

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



## May 2011



### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Looking at the Club's calendar, there's no shortage of events coming up over the next few weeks. As always, many people have contributed to getting things organized. It's great to see so many club members taking an active role in our sale/show on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully we'll have lots of trusses entered in our show! For both members and the general public, the display really highlights the variety, and beauty of the rhododendrons that we all grow. And then, there's the plant sale...have you got your "wish list" ready?

Our bus tour is coming up on May 14<sup>th</sup>. We still have some seats left – tell your friends.

This year, we're holding our first ever Nanaimo garden tour, which is a fundraiser for our 2012 conference. Once again it's nice to see so many members helping out. We're counting on everyone to help spread the word in promoting the tour.

At our May meeting, we'll also be having our annual election. The club's executive keeps our club running smoothly, and connects it to other chapters, the community and the A.R.S. Over the long term, clubs like ours are always in need of new executive members to provide "a fresh look", new ideas and enthusiasm. Please give it some thought; I think you'd enjoy it.

Our year end potluck BBQ will be in early to mid June. If this is something you'd be interested in hosting, please give me a call. John

### EXECUTIVE

President	John Deniseger	390-3605
Past President	Paul Lawry	806-2370
Vice President	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Secretary	June Bouchard	390-3605
Treasurer	Gerry Moore	756-1427
Directors	Glenda Allard Barr	390-2822
	Chris Southwick	390-3415
	Debbie Gaboury	758-1204
	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533
	Burkhard Dressler	758-1738

### COMMITTEES

Advertising	vacant	
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Membership	Debbie Gaboury	
Program	Glenda Allard Barr	390-2822
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey	
Social	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Bargain Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society  
Box 241, #1 – 5765 Turner Road  
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4  
Website: [nanaimo.rhodos.ca](http://nanaimo.rhodos.ca)  
email: [nanaimo@rhodos.ca](mailto:nanaimo@rhodos.ca)

### NEXT MEETING

**THURSDAY, MAY 12**

**BEBAN PARK SOCIAL CENTRE**

**7:30 pm**

**PAUL WURZ**

**"Some Help in Growing Rhododendrons"**

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## **TWIGS and STEMs**



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### **GOODIES FOR MAY MEETING**

*Liisa Rullo*

*Mary Hardy*

*June and John*

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### **OPEN GARDEN**

**BOB AND JEAN RHODES**

*Sunday, May 8, 2 pm*

*130 Easthom Road*

*Gabriola Island*

*250 247-8026*

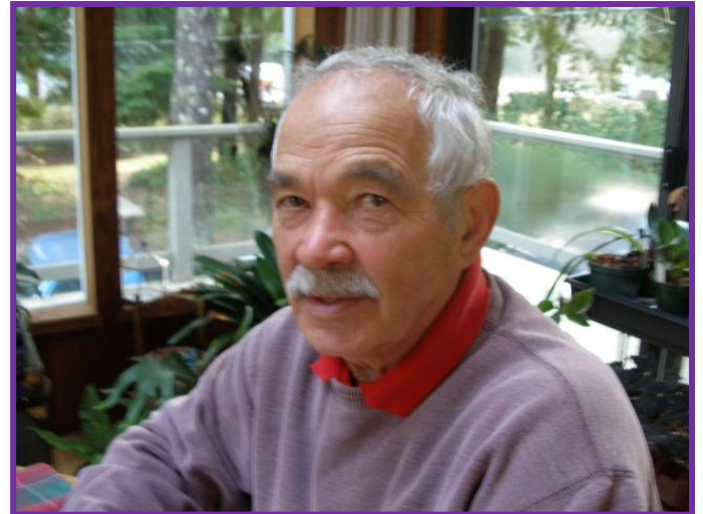
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### **PLANTS WANTED FOR CLUB SALE**

*Please bring your potted and labelled plants for the sale on Friday evening, May 6, 6:30 - 8:30. If you have any relevant books you would like to contribute please bring them along too.*

## **OUR MAY SPEAKER**

**PAUL WURZ**



Paul Wurz will provide information on planning, fertilizing, mulching, dead heading, and pruning rhododendrons. He will discuss problems in growing and selecting rhododendrons. Below are pictures of some of his favourite rhododendrons.

Paul and Lynn Wurz operate a small specialty rhododendron nursery called "Hidden Acres Rhododendrons" situated just north of Campbell River. The nursery has become a retirement project that helps satisfy their interest in rhododendrons. They own 8 1/2 acres and the small family business has several acres in a display garden.



Yellow Petticoats X Viennese Waltz



Big Sam X Lem's Cameo



O' Canada 2

# **NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY**

## **The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual N.R.S. Bus Tour** **Saturday, May 14th, 2011**



Continuing our tradition of visiting a great mixture of gardens, nurseries, and special places, this year we're heading north through Nanoose, Qualicum, the Comox Valley and Campbell River.

**Cost: \$40 per person**

(includes tours/tastings at Little Qualicum Cheeseworks and Mooberry Winery; does not include Milner Gardens admission of \$7.50 as many NRS members are also Milner members; free admission for Milner members)

**Where do we meet? At the Chapters parking lot near Woodgrove Mall – the bus will be leaving at 7:00 am.**

Don't forget to bring a picnic lunch and appropriate clothing. Bring a friend...

***Call John to reserve a seat 390-3605***

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## NRS Plant Sale May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Our annual plant sale is coming! We'll begin setting things up on Friday evening (May 6<sup>th</sup>) from 6:30 to 8:30. On Saturday (May 7<sup>th</sup>), we'll continue at 7 am, as the various growers begin to arrive. For club members, the sale will be from 9 am to 2 pm, while for non-members, it will be from 10 am to 2 pm. There will be lots to do: unloading plants, setting up cash registers and plant holding areas, truss show registrations, truss show judging, filling that wish list of plants, selling raffle and garden tour tickets, talking about gardening, etc. Let's hope it's a nice, sunny day!

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### Truss Show Saturday, May 7

"A thing of beauty is a joy forever"-John Keats

Don't miss this great opportunity to participate, to show and to see a wide variety of beautiful Rhododendrons. The truss show will be set up during the Friday evening of May 6. To avoid delays and confusion on Saturday am, consider bringing your trusses for the show between 7 and 8 PM Friday evening. Alternately, trusses can be entered before 8 AM Saturday morning. Also, to expedite your entries, please bring a list with your name, rhodo entered, and its appropriate class, (see below)

#### 1. Truss Classes (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> ribbons)

Alpine species  
Azalea (truss or spray)  
Blotch/Flare hybrid  
Elepidote species  
Lax truss  
Lepidote species  
Pink hybrid  
Purple/blue hybrid  
Red hybrid  
Salmon/orange hybrid

White hybrid  
Yellow hybrid  
Best scented  
Foliage only

#### 2. Trophies and rosettes

Hammerhead (multiple buds/trusses on same leader)  
Best Scented Rhodo (not azalea)  
People's Choice (voted on by those at show)  
Best of Show  
Philip & Joy Paull award (total points)

### Tips on Exhibiting Trusses and Sprays

A day or two before the show go around and make a list of the blooms you will pick on Friday morning, the day before the show. Organize whatever containers you will be using to transport your blooms to the show. They needn't be elaborate. Empty bottles or cans work well. Be careful to avoid crushing the blooms. Fill the containers with water almost to the top. Bottles in six-pack cartons are great for transporting blooms.

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

Prune judiciously if need be to enhance the shape of a spray. Avoid choosing entries with bruises. Sometimes rain damage is inevitable, but avoid it if you can. Look for freshness. In a spray, 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 going over. Some judges like to see one or two unopened or partially opened buds, but a **truss must not have flowers from more than one bud.**



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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 - with 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 your truss plunge the truss deeply into lukewarm water. Later you can make an oblique cut across the stem leaving 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.

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About a dozen NRS members enjoyed a walk around the Honeymoon Bay Wildflower Reserve on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.  
Thanks to Glenda Barr for organizing the trip.

## **May 22<sup>nd</sup> Garden Tour**

Spread the word!!!!



It's time to promote our  
garden tour!!!

Please let all your friends  
know about this important  
upcoming fundraiser for our  
2012 conference and for our  
club!

## **Conference Corner**

**Rhodos in Paradise:  
Destination Vancouver Island  
September 21 – 23, 2012**

The conference committee held their latest meeting on April 3rd - another Sunday brunch meeting at Chris's home. Planning is coming along nicely, with tours and program firmed up, photography contest details all lined up, food details confirmed, and budgets humming along. We're all excited about the May Garden Tours - first annual maybe?

Are you good at arranging table centres? We need a volunteer to take this on for the Buffet dinner for our conference. If you're interested, please see Gaylle or Chris at our next general meeting. Mary Parker is also looking for someone to help her with a silent auction of pictures from the Photo Contest.

The highlight of the meeting was Bryan Jubinville's Powerpoint Video advertising the 2012 Conference to delegates attending the ARS Annual Convention in Vancouver Washington in May. You'll get a sneak preview in an upcoming meeting. Thank you, Bryan!

Next meeting will be Saturday morning, June 25th.

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## **NRS Meetings Minutes**

Date: April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011

1. Meeting called to order at 7:35
2. Number of people present: approx. 40
3. President, John Deniseger, welcomed everyone.
  - a. General agreement that this unusually cool spring weather is a little discouraging for gardeners.
  - b. We're entering the busiest time of the year for the NRS – a lot of events coming up in the next few weeks.
  - c. Royal Horticultural Society magazines (1998-2009) have been donated as a fundraiser for the upcoming conference. Please let John know if interested. Make an offer – any offer! ☺
4. **Correspondence:**
  - a. A thank you note from Gaylle and Allen McRae for the Bronze Medal award received last month.
  - b. Letter from the “Friends of the National Arboretum” in Washington, D.C. requesting donations to “Save the Azalea & Boxwood Collections”. See June for more details.
  - c. Craig has received an email from Karen Charlton's son-in-law; he would like to dedicate a rhodo to Karen in Hailey garden. Karen was a founding member of our club.
5. **Treasurer's Report:**
  - a. NRS account: \$4412.13
  - b. ARS 2012 Conference account: \$632.58
  - c. RSF plants have come; they were picked up in Vancouver and delivered to Gerry by Ian Efford of the Cowichan club.
  - d. The NRS was unable to fulfill the \$300.00 plant order due to winter damage in their nursery.
6. **Social / sunshine report:**
  - a. A big thank you to all who have contributed goodies to our meetings this year.
  - b. A card was sent to Ray Lauzier who had a heart attack a few weeks ago. Ray is doing better.
  - c. The Rose Society is having their plant sale on Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9 to 2 in Lantzville, at the corner of Lancrest and Lavender.
7. **Program:** Our May program will be “Back to Basics” with Paul Wurcz; an appropriate program especially for new members.
8. **Upcoming events – mark your calendars:**
  - a. Wildflower Walk on April 22<sup>nd</sup> – meet at Honeymoon Bay parking lot at 11:00; carpooling is encouraged; bring a bag lunch. Barrie Agar has been invited to join us. A great way to celebrate Earth Day!!!
  - b. Art Knapp information table on Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help.
  - c. May 1<sup>st</sup> - Milner Open House – celebrating 10 years already!
  - d. Mother's Day visit to Jean and Bob Rhodes Garden on Gabriola Island – Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:00. Informal visit; car pooling encouraged; coordinated by Sandra. Thank you Jean and Bob for opening your garden to NRS members.
  - e. Truss Show and Plant Sale on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>.
    - i. Sign up sheet for volunteers circulated
    - ii. Plants and gardening books are welcome as donations for the NRS table.
    - iii. Please see Gaylle if you have plants to donate for the raffle table.
    - iv. Thank you so much everyone for making this event a success year after year.
  - f. Annual spring bus tour on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>.
    - i. Meet at Chapters parking lot at 7:00 am for our trip north.

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- ii. Rough itinerary: Paul Wurz/Hidden Acres in Campbell River, Harry Wright/Haida Gold in Courtenay, Milner Garden, Little Qualicum Cheeseworks / Mooberry Winery / Morningstar Farms in Parksville, Mark Nixon/Patti Mark and Bieberstein gardens both in Nanoose Bay.
- iii. Tickets are \$40.00; Milner admission extra (free if you're already a member) **BUT** ticket price includes wine and cheese at Mooberry Winery as well as tour of the farm.
- iv. Still lots of seats left – please bring a friend!
- g. Our first Garden Tour will be on Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - i. Tickets are now available in 5 different locations.
  - ii. Thank you to the many volunteers
  - iii. A poster will be emailed to all members around April 22<sup>nd</sup>, one month before the event. Please forward to your gardening friends to let them know about it.
- h. May 12<sup>th</sup> – our next meeting – will be our AGM. Please consider joining our executive!

## **9. Conference update:**

- a. Our last meeting was on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at Chris's.
- b. Silent Auction: all District 1 chapters have agreed to donate a basket for our silent auction.
- c. Needed: someone, a person or a committee, to take on "decorations" particularly table decorations. Please talk to Gayle or Chris if you would like to help with this.
- d. We hope to have the conference web site launched in the spring.
- e. Things are well along – budget and program are being worked on right now.
- f. We have 2 more meetings scheduled, one for June 25<sup>th</sup> and one for September 11<sup>th</sup>.
- g. Gayle has been in touch with Laura Grant of the ARS and she seems happy with our progress.
- h. Bryan Jubinville, our publicity lead, presented a PowerPoint presentation which he has developed to showcase the Nanaimo and mid-island area. Craig Clarke will be using it to promote our conference at the upcoming May 12-15 ARS Conference in Vancouver, Washington.

## **10. Auction item:**

- a. Magnolia zeeni was generously donated by Craig Clarke as a fundraiser for our conference.
- b. Ann and Dick Beamish were the lucky bidders and got M. Zeeni for \$75.00
- c. Thank you all for your generosity!

## **11. Raffle/Door prizes winners:** Many happy winners! ☺

## **12. Program for tonight:** An awesome presentation by Art and Susan Lightburn on their 6 ½ week trip to China last year – beautiful and inspiring photography!!! We're looking forward to part 2!

Meeting adjourned at 9:40.