

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



November 2007
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope that many of you will attend the November meeting in Qualicum; it is always a pleasure to travel to other locations and meet with fellow "Rhodoites". We certainly enjoyed having the MARS members at our last meeting and hopefully they will provide some Chocolate Chip Cookies.



Our next meeting in Nanaimo won't be until December 13, which is our XMAS Auction. We will need plants and/or new items for the Auction and will also be a "Pot Luck Supper" (finger food only), drinks: Coffee, Tea and Juice will be provided by the NRS.

If you have any questions please contact me at 390-2370.

Paul

EXECUTIVE

President	Paul Lawry	390-2370
Vice President	Chris Southwick	758-0993
Past President	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Secretary	vacant	
Treasurer	Barb Coy	758-8497
Directors	Debbie Gaboury	758-1204
	Linda Lawry	390-2370
	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
	John Deniseger	390-3605
	Allen McRae	758-7589

COMMITTEES

Advertising	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
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	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14 **7:30 pm**

QUALICUM BEACH CIVIC CENTRE

PETER WHARTON

"CONSERVATION OF BIO-DIVERSE FORESTS IN VIETNAM"

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

NOVEMBER MEETING

TWIGS AND STEMS



MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE

Don't forget to pay your membership fees this month. Give them to Debbie Gaboury at the meeting or mail to the club's mailing address (on the previous page).

Qualicum Beach Garden Club
Presents

RICHARD HEBDA

"Climate Change and Managing the Landscape"

Tuesday, November 13
Qualicum Beach Civic Centre
\$5 for non-members

3 Day Intensive Organic Soil Management

November 23 – 25, 2007
Royal Roads University
\$549.00
www.gaiacollege.ca

For our second joint meeting of the year, MARS and Nanaimo Rhododendron club members will meet at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre at 7:30 on Nov. 14 to hear Peter Wharton, the curator of the David C. Lam Asian Garden at the UBC Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research in Vancouver. He has spent much of October traveling in northern Vietnam on just one of the many field trips he has been involved with in recent years. In an e-mail, he indicated he would have lots to talk about.

His major focus today is the conservation of bio-diverse forests of southern Yunnan and the border areas of Vietnam and Burma, according to a UBC website.

Peter, who graduated from the University College of North Wales qualified first as an arborist before coming to UBC's Faculty of Forestry in 1975 where he has conducted botanical research and taught courses on garden design and woody plant materials.

He is known internationally through his work with such institutions as the Rhododendron Species Foundation, U.S. National Arboretum, the Wespelaar Arboretum in Belgium, the Kunming Institute of Botany and many others. As well, he is the co-author, along with Brent Hine and Douglas Justice of *The Jade Garden, New and Notable Plants from Asia*, published by Timber Press.

Directions to Qualicum Beach Civic Centre

Follow Highway 19 to the Qualicum Beach exit.
Take the first left, Rupert Road, then the first right, Jones Street.

*Golden leaves in an amber pool,
And rocks all warm in the sun.
Why should we fret that summer is gone,
When autumn has just begun?*

October Ale-

Esther C. Grayson



NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

A letter to NRS members...

My name is Tom Carter. I live in Parksville. I am a mountaineer and a senior member of the Alpine Club Of Canada. I have been going to Nepal for seventeen years and for the last ten have been organizing treks in order to help others enjoy this spectacularly beautiful country.

While accessing the high Himalaya, I almost always pass through rhododendron forests that grow between 1900m. and 3400m. These often twenty-five meter tall virgin forests cover vast areas of the foothills. Saturated with monsoon rains, the understory is lush with bamboo, primula and over one hundred types of orchid. Over eight hundred bird species live or pass through these foothill "gardens".

In the springtime, from any hilltop, an endless sea of crimson and pink flows down into terraced farmland and up to the snow peaks towering above. Our paths are carpeted in petals!

This coming spring, I am offering a trek that will be devoted to exploring and luxuriating in "Rhododendron land". Our route will parallel the Annapurna Range. Travelling on foot in this botanical paradise, with snow peaks above and fascinating villages along our path, is a special opportunity for rhododendron lovers.

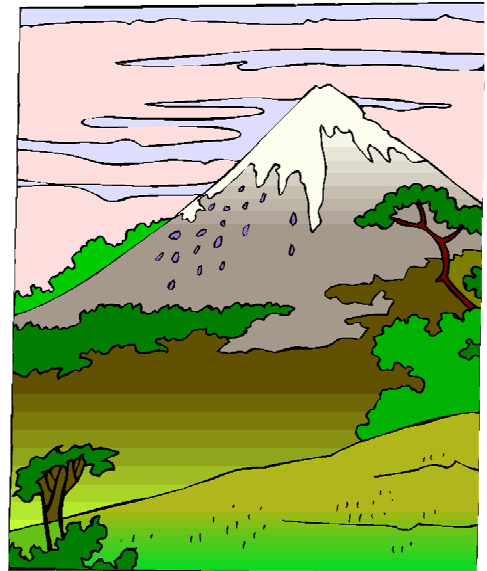
Hence, this letter. My groups are always small, with a limit of eight members and are often formed by word of mouth. My clients' ages range from fifty-five to seventy but good fitness is the basic requirement. If there is any way you could make your members aware of this trek, I would greatly appreciate it, as might many of them who have dreamed of such a journey.

Please visit my website for detailed information.

Thank you very much for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Tom Carter

Tom Carter and Marci Lyon
<http://www.moonmountainadventures.com>
Tel. 250-954-2345



NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY Minutes of October, 2007 Meeting

- Called to Order: By President Paul Lawry at 7:13 p.m.
- Guests: Members from MARS, VRS, CVRS and VRS were among the guests present.
- President: Welcomed guests and reminded everyone of the development of Workshops, on the Island, for Species Identification by the Island Rhodo Societies. In addition, asked that NRS members notify him ASAP if they are interested in attending workshops on Propagating.
- Secretary: No correspondence.
- Treasurer:
- Program: **Reminder that the November meeting will be with MARS on Wednesday, November 14.**
John England (MARS):
Gave the following directions: **Qualicum Beach Civic Centre
H19 / Take QB exit
First left then right on Jones.
Civic at end of Jones Road.**
- Let Paul know if you need a ride to the meeting.
- Membership: Reminder that dues are to be paid ASAP. Associate membership is available to members of other Rhodo Societies.
- Raffle/Prizes: Mostly won by our happy guests.
- Garth Wedemire: Introduced the Speaker Dennis Bottemiller whose presentation was not only educational but done in such a manner as to keep everyone's attention and easily understood by those of us who are not familiar with the propagating process.
(Nice of Garth to come all the way to introduce Dennis).
- Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 14, Qualicum Beach Civic Centre**
- Executive Meeting: Sandra Dorman's Home on Thursday, 25th of October.



RHODODENDRON SPECIES STUDY DAYS

Rhododendron Species Study Days with Douglas Justice at UBC are being planned for the Spring of 2008.

Because of space limitations at UBC, there are only 25 seats available for the workshops and these will be allocated on a first-come-first-serve basis with priority given to rhododendron club members who have paid for all 4 sessions.

Please register early. Use the registration form on the following page, or download from the District One website at www.rhodos.ca. Registration forms must be mailed to Ron Knight.

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Registration Form Rhododendron Species Workshops

At UBC Botanical Garden – Spring 2008

Instructor: Douglas Justice

Coordinator: Ron Knight

Demographics --Your name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Member of which rhodo club? _____

Costs -- Check which sessions you will be attending:

- | | |
|--|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> March 1 – rhododendron anatomy; environmental needs; classification | \$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> March 22 – lepidotes and azaleas | \$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 5 – elepidotes | \$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 26 – photography; pests, diseases, and other problems | \$35 |

Total before discount: \$ _____

Discount – Applies if you meet all 3 of these conditions:

- 1) You are a member of a District 1 rhododendron club.
- 2) Your registration will be mailed before December 1.
- 3) You are registering for all 4 sessions.

If you qualify, subtract \$20, for a subtotal of: \$ _____

Payment -- Total amount owing is: \$ _____

(Hint: For all 4 sessions with discount, enter \$120.)

Please mail a cheque payable to “Ron Knight” to

2710 Walpole Crescent, North Vancouver, BC, V7H 1K8.

NB – 25 spaces will be assigned on a first-come-first-served basis with priority given to rhodo club members who have paid for all 4 sessions. You will be notified before January if your registration is accepted.

More information -- Contact Ron Knight at: rcknight@telus.net

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



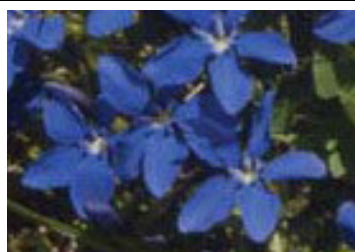
Companion Plants

G is for Gentians

of the Gentian Family

Family: Gentianaceae

You want blue?? You'll get blue with Gentians, and not just blue, but electric fantastic true, true, blue!! But you're going to have to work for it, because they're not all that easy to grow. If you have a well-designed rockery, you'll be more successful with the mat-forming types, but there are a few other taller ones that can thrive in mixed borders. With careful selection, you can have gorgeous blue blooms from May to October, or even later if the weather holds.



The spring-flowering Gentiana verna (Star Gentian) does not display the familiar trumpet shaped gentian flower



It starts with the Star Gentian, *G. verna*, and then the Trumpet Gentians, *G. acaulis* and *G. alpina*. Then for mid-summer blooms, try *G. dahurica* (Spotted Gentian), *G. paradoxa*, *G. septemfida* (Crested Gentian), and *G. cruciata* (Cross Gentian). For fall there are the lime-haters that like cool peaty soils – *G. sino-ornata*, *G. asclepiadea* (Willow Gentian) and *G. macaulyi*, and the exception to the rule, *G. farreri*, which prefers a scree bed.

We also have some native gentians. One suitable for quite moist sites is *G. sceptrum* (King Gentian) (*G. menziesii*), an herbaceous form growing 2-3 feet tall, with large purple-blue trumpets in late summer. In truth, not all gentians are blue – there is the yellow species, *G. lutea*, and several white types, but I personally dismiss these as not worthy of being called gentians!



Gentiana alpina

The very low alpine species grow only 2 to 4 inches tall and are never invasive, spreading only 8 to 12 inches. They are mostly evergreen or partially so, and have comparatively large flowers for their size – some trumpets up to a startling 2 inches long. The herbaceous types are generally taller, from 12 to 36 inches. Most make tidy clumps, and may retain a winter rosette of foliage.

When you see gentians in a plant center, please don't be so distracted by saying WOW! so many times, that you forget to read the labels carefully to determine exactly which ones you're about to get.

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They are quite particular as to growing conditions, and poor locations tend to encourage leaf diseases. Slugs can be dissuaded by a good dressing of grit around the base. All gentians prefer drainable light humus soil that does not dry out in summer, and partial shade. Spring and early summer bloomers can tolerate a neutral soil, but the later they bloom, the more necessary an acidic soil.



Gentiana septemfida (Crested Gentian) showing the "seven cuts" of the crest

Increase is tricky for many due to their tight growth habit, but some, like *G. acaulis* and *G. sino-ornata*, come apart nicely; just make sure to firm the divisions in well to establish. Seed production is probably best left to experienced professionals, but hey! you've nothing to lose if you try.

So if you're one of those gardeners blessed with a rockery, you owe it to yourself to have at least two or three different ones, and for those of us who do not, well – we can dream, can't we?

Happy Planting!

Colleen Forster

Christmas is coming!

It's time to start thinking about our Christmas potluck and auction on December 13th. What interesting and desirable item could you donate to our annual fundraising event? Plants, books, household items, handmade treasures – anything that might be appealing as a Christmas gift or an indulgence for one of our members. We ask that each person bring one thing for the auction. Smaller items are also welcome and will be included in the raffle draws. And don't forget to make something delicious to eat!

