

The Rhodomentum

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Newsletter



November 2016



President's Message

Now that the rains have come, our rhododendrons should be much happier. Now is a good time to transplant any of your rhododendrons or plant new ones.

I am looking forward to Dennis Bottemiller's talk on growing rhododendrons from seed at our next meeting on Thursday, Nov. 10 at 7:30 at Beban Park Community Centre. Guests are welcome. See you there!

Allen



EXECUTIVE

President	Allen McRae	758-7589
Vice President	Art Lightburn	468-7516
Secretary	Ann Beamish	758-2574
Treasurer	Gayle McRae	758-7589
Directors	Glenda Barr	390-2822
	Craig Clarke	390-4090
	Susan Lightburn	468-7516
	Dick Beamish	758-2574
	Chris Southwick	390-3415

COMMITTEES

Advertising	Jan Moles /Gerry Moore
Library	Ann Beamish/Sandra Dorman
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant/June and John
Membership	Krystyna Sosulski
Program	Doug Kitts
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey
Social	Susan Lightburn
Bargain Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich
Website	Craig Clarke
Bus Tour	John Deniseger & June Bouchard

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society
Box 241, #101-5170 Dunster Road
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4
Website: nanaimorhodos.ca
email: nanaimo@rhodos.ca

Next Meeting

Thursday November 10, 7:30 pm Beban Park Social Centre
Dennis Bottemiller
'Rhododendron Propagation'

Twigs and Stems



GOODIES FOR NOVEMBER

Gayle McRae
Krystyna Sosulski
Glenda Barr

NANAIMO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

"Winter is coming, what's a gardener to do?"

Walter Pinnow
Green Thumb Nursery

Wednesday November 9, 7-9 pm
Brechin United Church basement
1998 Estevan Road, Nanaimo

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Please see Krystyna

**Have you paid
your dues yet?**



OUR NOVEMBER SPEAKER

DENNIS BOTTEMILLER

RHODODENDRON SPECIES BOTANICAL GARDEN



Affiliated with the Master Gardener Association of British Columbia

Healthy Soil, Healthy Plants!

October 30, 2016: 10:45 AM – 4 PM

Join the Master Gardeners for seminars on soil and plant health

FEATURING



Jo-Ann Canning, Master Gardener and gardening author, on combining simple composting, fermenting, and mulching systems to create healthy, resilient soil.



Yasir Syed of BioFert Manufacturing and specialist in effective organic gardening, on plant nutrition, organic fertilizers, and how to bridge the gap between conventional and organic production.



Gary Lewis (voted 2013's Best Communicator by the BC Landscape & Nursery Assn.) and owner of Phoenix Perennials, on recently introduced varieties, next year's new cultivars, and how they can be used in our modern and increasingly urban landscapes.

**Stay for the
plant sale after
the seminars!**

**Beban Park Social Centre
2300 Bowen Road, Nanaimo**

Bring your own lunch and mug
\$20/person (cash or cheque only, please)
Space is limited. To reserve a seat: stoussai@shaw.ca

Milner Garden Species Initiative

The Milner Garden and Woodlands Species Initiative is moving ahead, and we will be purchasing a number of species from the RSBG. I am looking for a pick up truck with a canopy to go to Federal Way and return with plants. Ferry costs and fuel costs will be provided. For details phone Art 468-7516 or email.

Best regards
Art Lightburn
Plant acquisition committee

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society General Meeting October 13, 2016

1. Welcome everyone.
2. President's report: Allen reported that he and Gaylle had just returned from a 20-day trip to France, Belgium, and the Netherlands, visiting old battlegrounds but not seeing many rhododendrons.
3. Rhodo Botany: Chris Southwick put forward a suggestion that at the beginning of each meeting we have a 10-minute presentation on items commonly asked about ie: next month will be on rhodo leaves.
4. Committee Reports:
 - a. **Bargain Table:** Reinhold reported there were still a couple of plants and some bamboo canes
 - b. **Library:** Ann Beamish reported she is working on installing one more shelf and then will go through the entire library and relabel and recard the books. Gaylle McRae kindly offered to assist.
 - c. **Membership:** Krystyna reminded members that it is renewal time and all renewals must be in by the end of November or the club pays a late fee of \$10 US for each entry.
 - d. **Treasurer:** Gaylle McRae reported that the balance as of September 15, 2016 was \$14,977.65 with several commitments outstanding.
 - e. **Rhodomentum:** Kathryn Grant kindly continues to produce our newsletter now call the **RHODOMENTUM**.
 - f. **Program:** Chair Doug Kitts gave an update on the upcoming meetings programs, Dennis Bottemiller will speak in November.
 - g. **Raffle Table:** Tonight's offerings are Edith Berkely (donated by Alan Campbell from CVS), Strigilosum, Percy Wiseman, Cinnemarinum and a Heather.
 - h. **Secretary:** Ann reported no correspondence received
 - i. **Social:** Susan Lightburn will circulate the "book" as there are still a couple of blank lines for goodies.
 - j. **Website:** Craig Clarke continues to update the website
 - k. **Sunshine:** Ann Beamish has agreed to take over the Sunshine practice in the untimely passing of Edith Higgins. Fortunately there were no notices for this month.

Upcoming functions:

- ARS annual Spring Convention, Eureka, California, April 27-30, 2017
- 2019 ARS Fall Convention Parksville/Qualicum BC-plan to be a volunteer
- Christmas Pot Luck and Auction-David and Joyce Mitchell will once again be Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Old Business:

- Buying gifts at wholesale prices for the Christmas auction and raffle: There was discussion but **no resolution**
- Monthly Door Raffle: suggestion to raise the rates for tickets from 1/\$1 and 3/\$2 to 1/\$2 and 3/\$5. There was a great deal of discussion including that the prices have never gone up, question of income/cost ratio (information not available)
 - **Moved:** Joyce Clarke that the prices be raised as above
 - **Seconded:** Ann Beamish
 - **Motion defeated.**

Motion to discontinue the door prize:

Moved: Doug Kitts

Seconded: Gaylle McRae

Motion passed

Motion: that the raffle item be tabled and sent back to the executive

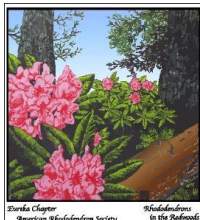
Moved: Val Harvey

Seconded: Earl Daniluk

Motion passed

Meeting adjourned at 1940 to be followed by presentation by Michael Stewart.

Next executive meeting: Glenda Barr's October 20 at 1400



***RHODODENDRONS IN THE RED WOODS
ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA
APRIL 27-30, 2017***

Register now for the American Rhododendron Society's annual spring Convention April 27-30, 2017. The Eureka Chapter will host the convention which will bring visitors to world-famous Humboldt County, California from across the nation, Canada and around the world. Top notch speakers will be featured every day, along with tours of redwood forests, private and public gardens, azalea reserves and Victorian architecture.

The Red Lion Hotel will be our host hotel, with a rate of \$99 per night per room plus tax. The rate includes a full breakfast and an airport shuttle. Thursday and Sunday events will be held at the hotel. The new state-of-the-art Sequoia Conference Center, three blocks from the Red Lion Hotel, will be our meeting and banqueting venue Friday and Saturday. Visitors can walk to the conference center, take the shuttle or drive; abundant parking is available at the center.

For many ARS members, seeing the Redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) is high on the must see "bucket list", as are the rugged North Coast of California with its *Rhododendron macrophyllum* and Stagecoach Hill, the home of the Smith-Mossman 1966 collections of *Rhododendron occidentale* azaleas.



**THE CARSON
MANSION**

Eureka is served by United Express twice daily from San Francisco. Flying to San Francisco and transferring to Eureka is the usual air transport option. Renting a car in San Francisco and driving to Eureka is a very scenic alternative. Drive time from San Francisco is about seven hours through the wine country with its rolling hills and on north through the Coast Range mountains and redwood forests.



SINGING TREE GARDENS

From the north, PenAir flies from Portland, Oregon to the Eureka/Arcata airport. An alternative to flying directly to Eureka from Portland might be to fly to Crescent City or to Medford, Oregon, then rent a car. Drive time from Crescent City is about two hours; from Medford about four hours. Both routes are quite scenic, with wild rivers, rugged mountains and redwood forests well worth visiting. Several car rental agencies operate at the Eureka/Arcata airport. The Red Lion Hotel offers free shuttle service for convention attendees to and from the Eureka/Arcata airport. However you choose to get here, we look forward to hosting you and showing you our beautiful northwest corner of California.



Rhododendron occidentale



**HUMBOLDT
BOTANICAL GARDEN**

More information at www.eurekarhody.org

Baked Goat Cheese with Roasted Garlic and Pull Apart Baguettes

Yield: serves 4 appropriately, 2 obnoxiously

Total Time: 40 minutes

Ingredients:

8 garlic cloves, peeled
1/3 cup olive oil
8 ounces goat cheese
1 1/2 tablespoons fresh thyme
1 (12-ounce) jar roasted red peppers, patted dry

pull apart baguettes

1 long baguette, sliced into 4 pieces
1/4 cup olive oil
1 teaspoon fresh thyme
1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper

Directions:

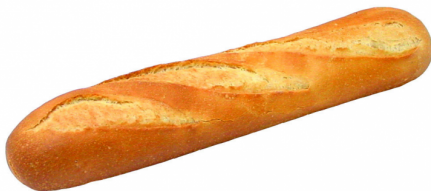
Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Place the garlic cloves and olive oil in a small ramekin. Put it in the oven and roast until the garlic is caramely and golden, about 20 minutes.

Mix the goat cheese with 1 tablespoon of the fresh thyme, the salt, pepper and garlic powder. Form it into an oval and place it in the center of a baking dish or oven-safe skillet. Surround the cheese with the roasted red peppers. Pour almost all of the oil over the goat cheese and place the garlic cloves on top. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes, or until the cheese is soft and smooth and hot. Pop the bread in the oven in the last 5 minutes, just to warm it. Remove from the oven and drizzle with remaining olive oil and thyme. Serve immediately.

pull apart baguettes

Take each section of the baguette and slice into the bread every 1/2-inch, just stopping before you slice through. Brush the bread with the olive oil - getting inside the crevices. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and garlic powder, as well as the fresh thyme. Pop in the oven for the last 5 minutes of the goat cheese baking - I prefer these to be soft and untoasted, but still warm.

Recipe submitted by Susan Lightburn



Early-Blooming Rhododendrons

by [soulofagardener](#)



R. 'Cilpinense'

Photo by Paul and Linda Lawry

Rhododendron 'Snow Lady' (*Rhododendron leucaspis* x *Rhododendron ciliatum*) – This charming rhododendron is one of a few that will flower in shade and the pure white blooms really stand out. These are usually borne from March to April over fuzzy green rounded leaves. This is a good choice for those north-facing foundation beds. Grows 3' tall by 3-4' wide. Hardy to zone 6.



R. 'Snow Lady'

Photo by Ken Gibson



R. 'Christmas Cheer'

Photo by Garth Wedemire

Rhododendron pemakoense – This species *rhododendron* is native to India and China. It bears pale pink fading to near-white funnel-shaped blooms from March to May and given its small stature, is a good choice for rock gardens. *Rhododendron pemakoense* is quite floriferous and has been in cultivation since 1924. Grows 1.5' high by 2' wide. Hardy to zone 7.

Rhododendron 'Christmas Cheer' (*Rhododendron caucasicum* hybrid) – A very old cultivar that was once commonly forced in greenhouses for Christmas flowers, hence the name. It bears deep pink buds that open to trusses of blush pink flowers, fading as they get older. 'Christmas Cheer' generally shows colour from late January to March. Grows 4' high by 4-5' wide. Hardy to zone 6.



R. pemakoense

Photo by Garth Wedemire



R. 'PJM'

Photo by Garth Wedemire

Rhododendron 'PJM' (*R. minus* var *minus* Carolinianum Group x *R. dauricum*) – 'PJM' or 'Peter John Mezitt' bears bright lavender-pink blooms from March to April. These are borne over glossy citronella-scented leaves that are green in summer and bronze-red in winter. 'PJM' is both cold hardy and tolerant of heat and sun. Grows 4-5' high by 4' wide. Hardy to zone 4.

Some Species Rhododendrons Blooming February and March

Photos by Susan Lightburn



R. lanigerum



R. calophytum



R. moupinense



R. sichotense