

The Rhodomentum

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Newsletter November 2018



WELCOME TO NOVEMBER!

The fall colours this year have been special. In our own garden, the Japanese maples, dogwoods, and others have been glowing. 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. The transition to winter is well underway!

Everyone should have received an email outlining the changes to our constitution necessary to put us in compliance with the new Societies Act. Please take a few minutes to go through the information as we will be voting on these changes at our November meeting.

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.

A reminder that we still have vacancies – see details below.

John and June

EXECUTIVE

President	Vacant	
Vice President	Rosina Schmidt	751-3386
Past President	Allen McRae	758-7589
Secretary	Jan Moles	758-2574
Treasurer	Liz Higgins and Sandra Dorman	390-9340 390-0136
Directors		
	Craig Clarke	390-4090
	Art Lightburn	468-7516
	Susan Lightburn	468-7516
	Don Noakes	778 441-4783

COMMITTEES

Advertising	Jan Moles / June Bouchard
Library	Ann Beamish / Sandra Dorman
Newsletter	June Bouchard / John Deniseger
Membership	Krystyna Sosulski
Program	Committee
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey
Social	Susan Lightburn
Bargain Table	Reinhold Gorgosolich
Website	Craig Clarke
Bus Tour	David & Joyce Mitchell

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society
Box 241, #101-5170 Dunster Road
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4

Website: nanaimorhodos.ca

email: rhodomentum@nanaimorhodos.ca

Next meeting: Thursday, November 8th, at 7:30, Beban Park Social Center
Alexander Von Humboldt: Explorer, Scientist, Botanist
Presenter: Wendy Strachan

November Program – Wendy Strachan:

After moving to Gabriola full-time in 2006, Wendy embarked on a life-changing venture that included enrolling in the Master Gardener program in 2008. Since then, she has dedicated herself to learning about plants and designing and developing her garden. Now 10 years later, she has also earned her Advanced Gardening certificate at Van Dusen Garden. A fascination with plants led her to find out more about where our plants come from and how they got here. Alexander von Humboldt was among the many plant hunters she discovered during her research.

Humboldt was the first explorer/scientist/botanist to view nature holistically. He constantly published his findings and has had a lasting impact on how we understand the relationships of climate, human activity, geology and nature. With this illustrated presentation, Wendy shares what she has learned about this brilliant scientist and hopes to inspire you to investigate the legacy of other plant hunters and explorers who have so enriched our gardens with the variety of plants we have today.

Useful Links

Victoria Rhododendron Society: <http://www.victoriarhodo.ca/index.html>

Cowichan Rhododendron Society: <http://cowichanrhodos.ca/>

Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society: <http://marsrhodos.ca/>

North Island Rhododendron Society: <http://www.nirsrhodos.ca/ws/>

The American Rhododendron Society: <https://www.rhododendron.org/>

Linda Gilkeson's website: <http://www.lindagilkeson.ca/>

Nanoose Bay Garden Club: <https://www.nanoosegardenclub.ca/>

Need a ride to one of our meetings?



Call Chris at 250-390-3415 or 250-616-2742 (cell)

or send her an email at csouthwick@shaw.ca



Twigs and Stems

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Goodies for November meeting - thank you to the following people:

Linda Moore, Liz and Jan, June and John.

Milner Gardens and Woodland: Christmas Magic is coming!
Fri. Nov. 30 – Sun. Dec. 2; Fri. Dec. 7 – Sun. Dec. 9; Fri. Dec. 14 – Wed. Dec. 19 – from 5:00-8:30pm - last entry at 8:00pm.

Nanaimo Horticultural Society:

Saturday, November 10th, 2018 at 1:00: First Unitarian Fellowship Church of Nanaimo, 595 Townsite Rd – “*Iris*”
Speaker: Richard Hebda

Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society:

Wednesday November 14th, 7:30 pm at Qualicum Beach Civic Center – “*The History of Milner Gardens and Woodland*”: Geoff Ball

North Island Rhododendron Society:

Tuesday November 13th, 7:30 pm – “*Gardens of Wales Tour – with the Scottish Rhododendron Society*”: Sue Grant and Garth Wedemire

Qualicum Beach Garden Club:

<https://qualicumbeachgardenclub.wordpress.com/about-us/meetings/>

Nanoose Garden Club: Friday, November 2nd, 1:15 pm at Nanoose Library Hall; “*China 2010 - Places, People, Plants*”: Susan and Art Lightburn



Just a reminder that your ARS membership is due for renewal as follows: \$40 for single, \$45 for family, \$15 associate.

WE STILL NEED HELP!

Thank you to Rosina for taking care of the projector and laptop. And June has agreed to help with publicity. **However, there are still vacancies to be filled.** We are grateful to Susan Lightburn who has been making coffee and looking after our social events for many years but **she needs a break** – please consider stepping in to help – Susan would be happy to “show you the ropes”. And of course, the position of president is still vacant – consider sharing with a friend!



Thinking ahead...

Our annual Christmas Auction is coming up in a hurry... Members are encouraged to bring donations to be auctioned off on the big night. Maybe you have a plant that's outgrown its location, something you've propagated, or some other garden related item to donate.

Minutes of October 10th, 2018 meeting:

Meeting opened at 7:35pm.

1. Past President's Report:

Allen McRae welcomed our speaker, Harry Burton from Saltspring Island, members and guests to the October meeting.

2. Treasurer's Report – Liz Higgins:

Balance as of Sept 13, 2018		12,001.34
Revenue Sept 13 - Oct 11	322.19	
Expenses Sept 13 - Oct 11	2468.79	
Balance as at Oct 11, 2018		9,874.79
Less cheques written but not cashed	980.70	
Cash available balance as of 11 October 2018		<u>8,874.04</u>

3. Secretary's Report – Jan Moles:

Minutes of previous meeting available to read.

Correspondence: card received from Diana Walker thanking us for her card and best wishes (our card and best wishes were sent by A. Beamish)

4. Program Committee – Chris Southwick re: November's meeting:

- Wendy Strachan presents "Alexander von Humboldt, an outstanding scientist".

5. Old Business:

a. Volunteer Positions:

Allen McRae pointed out that there are several important positions in the club yet to be filled and asked for volunteers: President, Social Person/Coffee Coordinator, Publicity Team
None were forthcoming.

b. Books for sale – Greer's book on Rhodos and "Public Rhododendrons on V.I." by Ian Efford.

c. Oct. 28th mini conference- John/Chris:

- the joint conference - now sold out at 100 people.

- we are responsible for the squares for afternoon tea, if you are coming to the conference please bring a dozen of something.

- it is very likely the conference idea will be repeated, as it looks like a big success.

d. NRS fees are now due - please pay Krystyna during the coffee break.

6. New Business:

a. A motion was made at the last Director's meeting that Ann Beamish be nominated to be a Director. (Made by Craig Clarke and 2nd by Susan Lightburn)

Ann Beamish not present, so held over to next meeting

b. Update on the number of plants the NRS has purchased – Chris:

We have purchased about 70 plants for plant sale, Christmas Auction, etc.,

c. Rosina has volunteered to be the caretaker for the projector and laptop – thank you Rosina!

Not here tonight, so no further comment.

d. Dollar Table – Reinhold:

At this time has two rhodos left, all were sold by end of meeting.

e. Raffle Table – Anne Davey/Val Harvey:

4 rhodos for raffle: Pink thing, Lemon Dream, Fortunei, Royston Red

f. Susan asked for more people to sign up to bring refreshments as we still have gaps in the schedule.

Coffee Break & Raffle Draw

Next Executive Meeting – Thursday, Oct 18th, 2pm at Craig Clarke's.

Program – Harry Burton on Apples: Glenda Barr introduced the speaker and thanked him at the end of the programme. His presentation was enjoyable and very interesting.

Members tasted and purchased apples from Harry; he offered a diversity of flavours and sweetness. The tasting opportunity was much appreciated by the members, and nicely illustrated some of the points he made in his talk.



Seen in Passing.....



- Rhodos in bloom.
- Beautiful fall colour.
- Lots of very enthusiastic gardeners in Parksville!!!

NRS Program Committee

This year, we've established a program committee to work together, bring in lots of ideas, and coordinate with other clubs. We got together last spring and again during the summer to start assembling our program for the upcoming year. Our committee members are: Chris Southwick, Art and Susan Lightburn, John Deniseger, Doug Kitts, Glenda Barr, and Dorothee Kieser. You may wish to plan ahead or share this with friends and neighbours:

Date	Speaker	Topic
November 8, 2018	Wendy Strachan	Naturalist and explorer: Alexander Von Humboldt
December 13, 2018	Christmas potluck and auction	
January 10, 2019	Scott Wiskerke	Pruning – followed by a demo in February
February 14, 2019	Sue Grant and Garth Wedemire	Gardens of Wales Tour
March 14, 2019	Ole Jonny Larsen – all the way from Norway	TBA
April 11, 2019	Margot Moser	Native Plants
May 9, 2019	Graham Sakaki – Research and Community Engagement Coordinator for the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute (MABRRI).	Mt Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve and Milner Phenology Project

Orchard Mason Bees

Last January, Rose McCully gave us an excellent presentation on Orchard Mason Bees. Many members purchased mason bee cocoons and/or bee houses and straws. Through the spring the mason bees emerged and began to do their job, pollinating our fruit trees and more. The female mason bees should have filled those straws and bee houses with eggs and mud in anticipation of next spring. Now that you've got all of those cocoons, what do you need to do? We thought the following excerpt by Rich Little provides a good overview of what needs to be done.

Basic steps for cleaning cocoons

from <https://www.bentonswcd.org/time-clean-mason-bee-cocoons/>

In October or November, gently open the nesting tubes or separate the laminated blocks. Using something flat, like a narrow nail file or flathead screwdriver, remove the cocoons to a shallow dish, taking care not to damage them. You will see the gray-brown cocoons, which are often covered with small, dark-colored pellets. This is frass, the larva's excrement. You will see the mud partitions between cocoons, possibly a few remaining yellow sticky pollen balls, or yellow or brownish sawdust-like mites. Cocoons that are dimpled like a raisin or open and crunchy are dead. Discard these.



For pollen mites on the cocoons (using a 10X hand lens) or evidence of chalk brood, a bleach treatment is recommended.



Place the cocoons in a bowl. Using a spoon, swirl the cocoons in a 0.05 percent bleach solution (1-2 teaspoons of household bleach into 1 gallon of water). After 1 to 2 minutes, rinse for 3-4 min in cool water to get the bleach off. Again, closely examine the cocoons and discard those that look damaged or diseased. If there are still high levels of mites, wash the cocoons again in a fresh bleach solution followed by rinsing in cool water. (Tap water or water the temperature of refrigerated water is fine. Do

not use icy cold water or hot water). Remember the cocoons are made of silk, so a longer wash will eat holes in the cocoon. Watch the time and do not go over 2 minutes.

Once cocoons are cleaned of mites, leave them to air-dry on a screen or paper towels for at least an hour.

Storing cocoons for the winter

Put overwintering cocoons in a refrigerator at 37-39°F and 60 to 70 percent humidity (you can use a household refrigerator). This is to ensure that the bees remain dormant, are protected from predation by birds, and are not subjected to extreme temperature fluctuations. Cold storage may also help increase survival of the bees that emerge in the spring. Even though the bees in the cocoons are dormant, they are alive and respiring, which uses energy. Dormant bees stored at a cold (37-39°F), steady temperature use their stored energy at a slower rate than those overwintering at higher temperatures.

Place the cocoons in a ventilated container with some moisture to keep them from drying out (a moist—not dripping wet—paper towel in a small dish placed within the container is adequate).

Check the paper towel every week and moisten as necessary. If the cocoons develop surface mold, re-wash them with the bleach method for a minute and air-dry them for at least one hour on a dry paper towel or screen before returning them to the vegetable bin section of your refrigerator.

Editor's note: It must be remembered that if you don't go through this process, mason bees will survive the mite infestations that happen. If left alone the bees will clean out the used cells and the population will continue but in significantly small numbers. It is the difference between a surviving and a thriving mason bee population.

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Raffle Plants for November Meeting:



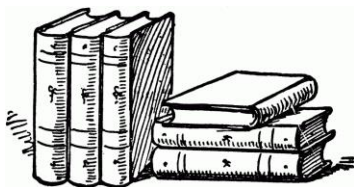
Rhododendron 'Award' - (Anna x Margaret Dunn)

5' Early May. Pink buds open to lightly fragrant trusses of creamy flowers with a yellow center, striped with pink, quickly fading to white. This dense, well-branching plant is wrapped in long, narrow matte green leaves that are somewhat cup shaped.



Rhododendron 'Shamrock'

Perfect for a small garden. A delightful dwarf rhododendron forming a compact, spreading shrub with small, glossy dark green leaves. Green buds appear in early spring in small clusters. These open to cheery pale-yellow flowers giving the whole plant an uplifting greenish hue.



Stay tuned... new books are coming to the NRS library very soon...

Picking up the RSF plants at UBC

By Craig Clarke

On October 22nd Ron Sutton & I drove over to UBC Botanical Garden to pick up 26 plants in the club order from the Rhododendron Species Foundation Botanical Garden. After loading up, we headed off to Harold Fearing's farm just west of Abbotsford. We browsed Harold's extensive inventory (mostly species)



and exercised considerable restraint to limit our purchases to a mere 32 plants.

Thanks to Ron for volunteering to put in the order for our club and for doing the driving. It was an enjoyable day in the glorious warm, fall weather.

'Honey' Fungus by Liisa Rullo (Thanks Liisa for bringing this to our attention.)

We had a visitor from Finland for a couple of weeks this summer who is an enthusiastic gardener in Helsinki (60 degrees north, the same latitude as Whitehorse). She described her sad experience with *Armillaria* 'honey' fungus, which has decimated her fruit trees and flower beds. The news is that we have the honey fungus here, too, in abundance. It grows everywhere on Vancouver Island and is normally tame, but in some conditions, it goes 'rogue' and can devastate rhododendrons, especially on recently cleared or disturbed sites that have the disease. You may already know about it, but see the links below to ensure you are aware. Have you had some experience with it? Please let the NRS know.

This is an article on the fungus in Duncan, BC, in the Winter 1998 issue of JARS, by Leslie Drew: 'The Story of a Deadly Takeover': <https://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JARS/v52n1/v52n1-drew.htm>

More information on honey fungus:

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/pdfs/honey-fungus-host-list.pdf>

<https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/pubs/rsi/fsp/Nelson/RSN015/RSN015.htm>

[ftp://ftp.for.gov.bc.ca/DPG/external/!publish/!web/Forest Education/Common Tree Diseases BC.pdf](ftp://ftp.for.gov.bc.ca/DPG/external/!publish/!web/Forest_Education/Common_Tree_Diseases_BC.pdf)

2017 post on the honey fungus in Helsinki: <https://villablakulla.blogspot.com/search?updated-max=2017-05-22T13:31:00%2B03:00&max-results=1&start=35&by-date=false>

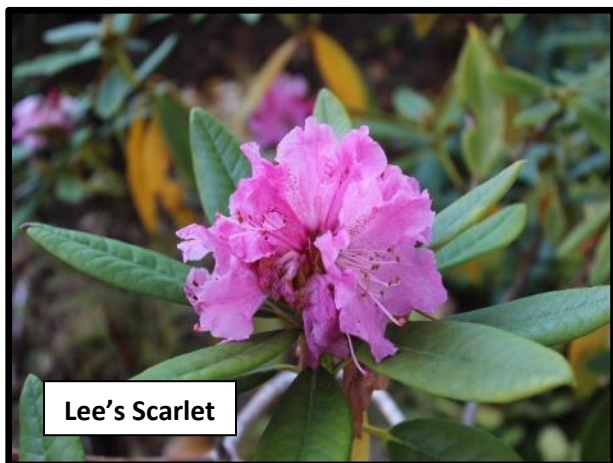
THE TOP 100 RHODODENDRONS - CHOSEN BY MEMBERS OF THE RHODODENDRON,
CAMELLIA & MAGNOLIA GROUP IN 2015 – a Royal Horticultural Society Group.
(Thank you, Doug Kitts)

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1 yakushmanum 'Koichiro Wada' AGM 1993 | 46 Lady Alice Fitzwilliam AGM 1993 |
| 2 macabeaum AGM 1993 | 47 quinquefolium AM 1931 |
| 3 Loderi ' King George' AGM 1993 | 48 Alison Johnstone AM 1945 |
| 4 augustinii AGM 1993 | 49 keysii |
| 5 falconeri AGM 1993 | 50 griffithianum FCC 1866 |
| 6 cinnabarinum ssp cinnabarinum | 51 vaseyi AGM 1993 |
| 7 bureavii AGM 1993 | 52 pseudochrysanthum AGM 1993 |
| 8 arboreum | 53 yuefengense |
| 9 pachysanthum AGM 1993 | 54 campanulatum |
| 10 sinogrande AGM 1993 | 55 oreodoxa |
| 11 edgeworthii AGM 1993 | 56 griersonianum FCC 1924 |
| 12 schlippenbachii FCC 1944 | 57 Sappho AM 1974 |
| 13 Polar Bear | 58 Lem's Cameo AGM 1993 |
| 14 calophytum AGM 1993 | 59 lutescens |
| 15 thomsonii AM 1973 | 60 montroseanum |
| 16 auriculatum AM 1922 | 61 Lem's Monarch AGM 1993 |
| 17 Fragrantissimum AGM 1993 | 62 argyrophyllum |
| 18 williamsianum AGM 1993 | 63 Lady Chamberlain FCC 1931 |
| 19 maddenii ssp crassum | 64 cerasinum AM 1938 |
| 20 mallotum AM 1973 | 65 viscosum AGM 1993 |
| 21 luteum AGM 1993 | 66 dauricum |
| 22 niveum AGM 1993 | 67 calostrotum |
| 23 barbatum AM 1954 | 68 Crest FCC 1953 |
| 24 lindleyi | 69 Elizabeth FCC 1943 |
| 25 roxieanum | 70 grande FCC 1901 |
| 26 Sir Charles Lemon AGM 1993 | 71 Phyllis Korn |
| 27 yunnanense | 72 davidsonianum AGM 1993 |
| 28 fortunei AGM 2012 | 73 irroratum 'Polka Dot' AM 1957 |
| 29 rex AGM 2012 | 74 Mi Amor AM 1975 |
| 30 decorum AGM 2002 | 75 Hotei AM 1974 |
| 31 campylogynum | 76 Hydon Velvet |
| 32 nuttallii | 77 Yellow Hammer AGM 1993 |
| 33 dalhousiae AM 1930 | 78 platypodum |
| 34 hodgsonii | 79 protistum |
| 35 wardii | 80 excellens |
| 36 Nancy Evans AGM 2002 | 81 oreotrephes AGM 2012 |
| 37 sinofalconeri | 82 mucronulatum |
| 38 orbiculare AGM 2002 | 83 Cilpinense AGM 1993 |
| 39 kesangiae | 84 Point Defiance AM 1992 |
| 40 souliei FCC 1909 | 85 Queen of Hearts FCC 1986 |
| 41 Rubicon | 86 Horizon Monarch AGM 2002 |
| 42 trichostomum FCC 1976 | 87 Teddy Bear |
| 43 lacteum FCC 1926 | 88 Fortune FCC 1938 |
| 44 Taurus AGM 1993 | 89 fulvum AM 1933 |
| 45 Loderi 'Venus' AGM 1993 | 90 elliottii FCC 1937 |

91 Cornish Cross
92 Markeeta's Prize AGM 1993
93 Countess of Haddington FCC 1862
94 Matador FCC 1946
95 Loder's White AGM 1993

96 Seta FCC 1960
97 sutchuenense
98 neriiflorum
99 Nobleanum
100 recurvoides AM 1941

RHODODENDRONS THAT COULDN'T WAIT FOR SPRING



“Fall into Gardening” – a look back at the mini conference jointly hosted by the NRS and MARS on October 28th

What a day it was! Gardeners from all over Vancouver Island, including a strong contingent from the NRS, attended our inaugural Fall into Gardening event. It was an occasion to socialize, reconnect, learn and celebrate gardening on Vancouver Island. The speakers: Linda Chalker-Scott, Donna Balzer, Douglas Justice, Jeff de Jong, and Dany Fortin shared their depth and breadth of knowledge, enthusiasm and sense of humour. We can't wait until 2020 when we turn this into an annual event.... Here are a few photos taken by Linda Derkach (thank you Linda!)





*Looking forward to seeing you all
at the November meeting!*