

NOVEMBER 2003



Volume 12

Issue 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Linda and I returned from our trip to Britain in time to get on with the fall gardening jobs. The clean up of the annuals and pruning of the perennials will go into the compost for the spring planting of the new rhododendrons. Over the next few weeks, tender bulbs and lilies will have to be dug up, dried and stored for the winter. We picked the last crop of tomatoes and peppers yesterday - the weather must have been mild in October.

All the rhododendrons look great, most are now well budded for next springs show, although R. Bureavii in coming into boom now. The rhododendron cuttings and seedlings are looking fine tucked away in the shade; hopefully the winter will be kind to them. On our travels through the south west of Britain, we noticed many areas where the R. ponticum have spread over the countryside - what a magnificent sight this must be in the spring. Many landowners are cursing this rhododendron for its vigorous growth and spreading habit. At Chatsworth, one of the estates owned by the Duke of Devonshire near Sheffield, these rhododendrons are competing fiercely with many of the exotic tree species brought in by Joseph Paxton. We recommend this garden be on your list if you plan on visiting Britain. See you at the meeting, Richard.

EXECUTIVE

President	Richard White	752-6519
V/President	Paul Lawry	390-2370
Secretary	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Treasurer	Barb Coy	758-8497
Directors	Allan McRae	758-7589
	Mike Miller	758-2879
	Helmut Neuman	714-1840
	Chris Southwick	758-0993
	Mary Taylor	756-3984
	Anne Williamson	390-2604

COMMITTEES

ADVERTISING	Allan	758-7589
LIBRARY	Chris (temp)	758-0993
NEWSLETTER	Paul & Linda	390-2370
PROGRAMS	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
RAFFLE TABLE	June & John	
SOCIAL	Anne	390-2604
\$ TABLE	Yvonne	756-3574

NRS MEETING

NOVEMBER 13 – BEBAN PARK AT 7:30

Garth Wedemire

“Maple Ridge to Mission – Rhodo Collections”

A slide show of Rhodo Collections belonging to the Hemmings, Ladds, Wedemires and Dempsters.

RICHARD WHITE

A short talk on taking cuttings

REMINDER: BRING YOUR OWN CUPS TO THE MEETING

APRIL NRS MEETING DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED TO APRIL 15

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ARS WEBSITE
www.rhododendron.org

Rhododendron & Azalea News
www.rhododendron.org/news/newsindex.htm

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

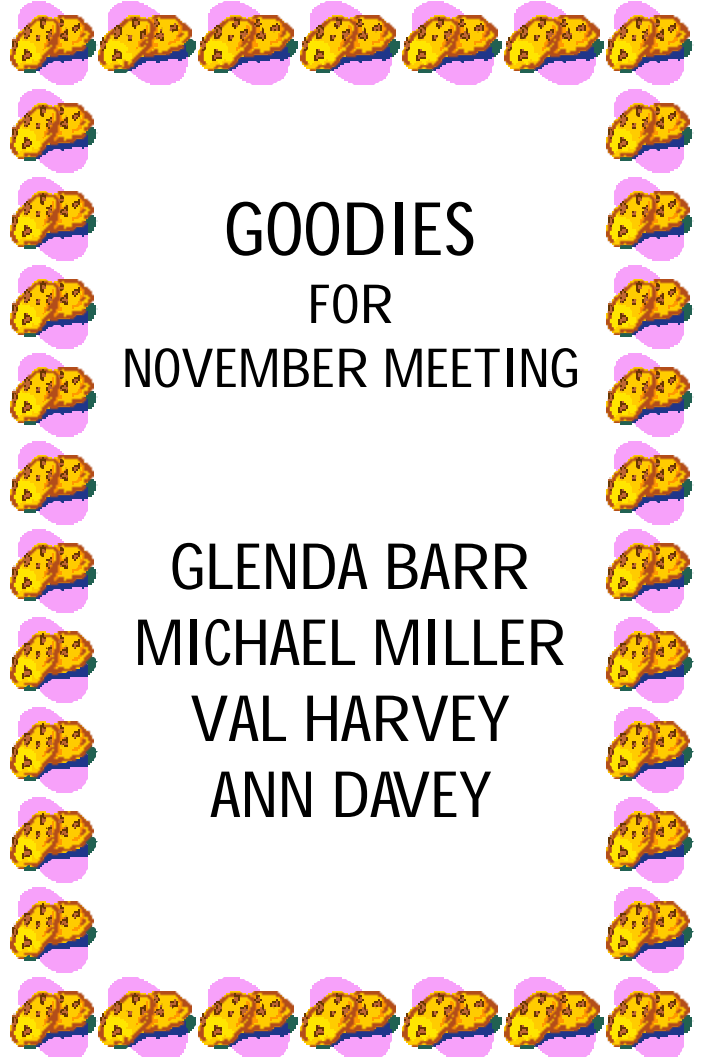
Paul & Linda Lawry

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DISTRIBUTION

Gill Taylor



**GOODIES
FOR
NOVEMBER MEETING**

**GLENDA BARR
MICHAEL MILLER
VAL HARVEY
ANN DAVEY**



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NOVEMBER GARDEN SUGGESTIONS

A great time to plant most evergreens, perennials, containerized fruit, flowering and shade trees. Use 10-52-10 or Bonemeal to get your plants off to a great start. All your bulbs should be dusted with Sulphur or Bulb Dust prior to storing. Make sure that they are stored in a cool, dry place and will not freeze.

Prune back Rose of Sharon and Hydrangeas. Tidy up perennials.

Construct a compost bin and create your own organic rich soil with garden refuse and leaves. Use Rot-it to speed up the process.

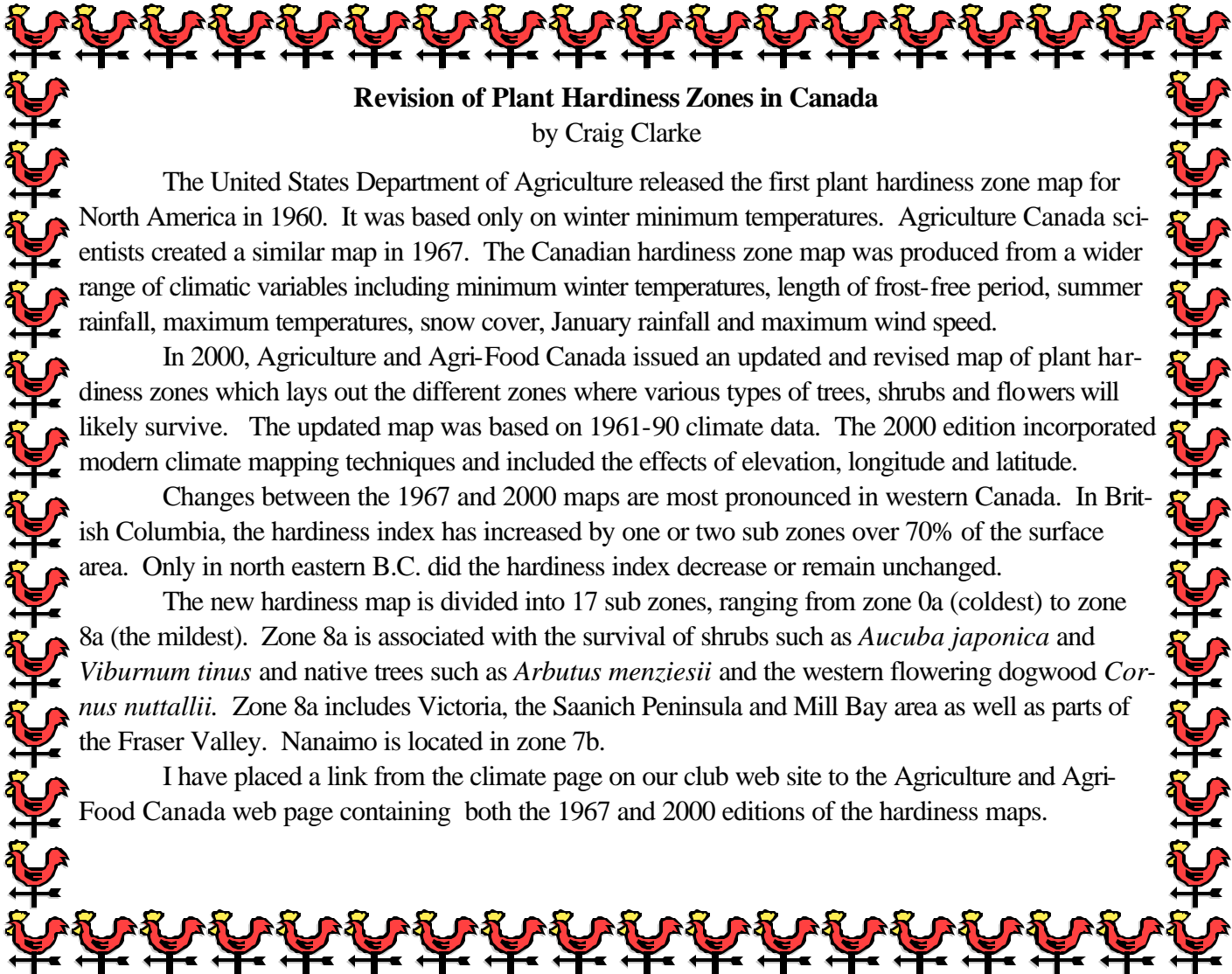
Still time to apply Dolomite Lime and slow release fertilizers on the lawn. You may still spray for Leatherjackets with Diazinon.

Fruit, flowering and shade trees, as well as evergreens, can still be transplanted. The first dormant spraying should be done.

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3

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Revision of Plant Hardiness Zones in Canada
by Craig Clarke

The United States Department of Agriculture released the first plant hardiness zone map for North America in 1960. It was based only on winter minimum temperatures. Agriculture Canada scientists created a similar map in 1967. The Canadian hardiness zone map was produced from a wider range of climatic variables including minimum winter temperatures, length of frost-free period, summer rainfall, maximum temperatures, snow cover, January rainfall and maximum wind speed.

In 2000, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada issued an updated and revised map of plant hardiness zones which lays out the different zones where various types of trees, shrubs and flowers will likely survive. The updated map was based on 1961-90 climate data. The 2000 edition incorporated modern climate mapping techniques and included the effects of elevation, longitude and latitude.

Changes between the 1967 and 2000 maps are most pronounced in western Canada. In British Columbia, the hardiness index has increased by one or two sub zones over 70% of the surface area. Only in north eastern B.C. did the hardiness index decrease or remain unchanged.

The new hardiness map is divided into 17 sub zones, ranging from zone 0a (coldest) to zone 8a (the mildest). Zone 8a is associated with the survival of shrubs such as *Aucuba japonica* and *Viburnum tinus* and native trees such as *Arbutus menziesii* and the western flowering dogwood *Cornus nuttallii*. Zone 8a includes Victoria, the Saanich Peninsula and Mill Bay area as well as parts of the Fraser Valley. Nanaimo is located in zone 7b.

I have placed a link from the climate page on our club web site to the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada web page containing both the 1967 and 2000 editions of the hardiness maps.

September and October Bloomers

Our weather begins to cool. Many rhododendrons have the habit of "second blooming" in these months. Stressful conditions may cause flowering in the fall. This is a partial list. 'Elizabeth' is one of the best and most floriferous "second bloomers."

- 'Bob's Blue' - electric blue, medium
- 'Bluebird'- blue, low-medium
- 'Cornubia' - red, tall
- 'Elizabeth' - red, low
- 'Ernie Dee' - purple, low
- Yellow Hammer Group - yellow, medium
- R. impeditum - purple, low
- R. fastigiatum - blue-purple, low
- R. prunifolium - red or orange, medium

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Nanaimo Rhododendron Society - Minutes of October 9 2003
Regular Meeting

1. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Paul Lawry at 7:35pm.
2. **Secretary's report:** M/S/C that the minutes of the September 11th meeting are adopted as printed in the newsletter. Correspondence received: Membership renewal for Rhododendron Species Foundation
3. **Treasurer's report:**
The balance in the Bowen Park Legacy Fund is \$156.11
The balance in the general account is \$3523.01
The balance in the library fund is \$350.31
4. **Committee Reports:**
Social Volunteers are in place to bring refreshments
Program We need a volunteer to coordinate the program committee.
November – Garth Wedemire: “Maple Ridge to Mission -Rhodo Collections”
December - Christmas Party & auction
Newsletter Paul Lawry will place notices in the newsletter regarding goodies & reminder to take cups to meetings.
Raffle Plants – R. ‘Moerheim’, R. ‘Weston’s Pink Diamond’, R. ‘Moonwax’, Fremontodendon, & Piptanthus.
5. **Old business** No items.
6. **New Business.** M/S/C that the society renew its associate membership in the Rhododendron Species Foundation.
7. **Draws:**
Door Prize Draw: Craig Clarke, Hélène Sullivan, Allen McRae.
Name Tag Draw: Ralf Hutchinson, , Richard Little
Raffle: Ann Williamson, Janet Atkinson, Craig Clarke, Ann Davey, Hélène Sullivan.
8. **Executive Meeting :** will be hosted by Chris Southwick on October 23rd at 7pm.
9. **Program:** Trevor & Doreen Badminton gave a very interesting presentation on hybrids of *Rhododendron yakushimanum*.
10. Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

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Can you identify this plant?

Blooms anywhere from March to May

Origin: Korea, Manchuria and parts of Russia

If you can identify this plant - write your name and the name of the plant on a piece of paper and bring to the next meeting. Drop in the container and if your name is drawn you win a prize.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Help is needed with the following committees:

Library & Programs

Contact Richard or Chris for information as to what the duties entail.



Wondering why I am still in the Newsletter? Just to remind you to feed my feathered relatives.

SPECIES FOUNDATION TICKETS

Remember as a member of the Species Foundation our Chapter has received free admission tickets.

When you are headed down that way, be sure to contact Craig and pick up tickets for you and your family/guests.



DECEMBER AUCTION

Auction time is approaching. We need to start gathering items & plants for the annual Xmas Auctions.

We will have further details at our November meeting and in the Newsletter.

Meanwhile, contact your favourite store or restaurant for donations.

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6

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