

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



October 2013



FROM THE PRESIDENT

October seems to have snuck up on us this year with all the garden activities in full swing – picking and preserving tomatoes, squash, apples, plums, grapes, etc. The rain has brought us the opportunity to revamp some of our irrigation. The honeybees have settled into winter mode requiring minimal attention until next spring. Our rhodos, in general, have put on tremendous new growth this year; unfortunately, the weevils have taken advantage of this new greenery on many of the plants.

Our club's financial report, shared at the last executive meeting, has shown good revenue from the raffle, door prize, and bargain table. Thank you Anne, Val, and Reinhold for your efforts. We depend on having members donate plants and garden related items for our regular meetings, Christmas party auction and show & sale table. Please help our organization continue its success by donating items.

Regrettably, we have decided not to attend the two conferences, Newport and Dartmouth, this fall; they have listed some excellent speakers and tours. However, we are looking forward to the presentation about Meerkerk Gardens, as we have visited the garden during one of our Washington State conferences.

See you at the meeting.
Art



EXECUTIVE

President	Art Lightburn	468-7516
Vice President	John Deniseger	778 424-3605
Secretary	Ann Beamish	758-2574
Treasurer	Krystyna Sosulski	729-0948
Directors	Craig Clarke	390-4090
	Susan Lightburn	468-7516
	Dorothee Kieser	390-4136
	Ray Lauzier	756-2927
	Bryan Jubinville	956-6178
	Gaylle McRae	758-7589

COMMITTEES

Advertising	Bryan Jubinville	
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Membership	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Program	Ray Lauzier	756-2927
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey	
Social	Susan Lightburn	468-7516
Bargain Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533
Website	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Sunshine	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Awards	Craig Clarke, Chris Southwick, John Deniseger, Gaylle McRae	

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

NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10 BEBAN PARK SOCIAL CENTRE 7:30 pm

**SUSIE REYNOLDS
"Meerkerk Gardens"**

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

TWIGS and STEMs



GOODIES FOR OCTOBER MEETING

Anne Tennant

Mary Jane Derksen

Glenda Barr

Thanks to all those who contributed the terrific finger food dishes, making our September meeting memorable.

Please sign up to bring goodies to one of the meetings, if you haven't already done so.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Remember, membership fees are due!

Family \$45

Individual \$40

Associate \$10

COFFEE GROUNDS

Van Veen Nursery in Portland, Oregon, reported after using coffee grinds from Starbucks Coffee House for about 18 months that they were very satisfied with the results.

- 1) It helps to aerate their clay soil.
- 2) Slugs don't like to go through. (So you can see we have both mixed in and put on top.)
- 3) It does help to make the soil more acidic.
- 4) But it does not replace fertilizer.



They suspect that by making the soil more acidic you are actually helping the uptake of magnesium. This in turn helps iron uptake and that helps to make the plant green. So really you are starting a process, not fertilizing. Combine the coffee with horse manure and

organic mulch, and watch the amount of fertilizer you use decrease dramatically. As for how we apply it, when the plant is dry and just before it rains we sprinkle it on and around. The rain takes it from there. Otherwise, we incorporate it into the new beds. No exact rate, just cover the top and work it in.

Courtesy of Vicki at Van Veen Nursery

Have fun with your fall garden clean up.

NEW ARS E-JOURNAL



Instructions for accessing the e-journal:

1. Go to the ARS Office website: www.arsoffice.org
2. Click on "View Journal American Rhododendron Society online edition"
3. If you already have a username and password, click on "login" and fill them in.

If you do not have a username and password, click on "Register Now" and follow instructions for obtaining them to gain access.

Note from the President:

I have tried this procedure myself. To register you will need a username, a password (**you will choose your own username & password**), and your **membership number**. Your membership number is to be found on the front (white) protective cover of the mailed ARS Journal. As well, the member's numbers can be accessed through Art & Susan Lightburn and Krystyna Sosulski.

OUR OCTOBER SPEAKER

The October guest speaker is Susan (Susie) Reynolds from Whidbey Island WA. Susie is the manager of Meerkerk Gardens on Whidbey Island NW of Seattle. This fabulous garden was founded by Ann and Max Meerkerk in the early 1960's, starting with 13 acres, and later adding another 40 acres. It was left to the Seattle Rhododendron Society to care for as a "peaceful woodland garden with an emphasis on rhododendrons and companion plants". This will be a very interesting and colourful presentation on one the most well-known rhodo gardens in the Pacific Northwest. This is one meeting that is well worth attending.

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

September 12, 2013 General Meeting Minutes

6:30 Welcome – President Art Lightburn welcomed members back from the summer and all enjoyed a delicious potluck supper and mingling, catching up.

7:15 Business Meeting

BRONZE MEDAL presentation was made to Gerry Moore for his contribution to the Society, particularly for his work on the ARS Western Region Conference September 2012.

New Directors and Officers were as stated in the September newsletter with the addition of Sandra Dorman taking over Membership and Gayle McRae as Director.

Motion to change fiscal year. – It was moved by Ann Beamish and seconded by Michael Miller that the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society change their fiscal year to September 1 to August 31 to starting September 1, 2013. **CARRIED**
Ann Beamish will file the necessary papers with BCRegistry Services.

JARS Questionnaire – Art Lightburn circulated a questionnaire relating to the use of the new ARS ejournal. General discussion indicated that difficulties in access were limiting the use of the ejournal. Craig Clarke advised that it was in the very early stages of consideration.



Gerry Moore (left) receives the Bronze Medal from Art Lightburn

COMMITTEE DIRECTORS REPORTS

Secretary Ann Beamish read correspondence from ARS thanking us for our additional donation with our donation totaling \$988.18. Ann Beamish pointed out that in the current ARS journal among those listed ours was the highest. Also received correspondence from the Rhododendron Species Foundation thanking us for our membership.

Library Ann Beamish advised that NRS does not have a process nor funds budgeted to obtain books for the library. She thanked those who have donated books. She will contact other societies to determine how they manage this issue.

Treasurer Krystyna Sosulski reported that the balance is \$15,090.85

Membership Sandra Dorman reported that she has agreed to take over membership. She reminded everyone that dues were in fact due and must be in by end of November in order to receive the ARS journal. She encouraged prompt attention to this so she can remit the funds to the ARS promptly. **Family** \$45, **Single** \$40, and **Associate** \$10 but must be a paid up member of another club.

Sunshine Sandra Dorman reported she had sent a card to Liz Higgins whose husband had died.

Advertising and Promotion Bryan Jubinville reported that the club will approach the City of Nanaimo to request that one week in May annually be proclaimed Rhododendron Week. He suggested that the club create and paint a banner for the city in the banner display next year.

Web Page Craig Clarke requested that if anyone is having any issues/problems with the website to please contact him. The Species Foundation Catalogue is on line with delivery for the end of October to UBC. UBC has their Magnolia listings there also.

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

- Discussions:**
- John sign-up on Nursery Crawl
 - possible garden tour (May)
 - plants, etc., for Christmas Auction & Show & Sale

Social Susan Lightburn thanked everyone for bringing the food and distributed the sign up book for snacks for the next year.

Program

Following a short break and the Door Prize Draw and Raffle, Ray Lauzier introduced the speaker for the evening, Jeff DeJong, manager of the Victoria Abkhazi Gardens. Jeff presented a PowerPoint on plant bulbs that he recommends and showed them in situation. A good presentation with much interest and questions following.

Meeting Adjournment 9:15

First Ever Comox Valley Nursery Crawl

Saturday, October 12th, 2013



The fall is a great time to plant more Rhododendrons, companion plants, bulbs, maples etc.... This year, we're going to try something different: *A NURSERY CRAWL*. We'll explore some great "off the beaten path" plant nurseries and special places in the Comox Valley, including a stop for lunch at a local restaurant. Should be fun!

We'll meet at the Woodgrove Mall parking lot (near Chapters) at 8:30. From there we'll car pool (no bus).

Cost: share the cost of gas (cover your own lunch cost)

Sign up at our October meeting or call John to sign up at 778 424 360

SEEN IN PASSING

- A large Fir branch turning my *R. orbiculare* into rubble
- Four NRS members meeting a Hailey Rhododendron Grove at Bowen Park, Nanaimo
- Our trimmed photinia putting on its 3rd colourful new growth this year

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

October Raffle Plants

R. 'Seaview Sunset'

This early bloomer has vivid, reddish-orange buds, open to light yellow flowers with a broad band of reddish-orange, and mature pure gold. Absolutely stunning against outstanding slightly glossy, dark green foliage.



R. 'Bob's Blue'

'Ilam Violet' X 'Blue Diamond'

Talk about electric blue! This is it! Introduced by Bob Rhodes from Vancouver, British Columbia, this is a good addition to the world of blue rhododendrons. It is a lepidote type rhododendron and has small, deep green leaves that turn bronze in the winter. Flowering extremely well.



R. pachysanthum

R. pachysanthum is a medium-sized shrub with narrowly oblong leaves to 9 cm in length, at first whitish, later dark green above, reddish brown tomentose beneath. Bell-shaped, red-spotted pale pink flowers in dense trusses.



R. fletcherianum

Compact habit when young, slowly reaching about 1m in height. Flowers 4-5 cm across, open funnel-shaped, pale yellow in clusters of two to five. China; south eastern Tibet, in high forests and alpine slopes.



NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

GREEN TOMATO BREAD

2 cups finely diced green tomatoes
2 cups white sugar
1 ½ cups chopped walnuts
1 cup canola oil
2 eggs

1 tablespoon vanilla extract
1 teaspoon salt
3 cups all-purpose flour
1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon baking soda
¼ teaspoon baking powder

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease and flour two 9x5-inch loaf pans.
 2. Mix tomatoes, sugar, walnuts, canola oil, eggs, vanilla extract, and salt together in a large bowl until well blended. Mix flour, cinnamon, baking soda, and baking powder together in a separate bowl; stir into egg mixture until just blended. Spoon batter into prepared loaf pans.
 3. Bake in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted in the middle of each loaf comes out clean, about 1 hour. Let cool in the pans for about 10 minutes before transferring loaves to wire racks to cool completely.
- Recipe submitted by Ann Beamish*
-

Getting to know each other....

By June Bouchard

This month, we have the pleasure of introducing Krystyna Sosulski. Krystyna joined the NRS about a year ago and has already stepped in as our treasurer. Thank you Krystyna for being part of our club!

1. How long have you been growing rhododendrons?

I started growing rhododendrons immediately after moving to the island from Saskatchewan in 2004. Our first house was in Sooke and I planted a variety of rhododendrons purchased from local stores and nurseries. Not knowing much about the plants, some of my early purchases carried a proud and descriptive name 'rhododendron hybrid'.

2. How long have you lived on Vancouver Island?

I have been in Nanaimo for almost 8 years and the city has become a second home for me in Canada.

3. Describe your best day in the garden. ☺

This will be a day I don't need to do anything but enjoy the variety of colours, shades of green and textures. Although my house is on a small lot in a new subdivision, I need to trim everything to size generating over 100L of compostables a week!

4. What other interests do you have?

I love to travel, read books and lunch with friends. I prefer to read non-fiction, but as I belong to two book clubs I read mainly fiction and mysteries. During the summer, I enjoy visiting gardens, while in winter I take a course or two from the Elder College or on line.

5. Do you have a favorite rhododendron?

My prized possession is Black Widow but I am also very impressed with the fluorescent colours of Seaview Sunset.

6. What do you like about the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society?

In addition to a friendly group of rhodo enthusiasts, I enjoy informative and high quality talks.

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

RHODOS WORTH GROWING



Cinnamon Bear

Cecil Smith was a "leaf turner" and loved the fine indumentum of *R. yakushimanum* and *R. bureavii*. He combined these two species and produced *R. 'Cinnamon Bear'*

Flower: White bell-shaped blooms, about 20 per truss.

Height after ten years: two feet. Habit: Compact. Leaves: New growth has white cast; at maturity, a heavy cinnamon-brown indumentum. Hardy to 0°F.

FRESH AND SPICY SQUASH SOUP

2 tbsp (30 mL) vegetable oil
2 onions, chopped
1 clove garlic, chopped
1 celery stalk, chopped
1/4 cup (60 mL) minced gingerroot
1/4 cup (60 mL) chopped fresh coriander
2 tsp (10 mL) ground coriander seeds
1 tsp (5 mL) ground cumin
1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt
1/2 tsp (2 mL) pepper
1/4 tsp (1 mL) grated lemon rind
1/4 tsp (1 mL) turmeric
1/4 tsp (1 mL) hot pepper flakes
8 cups (2 L) cubed, peeled butternut squashes, about 3lb
1 tomato, chopped
4 cups (1 L) chicken stock or vegetable stock
1 400 mL can coconut milk

1/2 cup (125 mL) fresh coriander leaves

PREPARATION

IN LARGE HEAVY SAUCEPAN OR DUTCH OVEN, HEAT OIL OVER MEDIUM HEAT; COOK ONIONS, GARLIC, CELERY, GINGER, FRESH AND GROUND CORIANDER, CUMIN, SALT, PEPPER, LEMON RIND, TURMERIC AND HOT PEPPER FLAKES, STIRRING UNTIL AROMATIC AND ONIONS ARE SOFTENED, 5 TO 8 MINUTES.

STIR IN SQUASH AND TOMATO; POUR IN STOCK AND BRING TO BOIL. REDUCE HEAT TO LOW; COVER AND SIMMER UNTIL SQUASH IS TENDER, ABOUT 20 MINUTES. IN BLENDER OR FOOD PROCESSOR, PUREE SOUP, IN BATCHES, UNTIL SMOOTH. RETURN TO CLEAN SAUCEPAN; REHEAT UNTIL STEAMING. STIR IN COCONUT MILK; HEAT THROUGH. SERVE SPRINKLED WITH CORIANDER LEAVES.



NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Choosing Rhododendrons Foliage

Rhododendrons with Outstanding foliage:

Bear in mind that for 11 months of the year you have only the leaves to enjoy. Happily many rhododendrons have outstanding foliage and Glendoick have specialised in raising plants with outstanding foliage effects. Many varieties have coloured young growth which can be as spectacular as flowering. Many have a covering of silvery or brown hairs on the leaves known as indumentums, which can give a long-lasting attractive effect.

Outstanding foliage: leaf shape:

Graziela, roxieanum, makinoi, (narrow leaves), orbiculare, williamsianum (rounded or oval leaves)

Outstanding foliage: coloured leaves:

Everred (red leaves) Wine and Roses (red leaves), Ramapo, fastigiatum, Intrifast (blue leaves), pachysanthum, Viking Silver (silvery leaves)
Variegation: 'Molten Gold', 'Red and Gold'.

Outstanding foliage: indumentum:

bureavii, pachysanthum, rex, Ken Janeck, falconeri ssp. eximeum, yakushimanum.

Outstanding foliage, large leaves:

sinogrande, macabeanum, falconeri, calophytum, hemsleyanum.

Evergreen Azaleas

With fine dark red winter foliage: Marachino, Marushka, Glendoick Goblin.

Deciduous azaleas

with coloured foliage/young growth: Baltic Amber (blue-grey), Fireball, Klondyke (red-bronze young growth)



from Glendoick.com

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Ask an Expert...

Problem:

Many rhododendrons that have come through past summers unscathed are showing signs of leaf burn this year. Why is that and what should be done?

Advice from MARS member Joan Rich:

Broadleaf evergreens – such as rhododendrons - are constantly losing water to the air. They need to have water replaced through their roots all year round. This summer, during the month of July, there was no rainfall whatsoever combined with above average hours of sunshine. August also had many hot sunny days. Some rhododendrons may have suffered from drought while in active growth or the foliage was in soft growth.



Marginal leaf necrosis occurred on some susceptible plants, showing up as brown or burned leaves from the tips and/or edges toward the middle of the leaf. (Late application of excess inorganic fertilizer which has not been adequately watered in can cause the same symptoms.) Also, heat and sun scald symptoms can develop rapidly during a hot spell with intense sunlight. In this case brown blotches of varying degrees appear mostly on the central portions of the top leaves, usually on the south and southwest side of the plant.

Treatment:

Adequate soil moisture!

Often irrigation in summer only penetrates the top 3 or 4 inches of soil. Dig around the plant to discover whether the water has penetrated further down to the feeder roots. Water the ground heavily in November to prevent drying out in winter. Then water again during the weeks of heat and drought that will likely occur again next summer. Frequent surface waterings give the impression the soil is wet enough. But what is really needed is adequate water with an occasional soaking in the zone where the roots are most numerous. After non-evergreen leaf drop in the fall, mulch your rhododendrons to insulate them from temperature

changes and to reduce the depth at which freezing takes place. Leave the mulch in place for the summer. If using an inorganic fertilizer next year, occasionally irrigate heavily to leach out excessive salts.

Provide a temporary sunshade to susceptible plants next year if necessary. In the middle of the hottest days turn a sprinkler on the plant. This may help temporarily. Some of the damaged leaves will fall off during annual senescence. Otherwise, just leave well enough alone for the time being.



Joan Rich

Reprinted from MARS Rhodovine, October 2013