

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



October 2005
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome back to the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society for another exciting year. What a glorious September we have had! The feature speaker at the Thursday, October 13th meeting will be Glen Jamieson, who travelled recently to southern China. This should be a very interesting talk. I hope you all can make the meeting. Just a reminder that your yearly fees are due. We need your support to keep the society going. Donations for the dollar table are welcome. Bring any spare plants you have. Contact Craig Clarke re orders from the species foundation. We need volunteers to help with the Christmas Auction and Pot Luck Dinner in December, and the Plant and Truss Show in May. Sign up sheets will be at the next meeting. I hope to see all of you there.

Allen

Craig Clarke placed an order for plants with the Rhododendron Species Foundation on September 26. The plants will be delivered to UBC in early November. The list of available plants is posted on the RSF web page at www.rhodygarden.org

EXECUTIVE

President	Allen McRae	758-7589
Vice President	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Secretary	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Treasurer	Gayle McRae	758-7589
Directors	Valerie Harvey	754-6659
	Debbie Gaboury	758-1204
	Glenda Barr	390-2822
	Pat Schulson	245-3369
	Mike Miller	758-2879
	Chris Southwick	758-0993

COMMITTEES

Advertising	Mike Miller	758-2879
Library	Vacant	
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Program	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey	
Social	Pat Schulson	245-3369
Dollar Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society
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NEXT MEETING

October 13, 2005 BEBAN PARK 7:30 pm

GLEN JAMIESON
“PLANT HUNTING IN YUNNAN”

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NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 8, 2005

The meeting was called to order by President Allen McRae at 7:40. There were 33 members and guests present. Welcome back from Allen. Reminder to keep watering your rhododendrons. Reminder that memberships are due now and must be paid by December in order to get your ARS Journals. Thanks to Helene Sullivan for hosting our end of season party in June.

M/S/C to adopt the minutes of the May Annual General Meeting.

Correspondence: letter from Malaspina University College announcing Michelle Battryn as the recipient of our annual Bursary. Thank you letter from Michelle Battryn. Newsletters from other clubs.

Treasurer's report: balance of general account \$2272.01; balance of Bowen Park Legacy account \$156.31; balance in library fund \$54.42. Rent at Beban Park is paid for the full year.

Program: tonight will be Christine North. Craig is working on future programs; will talk to Glen Jameison about a two-part talk on plant hunting in the Himalayas.

Social: please sign up for goodies for the coming year.

Membership: due now \$30 individual, \$40 family.

Advertising: notices of our meetings are placed regularly

Dollar Table: there are a few plants available. Reinhold Gorgosilich agreed to look after the Dollar Table this year (thanks Reinhold!).

Library: many books are still out, please return. We need a librarian to catalogue and sort the library. Please consider taking on this job.

Raffle: several rhododendrons and other plants have been donated for the raffle.

Committees are needed for the Christmas auction and the Spring Plant Sale and Truss Show. Paul Lawry volunteered to chair the Plant Sale and Truss Show committee (thanks Paul!). Please sign up for these committees on the sheets provided.

M/S/C/ to combine the Beban Park Legacy account with our general account.

Next executive meeting will be September 22, 7 pm at Kathryn Grant's.

Raffle winners: Janet Atkinson, Donna Porter, Allen McRae, Michael Miller, Darlene Budd, Ray Lauzier, Gayle McRae, Beryl Riches, Pat Schulson, Paul Lawry, Helene Sullivan.

Door prize winners: Bill Hardy, Kathryn Grant.

Christine North gave a talk and slide show on gardening in England, the differences and similarities to here.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

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Sherla Bertelmann, president of the **Hawaii** Chapter, recently presented a most interesting article in the chapter's newsletter. It contains some words to add to your vocabulary and enrich your awareness of protecting your vireyas and rhododendrons. Let's take a look.

We've all experienced it. The dull-colored leaves, drooping, drooping...*nothing helps*. More watering, more sunshine, more fertilizer, more praying...*nothing*. After my success at finding information on the Internet in the past, I turned to it once more to see what more I could learn about the problem of droopy leaves.

Started with "*Phytophthora*", one of the diseases that cause the same described symptoms for some vireya. Found *Phytophthora* and the Irish potato famine, *Phytophthora* and citrus, *Phytophthora* and cypress, *Phytophthora* and...found there are many, many different kinds of *Phytophthora*...some in the soil, some in the air, and some in decaying matter.

It is a fungi that attacks roots and can survive in decaying material. If it is *Phytophthora* that is a problem, the plant must be removed, destroyed, and the surrounding media also removed before replanting.

Came across something call *Pythium*! It is very closely related to *Phytophthora*...but there are some biological differences. It is everywhere...in soil and water environments. It can infect seeds, roots, or above ground parts of a wide range of plants. Some species, however, are not disease causing and can live on plant-decaying debris. *Phytophthora* usually invade woody mature plant tissue...*Pythium* attacks young (meristematic) tissue.

Learned "the shock of transplanting, and over watering, coupled with high temperature triggers disease development. All phytophthora diseases occur primarily in over watered, heavy, poorly drained soils."

About to stop... I decided to search on the Internet for one more word: "root rot". An article, "*Phytophthora* and Root Rot in Trees" came up. A reader-friendly version of which follows:

"Root rot is a generic term used to describe roots that have died and rotted away. Root rot is actually the result of a condition that is caused by fungi that enter damaged or wounded roots. Poor growing conditions that kill off areas of fine root growth...such as compacted or poor draining soil and over or under watering...can provide entry points, too. Other common causes of root damage are overfeeding and the effects of high pot temperatures in summer.



Twigs AND STEMS

Goodies for October meeting:

Donna Porter
Paul Lawry
Anne Williamson
Darleen Budd

Librarian Needed

Do you have an interest in books? Our library has become quite extensive and is in need of sorting and cataloguing. If you are interested in taking on this important task please see Chris Southwick.

Rhododendrons for Sale

Jeff Healey has some rhododendrons he would like to sell. He has *R. fortunei*, *R. praeevernum* and *R. 'Seven Devils'*
Call Jeff at 250.468.9545

Missing Keys!

Do any past members of the executive have the missing extra set of keys for the mailbox or the storage cupboard?

Memberships are Due

Please pay your membership fee in order to be on the club list and to receive your ARS Journal.
\$30 Individual, \$40 Family

The Victoria Lily Society will be selling a variety of Asiatic, trumpet and oriental lily bulbs at the Horticultural Centre of the Pacific, 505 Quayle Rd, Victoria, Sunday October 23, 10:30 am to 12:30

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"There are over 80 species of *Phytophthora* fungi that cause disease in plants distributed worldwide. The fungi spores are able to remain in soil or on plant debris for many years. Though they mainly affect roots, these fungi are also able to attach to trunks and branches. The infection is unnoticeable until well advanced and plant symptoms can be seen...dull foliage, smaller, yellow or sparser than normal foliage and branches dying back for no apparent reason.

"Presence of *Phytophthora* can be confirmed by the dead and dying roots. *Phytophthora* itself does not cause the decay of the root but affected roots are soon rotted by other micro-organisms naturally occurring in the soil. The disease is then encouraged by poorly drained, waterlogged soils, wet and warm weather."

There doesn't seem to be any chemical treatment guaranteed to cure the disease. There are fungicidal drenches. Much more than that...I don't know...and welcome any comments or information. It seems, though, once the disease is there...it is most likely the vireya will die.

The most we can do is...work on prevention!

- avoid planting in heavy, poorly drained sites.
- break open areas that prevent water from seeping.
- use well-draining media.

Again comments from the Internet article.

"Fungal infection and root rot should be treated immediately when found. Plants should be lifted and ALL affected roots and woody growth should be removed back to healthy wood. Hopefully, enough live tissue will remain for the plant to survive." Treat or dispose the media the plant was potted in. To treat it, you can solarize it...place it in a plastic bag and lay in the sun for two to three days. Turn the bag over daily.

"*Phytophthora* spores are virtually everywhere, especially in wet soils and organic composts and there is no way to reliably guard against root rots other than to make sure your plants are very healthy...so they can deal with attacks."

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