



October 2015

President's Message

There was a great deal of excitement at my place on Sunday afternoon, September 20th. With the windstorm that blew up early that afternoon I had a huge Douglas Fir topple over onto my back garden! (*see photo p. 5 – ed*) Fortunately, the tree didn't come close to the house and only one plant was completely demolished an interesting and unnamed Triflora species. I missed my Magnolia "Galaxy" by about 30 cm, the lovely pine that I won at our 2012 Fall Conference by about 10 cm, and my prized R. Wanna Bee only lost a few branches. I was worried about R. Royston Red and R. Mary Greig, but both were unscathed. Fortunately my neighbour came to the rescue and removed the trunk and some of the larger branches. I called up our local rhodo propagation expert, Reinhold Gorgosilich and he came and gave me another lesson in how to take cuttings and try and propagate some of the damaged rhodos. Sure is a good way to renovate and thin out a garden bed!!

We are indeed very fortunate to be able to draw on the talents of our own members and friends. That sentiment also includes our upcoming program for the October meeting. I'm really looking forward to Terry Richmond and Allan Murray's expertise in teaching us to cope more effectively with our long dry and hot summers. Bring your friends as I'm sure the information and advice will be exceptional.

Chris

EXECUTIVE

President	Chris Southwick	390-3415
Vice President	Brenda Lewis	751-3639
Secretary	Ann Beamish	758-2574
Treasurer	Krystyna Sosulski	729-0948
Directors	Glenda Barr	390-2822
	Craig Clarke	390-4090
	Susan Lightburn	468-7516
	Dorothee Kieser	390-4136
	Gaylle McRae	758-7589
	Art Lightburn	468-7516
	Sandra Dorman	390-0136

COMMITTEES

Advertising	Jan Moles	
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	585-2706
Membership	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Program	Art Lightburn	468-7516
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey	
Social	Susan Lightburn	468-7516
Bargain Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533
Website	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Sunshine	Edith Higgins	390-9340
Bus Tour	John Deniseger & June Bouchard	
Truss Show	Doug Blenkarn	
Spring Sale	Ann Beamish	

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society
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Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4
Website: nanaimo.rhodos.ca
email: nanaimo@rhodos.ca

Next Meeting

Thursday October 8, 7:30 pm Beban Park Social
Centre

Terry Richmond and Allan Murray

Twigs and Stems



Goodies for October Meeting

Chris Southwick
Glenda Barr
Mary Jane Derksen

**DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
MASTER GARDENER COURSES**

Registration deadlines:

Nov 15 intake – deadline Nov 2

Feb 1 intake – deadline Jan 15

Tuition per course is \$360 including the Distance
Education Fee

Program and Course information and the
Registration Form can be found at

<http://www.dal.ca/faculty/agriculture/extended->

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Calendar

Our regular monthly meetings normally begin at 7:30 pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month at Beban Park Social Centre. Executive meetings begin at 2:00 pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month. Occasionally the dates change due to events at Beban Park Social Centre or if we share an exceptional speaker with another chapter. Here is the annual calendar for your information:

Oct. 8	Monthly meeting
Oct. 15	Executive meeting – at Brenda's
Nov. 12	Monthly meeting
Nov. 19	Executive meeting – Gaylle and Allen's
Dec. 10	Christmas Potluck and Auction – 6:30 start
Jan. 14	Monthly meeting
Jan. 21	Executive meeting – Glenda's
Feb. 11	Monthly meeting
Feb. 18	Executive meeting – Craig and Joyce's
March 10	Monthly meeting
March 17	Executive meeting – Sandra's
April 14	Monthly meeting
April 21	Executive meeting – Krystyna's
May 12	Monthly meeting
May 19	Executive meeting – TBD
June 11	Saturday - Possible date for the year-end wind up party

Our October Speakers Terry Richmond and Al Murray

Two well-known gardeners and rhododendron growers, Terry Richmond (Port Alberni) and Al Murray (Cobble Hill) will discuss strategies to successfully grow rhododendrons through the seemingly dryer and hotter growing seasons on Vancouver Island. Questions about soils, locations, mulch, watering, etc. will be welcomed.



SEEN IN PASSING...

Large, bold-faced Hornet's nest, eye level in our Summer Snowflake Viburnum



Rugosa Robusta blooming all summer and into the fall



Art and Susan Lightburn

October Raffle Plants



Rhododendron pachysanthum

(HY, hy, Maculifera) 30", -20°C, EM-M, 3-4/5. Very beautiful foliage! The leaves are smooth on top, with mature foliage displaying a thick covering of whitish tan indumentum underneath. This plant is similar to *R. pseudochrysanthum*, and is probably of equal hardiness. It shows all indications of being the *R. yakushmanum* of the future, possessing the best features of both *R. pseudochrysanthum* and *R. yakushmanum*. It also retains the lovely silvery tomentum on the leaf tops longer than *R. pseudochrysanthum*. Wide, bell shaped flowers are light pink to white, heavily spotted, and are set in trusses of 10-20 flowers



Champagne Lace

(Glenna x Janet Blair) Hybrid rhododendrons are being created all the time, with different characteristics. In fact, renowned American grower Jim Barlup created a new variety just for the ARS Sidney convention 2015, known as Champagne Lace. "Honest to God, it looks like a bottle of bubbly. Just fantastic," said Peter Lewis.

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society General Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2015 7:00 pm

Minutes taken and prepared by Chris Southwick

1. Following a delicious pot luck dinner, President **Chris Southwick** welcomed everyone and thanked the newly elected or re-appointed executive: **Art Lightburn** – Past President, Vice President – **Brenda Lewis**, Treasurer - **Krystyna Sosulski**, Secretary – **Ann Beamish**
Members at large: **Craig Clark, Glenda Barr, Sandra Dorman, Susan Lightburn, Gayle McRae.**
2. Chris thanked **Dick Beamish** for bringing in some trusses and plants in bloom to help decorate the tables. One unusual display was of *Lagerstroemia* – or Crepe Myrtle. **Dick and Ann** have three of these small trees in their garden. He brought examples of two of them, a clear pink and a darker purple variety. He says this is their best showing – another indication of the heat we've had this summer.
3. President's report:
 - Condolences to **Jane Lauzier** regarding **Ray's** recent passing. His funeral will be held on Saturday, Sept. 12 at 1:30 at the Trinity Catholic Church on Spartan Road off Metral Drive. A card was circulated and the NRS will send a donation to the Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools' Foundation on Ray's behalf.
 - Chris attended the District 1 meeting on our behalf – some recommendations going through to ARS executive (please see District 1 Director's report)
 - Some items were circulated for club members' input:
 - a) Orders for two locally published books: - **Ian Efford's** Public Rhododendron Gardens of Vancouver Island (\$20) and **Judith Walker's** "A Garden for Life – Story of Mary Greig" (\$25)
 - b) Survey regarding JARS – digital or not/ or no journal at all? Would like this information to pass along to our District 1 Director, **Ken Webb**. Fifteen of those members present signed the survey to say they would prefer an on-line version. This survey will be presented at the October meeting and will also include a list for those who would prefer to keep the printed/hard copy. No one surveyed signed to get rid of JARS altogether.
 - c) Need club members to organize or help with the following tasks:
 1. Computer set up at meetings. Still need someone to help with this.....
 2. Garden tour – Art has volunteered to be part of this initiative – needs some other key folks to be part of this committee – **Thank you, Gayle McRae!** (Could use at least one more member to help with this.)
 3. Member's Garden tour – organizer needed, Thank you, **Rosina Schmidt!**
 4. Bowen Park initiative - keener's needed for this, too. Thank you **Sandra Millen and Yvonne Harding!**
 - Membership – must pay before November 30th or have to pay an extra \$10. Early bird gets the worm.... Memberships are \$40 single, \$45 couple, and \$10 for associate membership. Please see **Sandra Dorman** (membership) ASAP!
4. Treasurer's report – **Krystyna** prepared and presented the balance sheet and asked for any questions. None were asked. Thank you, **Krystyna**. (See attached.)
5. Program/Milner: - Art Lightburn.
The evening's presentation was given by Bob **Zimmerman** a well-known collector and propagator of species rhododendrons. Bob and his wife Beth own the Chimacum Woods Nursery near Port Ludlow, Washington, on the Olympic peninsula. His program was titled, "The Siren Song of the Species Rhododendron". Many excellent photographs of species rhododendrons foliage were shown along with exciting shots of Bob's many trips to the Himalayas. He included information about some of the local tribes' people and their culture as well as some information about the current political situation and the ecological impact on the region. It was a most interesting presentation. Bob's beautiful plants are grown on from seed collected in the wilds of Tibet and China (amongst others). He had taken orders for plants and delivered them to purchasers in the north island, MARS and NRS clubs. Thank you, Bob.

Next month's topic is being prepared by Terry Richmond and Allan Murray. They will be discussing and presenting on what to do in our gardens to respond to climate change – heat and drought. It will prove to be both educational and interesting.

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

The Milner Garden Species project is forging ahead. Twenty thousand dollars has been contributed to help get the project on its way. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Milner Garden and Woodland, Vancouver Island University and all of the five Vancouver Island Rhododendron Societies. A work part was held over the summer to begin clearing and this fall we are hoping that the identified trees that need to be removed will be gone, according to the detailed Landscape Plan created by Jim Cadwaladr, Landscape Architect and former director of Milner Garden and Woodland with input from the Milner Rhododendron Species Garden Committee.

6. The “**Goody**” Book was circulated – asking members to sign up to bring treats for our monthly meetings. It is not yet full!

Lagerstroemia / leɪɡərˈstriːmiə/^[1] commonly known as **crape myrtle** or **crepe myrtle**, is a genus of around 50 species of deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs native to the Indian subcontinent, southeast Asia, northern Australia and parts of Oceania, cultivated in warmer climates around the world. It is a member of the family Lythraceae, which are also known as the loosestrife family. The genus is named after the Swedish merchant Magnus von Lagerström, who supplied Carl Linnaeus with plants he collected. These flowering trees are beautifully colored and are often planted both privately and commercially as ornamentals. (source: Wikipedia)



Chris's calamity

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

District 1 Director's Report, October 16, 2015, Islandia, Long Island

Well it's been a long hot summer here in BC and we have mostly been sitting back and enjoying the weather and gloating about our successful Convention in Sidney last May. The Convention turned out to be a really good thing for District 1, as it tended to pull us all together tighter than we already were. All the chapters are doing well financially and most are reporting new members, some quite substantially. With so many chapters in the same area, it becomes a hard job to try and coordinate summer picnics and garden tours etc. There just aren't enough days around that time of year.

We have formed a committee to decide some criteria for the use of the money we made at the Convention. We hope to keep it as a District 1 Fund and let the chapters draw off it to do local work projects that fulfill the ideal of the society to promote the enjoyment and appreciation of rhododendrons everywhere.

We've been working on the Milner Gardens and Woodland Species Project as a group from Vancouver Island. These 5 chapters have donated \$20,000 towards the development of a Species Garden there. There is now a signed Memoranda of Agreement with Milner and the Vancouver Island University and District 1 as participants. Garden development plans have been drawn and a cleanup party was organized and the land clearing and logging is soon to start now.

The bonding that happened through the Convention has seemed to bring out some strong ideas about what we in District 1 want and expect from the ARS. We are all sure that we want the ARS to survive and develop into a much more inclusive organization than it is today. We want the ARS to be financially stable and able to redevelop and revitalize itself and offer more things such as scholarships, bequests or outreach programs etc. All these could be possible, if we are able to get our operating cost under control. We want the membership to feel that they are lucky to belong to the ARS. We want the ARS to be a world recognized doer of good works and beautiful flowers.

In order to do this, we will positively have to get our operating costs down to a more reasonable level. The reorganization of the front office administration is just the tip of the iceberg. We appreciate all the work Dave Banks and Sam Burd are doing to cut workload and costs of administration and we are anxious to see where it will all settle out.

Some members would like to see some kind of relief for the fluctuating dollar. They feel that if Canadian contractors were paid in Canadian Dollars, as our dollar fluctuates downwards, the savings could be used to offset the rising cost of memberships in Canada. Perhaps, with any new contracts, this could be considered.

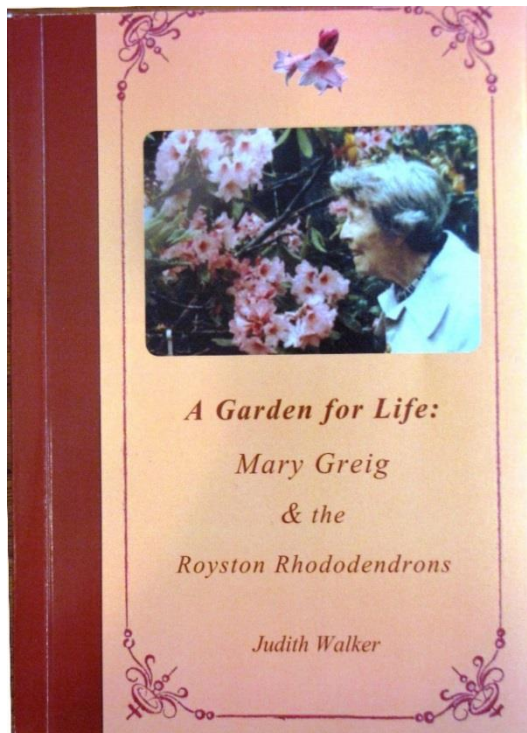
There is a strong feeling about switching to the Digital JARS. Many think that we are one of the last who publish such a deluxe journal. We need to more or less force the issue by giving a membership cost break to those who choose digital or making the digital version so much more deluxe that everyone would choose that option. In reality, we have had an Electronic Membership for several years now, but we still don't have a cost for that membership. Several members say that even though they have checked the digital JARS box on their membership renewal, they still keep getting the printed copy too. Some think that it would be smart to separate the cost of membership from the cost of either digital publications or printed JARS. Say \$20 for membership, plus \$15 for digital JARS, or plus \$30 for printed JARS. This way we would have an option for membership for a much broader range of members. This way, Canadians and others too, would be able to choose a level of membership that would fit into their budget, or level of gardening or politics and still belong to the ARS.

These are just a few suggestions to try and make the membership have more faith and feel like they are getting more value out of their ARS Membership. I'm sure that we in District 1, will come up with a lot more yet. We have some passionate rhododendron gardeners here and we don't want to lose the connection to a worldwide rhododendron organization like the ARS. But we want the ARS to listen to these and other suggestions from other chapters and do something constructive to stop the slide of our membership. Bob Weissman constantly quotes us statistics that show we attract many new members every year, but we still keep losing numbers. So, obviously, what we are doing isn't working. First, the budget under control, then some other modern things like Facebook or a phone app. Something that younger thinking members would use. No one uses the phone book anymore. Newspapers are dying out. The world is changing all around us and only those who keep up will end up surviving. But Rhododendrons are Forever, I hope.

Thanks, ***Ken Webb Director, District 1***

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Here is a book review of Judith Walker's "A Garden for Life". The review is written by Margaret Hodgson, member of the Fraser South Rhododendron Society. Margaret has written many reviews which can be found at the Fraser South website and which have been published in their newsletter, the YAK. Check it out at: <http://frasersouthrhodos.ca/> In the Library section there is also a complete list of the books and under Library, Books by Title, it has Margaret's name beside any for which she has written a review. Thank you Margaret for sharing this review.



Book Reviews (Margaret Hodgson)

A Garden for Life: Mary Greig & the Royston Rhododendrons by Judith Walker, MBCSLA, RPP. Edited by Clive L. Justice, PhD (SFU) FCSLA Gold Medal ARS. 164 pages, 103 photographs and documents, nineteen chapters, plus Editor's Preface, Acknowledgements and Index. Softcover. Copyright 2015 by Judith Walker, and BC Bigleaf Maple Books, Vancouver, BC. ISBN 978-0-9920461-3-2 \$30.00 CDN

Judith Walker, MBCSLA, RPP, as noted on the inside front cover, was born in Vancouver, BC, and educated at the University of British Columbia and the University of Washington. She works as a landscape architect and planner in both private and public practice. Through her gardening experiences, she met Mary Greig, the main focus of this book and has skillfully captured the story of Mary Greig and her husband, Ted. With the assistance of many people, she has compiled an enjoyable story of their life together, their experiences of moving to Canada, their venturing into the nursery business (Royston Nursery), their family, their wide circle of friends, and Mary's dedicated labour involved in the successful

propagation of the Royston Rhododendrons.

The editor, Dr. Clive Justice, mentioned at the beginning of the book that the Rhododendron Species Foundation had published excerpts from the manuscript, starting in 2015 under the title of **Mary Greig and the Royston Rhododendrons** by Judith Walker, p. 123 of Rhododendron Species, Vol 10, 2015. The Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Newsletter of April, 2006, also included a very interesting article titled **Dracula and Rhododendrons** in which Alan Campbell described the Greek and Roman Legends related to "luteum honey- induced stupor" which afflicted both armies. The article continues to relate some local "urban legends" of people in the area which were directly connected to the author of Dracula. More facts are supplied about well- known rhodoholics – the Stokers, the Buchan Simpsons, and finishes the article with a short paragraph about Ted and Mary Greig.

The book includes nineteen chapters in which the author describes the first meeting with Mary Greig and how she began working with Mary in her gardening tasks. The writing style is relaxed and the author had added much interest by including direct quotes from Mary Greig which are all in bold type. An entire lifetime is described chronologically with Mary, her mother and siblings arriving from England in 1911. Her father had arrived in Canada some months ahead of the family. The story continues – Ted's arrival in 1919, meeting the Simpsons, starting the Royston Nursery, the years of work there, Ted's failing health and the closing of the nursery and the connection with Alleyne Cook to start the transfer of the rhododendrons to Vancouver. The very useful Index is arranged in two major sections by **People** and **Plants**, the latter of which includes all the names of various plants mentioned in the book, but even more to the heart of the matter, a very good list of all the rhododendrons mentioned in this very readable book. This is a new book in our library, as of September, 2015.



R barbatum



R thompsonii

Zucchini Dill Salad

4 c. prepared zucchini
Salt
1 c. yogurt
½ c. sour cream (I used only yogurt and less than 1 ½ cup total)
4 tbsp. minced fresh dill
2 tbsp. lemon juice
2 tsp. tarragon leaves, finely chopped
3 finally minced shallot (I used garlic)
Pepper to taste
(I added chopped red and yellow peppers for colour)

To prepare zucchini, scoop out center pulp and seeds and slice thinly – peel if skin is tough but not necessary if using small zucchini with tender peel. Sprinkle with salt and drain in colander for at least ½ hour. Pat slices dry with paper towels (I squeezed them about one cup at a time, using new paper towels for each batch). Combine rest of ingredients and stir into zucchini slices; chill for several hours. Serve on sliced tomatoes and lettuce leaves.

June Bouchard



R 'Triploid Vulcan'

THOSE GLORIOUS REDS

Photos by Susan Lightburn

R 'Red Olympia'

