

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



November 2011



FROM THE PRESIDENT

The fall colours this year have been special. Our Cowichan River walk last week was spectacular – see Burkhard's article. In our own gardens, the Japanese maples, dogwoods, and many others all seem to be glowing. We all know that the transition to winter is well underway. What will winter bring this year? While no one can be certain, another La Nina winter appears likely. Check out Dick's article on La Nina and El Nino.

Looking ahead to December, our annual Christmas auction is just around the corner. You may have a plant that has outgrown your garden, a companion plant or other suitable items to donate to the auction. Please let me know if you need help transporting something to the auction. We're still looking for an auction coordinator.

There's always something to do in the garden. This is a good time to head to the beach to gather bags of seaweed, which makes a great mulch. And of course, all of those colourful leaves will soon be coming down giving us the opportunity to create more mulch and compost for all of those special plants in our garden. And so the cycle continues...

Hope to see you at the November meeting!

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
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Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4
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NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10 BEBAN PARK SOCIAL CENTRE 7:30 pm

GARTH WEDEMIRE

"To MARS and Back"

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OUR NOVEMBER SPEAKER GARTH WEDEMIRE

Garth Wedemire will be presenting part 2 of "To MARS and Back" (for those who don't know, MARS is the Mt. Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society). This will feature beautiful gardens in the White Rock/ Surrey area. Garth's presentations are always an inspiration.

Thank you!

I'd like to express appreciation on behalf of the club, to Allen & Gaylle McRae and Art & Susan Lightburn, for providing hospitality to our guests, Mike & Maria Stewart, last month. Having members willing to play host makes it feasible to bring in some wonderful speakers from out of town. If we did not have this help, the costs could be prohibitive. Our guests also have a better experience with this personal touch, and those hosting seem to enjoy the experience as well. If any other members of our group are willing to host guest speakers, we would really appreciate that. It is a way to help the club and to enjoy the company of like-minded guests. If you would like to help us out with this, please talk to me at the meeting, or give me a call at 250-390-2822.

A big bouquet of fragrant rhododendrons to Art, Susan, Allen & Gaylle!

*Glenda Allard Barr
Program Chair*



TWIGS and STEMs



GOODIES FOR NOVEMBER MEETING

Barb and Burkhard Dressler

Mary Jane Derksen

Diana English

MALASPINA CHOIR PRESENTS FABULOUS FAURE and OTHER FRENCH FAVOURITES

Sunday November 13, 2 pm

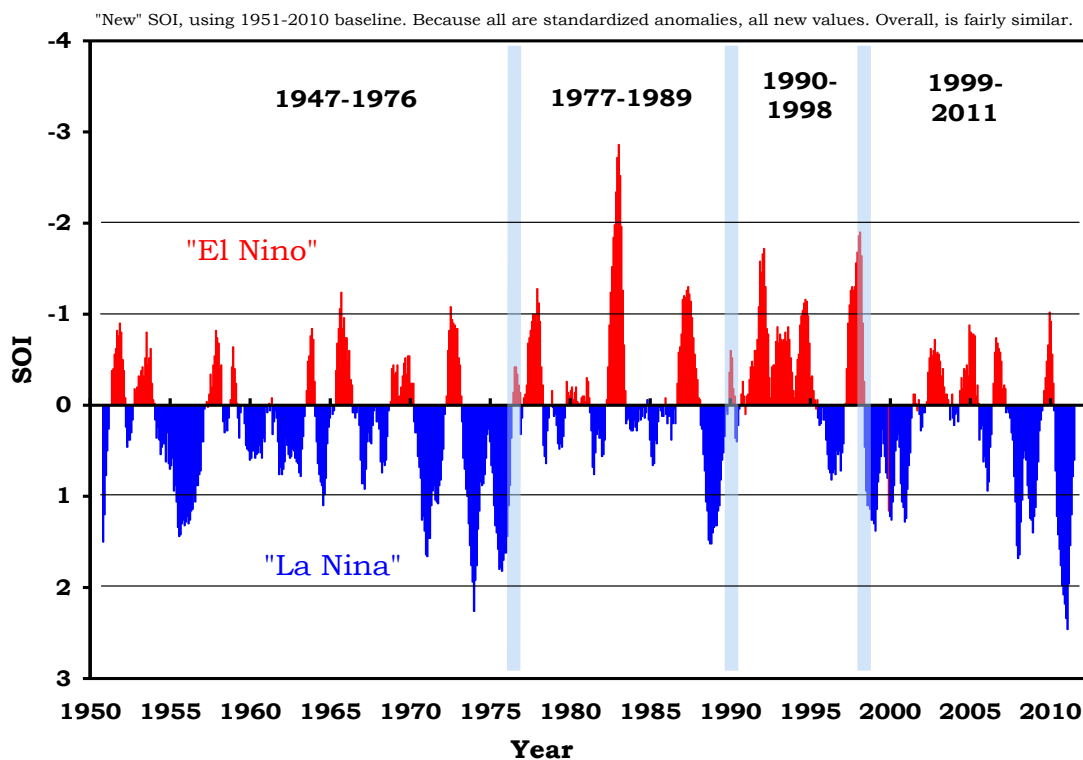
Port Theatre, Nanaimo

Tickets

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Looking Ahead to Another La Niña Winter – Dick Beamish

The attached graph shows the southern oscillation index or SOI. This is the index that is used to show an El Niño (in red) or a La Niña (in blue). The actual index is a measure of the atmospheric pressure difference between Darwin and Tahiti. Beginning about 2007, there was a strong La Niña that ended in 2010 with a weak El Niño. This was followed by a very strong La Niña which weakened and now appears to be strengthening. Look back to 1970-1975 and there was a similar pattern of back-to-back strong La Niñas. All of this could mean that there will be a strong La Niña this winter ending in the spring. It could be followed by a period of El Niños, but this is speculation. The La Niñas in 1970-1975 were followed by major changes in the atmospheric circulation that dramatically changed marine ecosystems. More salmon were produced along with more pollock and halibut in the Bering Sea. It is possible that another major shift could occur in 2012 or 2013. We will see what happens, but in the meantime remember what happened in the 1989 La Niña and look after your plants.



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Ten Kilometres – Says John, the President

(According to his pedometer, not eight according to the web page of B.C. Provincial Parks.)

One way or the other, seven Rhodo Hikers from Nanaimo met at 10 a.m. on Saturday, October 15 at the Parkway Trail parking lot for the annual fall-colours walk, this year to Cowichan River. One hour later, we arrived at the forest service bridge near Skutz Falls, left our vehicles there and started our hike downriver.

The trail follows the right bank of the river high above its fast flowing water. We walked a leisurely pace, stopped frequently to take in the scenery of high steep hills and rock



cliffs at the opposite side of the water. A bright sun on this cloudless Saturday made photography easy and many colourful pictures of maples and other deciduous trees with backgrounds of dark green mosses or perfectly blue sky were taken. Strong yellow fall colours dominated with some red here and there.

After walking about an hour we climbed down to the river for a lunch break on a large rock

outcrop. The river water was high for this time of the year due to recent, heavy rains. We all enjoyed the place. It is not often that you eat your sandwiches sitting in the centre of a steep, narrow valley, on hard rocks and close to a strongly flowing river, and colourful trees all around.

After lunch we walked another 20 or 30 minutes further downriver to the 66 mile trestle. After crossing this bridge, we turned upstream, again following the banks of Cowichan River, and, as on our downriver trek, mostly close to the edges of steep hills and cliffs. Near the group campground of the Provincial Park we walked through a forest of tall maples, all in fall colours with branches thickly covered with dark green mosses. Upriver from the group camping site the trail runs close



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to the water and it took us another half hour to again reach the forest service bridge near Skutz Falls and our parked vehicles– after 3 ½ enjoyable hours.



Four of us had to leave for Nanaimo right away. The others took the opportunity to visit nearby Mayo Creek Gardens. Owner Ingeborg Woodsworth gave us a one-hour tour of her nursery garden and green houses. She grows mainly rhododendrons. She showed us some nice plants which some of us probably would not mind having in our gardens. Despite the late time in the garden year we enjoyed the visit. A glass of Ingeborg's excellent homemade

wine was a perfect way to end a very pleasant day.

Burkhard Dressler

NRS Meeting Minutes Thursday, October 13th, 2011

Meeting started at 7:35

Number of people attending: approx. 50

1. President's Report:

- Welcome everyone!
- Nice to see so many people from other chapters.
- Lovely weather lately – Dick Beamish informed us that because of “La Nina”, and if the 30 year cycle repeats itself, we can expect a winter colder than average but next summer should be a good one for growing tomatoes. ☺

2. Treasurer's report:

- Please renew your membership as soon as possible.
- We have a new address; it will be in the November newsletter.
- NRS balance: \$4766.37
- ARS 2012 Conference balance: \$3570.15

3. RSF plant order:

- We got all the plants we'd ordered; it went very smoothly.

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- Special thanks to Craig Clark for picking up the plants in Vancouver.
- 4. Social / sunshine:**
 - Thank you to the people who brought goodies tonight.
 - Please let Sandra know if you know of anyone who might need a little cheering.
- 5. Program:**
 - November: Garth Wedemire will be presenting part 2 of “To Mars and back!”
 - December: our annual auction
- 6. Committee / team sign up:**
 - Thank you to all who signed up at the last meeting.
 - We still need someone to coordinate the Christmas auction and someone to co-chair the bus tour with John. Please let John know if interested in helping the club in that way.
- 7. Conference 2012 update:**
 - Less than a year to go!!!!
 - Committee is busy putting it all together.
 - We will need a lot of volunteers; we also need a volunteer coordinator – let Chris or Gaylle know if interested.
 - BIG thank you to MARS for organizing the plant sale part of the event.
 - And thank you to Cowichan Valley Chapter for organizing the silent auction.
 - Al Campbell and Ken Web are propagating plants for us to be used as table favours; there will be a “potting bee” at some point in the spring. We will need “band pots”; please let Chris know if you have any that you can donate.
 - If you know of any businesses who might be interested in sponsoring, please let Allen McRae know.
- 8. Cowichan River Walk:**
 - This Saturday – meet at Northfield parking lot at 10:00 – the forecast is for sunshine!
 - Thank you Burkhard for organizing this event.
- 9. Norm Todd’s book – *The Wit and Wisdom of Norm Todd*** – will be ready in November for approx. \$10.00 or \$12.00 each. We can pre-order as a club. Sign up sheet at the front if interested.
- 10. Short presentation** by NRS member Liz Higgins who is organizing a tour of English gardens in England in May 2012.
- 11. Raffle and door prizes:** many happy winners – great selection of prizes purchased by Val and Ann – thank you all!
- 12. Tonight’s program:** an inspiring presentation by Mike Stewart on “Dwarf Rhododendron Species and Hybrids”.