

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



October 2007
October 2007



FROM THE PRESIDENT

We had a very successful “Pot Luck Dinner Meeting” thanks to Sandra Dorman and Pat Schulson’s endeavors. Also, Chris Southwick’s scheduling of an excellent speaker. Garth did an excellent presentation.

Presently the Island Rhodo Societies are organizing workshops for those interested in learning more about Rhodos. Harry Wright is working on Propagating, Hybridizing, etc. and would like names of all members who would be interested. So, please contact me as soon as possible.

The other workshop is regarding Species – where you will be learning how to identify different Species and other related information. Applications will be in the Newsletter next year.

The goodies for our October meeting will be supplied by your Executive, don’t forget to bring plants for the \$ table and/or Raffle.

Paul

EXECUTIVE

President	Paul Lawry	390-2370
Vice President	Chris Southwick	758-0993
Past President	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Secretary	vacant	
Treasurer	Barb Coy	758-8497
Directors	Debbie Gaboury	758-1204
	Linda Lawry	390-2370
	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
	John Denisege	390-3605
	Allen McRae	758-7589

COMMITTEES

Advertising	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574
	Helene Sullivan	758-7023
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Program	Chris Southwick	758-0993
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey	
Social	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Dollar Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society
Box 241, #1 – 5765 Turner Road
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4

Website: nanaimo.rhodos.ca
email: nanaimo@rhodos.ca

NEXT MEETING

OCTOBER 11 BEBAN PARK SOCIAL CENTRE 7:30 pm

DENNIS BOTTEMILLER
From the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden

“PROPAGATING RHODODENDRONS FROM CUTTINGS”

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

TWIGS AND STEMS



GOODIES FOR OCTOBER MEETING:

Linda and Paul Lawry
June Bouchard and John Deniseger
Glenda Barr

MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE

Don't forget to pay your membership fees this month. Give them to Debbie Gaboury at the meeting or mail to the club's mailing address (on the previous page).

ISLAND SPECIALTY NURSERY FALL BONANZA SALE

runs until Monday October 29
10 am to 5:30 pm
closed Tuesday and Wednesday

RHODODENDRON SPECIES CD

By Harold Greer
Will be available to order after November 1, 2007
Over 1800 photographs
orders@greergardens.com

FAR AND AWAY ADVENTURES

Is offering a trip to Italian gardens this Spring.
April 30 – May 12, 2008
\$4595 pp/double occupancy
for information see

<http://www.cheapticketscanada.com/index.php?id=italiangardens>

Dennis Bottemiller Our October speaker

I grew up gardening and belatedly that led me to the horticulture program at Washington State U. where I received a B.S. in Nursery production horticulture. I knew going into college that I wanted to do Botanic Garden work and I was able to do an internship here at RSBG in 1987. I finished college in '89 and was offered the Propagation / Nursery manager position here right after graduation and I stayed here until '92 when I took a position to take care of the Seymour botanical conservatory in Tacoma which I did for 7 years. I came back here in '99 and soon after that I was again in the RSBG nursery where I really enjoy growing and propagating all the crazy stuff Steve brings back from his trips into the wild. It is a great challenge to grow things that I have never seen before and in some cases has never been in cultivation before and I truly love my job!



R. barbatum

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

General Meeting
SEPTEMBER 13, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:25 pm by President Paul Lawry. 41 members present.

Members were welcomed back by Paul and informed that the meeting would be casual and members were encouraged to enjoy the food during the meeting. Sandra Dorman & Pat Schulson were thanked for their hard work in preparing and arranging the tables for the "Potluck" meeting.

Guests: None present.

Correspondence:

- a. Letter from Malaspina University/College thanking the NRS for our contribution of \$300.00. No recipient was named.
- b. Newsletters from other organizations. C.
- c. An announcement of a Luncheon at Milner Gardens for members and their guest to be held on Friday, September 14 at 1pm.
- d. Information of the 27th Western Regional Meeting – Sept 21 – 23 at Newport, Oregon
- e. Copies of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden 2007 Fall Plant List.
- f. RSF plant order – members were encouraged to submit their requests to Kathryn ASAP.
- g. Harry Wright would like to start a group interested in Grafting, Propagation and Hybridizing. Anyone who would like to participate please contact Paul

Trophies and Ribbons that had been won at the Rhodo Show were given to the winners. Dick and Ann needed help carrying theirs.

Secretary's: We have no secretary ergo no report.

Treasurer's: Balance in account \$3171.60

Motions: That Barb Coy be appointed Treasurer – Seconded/Passed
That Chris Southwick be appointed Vice President – Seconded/Passed

Program: Chris mentioned the joint meetings with Mars. October will be at Beban and in November we will meet at the Qualicum Civic Centre – those needing a ride are to contact either Chris or Paul. The October speaker will be Dennis Bottemiller from the Rhododendron Species Foundation.

Presentation: Chris introduced Garth Wedemire. Garth's background history of the RSF & the Botanical Gardens was very informative and his photos of the variety of plants were spellbinding. An excellent presentation!

Raffle/Door Prizes: Many happy members won prizes (sorry forgot to get the names).

It was a very pleasant evening for all and the food was great!

Next meeting is October, 11, 2007

Submitted by: Paul Lawry, President.

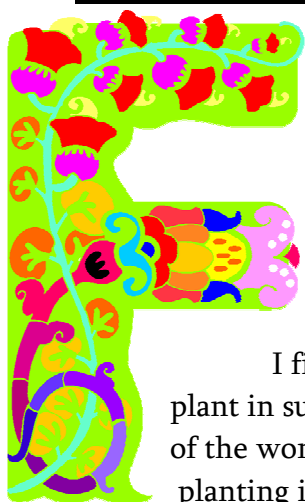
NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Companion Plants

F is for Fuchsia

of the Evening Primrose Family

Family: Onagraceae



I find it rather sad to realize that many people only think of the fuchsia as a bedding plant in summer hanging baskets, for they are certainly deprived of the wonder of a fuchsia's late summer show as a permanent planting in borders and beds. We can thank the hardy *F.*

magellanica from Chile and Argentina for these beauties. A fabulous number of hybrids and selections have been produced - from the towering cascades of blooms on the species, to the tidy little mounds of the dwarfs.

Hardiness varies among them, so some trial and error for your particular garden may be necessary. Blooms come in all colours and combinations, in single and double forms, but they are all smaller and daintier than their blowsy hanging-basket cousins, and produced in much greater profusion. There is also a great variety of foliage - gold with red stems, dark bronzy green, pink and white variegated, gold-edged, and more.

Not all upright forms should be considered hardy, but if in doubt or if you'd like to push the envelope a bit, mulch them well in winter but make sure they have moisture and drainage. The smaller forms can be mass planted, used as edging to large shrub beds, or in planters, as most grow only 6 - 18 inches tall. Larger forms, some reaching spectacular heights of 8 to 10 feet, can better serve in mixed borders or as informal hedging. Compact forms can easily be trained to standards, pyramids, or espaliers. In a hard winter, even the hardiest selections may die to the ground, but don't despair; if protected, the roots will cheerfully send forth new stems in spring. In fact, most will need periodic removal of the oldest stems as a regular maintenance if Mother Nature doesn't help out.

Fuchsias prefer moist moderately rich soil in morning sun. They need to be sheltered from cold winds, but require good air circulation to avoid leaf diseases. Try not to wet the foliage too much, and treat insects like whitefly and aphid quickly if they appear. Cuttings root very readily, even in a glass of water on a windowsill, so if you're worried about hardiness, start up a few for insurance, or just for sharing. New varieties are constantly available, but many old standards are still readily found. Selections have been grown since about 1768, and even very popular ones like *F. mag.* 'Riccartonii' and 'Lottie Hobby' have been around since the 1830's! For tall shrubs, try *F. mag.* 'Gracilis' and 'Versicolor'; for medium size,



Fuchsia 'Riccartonii'



Fuchsia 'Mrs. Lovell Swisher'



Fuchsia 'Mrs. Popple'

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

try 'Genii', 'Prosperity', 'Display', 'Mrs. Popple', 'Chillerton Beauty', 'Alice Hofman' or 'Mrs. Lovell Swisher'. A new series of dwarf bedding types from Europe is sweeping the better plant centers now, all with lovely girl's names, and WOW do they ever bloom! Older ones like 'Tom Thumb', 'Lady Thumb', 'Peter Pan' and 'Snowcap' are very reliable choices too.

If your interest has been piqued even just a little, go to the show and sale by the Fuchsia Society, and talk to the members. They are a wealth of information on the subject, and can suggest good books if you need more.

Happy Planting!

Colleen Forster

A Trip to the ARS Western Regional Conference in Newport Oregon by Kathryn Grant

Finally, some beautiful fall weather! Chris Southwick, Sandra Dorman, my husband Rick and I set out on Thursday afternoon for the Sidney to Anacortes ferry. Arriving 90 minutes early, as directed in order to pass through security, we breezed through in five minutes and then waited in the parking lot for departure. It was a lovely scenic crossing, but don't count on a gourmet meal on that ferry!



We spent the night in a motel in Anacortes, and then got on the I-5 after breakfast. After a rather hair-raising careen through Seattle we crossed the Columbia River at Longview and took Hwy 30 to the coast. Heading south from the cute and historic town of Astoria we made our way down Hwy 101 to Newport. Those of you who have travelled the 101 know that it is a lovely scenic route that wanders through farmland, small communities and coastal forest, emerging onto

breathtaking views of open ocean and rolling surf. It is narrow and heavily-trafficked, though, so slow going.

We arrived at the Agate Beach Inn just in time for the Friday night dinner. There we met up with NRS members Mary Jane and Bob Derksen, Earl and Judy Daneluk, associate members Jim and Jean Greig, Terry Richmond, Ingeborg Woodsworth, Al and Sandy Campbell, as well as many friends from the Victoria, Cowichan, Mount Arrowsmith, North Island, Fraser Valley and Vancouver chapters. Of the nearly 250 delegates at the convention, 38 were from B.C. It was fun to meet people whose names we have seen in the ARS journal and other



Rick, Kathryn, Chris, Sandra and Earl

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

publications. Conventions are great events for networking.

After dinner on Friday night John Hammond, a member of the Scottish chapter, showed pictures of several gardens in Cornwall, Devon and Somerset. His knowledge of the history of gardens in that area was evident, including a story of a British Navy Admiral who brought his crew of sailors back from America to build his garden. John was followed by Sally and John Perkins from New Hampshire, who told us about the challenges of growing rhododendrons in that rather hostile environment. It turns out that they have a good deal of success.

Saturday morning brought a choice of talks on a variety of rhododendron and companion plants topics. Isn't it amazing how we gardening addicts never tire of looking at pictures of plants and gardens? There's always something new to learn, or someone's artistic eye to admire.

Saturday afternoon left us free to explore the local community or visit garden centres in the area. (I happen to know that Earl Daneluk is single-handedly trying to maintain the rhododendron growers of Oregon.) Rick and I took advantage of the gorgeous sunny and warm weather to take a walk on the expansive sand beach.

Saturday evening's banquet featured a fantastic buffet with door-prize and raffle draws and silent auction winners being announced throughout. Afterward we were treated to an amusing slide show by Harold Greer, in which his off-beat sense of humour was revealed. Next, Steve Hootman from the Rhododendron Species Foundation highlighted species originating in China. Poor Steve, you'd think he would get tired of talking about rhododendrons.

Sunday morning offered another series of short talks. Those of us bringing plants back to Canada spent the morning waiting for our plants to be inspected and Phytosanitary Certificates issued. If you are attending a convention cross-border, beware! The US government does not seem to know about electronic forms; each certificate had to be painstakingly hand-written. Oh my.



Free at last, Rick and I made our departure, taking a different route up to Portland and then onto the I-5 home on Monday. Chris and Sandra had left at the crack of dawn Sunday morning with Chris's folks. We had no trouble at all at the border, not even showing our Phyto (probably because we had the car so full of furniture, lamps and motorcycle windshields that the customs agent could not see the plants, but that's another story).

All-in-all, the conference was great. It was well-organized, with a nice balance of structured and free time. Extra touches like small rhodos as table favours, lots of door-prizes, a fun mixer game, fabulous items on the silent auction, a

fantastic photography contest, a foliage display accentuating the wide variety in the genus and an impossible-to-resist selection of plants for sale all added up to an action-packed and fun event. Kudos to District Four for their efforts. We will have our work cut out for us when we host the Western Regional Conference in 2012!