

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



May 2012



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our annual plant sale and truss show is coming on May 12th. Burkhard and Doug have been working hard, taking care of the details as our respective sale/show coordinators. As always, it's so encouraging to see many people continue to actively contribute to our club's events and activities.

This year's plant sale should have an even wider range of plants available as we will have several new vendors. Once again, we will be having our NRS table at the plant sale which relies on contributions from our members. Tell your friends and neighbours about our plant sale - mention it in conversation, send them an e mail...

It seems that our rhododendrons are particularly happy this spring. I don't think that I've ever seen so many flower buds. Let's take advantage of the opportunity! Bring trusses in to the truss show! It's our chance to share the diversity and beauty of our gardens not only with one another but with everyone coming to the sale and show. Wouldn't it be something if all of our members entered at least one truss into the show! If you've never entered, there are lots of people to talk to for advice. The more the merrier!

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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	758-1204
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, #101-5170 Dunster Road
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4
Website: nanaimo.rhodos.ca
email: nanaimo@rhodos.ca

NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 10

BEBAN PARK SOCIAL CENTRE

7:30 pm

DICK BEAMISH

"A walk through our garden, Part 2"

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

TWIGS and STEMs



GOODIES FOR MAY MEETING

Angelina Burch

Eileen Jubinville

Fran Lagasse

COWICHAN VALLEY GARDEN FAIR

Saturday May 5th

10 am to 2 pm

Cowichan Exhibition Grounds

Free Admission

Over 30 exhibitors

COWICHAN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB SPRING FLOWER SHOW & PLANT SALE

Saturday June 2

1 pm to 4 pm

*St. Peter's Anglican Church Hall
5800 Church Rd (off Maple Bay Rd)*

Admission: adults \$2 children \$1

*Flower show entries from the public
welcome.*

www.cowichanvalleygardenclub.com

GABRIOLA HOME AND GARDEN TOUR

Sunday June 24

10 am to 5 pm

Tickets \$20

*Available at Buckerfield's, Dig This, Blue
Poppy Garden Gallery*

www.phc-gabriola.org

President's message continued from page 1

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. Just as our rhodos need the right conditions in order to thrive, so does our executive. As you know, we need a new President, Treasurer and Secretary this year. Please give it some thought; I think you'd enjoy it.

I'm looking forward to Dick Beamish's presentation of "A Walk Through Our Garden – part 2" at our May 10th meeting. Hope to see you there!

Mark your calendars. Our year end potluck BBQ will be hosted by the McRae's on Saturday June 9th. Thank you Allen and Gaylle!

John

OUR APRIL SPEAKER DICK BEAMISH

Our May 10th meeting will feature our own Dick Beamish, presenting part 2 of "A Walk Through Our Garden". The Beamish garden on the Hammond Bay waterfront is a well-established delight to visit, in pictures or in person. We look forward to seeing the second half of the season, after seeing the first half last year. Stay tuned for Dick's mysterious "red herring", which is sure to come up at least once in his presentation!



NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Conference Corner

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

Our most exciting news this month is-the website, now live at arsnanaimo2012.ca. If you've already checked it out, you'll know how nicely it showcases our city, our club, all the planned happenings for the conference , and of course forms for registering. You can read about all the speakers, the gardens on display for the tours, the growers offering plants for the sale, how the photo contest will work, about the various other displays and sales being offered and of course the two wonderful evening banquets at the Coast Bastion, our host hotel.

We have made a request that all of our organizing committee be registered early and most of us have now done that. The next step is up to the rest of our Nanaimo club members. We ask now that you please take the time to register as soon as possible if you are planning to attend. This will greatly assist us with the financial aspects involved in organizing such a huge event. We do thank all those who have already sent in their registration form to June Bouchard, our registrar.

Chris Southwick and Yvonne Harding are still looking for more volunteers to assist with many aspects of the conference. Once you've registered and know what conference activities you'll be attending, please let one of these ladies know if you can give some time to help out. We'll be trying to get this part completed at the next general meeting in May.

We hope you have marked your calendar September 21-23, 2012. Remember, **Early Registration is the word of the day!**

Propagation Workshop

The Victoria Propagating Group is going to hold another Propagating Workshop. This time it will be on October 13th, 2012. Again it will be at Madeleine & Ken's house – 5008 Old West Saanich Road, Saanich, B.C. This will be a hands-on type of thing where everyone will be able to choose cuttings and actually stick them in our propagator. We will be working mostly outside and in the garden, so warm and dry clothes will be necessary. Talks and discussions will include most of the local propagators and hybridizers. The charge will be \$25 and will include a hot lunch and coffee breaks. We will start around 9:30 am to give people from the mainland and up island time to get here. We hope to finish with an early dinner at a local restaurant (not included) to give enough time for everyone to get home if they have to.

For registration and questions email Ken & Madeleine at kenwebb@live.ca or phone 250-744-1785. Please register early because we do have limited space.

Victoria Propagating Group

NRS PLANT SALE MAY 12

The upcoming plant sale is our club's biggest fundraiser for the year. Attendance has been declining over the past few years. We need to build it up again! Spread the word to all your friends that this is the place to get great buys on rhododendrons and companion plants. Rare and unusual things will be available. The sale opens to members at 9 am and to the public at 10. Get there early for the best selection! And don't forget to bring seedlings, divisions, or plants you just no longer want for the club's sale table.

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Truss Show Saturday, May 12

"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 11. 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).

You can also bring non-competitive sprays and extra trusses for display on the exhibition table. Maria and Al Bieberstein are this year's judges.

1. Truss Classes (1st, 2nd, 3rd 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.**

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Thursday, April 12th, 2012 Minutes

Number of people present: 42
Meeting started at 7:35.

1. Welcome:

- President John Deniseger welcomed guests and everyone.
- A reminder that our AGM is coming in May and that there will be a number of vacant positions on the executive.
- An email will be sent to the whole membership before the May meeting as a reminder.
- As approved at the March meeting, the current executive will stay on until after the September conference.

2. Correspondence:

- Email correspondence on a lecture at VIU on “Food Security on Vancouver Island” – email was forwarded to the membership.
- Letter of thanks from VIU Foundation for our contribution to the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Award.

3. Treasurer’s report:

- NRS balance as of April 11th, 2012: \$3115.18
- Conference 2012 balance: \$3865.40

4. Social:

- A reminder to check the newsletter to see who is bringing goodies to the next meeting.
- Thank you everyone for your contributions.

5. Program:

- May meeting: Dick Beamish with “A Walk Through my Garden – Part 2”
- Bill Hardy is opening his garden next Friday, April 20th: an email has been sent to all with specific times and details.

6. Conference:

- Check our web site which is now live: <http://arsnanaimo2012.ca/>
- Please register early to take advantage of the early registration discount.
- Volunteers needed – sign up sheet is circulating. Alternately, contact [Chris Southwick](#) if you would like to know more about volunteering opportunities. “Many hands make light work”.
- Ken Webb (Victoria) and Al Campbell (Cowichan Valley) have been preparing small plants to be used as table favours – all with Vancouver Island connections. We’re grateful for their contributions.
- Foliage display: Michael Miller is looking for florist type vials for his display.

7. Bus Tour – Saturday, April 28th:

- Only a couple of seats left.
- We will be leaving from the Northfield parking lot on the parkway at 7:00 am sharp.
- The Duncan’s garden is no longer part of the tour – it has been replaced by the Weesjes garden.

8. Plant Sale and Truss show – Saturday, May 12th:

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

- At the Centennial building, Beban Park, 10:00 to 2:00; members can buy from 9:00 to 10:00.
- We now have 10 growers plus our own table.
- Our thanks to Kathryn Grant for volunteering to coordinate the cash registers.
- A poster will be sent to the membership soon – please forward to all your gardening friends to advertise our sale.
- Sign up sheet is circulating for volunteers to help on the day of the sale and on the Friday night for the truss show.
- For the NRS table, Reinhold and Sandra are inviting members to contribute plants when they split perennials, etc. in the next while.
- It would be helpful to bring plants for the NRS table and trusses for the truss show on the Friday evening (after 6:30) to make it easier when setting up on the Saturday morning.

9. Milner Garden:

- David Mitchell reminded us of the “Speakers Series” on the 4th Thursday of the month.
- Barrie Agar will be the guest speaker on April 26th.

Tonight’s program: A very informative and inspiring presentation by Earl Daneluk on “Hybridizing and Propagating Rhododendrons from Seed”.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, May 10th – just 2 days before our plant sale and truss show.



An enthusiastic group of 38 gardeners left bright and early on Saturday morning for our annual bus tour down to the Victoria area. The warm welcome and hospitality of our hosts along with their spectacular gardens made for a most inspiring day!



The weather held on, we played games on the bus, we tasted great local wines and, of course, we came home with a few new plants purchased along the way. Thank you Chris for organizing the entertainment on the bus and thanks John for coordinating the whole thing once again – our 12th annual bus tour – a great success!

