer, belong to the genus *Erica*.

Heathers with their scale-like foliage and a bloom time more restricted to the summer months, belong to the genus *Calluna*.