

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



October 2009
October 2009



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our first meeting of the New Rhodo year was a great success and, as you will read in the newsletter, we awarded the Bronze Medal to Michael for his outstanding work.

Unfortunately, our ARS dues have increased, ergo the raise in the cost of our membership. The ARS membership categories will be changed to only one. No more single or family; see Debbie if you have any questions.

With that said, we will still be having a great year. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the meetings and events. Your executive is working hard in planning this year's activities and we hope that you will put forth suggestions which may help make NRS a more enjoyable club. We have some great speakers, the Christmas Auction, Bus Trip and Truss Show planned.

Our Bargain Table will need your help so please bring plants to share with others; the money will be added to our Projector fund. We estimate that we will have to raise at least \$700, if not more.

See you at the October meeting,

Paul

EXECUTIVE

President	Paul Lawry	390-2370
Past President	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Vice President	John Deniseger	390-3605
Secretary	June Bouchard	390-3605
Treasurer	Gerry Moore	756-1427
Directors	Glenda Allard Barr	390-2822
	Linda Lawry	390-2370
	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
	Chris Southwick	390-3415
	Debbie Gaboury	758-1204
	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533

COMMITTEES

Advertising	vacant	
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574
	Helene Sullivan	758-7023
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Membership	Debbie Gaboury	
Program	Glenda Allard 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 8

BEBAN PARK SOCIAL CENTRE

7:30 pm

LINDA GILKESON

"Life After Pesticides – Enjoy a Beautiful Garden"

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

TWIGS AND STEMS



MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE

Please pay your membership fees.

GOODIES FOR OCTOBER

Brenda Lewis
Debbie Gaboury
Anne Williamson

Convention Corner

Don't forget our contest to name the 2012 Fall Convention. Come up with a snappy name that highlights Rhododendrons and Central Vancouver Island, and you could win a Rhododendron.



OUR OCTOBER SPEAKER LINDA GILKESON

Life After Pesticides: Enjoy a Beautiful Garden

It is perfectly possible to have lovely yards and gardens, without resorting to pesticides. Dr. Linda Gilkeson will change how you think about dealing with insects, plant diseases and weeds with her emphasis on prevention and on low-cost, simple control methods. She will discuss preventing pest problems (including weevils and diseases that attack rhododendrons), making allies out of beneficial insects and how to use low-toxicity pesticide effectively.

Dr. Gilkeson will bring copies of her books for sale:

West Coast Gardening: Natural Insect Weed and Disease Control \$20
Year Around Harvest \$15



Paul presents Michael Miller with the ARS Bronze Medal

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NRS Meeting Minutes

Date: September 10, 2009

1. Meeting called to order at 7:30.
2. Number of people present: approx. 40
3. **President, Paul Lawry, welcomed guests:** Avril and Garth Wedemire from the Fraser Valley; Virginia Pointer from East Sussex, England; Eileen and Bryan Jubinville from Nanaimo; Jim and Jean Greig, Associate Members from MARS; Mary Parker, Associate Member from MARS.



Glenda helps Ann carry the "hardware"

4. President's report:

- a. Thank you everyone for bringing wonderful goodies for our finger food potluck!
- b. Renew your membership now.
- c. ARS 2012 Fall Western Conference will be held in Nanaimo.
- d. Pennsylvania conference
- e. Our annual show and sale will be on May 8th, 2010.
- f. Ribbons and trophies presented to Ann and Dick Beamish for the following from our May Truss show: the Hammerhead, the Best Truss in Show, the People's Choice and the most accumulated points.
- g. **Special awards** – President's Certificate of Appreciation awarded to Sandra Dorman, Val Harvey, Ann Davey, Reinhold Gorgosilich, Gayle McRae.
- h. **Bronze Medal Presentation** to Michael Miller. Congratulations Michael for being awarded this honour!

5. Secretary's Report: M/S/C to adopt the minutes of the last meeting as printed in the newsletter.

6. Correspondence:

- a. Newsletter from B.C. council of Garden Clubs – available in our library.
- b. Advertising for Conference in Australia next spring; flyers available.

7. Treasurer's Report:

- a. Welcome and thank you Gerry for being our new treasurer!
- b. Current balance is \$2724.69; see Gerry if any questions about statement.

8. Committee Reports:

- Program: October is covered, Linda Gilkeson, and November is in the works.
- Membership: Renew your membership now!
- Social: Sandra is circulating the book for volunteers to bring goodies for this year's meetings.
- Bargain Table:
 - o Our "Dollar Table" has been renamed the "Bargain Table".
 - o Funds from the sale will go towards the purchase of our new projector.
 - o Bring plants for the bargain table when you split your own.
 - o Great place to shop at bargain prices for special plants.
- Raffle/Door Prize: Thank you Val and Ann for organizing our raffle each month.

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- Library: Don't miss our library – some great books in there!

9. **New business**: Kathryn Grant talked about the 2012 ARS Fall Convention which will be held in Nanaimo. The committee is looking for someone to coordinate all the volunteers at the conference. The committee is also inviting the membership to “*Name the conference*”. Please submit your ideas for a name for our conference to Kathryn Grant or to Chris Southwick.

10. Raffle/Door prizes winners:

- a. Many prizes awarded! ☺

11. Program for tonight:

Garth Wedemire gave us a wonderful presentation – beautiful photography from the Everett Convention Garden Tour, April 30 – May 2nd, 2009.

The following gardens were featured:

- The Smith Garden and Rhody Ridge from the Everett/Seattle area.
- And from Whidbey Island, the gardens of Bill Stipe, Frank Fujioka, Prudence Hollinger and Don King as well as Meerkerk Garden.

Thank you Garth for another inspiring program! ☺

Meeting adjourned at 9:15.

We Need Your Help!



Keeping our club running smoothly is a team effort. While we have volunteers in place for many of our committees and events, we could use a little help. If you'd like to “chip in” to be part of a committee or organize an event, or for more details about a specific task, please talk to Paul or John.

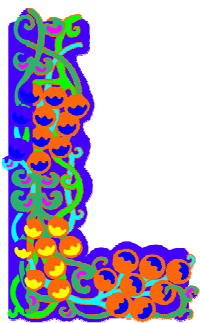
Committees and Event coordinators:

- Advertising: **vacant**
- Christmas Auction: **vacant**
- Bargain Table: Reinhold Gorgosilich
- Bus/Garden Tour: John Deniseger
- Conference 2012: Chris Southwick and Kathryn Grant
- Local Spring Garden Tours: **vacant**
- Library: Ann Beamish
- Membership: Debbie Gaboury
- Nursery Information Table(like we did at Art Knapp last spring): **vacant**
- Raffle table: Val Harvey and Ann Davey
- May Truss Show and Plant Sale: **vacant**
- Social/Sunshine: Sandra Dorman
- Program: Glenda Barr

Any help would be appreciated. You might even want to pair up with a friend. The more, the merrier!

Thank you! ☺

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Companion Plants

L is for Liquidamber

of the Witch Hazel Family

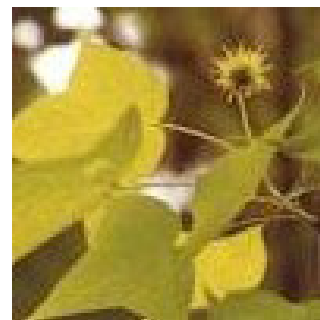
Family: Hamamelidaceae

The Sweet Gums are wonderful shade trees of a formal habit that give great definition to yards, boulevards and parks. Often mistaken for maples due to their form and foliage, a quick peek at the branches shows alternate, not opposite, leaf attachment. Any similarity to the witch hazels is certainly not evident to the observer, and has to do with minutiae like shape of pollen and such. The glossy dark leaves change to brilliant shades of scarlet, gold and maroon in autumn. Happiest in deep acidic soils, Liquidambers colour best when not stressed for water, unlike most other fall foliage trees. Two Far East species exist, *L. formosana* and *L. orientalis*, but the species most commonly grown is the one native to the eastern USA, *L. styraciflua*. The leaves of all are palmately lobed, with 3 to 7 segments, and from the inconspicuous green flowers curious spiny balls are produced, hanging singly on stalks below the branches and lasting well into winter. The tree is named for the fragrant resin that oozes out when the bark is cut. This gum was chewed by early settlers and natives, and used in medicines and perfumes.

Many selections have been made from the species - unusual leaf shapes: 'Worplesdon' and 'Rotundifolia'; variegation: 'Silver King', 'Moonbeam', and 'Golden Treasure'; consistent fall colour: 'Burgundy' and 'Palo Alto'; and habit: 'Gum Ball' (a dense shrub), and 'Festival' (columnar).

Choose the site carefully – they dislike root disturbance and will sucker petulantly in retaliation. One small drawback is that the roots are fairly shallow, and can create havoc if planted too close to walks or driveways, so give them space, preferably in a mixed border or woodland. Ultimate height in cultivation is much less than in the wild, usually slow to 50 ft, with a 20 ft spread. Young trees can suffer tip damage in late spring frosts, but they settle down with age (don't we all!?). Used as a background to a bank of rhodos, the contrast in autumn is truly spectacular, and the corky bark and formal branching pattern give interest all winter.

Another plant of interest in the same family and definitely more witch hazellike, is the Loropetalum, an evergreen woodland shrub from the Far East. Unfortunately it is on the edge of our hardiness zone. The species, *L. chinense*, is white flowered and fragrant, with arching branches 3-5 ft high and wide. However, look for one called 'Razzleberry' – far more eye-catching with fluorescent fuchsia-pink spidery blooms just like a Hamamelis. It flowers mainly in spring, then off and on during the entire summer. The foliage is matte burgundy, blending to olive-green



Liquidamber styraciflua



Liquidamber styraciflua
Fall colour

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inside the plant, and is best in sun. It should be sheltered from cold wind and heavy frosts, in deep, rich, acidic soil that is not too dry – possibly a west wall in the company of other plants. Other coloured forms may be offered, but they are similar if not the same. Loropetalum is a novelty and not readily available, but worth a look, and certainly unusual. I've also seen it as a young plant put in hanging baskets as a focal point – very attractive.

Happy Planting!

Colleen Forster



Loropetalum chinense rubrum

Not all Rhodos are “just pretty faces”

While looking through a recent list of available Rhododendrons I came across Rhododendron chrysanthemum- (Siberian rhododendron/Yellow snow rose).

This plant was introduced to Europe from Siberia, where it had traditionally been used as an herbal treatment for rheumatism and gout, arthritis, and rheumatism are the main complaints treated. It is also given for fever, delirium, headaches, neuralgic pain in the eyes, and testicular inflammation



The homeopathic remedy was proved in 1831. People who need the remedy, which is used for a variety of ailments, are affected badly by the approach of a thunderstorm. Fresh leaves were used for the treatment.

Paul

Editor's note: According to the ARS database, this is R. aureum var. aureum.

Fresh Chanterelles with Shallots

Yield: Makes 6 servings

2 tablespoons butter
2 tablespoons olive oil
8 ounces fresh chanterelle mushrooms,
quartered if large
1 teaspoon minced shallot
1 garlic clove, minced

Melt butter with oil in heavy large skillet over medium-high heat. Add mushrooms; sauté until lightly browned, about 6 minutes. Add shallot and garlic; sauté 2 minutes longer. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

