



The Rhodomentum

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Newsletter



November 2022



President's Message

Well, the rainy season is finally with us and we can finally put away our watering implements. Now it's time to clean up the garden and plant bulbs.

If you were fortunate enough to take in the "Fall Into Gardening" conference, you got to enjoy four wonderful speakers. Douglas Justice spoke about garden-worthy trees, and those to avoid. Carolyn Josefsson spoke about the importance of native plants of the Garry oak ecosystem. Bonnie Zand spoke about the importance of pollinators and the different types found in BC. Des Kennedy gave a humorous monologue about gardeners in general that awarded him a standing ovation!

A big thank you goes to John Deniseger, Deborah Francis, Jan Thorsen and Chris Southwick from NRS, and Marilyn Dawson, Glen Jamieson and Kathy Loyer from MARS. Jan and Chris are also both members of the Vancouver Island Master Gardeners Association (the three groups collaborated on bringing in the speakers and organizing the event).

If you haven't paid your membership fee, please do so, as I will be submitting payment soon to the ARS.

The NRS welcomes several new members since our last meeting **April Johnston, Laura-Jean Kelly, D'Arcy Boulton, Dana (Zvesdana) Mitic, Garth Wedemire and Sue Grant.**

At our next meeting on November 10, we will have a terrific speaker, Sean Rafferty, whom many of you know. He will give a talk on Scottish Gardens.

Your executive is making plans for the annual Christmas potluck and auction being held on December 8, at 6:30 pm.

So, look around and see if you have anything that you wish to contribute to the auction.

OUR EXECUTIVE

President	Ron Sutton	416-951-1373
Vice President	Chris Southwick	390-3415
Past President	Rosina Schmidt	758-7589
Secretary	Deborah Francis	
Treasurer	Ron Sutton	416-951-1373

Directors:

Margaret Cadwaladr	585-6046
Dorothee Kieser	390-4136
Paul Lawry	816-2370
Arthur Lightburn	468-7516
Gayle McRae	758-7589

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Advertising	Margaret Cadwaladr
Library	Ann Beamish / Gayle McRae
Newsletter	June Bouchard / John Deniseger
Membership	Jan Moles
Program	by Committee
Raffle	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	Deborah Francis
Show and Sale	Jan Moles and Rosina Schmidt

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

Ron Sutton
President & Treasurer

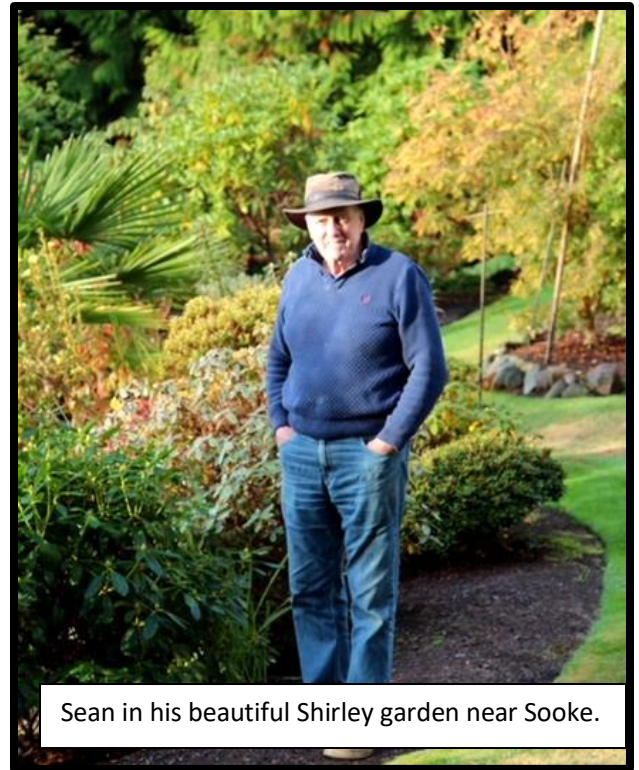
Our next meeting - Beban Park Social Center
Sean Rafferty - "Some Scottish Gardens"
Thursday, November 10th at 7:30 pm

Our program for November: Some Scottish Gardens with Sean Rafferty

Sean Rafferty is a former maintenance gardener and presently member of numerous garden clubs; including the Nanaimo, Victoria, Cowichan, Atlantic and Scottish Rhododendron Societies. His club memberships also include the Meconopsis Group, The Alpine Garden Club of BC, and the North American Rock Garden Society.

He is the Past President of the Rhododendron Species Foundation and with his wife, Brenda Macdonald, from whom he has gleaned most of his horticultural knowledge, has made four journeys to the Himalaya.

His talk to the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society on November 10 will focus on a tour of some Scottish gardens which he and Brenda visited in 2018 and the rhododendron collections contained therein.



Sean in his beautiful Shirley garden near Sooke.



Dear All,

Subscription renewal time is here again and we hope to be welcoming you all back for the new 2022/2023 year.

November meeting at latest is the target.

Full membership: Single \$40, Family \$45
Associate Membership: Single \$10, Family \$15
Student Membership: \$10

Subscriptions can be paid at a meeting with cash or cheque. Alternately, you can send by post to our treasurer at this address:

Ron Sutton,
7310 Cougar Smith Rd.,
Fanny Bay BC V0R 1W0

or preferably, send an e-transfer to our treasurer Ron Sutton at this email address: rondsutton@shaw.ca

Jan Moles, Membership Secretary

****Please Note: if you were a new member in 2022 AND paid after 1st April 2022, there is no need to pay again. 😊*

Twigs and Stems: Calendar of Other Upcoming Events:

Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society: John Denisegeer – “Why I Grow Rhodos”; Qualicum Beach Civic Center, Wednesday, November 9th, 7:30pm

North Island Rhododendron Society: David McIntosh – “George Fraser’s Legacy”, Comox United Church Hall, Tuesday, November 8th, 7:30pm

Victoria Rhododendron Society: Lois Blackmore – “The Art of Rhododendron Hybridizing- a tribute to Jim Barlup”; Glendale Gardens, Thursday, November 3rd, 2022, 7:30 pm.

Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society: Colin Tamboline – “Lilium for Rhododendron Lovers”. St. John’s Anglican Church Hall 486 Jubilee Street, Duncan. Wednesday, November 2th, 7:30 pm

Milner Gardens and Woodland: Closed through November in preparation for Milner Christmas Magic, which will be on | December 2 - 4, 9 - 11 & 16 - 21 - evenings 5:00pm - 8:00pm with viewing until 8:30pm. Check the Milner website for details: [Milner Garden Events](#)



Live the Garden Life - check this out to see what's going on in our area:

In recognition of the “Year of the Garden”, Milner has created “Live the Garden Life” on the Milner website. It is a guide to local resources to support the mid-Island community in getting out into the garden.

Whether you visit our Milner’s beautiful gardens for inspiration, join a garden club to meet other gardeners and share knowledge, are planning your first garden and want to gain knowledge, or take courses to learn more about gardening, celebrate everything gardens do for us at a local garden event, or check out our trusted web resources, ... see the listings in each category. For more information, click here to [“Live the Garden Life”](#).



NRS UPCOMING PROGRAM

Our club’s program committee (Chris Southwick, Dorothee Kieser, Glenda Barr, Rosina Schmidt and John Denisegeer) have been busy. Working together (isn’t it always easier when we work together?), they have booked an exciting list of speakers for much of the 2022/23 season. Make sure to mark those dates on your calendar!

Date	Speaker	Topic
November 10, 2022	Sean Rafferty	Some Scottish Gardens
December 8, 2022	Christmas potluck and auction	
January 12, 2022	Linda Derkach	Garden Sense for a Changing Climate
February 9, 2022	Allison McCabe	Invasive Species in the Vancouver Island Garden – Identification, Management, and Removal

Rhododendron Revival Research Project - a partnership with VIU Horticulture, Milner Gardens, and the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society

(Editor's Note: Following on her presentation at our October meeting, Kurstin Rispin will be contributing a monthly update, both in the newsletter and at our regular meeting. Thank you, Kurstin!)

Hello, Rhododendron club members from Nanaimo, Cowichan, and Mount Arrowsmith Region and Members of Milner Gardens and Woodland!

My name is Kurstin Rispin and I am currently a Vancouver Island University (VIU) student in the Horticulture Technician Foundation Program. I completed my summer practicum at Milner Gardens and Woodland (Milner Gardens) and continue to work there on weekends this semester. I am a research assistant contributing to the Rhododendron Revival Research (RRR) in partnership with VIU Horticulture, Milner Gardens, and the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society (NRS). The

purpose of this monthly newsletter contribution is to provide a regular update on the progress of the RRR. My role in the research includes monitoring and managing the environmental conditions where the Rhododendron cuttings are propagated and tracking cutting progress through daily record-keeping. A highlight of the research will be attending and presenting our findings at the monthly NRS meetings and sending out monthly updates in the newsletter about our progress in the project over the coming months.

My first update begins on October 20th, the same day the Rhododendron cuttings were collected at Milner Gardens. VIU Horticulture students and faculty along with Milner Gardens staff and volunteers began our day with a wonderful talk and tour of the Greig Rhododendron Species Garden (GRSG) hosted by Chris Southwick and John Deniseger. Chris and John shared their wealth of knowledge including the importance of Rhododendron conservation and the diversity of the plants as a species. John and Chris provided our class with a foundational understanding of the importance of these plants. Another takeaway from the cutting collection day is the importance of botanical gardens, such as Milner Gardens, and garden stewards like Geoff Ball, Director of Milner Gardens, and Denise Winter, Horticulture coordinator of Milner Gardens. The teaching and learning purpose of the GRSG was highlighted as it showcased Rhododendrons at local and global scales. This shared learning experience helped shape students' perception of Rhododendrons and their cultural importance.

For the research, Jess Lee, research partner and student, Richard Bernier, our guest master gardener, and Milner volunteer, and I took hardwood cuttings from three hybrids chosen by Denise. The Rhododendron's selected were 'Dr.Stocker', 'Blue Peter', and 'Beauty of Littleworth'. Denise selected these particular rhododendrons because of the availability of plant material, commercial viability, and public interest.





From L to R: Jess, Kurstin and Richard collecting cuttings at Milner Gardens.

Later that evening, along with the help of Christine Quist, VIU Horticulture Acting Chair and Research Supervisor, and Jess, we prepared 96 rhododendron cuttings and “stuck” them in 2.25” pots. The Rhododendron cuttings are now cozily housed in the misting tent at the Paine Centre, where I will monitor them. Updates and more information will be provided at the next NRS meeting on Tuesday, November 10.

Thank you all for your contribution to the project and continued learning of VIU Horticulture students – a special thank you to Chris and John for starting off our first day of the project with a hit!

Kurstin Rispin, Rhododendron Revival Research Project Research Assistant.

NRS Propagation Committee report – by Rosina Schmidt

Our 2022 cuttings at VIU’s Paine Centre are doing well. As reported earlier, the “Propagators” are taking turns watering them every Friday, not only ours but cuttings taken by MARSs as well, who also potted 300 cuttings. Hopefully, the shade house at Milner Gardens and Woodland will be completed before the snow so our 2020 and 2021 cuttings will find a sheltered location there.





Would you like to add some large rhodos to your collection?

One of our members has a number of very large mature rhododendrons to give away to whoever is willing to dig them up – a good time of the year to do this! For further details, please contact Deb Blenkarn at ddebblenkarn@shaw.ca

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

Fall into Gardening - a Look Back By John Deniseger

On Sunday, October 23rd, more than 150 enthusiastic gardeners gathered at the Qualicum Beach Civic Center for a day of learning, camaraderie, and fun. Under the theme of “Coping with Climate Instability in Your Garden,” we had 4 superb presentations. We learned about trees for our future hotter, drier climate from Douglas Justice. Carolyn Josefssen gave us an excellent presentation on the Garry Oak ecosystem and incorporating native plants into your garden, and we learned about pollinators and how to attract them from Bonnie Zand. And then, there was Des Kennedy who “brought the house down” as only he can do. Our thanks go to each speaker for their support and to the obvious time they put into creating such high-quality presentations. M.A.B.B.R.I. and the Invasive Species Council set up interesting information booths which were well attended through the day. Thank you to the organizing committee who worked so well together while representing the NRS, MARS and VIMGA: Deborah Francis, Chris Southwick, John Deniseger, Jan Thorsen, Glen Jamieson, Marilyn Dawson and Kathy Loyer. We’re already looking forward to the next version of Fall into Gardening, two years from now, in October 2024!



*** Please note: Des Kennedy’s musings on “Weather of Not” are now posted on our website with his gracious permission: <http://nanaimorhodos.ca/des-kennedy-weather-or-not/>. Find it under “information” as that is the only location that it fits under the current website design.

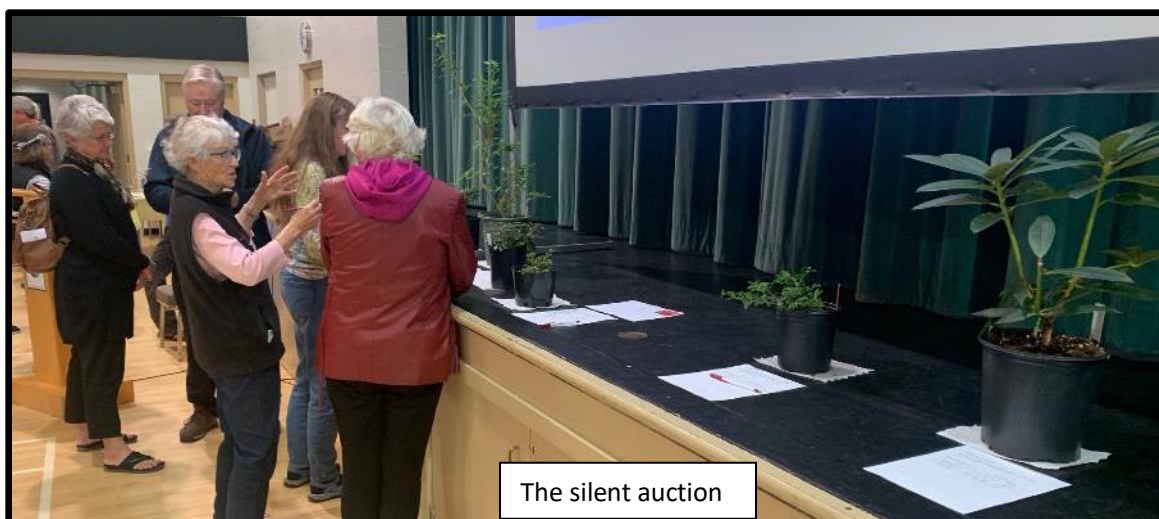


The MABBRI booth

(All photos by June Bouchard and Glen Jamieson)



Caroline Josefssen at the ISC booth



The silent auction



The organizing committee (L to R): Jan Thorsen, Glen Jamieson, John Denisege, Marilyn Dawson, Kathy Loyer, Deborah Francis, Chris Southwick

Small and Smallish Trees for City Gardens – from Douglas Justice

The following are all relatively "easy care" and disease and pest resistant, as long as the soil drains, there is good air circulation and a modicum of summer moisture and full sun (unless otherwise indicated). Invasives have been stripped from the list. Broadleaf plants are deciduous unless otherwise noted. Conifers are evergreen.

Abies koreana

Abies pinsapo (deep soil best)

Acer buergerianum

Acer circinatum (best in part shade)

Acer griseum

Acer japonicum (best in part shade)

Acer komarowii (syn. *A. tschonoskii* subsp. *koreanum*) (best in part shade)

Acer micranthum (best in part shade)

Acer palmatum (many) (best in part shade)

Acer shirasawanum (best in part shade)

Acer tataricum subsp. *ginnala*

Acer triflorum

Albizia julibrissin (eventually very broad)

Arbutus unedo (eventually a tree)

Betula utilis subsp. *albo-sinensis*

Calocedrus decurrens

Catalpa bignonioides 'Aurea'

Cercidiphyllum japonicum (large tree with a small footprint) (drought intolerant)

Cercis canadensis

Clerodendrum trichotomum (will sucker)

Cornus 'Eddie's White Wonder'

Cornus controversa 'Variegata'

Cornus kousa 'Satomi'

Cornus mas

Cotinus coggygria (eventually a tree if unpruned)

Cotoneaster 'Cornubia' (evergreen)

Crataegus *lavalleei*

Cunninghamia lanceolata 'Glaucua'

Embothrium coccineum (Zone 9) (evergreen)

Enkianthus campanulatus (eventually a tree if unpruned)

Eucryphia *intermedia* 'Rostrevor' (evergreen)

Eucryphia *nymansensis* 'Nymansay' (evergreen)

Fagus sylvatica 'Dawyck' (large tree with a small footprint)

Koelreuteria paniculata

Magnolia cylindrica

Magnolia 'Leonard Messel'

Magnolia sieboldii (best in part shade)

Magnolia *soulangeana* cultivars

Oxydendrum arboreum

Picea omorika

Pieris japonica (eventually a tree) (best in part shade) (evergreen)

Pinus parviflora Glauca Group (eventually large)

Prunus 'Pandora'

Prunus 'Shogetsu'

Prunus 'Umineko' ('Snow Goose' is similar)

Pyrus salicifolia (eventually a tree)

Rhododendron decorum (eventually a tree) (best in part shade) (evergreen)

Rhus typhina (will sucker)

Robinia pseudoacacia 'Frisia'

Sciadopitys verticillata

Sorbus glabriuscula

Sorbus 'Joseph Rock'

Sorbus pseudohupehensis

Sorbus aria 'Lutescens'

Stewartia monadelpha (best in part shade) (eventually large unless contained)

Stewartia pseudocamellia best in part shade) (eventually large unless contained)

Styrax japonicus

Syringa vulgaris (will sucker) (eventually a tree)

Trochodendron aralioides (best in part shade)
(evergreen)

Tsuga mertensiana (cooler location)

Viburnum cinnamomifolium (eventually a tree)
(evergreen)

Viburnum lantana (eventually a tree)

Pinus parviflora Glauca Group (eventually
large)

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Viburnum cinnamomifolium (eventually a
tree) (evergreen)

Viburnum lantana (eventually a tree)



Acer palmatum "Osakazuki" and *Robinia pseudoacacia* "Frisia"

Plant of the Month by Ron Sutton



***Schefflera taiwaniana* 'Yuan Shan'**

Schefflera is a genus of plants in the family Araliaceae, with an estimated 600-900 species. The genus is named in honor of Johann Peter Ernst von Scheffler (born in 1739), a physician and botanist. Scheffleras are mostly a tropic to subtropic plant. In fact, before my recent discovery, I always thought of them as a house plant, however, there are a few that grow wild in cooler high elevation areas of subtropic Asia that can be grown here:

S. fengii, *S. delavayi*, *S. lociana*, *S. minutistellata*, *S. rhododendrifolia*, and *S. taiwaniana*.

Schefflera taiwaniana 'Yuan Shan', discovered by plant explorer Dan Hinckley on Yu Shan Mountain in Taiwan, has leaves arranged radially symmetrical which is typical of the genus. The narrow leaves are 5 to 6 inches long and are evergreen. It is an attractive foliage plant, with a slow growing, upright habit. *S. taiwaniana* likes part shade, and well drained, moist acidic soil. It is said to be hardy to Zone 7.

My plant

recovered with minimal damage after enduring -10°C this past winter. I have my *Schefflera* planted at the outer edge of a large cedar, it gets some direct morning sun but is shaded in the afternoon. Ultimate height is 15 feet by 6 feet wide.

It is known to produce a small stalk of greenish yellow flowers but my plant never has. Most people grow it for its beautiful foliage. It is toxic to animals, and deer tend to leave it alone, but some exploratory nibbling may occur.

This link <https://botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/november-2019-in-the-garden/> will take you to an article on *Schefflera*'s in UBC Botanical Garden, written by Douglas Justice.

Anyway, this a very attractive garden worthy plant, but is hard to find. I purchased ours in 2019 from Garden Works in Victoria. Here is what looks like today, October 28, 2022.



The RSBG is pleased to announce the return of online ordering and their latest selection of rhododendron species, hybrids and companion plants. Check out their catalogue at [RSBG fall catalogue](#)

Hailey Rhododendron Grove Work Bee ~ Bowen Park

By Deborah Francis, coordinator



The October work party at Hailey Rhododendron Grove in Bowen Park dug up a mountain of invasive species. Recent rain activity will mean there is much more growth to clip back. We invite you to join the team on **November 8th, 9:00 am until noon** to help keep the gardens healthy and beautiful!

Bring your lunch and a sunny disposition! ☺



As they say... “Many hands make light work!”



From L to R: Kevin & Deborah Francis, Rosina Schmidt, Ian Knipe – working hard pulling invasives!

November Gardening Calendar

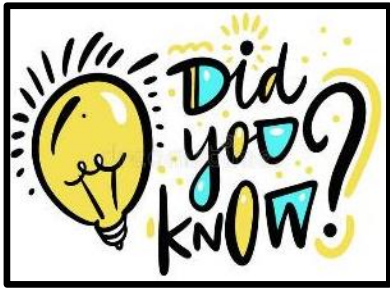
Rosina T. Schmidt

Rhododendrons: It is still time to plant rhododendrons. Fall planting results in a better root system. Soil mixture: half ground bark, half existing soil. Water in Nematodes. Fall fertilizing around the drip line with 2-10-10 fertilizer. Enjoy the foliage.

Mason Bees: check cocoons for mold and predation.

Garden general: Plant conifers using liquid root booster and Sea Soil mulch. Apply first application of dormant oil/lime sulphur once all leaves have fallen. Mulch beds with Sea Soil or composted manure. Put out suet blocks or seed bells for the birds. Rake the leaves from the lawn. Plant pansies, primulas and wallflowers for winter colour. Drain hoses and blow out irrigation lines.





Membership pays!!!

Jan Moles, our membership chair, has been doing some digging (she is a gardener after all 😊!). Did you know that with your valid NRS membership card, you can get various discounts at local businesses such as: Buckerfields, Arrowsmith Greenhouses, Russell Farm Market & Garden Centre. Your NRS membership will also get you a discount on a membership at Milner which in turn gives you a discount at the Milner nursery. Watch this space in future newsletters as Jan will be updating it monthly.



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

