



# The Rhodomentum

## Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Newsletter

November 2021



### President's Message

Hello NRS Gardeners,

It could not have been better weather for the ARS "Fall into Gardening" conference this past weekend: lots of rain, wind and a big storm too. However, we didn't need stay-at-home weather to keep us at our ZOOM screens, as our organizers and presenters did a wonderful job not only teaching us new gardening tricks but also to lead us along the Yunnan and Allegheny Mountain trails in search of that rare rhododendron that is not yet growing in our gardens! To the organizers and the presenters, our warmest thanks for a job splendidly done! The Year 2022 is designated as the "Year of the Garden". Your Executive team is planning on having public open gardens and is counting on your help. More information will be forthcoming in due time. Our May sale on Saturday prior to Mother's Day is also in the planning stage and so is our Christmas Auction. Your donations to the Christmas auction are warmly welcome and appreciated.

In the past month, besides the virtual Fall conference, we also had the opportunity to watch Zoom presentations on bonsai, on garlic, and on hydrangeas and dogwoods. ZOOM is truly an excellent tool to help us learn new things and stay in touch.

Here we are, already in November. Once all the leaves have fallen, it is time for the first application of dormant oil and or lime sulphur on your fruit trees, as well as mulching the vegetable beds with Sea Soil or composted manure. The rhododendrons should receive between November and January the first fertilizer application, especially the young plants.

Looking forward to seeing you at our 4<sup>th</sup> of November in-person meeting at 7:30 pm at the Beban Centre. Masks are mandatory and proof of vaccination will be checked.

See you there,

Rosina

### OUR EXECUTIVE

President	Rosina Schmidt	751-3386
Vice President	Chris Southwick	390-3415
Past President	Allen McRae	758-7589
Secretary	Deborah Francis	
Treasurer	Ron Sutton	416 951-1373
Directors	Ann Beamish	758-2574
	Bryan Jubinville	668-2965
	Dorothee Kieser	390-4136
	Art Lightburn	468-7516
	Susan Lightburn	468-7516
	Gayle McRae	758-7589

### COMMITTEES:

Advertising	Allen McRae
Library	Ann Beamish / Gayle McRae
Newsletter	June Bouchard / John Deniseger
Membership	Jan Moles
Program	by Committee
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey
Social	Deborah Francis
Bargain Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich
Website	Deborah Francis/Rosina Schmidt
Bus Tour	David & Joyce Mitchell
Sunshine	Wanda Brenton
Propagation	Rosina Schmidt
Hailey Grove	Bryan Jubinville
Show and Sale	Jan Moles and Brenda Lewis

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society  
Box 241, #101-5170 Dunster Road  
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4  
Website: [nanaimorhodod.ca](http://nanaimorhodod.ca)

**Next meeting: Thursday, November 4th, 7:00 pm, Beban Park Social Centre**

**"New Zealand: Land of the Long White Cloud" The Gardens – the Culture – the Plants**

**With Linda Derkach**

**\*\*Please note: Public Health Guidelines require that all participants wear masks and show proof of double vaccination at the door.**

**Program for November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting** – (please note change of date to a week earlier because of Remembrance Day):

*“New Zealand: Land of the Long White Cloud”*

*The Gardens - the Culture - the Plants*

From the sub-tropical gardens on the North Island, to the temperate rolling hills and glaciers of the South Island, New Zealand is a gardener’s paradise. This journey through the land of the Kiwis will tempt you to visit amazing heritage gardens, indigenous culture and the intriguing native plants of this beautiful and diverse country.

Linda Derkach is a long time and very active member of MARS and Vancouver Island Master Gardeners. Gardening, writing about gardens and touring gardens all over the world are some of her favourite things to do. An avid alpine garden enthusiast, Linda is currently the MARS Newsletter editor and Secretary for the ARS.



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**Membership Renewal:**

This is the time of the year when our annual memberships are up for renewal! You can pay your fees either electronically or by cheque – single \$40.00; couple \$45.00; payable now.

- Electronically: e-transfer to [rondsutton@shaw.ca](mailto:rondsutton@shaw.ca)
- By cheque, mail to: Ron Sutton, 7310 Cougar Smith Rd.,

Fanny Bay, B.C

V0R 1W0

**\*\*In each case, please specify if for a single membership, family membership or associate.**

*Stay connected - check our web page - new things added regularly! <http://nanaimorhodos.ca/>*

## Twigs and Stems

### Calendar of Upcoming Events:

It's been too long since we've included a calendar of events in our newsletter. Things are beginning to shift, it's time to branch out....

Remember, Public Health Guidelines must be followed. Please check the host organization's website for details **before** you go.

**Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society:** November 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 at the Qualicum Beach Civic Center.

**Milner Gardens and Woodland:** Milner Christmas Magic will be returning. Stay tuned for details in the December newsletter or check the Milner website at: <https://milnergardens.viu.ca/>

**Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden:** A Botanical Tour of the Northern Pacific Coastal Ranges with Will Clausen November 18<sup>th</sup> 5:00 – 6:30 pm. **(See page 17 for full details.)**

**North Island Rhododendron Society:** November 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 at the Comox United Church Hall - Gardening with Rhododendrons – Chris Southwick

## *Christmas is coming....and so is our Auction!!!!*

The days are getting shorter, we're about to set our clocks back...that can only mean one thing! Christmas is just around the corner. Once again, the NRS is planning a Christmas auction. Last year, we had an on-line auction which worked out really well. This year, we'll be having a live in-person event. It's always a lot of fun! As always, we will be following public health guidelines not only for the auction but for all club activities. While the details are still being worked out, it's time to think about potential donations.... 😊



## Monthly Meeting minutes – Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Number of people present: 17

1. **Welcome** from president Rosina at 7:30; followed by thank-yous and acknowledgements.
2. **Treasurer's Report** – Ron Sutton:
  - Expenses: \$1196.23 (Rentals, Website, Plants)
  - Income: \$260.00 (Membership Renewals)
  - **Current Bank Balance: \$9771.85**
  - For full details, see Ron.
3. **Program** – Art Lightburn on behalf of committee:
  - Art will send email to members asking for suggestions for the current year program.
  - Depending on Covid situation, some meetings might have to be on Zoom.
4. **Hailey Grove:**
  - Still pulling invasives such as Ivy and Holly.
  - Need more helpers. Meet at 10:00 at Bowen Park on the second Tuesday of each month – next one scheduled for November 9<sup>th</sup>.
5. **Propagation:**
  - 2019 and 2020 cuttings are doing very well.
  - 2021 cuttings to be gathered from the Beamish and Southwick gardens soon.
  - There will be two trays and they will be kept at Liz and Allan Murray's garden.
6. **Advertising:** No report.
7. **Milner** – John Denisegeer:
  - MARS and NRS partnering with Milner for shade house for growing cuttings on; approximate size will be 1000-1500 square feet; to start in November; won't be ready until at least next summer; funded by anonymous donor; helpers will be needed: email to come.
8. **Fall Into Gardening** – John Denisegeer:
  - FREE Virtual Conference on October 23/24; 4 speakers each day;
  - 560 people registered as of October 14<sup>th</sup>.
9. **Sunshine:** Get-well card sent to Deborah who just had surgery.
10. **AOB:** John and Chris giving rhododendron course at Milner with VIU students from the Horticulture Program on Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>.
11. **COFFEE BREAK** (Request from Susan Lightburn to sign up for bringing goodies at upcoming meetings.)
12. **Raffle** – many happy winners! 😊
13. **October Program:** An excellent presentation by Chris Southwick on “**Gardening with Rhododendrons**”:
  - Basic information about the genus rhododendron
  - Suggestions for growing rhododendrons successfully and how they can be used in gardens
  - Suggestions for purchasing rhododendrons
  - Frequently asked questions

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** To conclude meeting, Rosina asked a show of hands from people present as to whether we should continue with in-person meetings, assuming current health guidelines remain in place – consensus that in-person meetings are very welcome after more than a year and a half...





*A few photos from our October 14<sup>th</sup> meeting!*

*Thank you, Chris, for an excellent presentation!*



"I like spring, but it is too young. I like summer, but it is too proud. So, I like best of all autumn, because its tone is mellower, its colours are richer, and it is tinged with a little sorrow. Its golden richness speaks not of the innocence of spring, nor the power of summer, but of the mellowness and kindly wisdom of approaching age. It knows the limitations of life and its content."

- Lin Yutang

## *Hailey Rhododendron Grove at Bowen Park* by Bryan Jubinville

<http://nanaimorhodos.ca/hailey/>

Hailey Garden efforts continue. As the seasons roll along, we see progress with the invasive species being beaten back every time we return. The rhodos are doing well considering the tough summer conditions they had to endure. I was in the gardens this past week to find one rhodo in bloom – I am not an expert in identification but I believe it was Lee's Scarlet. Rosina took to transplanting several propagated rhodos (layered) in locations around the gardens, with a little TLC these will survive for years to come. Many thanks to the dedicated NRS members who come out regularly to help out in the garden. We are thankful for all of



Art and Susan taking a break- photo from Rosina

the public who walk/visit the garden and who pass on a very appreciative thanks for the work being done. If you can spare some time, please come out and lend a hand or just come out for a visit – a smiling face or some comic relief is always appreciated.

The next effort will be on Tuesday November 9, at 10:00 until 14:00 hours. Park by the tennis courts or up by the gardens, lots of space available, if you are really energetic you can have a Pickle ball game after – the courts are right there. Bryan promises sunshine!

Cheers

Bryan

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## *From the Vancouver Island Master Gardeners*

The Vancouver Island Master Gardeners Association, together with Vancouver Island University, will be offering the Advanced Gardening course again starting in January 2022. This course, which will be a combination of virtual and in-person classes, will provide enthusiastic gardeners a wealth of information on everything gardening related from basic botany, soils, pruning, to plant pest and disease management. More information on the course and how to register can be found at <https://pdt.viu.ca/master-gardener-program> or by contacting the president of the Master Gardeners Association ([president@vimga.org](mailto:president@vimga.org)). An additional program will follow the course and can lead to certification as a "Master Gardener".

By contacting the VIU Registration, you can take part in a free information session to be held in early November and learn more about the course.



## *Garden Photos of the Month - from June and John's garden*

Rosina suggested that we feature fall colour in our garden. When we began our garden nearly 9 years ago, we tried to incorporate colour and interest through the seasons. This fall's colours seem to be particularly good, not only in our garden but throughout the area. All of the photos below were taken on October 12<sup>th</sup>, the day after Thanksgiving.







View across the backyard just below the patio



*Robinia pseudoacacia* "Frisia"



*Acer palmatum* "Sango Kaku" or  
Coral Bark maple



One of our  
gardening friends



The promise of spring in *R. sutchense* –  
an early bloomer



Rubiyat apples – something we  
acquired from Harry Burton – our  
speaker in October 2018



## Propagation Report by Rosina Schmidt

Our 2021 cuttings are on the way. All 64 of them. Donors: Beamish and Southwick gardens. Propagator crew: Chis, Allan Murray, Rosina. Allan Murray will graciously tend our cuttings until next summer time.



**The Shade House Project:** In partnership with Milner Gardens and Woodland and the Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society, we are going to be building a shade house for “growing on” all of those rooted cuttings that our propagation group has been developing. The project is being funded by an anonymous private donor and is expected to be completed by next summer. Through the winter and spring, we’ll be looking for volunteers to help out when we enter the construction phase. Details to follow in future newsletters and at our monthly meetings...



## Plant of the month:

### *Rhododendron cerasinum* by Ron Sutton

This subsection *Thomsonia* species produces two types of beautiful waxy flowers, solid red or white with a red picotee. The picotee form has been given the name 'Cherry Brandy' and is stunningly beautiful. It is quite popular and sought after by rhododendron enthusiasts. I like it so much, that I have two in my garden. My plants are young and have yet to flower.

Information I found indicates that it is hardy to -15°C and will grow to approximately 1 metre in 10 years. The leaves are elliptical in shape and a shiny dark green. This plant blooms late spring to early summer and can take a quite a bit of sun, as witnessed with my plants.

Both *R. cerasinum* photos taken from RSBG website first one is *R. cerasinum* 'Cherry Brandy'



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## Christmas Magic at Milner!

There are so many things that we missed out on last year due to the pandemic. Christmas Magic at Milner was one of those special events that didn't happen. While the details are still being worked out, volunteers have been busy putting up Christmas lights for over 2 months. It takes a long time to put up more than 100,000 lights! Yes, Christmas Magic will be back this year. Stay tuned for details in next month's newsletter as well as the Milner website. If you've never been, it really is magic! Rumour has it that Santa will be there too!



Photo courtesy PQB news



## *NRS works with VIU Horticulture Program Students*



One of the goals of the NRS is to raise awareness and appreciation of the Genus Rhododendron through Education. Set against the beauty of Milner and the Greig Rhododendron Species Garden, Chris and John spent an enjoyable ½ day talking about rhododendrons and woodland gardening with students from the VIU Horticulture program. The students were enthusiastic, interested and asked lots of good questions.

“Students with the VIU Horticulture Technician Program learn about rhododendrons with Chris Southwick and John Deniseger of the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society on Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>.” (From Milner Facebook page)



The students took many rhododendron cuttings under the guidance of their instructor, Christine Quist, and Denise Winter, Milner's Lead Horticulturalist. They'll be rooted at VIU's Paine Center.

(All photos by Denise Winter)



## Rhododendron Leaf Drop

by Don S. Wallace



Have you noticed some of your rhododendron leaves turning yellow or red this fall. If the leaves are the older ones down the stem, this is normal. You can expect to see this on just about every rhododendron in the fall. However, when these plants are hungry, they will take nutrition out of their oldest leaves and then drop them. If your plants are well fed, you will see less of this foliage drop. The spring fertilizing should keep your plants in good health with deep-green, lustrous leaves throughout the season. Fall fertilization, low nitrogen recommended, will help reduce this as well.

This post from the Singing Tree Newsletter was sent to us by Ron Sutton. Don Wallace, owner of the [Singing Tree Nursery](#), was one of the speakers at our Fall into Gardening event - he gave an excellent presentation on Scented Rhododendrons and hybridization.

You can view his presentation using the Fall into Gardening link on page 13.

## WORK BEES:

**An opportunity to spend time outdoors in a beautiful rhododendron garden, while socializing with friends (at a distance, of course...) Sounds pretty attractive doesn't it....**

- Hailey Grove at Bowen Park – The next monthly work bee will be on Tuesday, November 9th from 10 am to 2 pm, as we return to our regular monthly schedule. Bring your lunch and sunny disposition.
- The Shade House project at Milner: when the construction phase starts, we'll be looking for volunteers...



## *“Fall into Gardening” - the 2021 ARS Fall Conference*

The Nanaimo Rhododendron Society and the Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society in partnership with the Vancouver Island Master Gardener's Association recently hosted the 2021 ARS Fall Conference known as “Fall into Gardening”. Deemed a success by all, the conference featured 8 well known international speakers, drawing over 650 registrants from across North America, Europe, New Zealand and beyond. The presentations had us travelling through the Appalachians and the Yunnan, while we also learned about soil biology and soil health. We also covered alpiners, hardy rhododendrons that survive Quebec's harsh climate, hybridizing fragrant rhododendrons and conservation issues. We can't thank our speakers enough for so generously sharing their time and knowledge with us.



If you missed the conference or would like to see some of the presentations again, you can access all the sessions from both days at <https://marsrhodos.ca/2021-fall-into-gardening-conference/>. The password is fall2021. We encourage you to share the link with friends and fellow gardeners. They may wish to watch each presentation or you could recommend your favourites!

Conference Coordinators		Co-Hosts	IT Coordinators
 John Deniseger (NIRS, NRS, MARS)	 Marilyn Dawson (MARS)	 June Bouchard (NIRS, NRS, MARS)	 Phillip Betts (MARS)
 Glen Jamieson (MARS)	 Chris Southwick (NRS, MARS, VIMGA)	 Dorothee Kieser (NRS, President of VIMGA)	 Diane Henders (MARS)
 Jan Thorsen (NRS, VIMGA)	 Mike O'Neill (NRS, VP of VIMGA)	 Garth Wedemire (NIRS and NRS)	

**The Fall into Gardening Committee – our thanks to each one of you for your hard work in making it happen.**



## Welcome to the 2022 ARS Spring International Convention

Hosted by the chapters of ARS District 4  
Portland – Tualatin Valley – Eugene – Willamette – Siuslaw



After a two-year delay of our scheduled 75th Anniversary celebration, we're excited to announce a reunion of the ARS in its founding city, Portland, Oregon. Here you will find all elements of the planned 2020 convention, including the Pre-Tour (new dates: May 2-3) and Post-Tour (new dates: May 8-10), while including even more enhancements to the original features. [Click here](#) for a preview video of the event.

**\*\*ARS 2022 Registration will open Wednesday, December 1, 2021**

### Covid Considerations

In an effort to assure the health and safety of all participants, the decision has been made to require proof of full vaccination for all registrants. You will need to confirm your vaccine status on registering, and proof will be required at the registration desk on check-in. Masks will be required in the hotel, on buses, and at all meetings and events. Please be aware that conditions may change as the convention comes closer and a revised policy may be issued. We recommend that you sign up for convention updates, below, to be apprised of changes in policy as they occur. Thank you for your cooperation.



## November Garden Tasks (by Vancouver Island Master Gardeners Association)

November is the month our gardens shift to winter mode. The winter veggie patch perks along while gardeners begin the weekly check of stored harvest crops, complete the outdoor work, and tuck tender plants into the protection of shed and garage.



### **Last of the Outdoor Chores:**

Check around drip lines for root systems loosened from combined summer drought and sudden autumn rain. It is less the frozen ground than the freeze-thaw cycle in exposed areas that causes heaving and exposes root systems. Throw extra soil on the area. The soil will trickle down and fill in air holes around the roots. Make a note to replant in spring. Fir branches broken off in the wind, or pruned fern fronds will keep the ground around the shrub from freezing if heavy mulching is not appropriate for the plant.

Our changing climate can mean changing drainage patterns, so take advantage of these if you notice new soggy areas developing. A seasonal runoff trench can stop lawns from backing up into areas that need to stay dry. Scraping out a low-lying area and letting it fill with water over winter can be the beginning of next year's rain garden.

And...

- Store organic and seed meal fertilizers in a dry area in boxes or totes with tight lids against mice and rats
- Drain your irrigation system, and check frost valves on outdoor spigots
- Trim or stake bushy herbaceous perennials to prevent wind and wet snow damage
- Plant more bulbs
- Now that the storms have begun, check that row covers remain secure against winter winds.

### **Autumn Housing, Winter Food**

Get lazy! Leave the rest of summer's spent flower heads and stalks not cut for dried, indoor bouquets. Many wild pollinators over-winter there so don't rob your garden of next year's pest patrol heroes. Rudbeckia, Echinacea, Sedum and Echinops will feed birds along with Pyracantha, Cotoneaster, Sorbus, and Arbutus berries. A single zinnia feeds a chickadee for a whole day. Seed heads also act as umbrellas against rain, freezing winds and snow loads, protecting ground-feeding birds – and the ground around the plants.

Begin bringing in the hummingbird feeders at night. Room temperature syrup hanging under the house eaves in early morning will keep the fierce beauties protected and healthy to withstand winter's storms while guaranteeing cheerful company during your morning repasts.

### **The Season's Changing Perspective**

Late-season sales at garden centres offer gems that will fill in a barren spot with winter interest now and offer flowers next year. While you are picking up pansies, violas and a few more bulbs consider *Erica*, winter *Daphne*, *Gaultheria*, *Hellebore*, *Hebe*, *Heuchera*, *Viburnum*, or even *Bamboo* and *Nandina* for those now-empty planters. Drop the small commercial pots into your larger home planter with fresh soil and compost. Tuck in some very early bulbs like *Galanthus*, *Aconitum*, *Iris reticulata* or *Crocus tommisianus* to take you into spring. When the weather warms, all will be ready to move. You can spread roots properly when moved to the larger landscape, or finish potting up and keep as a year-round feature colour in your favourite planter. Warning! Be very careful with *Nandina* and *Bamboo*: All are invasive, even clumping bamboo, so keep these in containers.

### **Tools Need Love Too**

Check tools before you put them away. Set up the clean-and-repair project ahead of time by gathering all your supplies on the work bench or in a bucket. When you are feeling cooped up on a stormy day, ten minutes of sanding,

sharpening, and oiling preserves a tool for many seasons, and makes the \$85 spent on secateurs or a limb saw well worth the price when you grab them after a sudden storm that damaged your pet landscape shrubs. Looking out from the garden shed or greenhouse with a small heater nearby and hot chocolate at hand is a pleasant way to view the garden during winter months.

### **Indoor bloom-time Begins**

*Hyacinthus*, *Crocus*, *Muscari*, *Narcissus* 'paperwhite,' *Iris reticulata*, *Cyclamen coum* and *persicum*, with *Narcissus* cultivars called mini daffodils offer many options for indoor colour. After forcing, the bulbs can be planted out to finish in late spring, except for paperwhites which are too tender. *C. persicum* can go outside if well protected as it is only half hardy.

Put *Schlumbergera* (Christmas cactus) in a cool dark place and water very little for 4-6 weeks then bring back into the living area. These epiphytes will bloom in good light, medium water, and no drafts.

*Hippeastrum*'s (often called Amaryllis) loud trumpets are bold statements well worth the price of the bulb. The RHS has a basic video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x9NnqYm6U4M>. *Hippeastrum* live several years, can bloom twice yearly, and will produce offsets that bloom in year two. Here is a complete how-to

link: <https://www.ourhouseplants.com/plants/hippeastrum>.

For something different, try rosemary. Bring a young plant inside, and prune it into a mini-Christmas tree shape, ready for tiny twinkling lights. The key to keeping it healthy and blooming (it likes its roots on the dry side, while leaves absorb moisture from the air) is to set it in a low dish on some pebbles, and keep the water level below the pebbles' tops. Spritz it heavily twice a week. Replant in spring.

### **OMG, I forgot!**

You can still plant fava beans and garlic as long as the soil is not frozen. You don't need a large area for garlic as it is easily tucked into bare spots among perennials or in with other winter food crops.

You left those hanging baskets of fuchsias and yerba buena or other evergreen vines out for a final flash of autumn colour. Now, just hang them where they won't freeze. Water minimally, and don't cut back until spring, then pot up after pruning when they're ready to come out of dormancy.

### **And finally ...**

Leave the garden to walk through forest and field. Both offer amazing shows of wild fungi this month. The tree frogs may be hibernating, but winter birds are flockin' & talkin' as they settle into the rainy season's rhythms. Return to your garden with fresh eyes. Begin the winter hobby of enjoying textual interest of red osier dogwood, watching subtle changes in conifer bark colour, and smiling at stalwart primula, cat-faced pansies and stout decorative kale standing strong next to delicate violas, all of whom will remain undeterred as frost covers leaves or snow blankets the blooms.

\*\*\* **Editor's note:** Check Monthly Garden Tasks from Vancouver Island Master Gardeners (via Milner Gardens and Woodlands website) at <https://milnergardens.viu.ca/garden-tasks>

*Sherlock Holmes was doing some gardening,  
Watson asked what he was planting. He  
replied "A lemon tree, my dear Watson".*



**A Botanical Tour of the Northern Pacific Coastal Ranges with Will Clausen**  
**Thursday November 18<sup>th</sup> 5:00 to 6:30 pm**



**A Zoom Talk by Will Clausen, Gardener at the RSBG**

From austere high mountains down through rich subalpine meadows, silent muskegs, deep forests, and finally to the crashing shoreline, the Pacific Northwest is filled with botanical splendor. Come along with Will Clausen, Gardener at the RSBG, on a tour through 10 years of hiking in in the Pacific Coast Ranges in Washington and northward into Southeast Alaska, Northern British Columbia, and Southern Yukon.

This mountainous region is home to an interesting flora comprised of widespread boreal species mixed with plants more specifically characteristic of the Pacific Northwest. Hotspots, like the Wenatchee Mountains of central Washington, offer rare and endemic plants that add to the richness and botanical identity of the Northern Pacific Coastal Ranges. Rhododendron, some recognizable and some obscure, grow here as well alongside other Ericaceous plants. We will stay at a fairly high elevation for much of the presentation, but venture downhill a bit to see some noteworthy plants and beautiful scenery.

Your registration fee directly supports the conservation of the *Rhododendron* genus.

Cost: \$15 for non-Members and \$5 for Members To register go to this link [Register Here](#)

Will Clausen has been the Gardener at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden since 2019. He has worked in several gardens across the northern part of the United States, always seeking out places where he can help to create and maintain gardens that balance horticulture and ecology with a focus on showcasing and conserving wild plants. He enjoys photographing and writing about plants and backpacking throughout the Pacific Northwest and beyond to see them in their natural settings.

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*Looking forward to  
seeing you all on  
Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup>  
for a visit to the Amazing  
Gardens of New Zealand!*

*Meanwhile, be  
well, everyone! ☺*