

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



## November 2013



### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Late October is one of our favourite times of the year, as most of the garden maintenance chores are winding down giving us time to appreciate the fall colour on our Maples (both broad leaf and Japanese), Dogwood, Virginia Creeper, Blueberry, and most of our deciduous azalea. Members are reporting significant fall blooms on some of their rhodos. Our Ernie Dee has a few flowers each fall, but is in good bloom this year. We have decided to remove a few trees this fall as some of our rhodos have been doing poorly because of the low light levels and spread of mildew in the areas without much sunlight. I have also started fall planting and rhodo moving; I am hoping to complete most of this by the end of November. Gathering the heavy leaf drop is a continuing chore, but the glass half full is that the leaves help make good compost.

Members who went on the Comox Nursery Crawl experienced excellent weather, some great prices on plants and a good lunch (breakfast) at the Courtenay Atlas Café.

Susie Reynolds, our last presenter, was a very interesting visitor, giving us much information on Whidbey Island and available rhodos in general. Ray Lauzier, NRS programmer, would like to know the type of information that the membership wants to hear at our upcoming panel discussion. To that end, we will bring a questionnaire to our November meeting for your input.

See you November 7<sup>th</sup>  
Art

### EXECUTIVE

President	Art Lightburn	468-7516
Vice President	John Denisege	778 424-3605
Secretary	Ann Beamish	758-2574
Treasurer	Krystyna Sosulski	729-0948
Directors	Craig Clarke	390-4090
	Susan Lightburn	468-7516
	Dorothee Kieser	390-4136
	Ray Lauzier	756-2927
	Bryan Jubinville	956-6178
	Gayle McRae	758-7589

### COMMITTEES

Advertising	Bryan Jubinville	
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Membership	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Program	Ray Lauzier	756-2927
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey	
Social	Susan Lightburn	468-7516
Bargain Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533
Website	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Sunshine	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Awards	Craig Clarke, Chris Southwick, John Denisege, Gayle McRae	

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### NEXT MEETING

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

**CARMEN VARCOE  
"Finnerty Gardens"**

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## **TWIGS and STEMs**



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### **GOODIES FOR NOVEMBER MEETING**

*Lilian Peters*

*Dorothee Kieser*

*Linda Moore*

*Many thanks to October's coffee treat  
suppliers: Anne Tennant, Glenda Barr and Mary  
Jane Derksen. Way to go folks!*

### **Seen In Passing**



- Osakasuki in full brilliant colour
- Edith and Jan gathering Rose cuttings for propagation
- Ernie Dee in near full bloom
- Washington State Ferry named "Rhododendron" anchored in Baynes Sound near Fanny Bay

### **OUR NOVEMBER SPEAKER**

The speaker for the November 7 meeting is Carmen Varcoe from Victoria. She will be speaking on the history of Finnerty Gardens.

Finnerty Gardens, on the University of Victoria campus has one of Canada's largest collections of rhododendrons, with more than 1,500 rhododendrons and azaleas, including 200 rhododendron species.

### **November Raffle Plants**

#### **Rimini**

A recent compact selection from hybridizer Hans Hachmann, 'Rimini' offers glowing soft yellow to cream funnel shaped flowers edged in warm pink, and accented with yellow green spotting. 3' x 3'. Suggested Hardiness is a warm zone 6.



#### **Etta Burrows**

Bright red fir green leaves; Indumentum; Hybridizer – Larson; 5' -15 °C 4/4/3-4 Fusilier x strigillosum



#### **Blue Danube**

Flowers- funnel shape lavender blue, darker edges, with greenish-yellow blotch 4'; 21 °C; blooms mid-season; hybridizer - Waterer



# **NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY**

## **Oct 10/13 General Meeting Minutes**

7 -7:30 pm Chat

7:30 Call to order – Art Lightburn

Welcome to members

President's Comments – Art Lightburn

- November Meeting Change - Nov 7<sup>th</sup> Thursday
- Garden Tour Gardens – please get Names (& phone numbers ?) to an Executive member (Art 468-7516)
- Dorothee Kieser – selling Milner Garden Raffle Tickets - excellent raffle prizes including an iPad
- Glenda Barr offering Garry Oak acorns
- Art asked if members agreed with his idea to sell plants to club members, giving the club 15% from sold plants and 50% from any of Ken Webb's donated plants. A show of hands registered agreement.

### **Committee Reports**

Secretary - Ann Beamish absent

Treasurer – Krystyna Sosulski absent, table report

Membership – Sandra Dorman collecting membership fees: \$40.00 single, \$45.00 family  
Sandra reminded members to get membership card and receipt

Sunshine – Sandra Dorman sent card to Judy Daneluk , now at Stanford Place in Parksville  
Earl Daneluk (on Judy's behalf) thanked NRS for the card

Advertisement and promotion – Bryan Jubinville

Art Lightburn reported ACME SIGNS will produce a sandwich board sign for \$40.00 (to be placed outside Beban Civic Center Monthly meeting room on meeting nights)

Art to place order – hopefully ready for November's meeting

Webpage - Craig Clarke

Craig asked that members get information and Newsletter for the website to him ahead of schedule as he will be absent for November

Social – Susan Lightburn

Goodies sign-up completed for 2013-14

Thank you to Anne Tennant, Glenda Barr and Mary Jane Derksen for the great October coffee treats

### **Discussion**

Comox Valley Nursery Crawl (John Denisegeer)

Itinerary set for Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>

Visits to Outback Nursery, Comox Valley Farmers' Market, Art Knapp's Plantland, (Lunch at Atlas Café), Paradise Plants, The Plant Collector, Knots Winery, Anderton Nursery

Christmas Party Auction

request for donations from members (plants a favorite)

Santa - club donations





# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Garden Tour '14 – a request for the names of Nanaimo residents with interesting gardens (& phone numbers if possible)

Hailey Rhododendron Grove - Inspection revealed the rhodos need some tending. Ann Beamish will set up a meeting with the Bowen Parks staff to find out what NRS will be allowed to do.  
7-8 club volunteers raised their hands offering to assist in a work party.

8:00 Break

8:10 Raffle

Raffle Plant winners:

Seaview Sunset – Earl Daneluk

Bob's Blue – Erna Murdoch

R pachysanthum (Buckskin) – Debbie Gaboury

R fletcherianum – David Mitchell

Door Prize Winners:

Ann Tennant – Lem's Monarch

Dorothee Kieser – Hellebores 'Merlin'

Charles Hardy

Mike Miller



8:15 Ray Lauzier introduced speaker Susie Reynolds, Nursery Manager of Meerkerk Gardens  
Speaker's Program – excellent and informative program on Meerkerk Gardens

9:15 Adjournment

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## Comox Nursery Crawl

On Saturday Oct12<sup>th</sup>, nine garden enthusiasts headed North towards Comox on our club's fall Nursery Crawl. The weather was glorious and our spirits were high. Our first stop was Outback Nursery, which dazzled us with wonderfully fall coloured Maples of every kind, and we began to fill our car trunks with plants. We were off to the Comox Valley's fabulous Farmer's Market at the Exhibition



Grounds, where we picked up good hot coffee, English sausage rolls (exquisite pastry), slippery delectable cinnamon buns, and a little buffalo meat. Next, we headed along Island Hwy to explore Art Knapp's very large Plantland, again filling baskets with an assortment of interesting grasses and trees. Lunch was at



Atlas Café; here the meals were scrumptious and the conversation flowed with

excitement about our amazing new purchases. We were refueled and ready to move on to Paradise Plants and The Plant Collector; and of course, squeeze more into our vehicle trunks. The 50% sale at The Plant Collector really got the buying juices flowing. Chris Southwick needed a few extra hands to close the Hatch – was that 3 trees, Chris? Luckily, wine tasting at Knots Winery gave us a little reprieve; wine bottles fit easily into small spaces. Our final stop at Anderton Nursery offered up vibrant multicoloured companion plants. We were a very happy group of gardeners, well satisfied with our splendid new acquisitions.

Thank you to John and June for organizing this wonderful excursion!

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## **Roasted Tomato and Red Pepper Soup**

By Yogachef on May 06, 2009

**Servings:** 5

### **Ingredients**

1 1/2 lbs red bell peppers  
2 lbs Tomatoes, halved and seeded  
2 tablespoons olive oil  
1 cup onion, chopped  
4 garlic cloves, minced  
1 1/2 cups tomato juice  
1 tablespoon fresh marjoram, chopped or 1 teaspoon dried marjoram  
1 1/4 teaspoons black pepper  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
marjoram, sprigs (optional)



### **Directions**

1. Cut peppers in half lengthwise, discarding seeds and membranes.
  2. Place peppers and tomatoes, skin sides up on a foil lined baking sheet. Flatten peppers with hand.
  3. Broil 15 minutes, or until vegetables are blackened.
  4. Place peppers into zip-top bag, seal, and let stand for 10 minutes.
  5. Peel peppers and tomatoes. Chop. (\*\*this can all be done in a commercial blender such as vitamix or blendtec)
  6. Place half of the peppers and tomatoes into the blender and process until smooth. Set aside.
  7. Heat oil in large sauce pan over medium-low heat. Add onion and garlic, cover and cook for five minutes, stirring occasionally.
  8. Increase to medium heat. Add pureed vegetables, remaining chopped vegetables, the tomato juice, chopped marjoram, black pepper, and salt. Cook until fully heated through.
- Ladle soup into bowls, and garnish with marjoram sprigs if desired.

### **Susan's notes:**

You can use a food mill to blend the tomatoes & peppers. The older hand food mills are efficient, easy to find and cheap, cheap.

I sometimes stir in a 1/2 cup heavy cream as a final step, & heat easy. This is a special treat! Enjoy!

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## **Rhodos Worth Growing**

### **Lady De Rothschild**

5' -21°C 4/2-3/4

White flushed pink crimson blotch

Griffithianum x sappho Waterer



### **Blaney's Blue**

4-5' - 21°C 4/4/4 EM

Blue green to bronze; sun or part shade

Augustinii towercourt x blue diamond; Ticknor

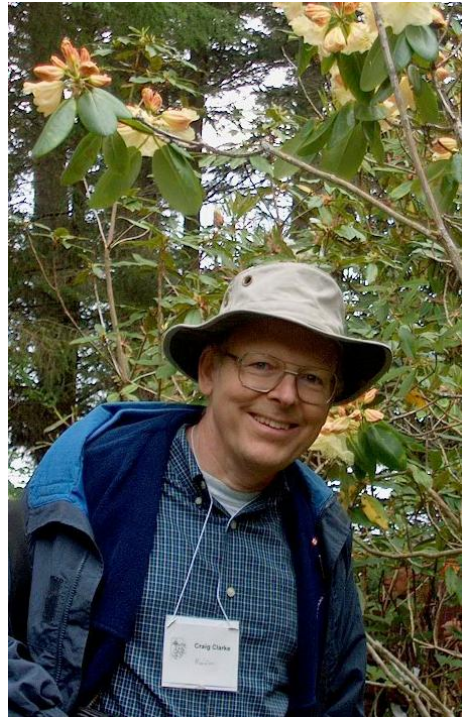
# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## Getting to know each other...

By June Bouchard

This month, we feature one of our founding members – Craig Clarke. Craig has been an important contributor to the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society since the very beginning, way back in 1992. Craig has been on the Executive for most of the last 21 years. He has taken on a variety of roles including president, vice-president, secretary, director, program coordinator, newsletter editor and currently web master.

Thank you so much Craig for sharing a bit of yourself with us and for your dedication and support of the club over the years.



### 1. How long have you been growing rhododendrons?

*We planted a few rhodos in a shady area of our first house. I was interested mainly in the foliage. Later, I became intrigued by a majestic R. Loderi 'King George' at the Pacific Biological Station; Trevor Evelyn was able to identify it and introduced us to the Victoria Chapter of the ARS.*

### 2. How long have you lived on Vancouver Island?

*We moved here in 1974. We joined the Victoria chapter in the late 1980s and then the MARS chapter before the Nanaimo chapter was formed.*

### 3. Describe your best day in the garden. ☺

*A day when there is some feature to appreciate, such as beautiful flowers, scents or fall colour.*

### 4. What other interests do you have?

*I am active in the Rotary Club of Nanaimo North; I also enjoy walks and being out in nature.*

### 5. Do you have a favourite rhododendron?

*It would have to be R. Snow Queen. We were given a truss by the late Lillian Hodgson while on a garden tour with the Victoria chapter and were entranced by the perfume.*

### 6. What do you like about the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society?

*I enjoy the opportunity to share information about rhodos and companion plants with other gardeners.*

### 7. Anything else you might like to share????

*I have a keen interest in climate change and what it means for both our lifestyle and environment in the future.*



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## Fragrance in Rhododendrons

By Harold Fearing

A few days ago as I was weeding in the greenhouse – an endless task – I brushed against the foliage of a small plant and noticed a wonderful spicy fragrance. That got me to thinking. Fragrance is something we don't normally pay much attention to in rhododendrons. Only a few of the normal lepidote or elepidote rhododendrons have fragrant flowers, unlike some of the azaleas, which are quite fragrant.



*R. fortune* (left) and *R. diaprepes* (right) are both members of the Fortunea subsection members of which are often known for their clean, sweet, if somewhat subtle fragrance.

Of the regular hardy rhododendrons, *R. fortunei* is probably the best known fragrant species. It is usually a vigorous, large growing plant with pale pink flowers. The fragrance is subtle, not something you notice across the garden, but still nice near the plant. Others of the Fortunea subsection, such as *R. decorum* and *R. diaprepes* have similar fragrances.

Probably the most fragrant regular rhododendron we have in our garden is one distributed in the lower mainland as *R. rigidum* 'Bodineri'. This plant originated from Frank Dorsey. While I don't remember all the details of the story he told, the 'Bodineri' part was a name he apparently coined. The plant keys out to *R. rigidum*, and appears identical to two other clones of *R. rigidum* I have, except for the fragrance. And this is fragrance you can smell across the garden, especially on a sunny warm day. The plant covers itself with blooms as well, so it is a spectacular plant for the garden.



*R. rigidum* 'Bodineri'

There are also several relatively tender rhododendrons which are supposed to have large and very fragrant flowers; *R. maddenii*, *R. nuttallii*, *R. dalhousiae*, and *R. edgworthii*. I have no personal experience with these, as they are all too tender for the exposed garden we have. I think some people in

more protected gardens in the lower mainland are able to grow *R. edgworthii* successfully however.

Among the deciduous species there is more choice. One of my favourites is *R. atlanticum*. This is a smaller plant with gray green leaves. It spreads by stolons and so eventually becomes a spreading bush with

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Deciduous azaleas, *R. atlanticum* (top) and *R. luteum* can perfume an entire garden



lots of stems. The flowers have a long tube with flaring petals at the end and a sweet fragrance powerful enough to smell from some feet away.

*R. luteum* is another very fragrant plant. It is a deciduous azalea, bright yellow and a native of the Caucasus area of eastern Europe. Many of the fragrant hybrid azaleas have *R. luteum* in their parentage. Our own west coast azalea *R. occidentale* can also be very fragrant, as are several of the east coast native azaleas, such as *R. viscosum*.

I have seen the claim in several places in the literature that most fragrant rhododendrons are white or pale pink. The theory is that the fragrance attracts pollinators and so there is no need for flashy colours. *R. luteum* is obviously a glaring exception to this claim. Although many of the others are pale coloured, I don't really know strong the scientific evidence for that claim is.

But enough of flowers and back to what got me thinking about fragrance in the first place. The plant I was weeding was *R. ledebourii*, considered a variety of *R. dauricum* by some. Simply sweeping your hands through the foliage is enough to release a sweet spicy fragrance. The related species *R. sichotense*, and *R. dauricum* itself, have similarly fragrant foliage. This characteristic is also inherited by

some of the *dauricum* hybrids, e.g. the well known 'P.J.M.'. I have written about *R. ledebourii* before. It is a native of Siberia, so is completely hardy, and is also one of the earliest to bloom, even in late January or early February.

Several other small leaved species share a similar fragrant foliage, for example *R. sargentianum*, and its selected form 'Maricee', and the similarly flowered *R. primuliflorum*. Among the somewhat larger-leaved plants, the foliage of *R. cinnabarinum*, with its attractive blue green foliage, is supposed to have a distinctive spicy smell when crushed. However I could not detect this, at least on a cold November afternoon, in any of the several clones I have, except for *R. zanthocodon*, which is now considered a subspecies of *R. cinnabarinum*. Again according to the books, *R. hippophaeoides* is another common species with fragrant foliage. A narrow leaved version, var. *occidentale*, which I recently got from Sue Klapwijk, does seem to be fragrant, but the more common wider-leaved clone 'Haba Shan' has no smell that I could detect.

So, while fragrance of either flowers or foliage would probably not be the primary reason for choosing a particular plant, it is another dimension to our enjoyment of rhododendrons. And, at this time of year, when you are crawling around on hands and knees weeding, a few plants with fragrant foliage can certainly make the task more bearable.

*Reprinted from The Yak, November 2009*