

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



October 2008
October 2008



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings all:

Our first meeting of the Rhodo Year was a great success – it was a pleasure to see some of the “old timers” and the return of Terry Mack. I was very proud to present the ARS Bronze Medal to Chris Southwick and John Deniseger. Sandra Dorman did another great job of setting up the tables and creating the centrepieces with flowers provided by Pat Schulson.

Members interested in having a shirt or jacket embroidered with our NRS logo can take their clothing to Five Star Embroidery on Mostar Road – next to the recycle station. The cost is \$10.00 for the logo or if you wish a patch, it is \$12.00.

We are having business size cards made with the name, address, meeting place and date on the front and the advantages of being a member on the reverse. These cards will be available for all members to hand out to persons who show an interest in Rhododendrons.

It is that time of the year when our annual NRS fees are due; please pay at the next meeting. Look forward to seeing you all Thursday, October 9 at 7:30 pm.

Paul

PS: Bring a friend with you!

EXECUTIVE

President	Paul Lawry	390-2370
Vice President	John Deniseger	390-3605
Secretary	June Bouchard	390-3605
Treasurer	Chris Southwick	758-0993
Directors	Glenda Barr	390-2822
	Linda Lawry	390-2370
	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
	Barb Coy	758-8497
	Rosina Schmidt	751-3386

COMMITTEES

Advertising	Michael Miller	758-2879
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574
	Helene Sullivan	758-7023
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Membership	Debbie Gaboury & Barb Coy	
Program	Glenda Barr	390-2822
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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

BEBAN PARK SOCIAL CENTRE

7:30 pm

NORMA SENN

“WALKING IN THE FOOTPRINTS OF THE SASQUATCH”
A Brief History of Horticulture in the Pacific Northwest

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

TWIGS AND STEMS



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GOODIES FOR OCTOBER MEETING

Glenda Barr
Jane Lauzier
Paul and Linda Lawry

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MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE!

Single - \$35
Family - \$45
Associate - \$15

Bring your membership to the October meeting or
mail to the club address (on Page 1)

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Lecture by Ian Wright of the National Trust in England

"Phytophthora – A Wake-up Call"

October 27, 7:30 pm
Beban Park Social Centre

Information: Ian Efford
250.246.1453
efford@shaw.ca

The threat to our gardens posed by Phytophthora
ramorum and kernoviae is real and now! We
need to become proactive rather than reactive if
we are to ensure the survival of plants.

Our October Speaker Norma Senn

Norma Senn is a member of the Fraser South Rhododendron Society where she is a regular contributor to their newsletter, "The Yak". She has served on the executive and is a past president of the Chapter. She received the Chapter's bronze medal award in 2004.

Norma worked for the University College of the Fraser Valley in Chilliwack for 21 years and has just retired from her position as Director of Agriculture Technology at the University College of the Fraser Valley. Prior to becoming Director, she was a program instructor in horticulture.

Norma worked for the BC Ministry of Agriculture in the early 1980's where she was Urban Horticulturist and then Nursery Crops Specialist for the province. As part of her responsibilities at BCMA, she set up the first Master Gardener programs in Canada. She still regularly teaches in the Vancouver area Master Gardener programs, for both beginning and advanced participants. Norma was very pleased to have been named an "Honorary Certified Master Gardener" since becoming a Certified Master Gardener involves a lot of hard work and dedication.

Tonight, Norma will present "Walking in the Footprints of the Sasquatch", a brief history of horticulture in the Pacific Northwest. This talk was originally prepared and given at the ARS Western Regional conference in 2006.



NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Ian Wright

The National Trust

[which controls 200 gardens and is the largest garden owner in the world.]

Ian Wright is Gardens Support and Adviser for Devon & Cornwall, and National Trust *Phytophthora ramorum* and *kernoviae* coordinator for England.

It is widely accepted that we are in a period of great change which increasingly affects our gardens, plant collections, and the skilled staff who manage them.

A combination of climate change and the growing worldwide movement of plants has already allowed many new pests and disease pathways into countries. Our plant collections have little evolutionary chance to form resistance to these aggressive alien species and are therefore at increasing risk. We now find ourselves in a race against time to prevent many plant species being lost to cultivation

The recent damage caused by *Phytophthora ramorum* and *Phytophthora kernoviae* has highlighted the threat plant diseases pose to our collections and ultimately to the significance and conservation of gardens in our care. This situation applies equally to any of the many new plant diseases affecting our gardens now or in the future.

For these reasons, we cannot afford to take a passive stance towards plant health, pests and diseases and should now urgently develop a more robust pro-active approach to P&D so that we are prepared for any future impacts.

We should all make sure that the lessons learnt from *Phytophthora ramorum* and *kernoviae* and the impact on Rhododendrons in particular should serve as an important wake-up call to us all so that, as a consequence, we leave no room for complacency when managing our gardens as they are dynamic. We must care for them with this in mind.

For a more detailed article on *Phytophthora ramorum* please refer to this year's Royal Horticultural Society Rhododendron, Camellia and Magnolia group annual year book.

New Concerns About Plastic Bottles and Containers

A study from Peninsula Medical School in Exeter, U.K. shows that high levels of urinary Bisphenol-A (BPA), a chemical compound commonly used in plastic packaging for food and beverages is associated with heart attacks, strokes, diabetes and abnormal liver tests (JAMA. Sept 17, 2008). BPA can break down to form female hormones called estrogens that are linked to breast and uterine cancer in women, decreased testosterone levels in men, and may also cause birth defects.

You are exposed to BPA, primarily through food, drinking water, tooth sealants that you may receive in a dentist's office, and exposure through your skin and lungs from household dusts. Ninety percent of Americans have detectable levels of BPA in their urine.

Although the safety of BPA is still uncertain, you would be prudent to limit your exposure. The primary concerns are plastic water bottles and baby bottles. Each bottle is supposed to have a number in a circle stamped on the bottom.

Try to avoid the following numbers:

#1 Most single-use water bottles are made from polyethylene terephthalate (PET or PETE).

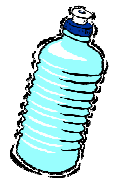
#7 This is used for many colourful hard plastic lexan bottles made with polycarbonate plastics. At a minimum, do not re-use bottles or containers with these numbers. Do not freeze or reheat foods or beverages in them.

Plastic products that bear the following numbers appear to be safe:

#2 HDPE, high-density polyethylene, the most widely recycled plastic,

#4 LDPE, low-density polyethylene) and

#5 PP, polypropylene



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NRS Meeting Minutes – September 2008

Date: Sept. 11, 2008

1. Meeting called to order at 7:30
2. Number of people present: about 30
3. President, Paul Lawry, welcomed everyone back to our new season. Welcome back Terri Mack! Paul suggests we talk to ex-members and invite them to re-join the club; or bring somebody new!!! ☺
Special thanks to Sandra for organizing / coordinating this wonderful pot-luck event!
Note that in newsletter, membership committee should include the names of Debbie Gaboury and Barb Coy.
4. **Secretary's Report:** M/S/C to adopt the minutes of the last meeting as printed in the newsletter.
5. **Correspondence:** B.C. Council of Garden Clubs – September/October 2008 newsletter: a lot of interesting information on gardens and garden clubs from all over B.C. including special events, and more. It will be available in the library – check it out at our next meeting.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** bank balance as of September 11/08 is \$2643.11
7. **Committee Reports:**
 - **Program:**
 - October meeting:** program will be Norma Senn – "Walking in the Steps of the Sasquatch - a look at how horticulture and our gardens developed in the Pacific northwest."
 - November meeting:** Tom Carter, from Moon Mountain Adventures, will talk about trekking in the rhododendron forests of Nepal.
 - Membership:** a friendly reminder that membership fees are due now.
 - **Social:** Thanks to Pat Schulson for providing the lovely dahlias for the table centres; thank you to everyone for your contribution to the potluck table; Sandra passed around the book for people to sign up to bring goodies to the upcoming meetings.
 - **Dollar Table:** 2 geraniums for sale today – reminder that proceeds from the dollar table go to the purchase of new materials for our library.
 - **Raffle/Door Prize:** thanks Val and Ann for selecting such a wonderful variety of prizes for our raffle and door prizes and to members for donating items
 - **Library:** New to the library – *Seeds of Adventure: In Search of Plants* by Peter Cox – "Exquisite and beautifully written!" Thanks Chris for purchasing this new resource for our library – it will be available next month once it gets catalogued.
 - **Other:**
 - Trophies from Truss Show:** John Deniseger presented the trophies from Truss Show which was held in May. Congratulations to Ann and Dick Beamish who won all 5 trophies. Thank you to John Deniseger and Kathryn Grant for organizing and supervising the Truss show this year.
 - Bronze Medal Presentations:** to Chris Southwick and John Deniseger. See photos in the newsletter. Congratulations Chris and John for being awarded this honour.
8. **Old Business:** None
9. **New business:** Business type cards are to be printed with information on the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society. These cards will be available for members to give out to the public and hopefully, assist in gaining new members.
10. **Raffle/Door prize winners:**
 - Door prize: Terri Mack
 - Name tag draw: Ann Beamish
 - Raffle draw: Mary Jane Derkson, Ann Davey, Linda Lawry, Ray Lauzier, Jim Greig, Chris Southwick
11. **Program for tonight:** Garth Wedemire presented us with a most inspiring program entitled *Lu Zhu: A Plant collector's Passion*. The combination of photography and accompanying music was totally stunning! Thank you Garth!

Meeting adjourned at 9:30.

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



**The Nanaimo Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society
takes great pleasure in awarding its highest honour,**

THE BRONZE MEDAL

To

Chris Southwick

A long-term member of the Society, she has served as President, Vice-President and Director. She has chaired the program committee and brought many distinguished speakers to the meetings. Chris has enthusiastically helped organize the annual truss show & plant sale as well as displays at local garden shows and our bus tours. Her generosity with her time and knowledge has been an inspiration to all.

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**The Nanaimo Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society
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THE BRONZE MEDAL

To

John Deniseger

John Deniseger is awarded the Bronze Medal for his service to our Society. John has served on the Executive for most of the last 13 years and has worked on several committees. In addition, John has organized our annual bus tour since its inception, he and his wife June managed the raffle table for many years and John has always been an integral part of our annual truss show and plant sale.

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St Andrews Botanic Garden Plant of the Month

July 2006

Cytisus battandieri



An Award of Merit was given to *Cytisus battandieri* nine years after its introduction, about 1922, from Morocco. This must be one of the fastest high awards for any shrub and shows the garden-worthiness and its high value in cultivation. It has been a very popular flowering shrub ever since and has proved to be quite hardy, for it survived the severe winter of 1962/63 unscathed. *Cytisus battandieri* has proved to be very hardy in the south of Britain even as a free standing shrub. However it is best grown against a sunny wall in the East of Scotland. It is named after the French botanist, Jules Aime Battandier (1848-1922) who was a specialist in Algerian plants.

Text by **Bob Mitchell**

Cytisus battandieri is a tall, semi-deciduous shrub, upright in habit to 15' (3 m), with straggly branches. It has prominent silvery-grey, trifoliate, laburnum-like leaves which in a severe winter becomes fully deciduous. The flowers are held erect and curve upwards. They are golden-yellow in tight, terminal, cone-shaped racemes and smell of pineapple. *Cytisus battandieri* flowers for a long period during the summer but mainly in July.



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Due to these prominent silvery leaves, it was suggested, in Bean's Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles in 1960, that it should be called *Argyrocytissus*. This name appears in the New RHS Dictionary of Gardening in 1992. As already mentioned *Cytissus battandieri* gained an Award of Merit in 1931. This was followed by a First Class Certificate in 1934 and the Award of Garden Merit in 1984. It featured in Curtis' Botanical Magazine t.8528 in 1938/1939

Cultivation

Cytissus battandieri comes from the middle Atlas Mountains where it grows in oak and cedar forests at heights of 5000 to 6000' (1500 - 2000 m) and grows in a well drained sandy soil. In cultivation it grows best in a light soil in full sun. It can thrive on poorer soils too. However the plant needs a system of regular renewal pruning to keep the growth robust, otherwise it tends to sulk. New growth appears readily from the base and, as in so many cases, flowers more freely on the older wood.

Propagation

This is mainly by seed which should be soaked overnight, or the seed coat should be scarified, before sowing, then placed in a warm situation. Growth is generally fast and it should flower about three years from seed. Cuttings are difficult to root. For those who cannot wait that long, it is widely available from specialist nurseries.

Terry Richmond's 30 Favourite Rhododendrons:

Fraseri	Peter Faulk	Clayquot Warrior
<i>racemosum</i> "Rock Rose"	Harry Carter	Edith Boulter
<i>campylogynum</i>	<i>pachysanthum</i>	<i>yakushmanum</i>
<i> davidsonianum</i> "Ruth Lyons"	Ginny Gee	Patty Bee
Naselle	Horizon Monarch	Vibrant Violet
Noyo Brave	Neat-O	Jean Marie de Montague
Hallelujah	<i>occidentale</i>	Canadian Sunset
Nancy Evans	Odee Wright	Senator Jackson
Van Nes Sensation	Fantastica	Malahat
<i>neriiflorum</i> "Rose Vallon"	<i>kisianum</i>	<i>nakaharae</i>