



The Rhodomentum

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Newsletter



May 2022



President's Message

Hello NRS Gardeners!

There is truly much to report this time around, but first of all I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our CHRIS SOUTHWICK for receiving the ARS Silver Medal! Well done, Chris, and well deserved. We are honored to have you in our midst!

To Susan and Art Lightburn, to June and John, to Rea and Ron Sutton, go our thanks for making their gardens so beautiful at the "member's only garden tour"! Can't wait to see the next ones on the list: 6th, 7th, 16th and 23rd of May. Please see our website www.nanaimorhodos.ca for more info. (See also p.9 in this newsletter)

After two years of pandemic enforced absence, we finally had our *Truss Show and Plant Sale* last Saturday to great success. While the "bean counters" at the time of this writing are still busily adding the numbers, one thing is certain that, thanks to our propagators working so diligently the last three years on our own cuttings, the profit numbers will be higher. To them, as well as to all the contributors and all the helpers before, during and after *the Sale*, our sincere thank you! It could not have been done without you! Our Truss Show was beautiful as always, congratulations to all the winners!

Please, join us at the *Hailey Grove Work Party* on Tuesday, May 10th, from 10am to 2pm. Hailey Grove will be part of the *Self-guided Garden Tour on May 14/15*, which you won't want to miss. The list of the vendors for obtaining the tickets is on our website, but you can also purchase your tickets at our next in-person meeting on Thursday, the 12th of May. (See also pp.3&10 for details). We truly like to participate and celebrate as much as we can during this "Year of the Garden"!

To all of our always-willing great helpers once again, my personal THANK YOU!

Rosina

OUR EXECUTIVE

President	Rosina Schmidt	751-3386
Vice President	Chris Southwick	390-3415
Past President	Allen McRae	758-7589
Secretary	Deborah Francis	
Treasurer	Ron Sutton	416 951-1373

Directors	Ann Beamish	758-2574
	Dorothee Kieser	390-4136
	Gayle McRae	758-7589

COMMITTEES:

Advertising	Allen McRae
Library	Ann Beamish / Gayle McRae
Newsletter	June Bouchard / John Deniseger
Membership	Jan Moles
Program	by Committee
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey
Social	Deborah Francis
Bargain Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich
Website	Deborah Francis/Rosina Schmidt
Bus Tour	David & Joyce Mitchell
Sunshine	Wanda Brenton
Propagation	Rosina Schmidt
Hailey Grove	Kevin Francis
Show and Sale	Jan Moles and Brenda Lewis
Nanaimo Rhododendron Society	
Box 241, #101-5170 Dunster Road	
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4	
Website: nanaimorhodos.ca	

May Meeting ~ in person!! ☺

Thursday, May 12th at 7:30

"My Recommended Pacific Northwest Garden Tree and Shrub Species, other than Rhododendrons and Conifers"
with Glen Jamieson

Our May Program: “*My Recommended Pacific Northwest Garden Tree and Shrub Species, other than Rhododendrons and Conifers*” with Glen Jamieson

(Editors Note: Unfortunately, our original May speaker, Allison McCabe, had a scheduling conflict. We hope that she will be able to join us as a speaker during the 2022-23 season. Thank you, Glen, for stepping in at the last minute.)



Dr. Glen Jamieson is a retired Fisheries and Oceans Canada research scientist, having worked in the Maritimes (Halifax and St. Andrews) and in British Columbia at the Pacific Biological Station (Nanaimo). He has travelled extensively including exploring for rhododendrons in the Himalayas in both Yunnan, China and Sikkim, India. Glen is the ARS District 1 Director and is editor of both the Journal of the American Rhododendron Society (JARS) and Rhododendrons International. Glen received the ARS's highest award – the Gold Medal in 2020.

As a species plant collector, Glen will showcase many of the trees and shrubs that are growing in their Parksville garden. Each plant is illustrated and described, with its unique and/or special garden features pointed out. He points out that “the plants in our garden are not necessarily as handsome as some of the talk’s specimen plant images, as our garden is still relatively young, small and, somewhat crowded!

Nevertheless, it shows what plants can do well in our climate and will hopefully provide some ideas on how one can make our gardens more interesting!”

NRS Calendar – Spring

has arrived and gardening season is in full swing! This being “The Year of the Garden”, we have already had many exciting events! But we’re not quite done yet – there are still a few things planned over the next few weeks! Check the list below and mark your calendars!! And don’t forget to tell your friends! As always, we will be following the appropriate public health guidelines.



Through May 28th: A number of open gardens by members for members (Details p.9)

Tuesday, May 10th: Hailey Grove Work Bee: 10 am to 2 pm. (See p.10 for details.)

Thursday, May 12th: Regular meeting - speaker: Glen Jamieson - “My Recommended Pacific Northwest Garden Tree and Shrub Species, other than Rhododendrons and Conifers”

Saturday/Sunday, May 14th/15th: NRS Public Garden Tour (More details pp.3 & 10)

Saturday, June 11th: Potluck picnic at 2pm at Dorothee Kieser’s beautiful garden. More info in June newsletter.

Twigs and Stems: Calendar of Other Upcoming Events:

Milner Gardens and Woodland: – open Thursday thru Sunday from 10am to 4pm. Check the Milner website for details: [Milner Garden Events](#)

For NRS members: Milner Gardens discounted memberships will be available to the end of May 2022. Please bring your valid NRS membership card to the Welcome & Interpretive Centre during open hours to complete your application and pick up your Milner Gardens membership card.

Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society: Wednesday, May 11th, 7:30pm – Qualicum Beach Community Center: “Hotter, Wetter, Drier: Garden Sense for a Changing Climate” with Linda Derkach

***May 7th and 8th, 10am to 4pm - Mother’s Day Weekend Garden Tour (See poster on p.13)**

North Island Rhododendron Society: Tuesday, May 10th: Annual General Meeting and Elections in the garden of Adrienne & Rob McNabb, 14 Little Bear Way in Royston. The garden will be open for a pre-meeting tour beginning at 7 PM. Please bring along a lawn chair if you have one.

Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society: Saturday, May 14, 2022 10am – 2pm: CVRS Plant Sale, Gibbons Road, Duncan, B.C.





Nanaimo Rhododendron Society presents

A Self-Guided Tour of Nine Nanaimo Gardens

Saturday, May 14th

Sunday, May 15th

10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Tickets \$15



Available at:

- **Buckerfield's Nanaimo**
- **Garden Works**
- **Green Thumb Nurseries**
- **Little Tree Gift and Garden Center**
- **Turley's Florist**

For more info see our website at Nanaimorhodos.ca

Live the Garden Life



In recognition of the “Year of the Garden”, Milner has created “Live the Garden Life” on the Milner website. It is a guide to local resources to support the mid-Island community in getting out into the garden.

Whether you visit our Milner’s beautiful gardens for inspiration, join a garden club to meet other gardeners and share knowledge, are planning your first garden and want to gain knowledge, or take courses to learn more about gardening, celebrate everything gardens do for us at a local garden event, or check out our trusted web resources, ... see the listings in each category for more information. Click here to [“Live the Garden Life”](#)

A look back at some of our April events:

Our April 22nd meeting:



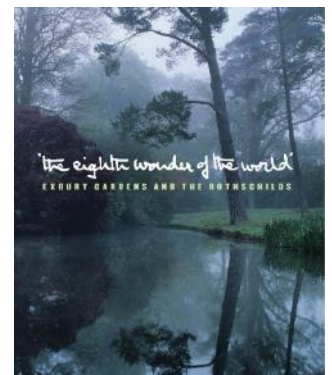
Lionel de Rothschild
with Chris in her garden

We had one of our most well attended meetings in some time, with over 75 people joining us to hear Lionel de Rothschild. We were fortunate to have Lionel here as he was spending some time on Vancouver Island prior to heading south to Portland for the ARS convention. While in our area, he visited several members gardens as well as Milner Gardens and Woodland. He gave an excellent presentation - “Exbury Gardens: Past and Present” - which generated lots of good discussion. Of course, now we all want to go to England so that we can tour Exbury in person!



Lionel de Rothschild with Art
and Susan in their garden

If you haven’t already done so, you can still add your name to the growing list of members wishing to order his new book on Exbury. We are putting together a group order with other Vancouver Island clubs to minimize shipping costs. We are also getting a 20% discount which brings the cost down to \$US36 plus shipping. If you’d like to join the group order, please send us an email at juneandjohn@shaw.ca by May 10th.



Stay connected - check our web page - new things added regularly! <http://nanaimorhodos.ca/>

April 26th at the Greig Rhododendron Species Garden at Milner



Photo by Milner's Barb Peyton

On a less than perfect day, weather wise, more than 60 ARS members from across District 1 were on hand to celebrate the success of the Greig Rhododendron Species Garden. Douglas Justice, from the UBC Botanical Garden, spoke on the influence of the Greigs on horticulture and rhododendrons in our area and beyond. The highlight of the afternoon was the surprise presentation of two ARS silver medals – to Douglas Justice and to our very own Chris Southwick! Despite the chilliness of the afternoon, we were warmed by the camaraderie and joy of the moment. **Congratulation to both Douglas and Chris!!**

Here's the wording on Chris's Silver Medal Citation...

The American Rhododendron Society

Silver Medal Award

You have significantly advanced rhododendron awareness and knowledge throughout District 1. You co-chaired the successful 2012 Nanaimo ARS Fall Convention and strongly supported the 2015 and 2019 conferences. You have judged truss shows, participated in expert panels, given talks, produced an on-line rhododendron seminar, published articles in JARS, and served as District 1's Alternate Director. You have contributed extensively to the development of the Greig Rhododendron Species Garden in Milner Gardens & Woodlands (MGW) and tirelessly promoted rhododendrons & horticulture: active member of the Vancouver Island Master Gardeners, MGW Society & the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden boards; co-founder of the "Fall into Gardening" mini-conferences. You are one of the reasons the ARS is thriving on Vancouver Island.

For all of these major activities, the American Rhododendron Society is pleased to award the silver medal to

Chris Southwick



Photo by Milner's Barb Peyton



Chris with her sisters, Jane and Nancy
– photo by June Bouchard



Photo by June Bouchard



Photo by Milner's Barb Peyton

Nanaimo Rhododendron Truss Show April 30th (by Jan Moles)

Welcome back everyone – it was so good to be at the truss show once more.

First of all, let me thank everyone who helped to make our Truss show a big success this year; last show was in 2019, a long time ago. Thank you to all the helpers, from assembling the display structure, laying out cloths, filling water bottles, remembering to bring essential items (hoses, watering cans, card stands, bottles, cloths etc.). Thank you to our patient entry scribes, judge's assistants and last but not least, to our judges: Sean Rafferty and Garth Wedemire, who were thorough, patient, knowledgeable AND complimentary. We could not ask for more!

There were a few significant differences in the show entries this year; mainly due to the earlier date (about 2 weeks earlier than usual) and maybe also to the cold and unpredictable weather we have been having this year.

There were many more species, lepidote, elepidote, and alpine, azaleas too and some spectacular species rhododendron sprays. So, more species and fewer hybrids as many of us found that our blooms were not yet open. We welcomed 163 entries in all, with the entry scribes having to make some 50 or so NEW cards for species and hybrids that had never been entered to a show before. Lots of things to consider for next year!

On the right – the worker bees.

And below – as near to an overall picture as I have.



Entry Scribes identifying, finding cards and writing up at 7am on Saturday – it is cold in here!



Judges frowning in consideration, with judge assistants looking on and making notes



The sprays: Azaleas, Elepidotes and dwarf/alpine looking very impressive. More in evidence with early season.



The foliage table; always an eye opener.



One of our two display tables – both absolutely spectacular.

Raffle Winners at our Sale and Show - from Gaylle McRae

Our club raised \$369 with our raffle at this year's show and sale. Here are the winners:

1. Anne Burns – won R. 'Linda'
2. Gerald H. – won R. 'Catboursault'
3. Rosmarie Ganesan – won R. 'Petticoat'
4. Linda Shultz – won R. 'Futuos'
5. Linda Caillet – won a Hellebore
6. Marg James – won a young palm tree
7. Claire Harmison – won R. 'Cherry Cheesecake'



Our club wishes to congratulate all of our winners and thank them for supporting our club.



Our judges hard at work (Photo by Rea Sutton)

****Please see all Truss Show Results on the following two pages - a Great Big Thank You to Jan Moles for orchestrating the whole thing!*

Class	Prize	Plant	Winner	Pts
Nanaimo Rhododendron Society	1 st	Martin King	Ann & Dick Beamish	5
Red hybrid				
	2 nd	Etta Burroughs	Susan & Art Lightburn	3
	3 rd	Miss Frances	Ann & Dick Beamish	1
Blotch/flare hybrid	1 st	Your Move	Ann & Dick Beamish	5
	2 nd	Mrs G.W. Leak	Ann & Dick Beamish	3
	3 rd	Cathy Jo	Ann & Dick Beamish	1
Lax truss	1 st	Olympic Lady	Ann & Dick Beamish	5
	2 nd	Medusa	Elaine Hutchison	3
	3 rd	Conroy	June Bouchard & John Deniseger	1
Pink hybrid	1 st	Wanna Bee	Chris Southwick	5
	2 nd	Pretty Baby	Ann & Dick Beamish	3
	3 rd	Rosalie Hall	Ann & Dick Beamish	1
White hybrid	1 st	Blewberry	Ann & Dick Beamish	5
	2 nd	Blewberry	Chris Southwick	3
	3 rd	Cunningham's White	Ann & Dick Beamish	1
Salmon/Orange	1 st	Peach Charm	Ann & Dick Beamish	5
	2 nd	Trewithen Orange	Chris Southwick	3
	3 rd	Seaview Sunset	Ann & Dick Beamish	1
Purple/blue	1 st	Am I Blue	Ann & Dick Beamish	5
	2 nd	Blaney's Blue	Ann & Dick Beamish	3
	3 rd	Susan	Susan & Art Lightburn	1
Yellow	1 st	Merganser	Chris Southwick	5
	2 nd	Horizon Lakeside	Elaine Hutchison	3
	3 rd	Invitation	Ann & Dick Beamish	1
Best Scented	1 st	Edgworthii	Val Harvey	5
	2 nd =	Edgworthii	Ann & Dick Beamish	1.5
	2 nd =	Elsie Frye	Chris Southwick	1.5
	3 rd =	Lady Alice Fitzwilliam	Chris Southwick	0.5
	3 rd =	Lady Alice Fitzwilliam	Ann & Dick Beamish	0.5
Hammerhead	1 st	Heavenly Scent	Ann & Dick Beamish	5

	2 nd	Horizon Dawn	Ann & Dick Beamish	3
	3 rd	Rosalie Hall	Ann & Dick Beamish	1
Alpine species	1 st	<i>Primulaflorum Dockerla</i>	Chris Southwick	5
	2 nd	<i>Campylogynum X</i>	Chris Southwick	3
	3 rd	<i>Razorbill</i>	Chris Southwick	1
Elepidote species	1 st	<i>Morii</i>	Susan & Art Lightburn	5
	2 nd	<i>Argophyllum</i>	Ann & Dick Beamish	3
	3 rd	<i>Sinofalconeri</i>	Ann & Dick Beamish	1
Lepidote Species	1 st	<i>Baileyi</i>	Chris Southwick	5
	2 nd	<i>Augustinii</i>	Chris Southwick	3
	3 rd	<i>Davidsonianum</i>	Ann & Dick Beamish	1
Azalea	1 st	<i>Purple Dragon</i>	Ann & Dick Beamish	5
Truss or spray	2 nd	<i>Albrechtii</i>	Susan & Art Lightburn	3
	3 rd	<i>Nudipes</i>	Susan & Art Lightburn	1
Foliage	1 st	Basilicum	Ann & Dick Beamish	5
	2 nd =	Sinogrande	Ann & Dick Beamish	1.5
	2 nd =	Rex Fictolacteum	Susan & Art Lightburn	1.5
	3 rd =	Roxianum	Susan & Art Lightburn	0.5
	3 rd =	Dilatatum	Susan & Art Lightburn	0.5
Best in Show		Peach Charm	Ann & Dick Beamish	8
Best Scented		Edgworthii	Val Harvey	8
Most Points		Ann & Dick Beamish	Ann & Dick Beamish	
Best Hammerhead		Heavenly Scent	Ann & Dick Beamish	8
People's Choice		Arneson Gem	Gayle & Allen McRae	6

Points: Ann & Dick: 89.5, Susan & Art: 15.5, Elaine: 6, June & John: 1, Chris: 35.5, Val Harvey: 5, Gayle & Allen: 6
People's Choice: this was a 3-way tie; Gayle & Allen with Arneson Gem, Ann & Dick Beamish with Cathy Jo, Ann & Dick Beamish with Basilicum.

Honorable Mentions went to:

Peppermint Twist and Viennese Waltz from Ann & Dick
 Augustinii 'Playfair' from Chris

Points for Calculating Most Points: (Paull Award)

Best in Show 8
 People's Choice 6
 First 5
 Second 3
 Third 1
 (Half Points for Tie)



The Year of the Garden - Spring Open Gardens and a Public Garden Tour



We have more open gardens to come from now through late May – for members only. AND, in mid-May, we're having an N.R.S. public garden tour as a fundraiser for our club – the dates of the Public Tour are Saturday, May 14th and Sunday, May 15th. The cost will be \$15 per ticket which gives people access to all of the gardens for two days.

****The organizers of this tour are busy looking for volunteers to act as garden sitters to take tickets for the public tour – especially on the Sunday! If you are interested in helping out by garden sitting, Gayle and Chris would be very happy to hear from you at csouthwick@shaw.ca or allengaylle@shaw.ca**

NRS MEMBERS OPEN GARDENS SCHEDULE

May 6th, 2022 (Friday): 2-5 pm – Robert Nixon – 6250 Azure Road, Nanaimo

May 7th, 2022 – (Saturday): 10 am – 3 pm – Dorothee Kieser – 6299 Pearce Rd. Nanaimo

May 16th, 2022 – (Monday): 4 – 7 pm – Chris Southwick – 6647 Green Acres Way, Nanaimo

May 23th, 2022 (Victoria Day, Monday): 2 – 5 pm - Ann and Dick Beamish – 3904 Hammond Bay Rd., Nanaimo

May 28th, 2022 (Saturday): 2 – 5 pm – Linda and Paul Lawry - 118 -5854 Turner Rd., Nanaimo

Hailey Rhododendron Grove Work Bee at Bowen Park



Unfortunately, the April work bee had to be cancelled due to unseasonal weather. However, come and join the fun for the upcoming work bee which will be on Tuesday, May 10th from 10am to 2pm – as they say... “Many hands make light work!” Bring your lunch and a sunny disposition! 😊



Beauty & the Blast (Bud Blast) An article from the Master Gardeners Association of B.C. website

Editors Note: Our R. 'Sir Charles Lemon' was "infested" with what might be bud blast this spring. We picked off more than 200 dried up flower buds – taking no chances, we burned them. We thought that this article would be of general interest.

Rhododendron bud and twig blight is caused by a fungus, *Seifertia azalea*. The flower buds turn brown and do not open in the spring. They are later covered by very noticeable black fruiting bodies called coremia the year after infection. Removal of the black buds is recommended if possible.

The rhododendron leafhopper, *Graphocephala* sp. is implicated in these infections by some researchers. It lays its eggs by making slits in rhododendron buds in the fall allowing entry of the fungus into these sites. The feeding activities of the adults and nymphs have no obvious adverse effect on the appearance of the foliage or the plant's vigour. Female leafhoppers make egg incisions in next year's flowers buds in late summer-autumn. The fungal disease, known as [bud blast](#) (*Seifertia azalea*), is thought to infect the buds through the egg wounds, although RHS notes that some recent research has placed doubt on this assumption. The fact is: Infected flower buds turn brown and die.

The American Rhododendron Society notes Bud Blast does not seem to attack all plants. In fact, there are only a few, usually with R. *catawbiense* in their background, that are affected.

Control:

- We do not recommend chemical controls due to toxicity to other insects.
- Sunset Western Garden Problem Solver suggests control of leafhopper may be had by spraying the affected leaves with a strong blast of water from a hose. Natural predators of leafhoppers include birds, beneficial Green Lacewing larvae, and parasitoid wasps. Flower buds infected with bud blast should be picked off and disposed of to reduce the amount of fungal spores being released in the vicinity of the plants.



**** Our propagation group could use more 2-gallon pots. If you have pots that you'd like to donate to the group, please contact Rosina or Chris.**

Plant of the Month by Ron Sutton

Rhododendron erosum

This is a species rhododendron, belonging to sub section Barbata. It has beautiful foliage. It produces semi-shiny bullate leaves, and produces tight trusses of red flowers. It grows natively in eastern Bhutan, southern Tibet and Xizang China. It will grow to approximately 5 feet in 10 years, and is hardy to 5°F/-15°C. It thrives in part shade. My plant is from Fearing Farm, and it hasn't flowered yet, but it's listed as an early bloomer. The foliage photo is of my plant. Flower photo is taken from a website.



February 7, 2022

DUPLICATE COPY

Gayle McRae
Nanaimo Rhododendron Society



Dear Gayle,

On behalf of Vancouver Island University and VIU Foundation, I want to gratefully acknowledge your payment of \$500.00, received on Thursday, January 27, 2022, towards the *Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Fund*.

The participation of our community partners helps fund initiatives that have far-reaching positive effects. Your support helps our students strive for excellence, and their success at achieving their educational, career and life goals enriches us all.

Please consider this letter your receipt of payment (our non-charitable receipt number 9907910).

Sincerely,



Richard Horbachewski
Associate Vice President, Community Partnerships
Vancouver Island University Foundation
Tel: 250.740.6602 | Mobile: 250.618.7752
Email: Richard.Horbachewski@viu.ca

The VIU community acknowledges and thanks the Snuneymuxw, Quw'utsun, Tla'amin, Snaw-naw-as and Qualicum First Nations on whose traditional lands we teach, learn, research, live and share knowledge.

A Thank you letter to the NRS from VIU

Our club gives back to the community in many different ways. We bring people together to celebrate gardening and life on central Vancouver Island. A great example is our annual \$500 contribution to a bursary in support of a deserving Horticulture Program student at Vancouver Island University. We thought that we'd share the thank you letter that we received earlier this year.

As you can see, we aren't the only clubs celebrating the "Year of the Garden"! 😊

The Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society
presents the
**Mother's Day Weekend
GARDEN TOUR**



Rhododendron 'Qualicum's Pride'

May 7 & 8, 2022

11 Beautiful and Creative Gardens to Enjoy
in Qualicum Beach and Parksville

Plus: Artists, Master Gardeners & Floral Art Creations

Tickets \$15 on Sale April 15 at:

Qualicum: *Mulberry Bush Book Store
Beach: *Arrowsmith Greenhouses
 *Milner Gardens and Woodland (limited hours)
 *Ken-Dor Garden Centre
Parksville: *Buckerfield's
 *Cultivate Garden & Gift
 *Fireside Books
Port Alberni: *Colyn's Nursery & Garden Centre
For more information, check out www.marsrhodos.ca

**7th ANNUAL
ALTRUSA GARDEN TOUR**

Sunday, June 12, 2022 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM



\$20 TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:
Cash only

GREEN THUMB GARDEN CENTRE	6261 HAMMOND BAY ROAD	250-758-0944
KC'S BOUTIQUE & PETITES	5771 TURNER ROAD	250-751-7799
LITTLE TREE GARDEN CENTER	2517 BOWEN ROAD	250-585-0244
TURLEY'S FLORIST	60 TERMINAL AVENUE	250-754-6344
JANIE'S GOT A BUS*	janie@janiesbus.ca	250-714-2855

*transportation available at an additional cost

SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF 6 LOVELY GARDENS
FUNDRAISER TO SUPPORT WOMEN, CHILDREN AND LITERACY IN NANAIMO

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF NANAIMO

Roberta: 250-758-6783 or keberis@shaw.ca
Donna: 250-618-1036 or 4donnaeyoung@gmail.com



This table, set up by Ann Beamish, attracted a lot of attention at our plant sale! Ann and Dick's daughter took photos of their beautiful rhododendrons and designed these gorgeous bags which were sold as a fundraiser – all proceeds went to the Canadian Red Cross Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis. All bags were sold by the end of the day!!

May

The very word makes the heart leap.

Birds, Buds, Blossoms, Beauty!

*Break away from every bondage of circumstance or low spirits and go out
into the sunshine.*

*Answer back the bird-note in your heart, kiss your finger tips to every new
blossom, and be a part of the spring.*

~Eva D. Kellogg, "May," 1902



*See you all on
May 12th!!! ☺*

