

The Rhodomentum



Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Newsletter

October 2019



Hi everyone!

A great big thank you for all those yummy potluck goodies and a warm welcome to the new Executive team!

It was great that we finally had a few days of good rain to enrich our gardens with free nitrogen taken from the air, which the rain washed into the soil as well as the carbonic acid, which forms carbon dioxide, the building block of growing plants. It's not the same thing as the water from the sprinklers. Remember the saying: "A rainy May brings a good load of hay"?

But May is now behind us, and late September is the best time to propagate rhododendrons. I am delighted to report that our first propagation session was on the 23rd of September at 1 p. m. at the VIU's Payne Centre Greenhouses at 2324 East Wellington Street in Nanaimo. We will be propagating on a weekly basis during the Fall months, so join us whenever you can.

Currently the Executive Team is investigating having a table at the Master Gardener's show to make our club better known to the larger public. More information will follow.

Happy gardening!
Rosina

***The Propagation team needs all your empty 4", 5" and 1-gallon pots. Please bring them to the next meeting. ***

EXECUTIVE

President	Rosina Schmidt	751-3386
Vice President	Chris Southwick	390-3415
Past President	Allen McRae	758-7589
Secretary	Jan Moles	758-2574
Treasurer	Liz Higgins	390-9340
Directors	Bryan Jubinville	956-6178
	Art Lightburn	468-7516
	Susan Lightburn	468-7516
	Gayle McRae	758 7589
	Don Noakes	778 441-4783
	Ron Sutton	905 331 5527

COMMITTEES:

Advertising	Allen McRae
Library	Ann Beamish / Sandra Dorman
Newsletter	June Bouchard / John Deniseger
Membership	Krystyna Sosulski
Program	Committee
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey
Social	Deborah Francis
Bargain Table	Reinhold Gorgosolich/Don Noakes
Website	Craig Clarke
Bus Tour	David & Joyce Mitchell
Sunshine	Ann Beamish
Propagation Group	Ron Sutton

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society
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Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4
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email: rhodomentum@nanaimorhododendron.ca

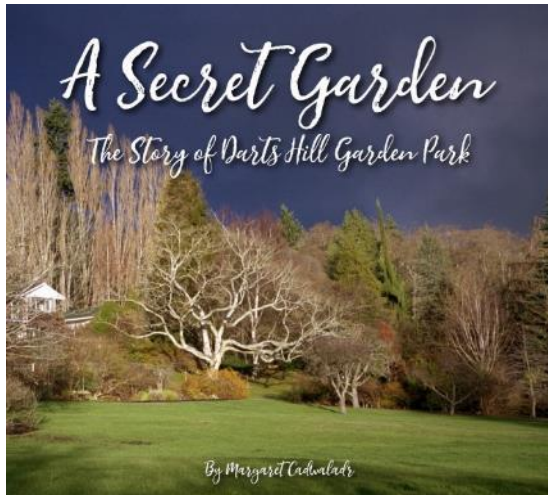
Next meeting: Thursday, October 10th, at 7:30

Beban Park Social Center

Margaret Cadwaladr: "A Secret Garden -The Story of the Darts Hill Garden Park".

October program: Margaret Cadwaladr – A Secret Garden: The Story of the Darts Hill Garden Park - a project she took on as a volunteer.

Margaret has authored several books including *In Veronica's Garden: The Social History of the Milner Gardens and Woodland*. A new, expanded edition of the Canadian best-seller was published in 2018. A graduate of UBC (Dip. Adult Ed, MA), Margaret's interests include garden history, life writing and memoir. Margaret lives in Langley with her husband Jim.



The Story of Darts Hill Garden Park

Darts Hill Garden is the result of over 70 years of work and dedication guided by the vision of Francisca Darts. Along with her husband Edwin, Francisca took a logged piece of land, turned it first into an award-winning orchard and then into the unique garden that is Darts Hill today. Her curiosity and love of the new and interesting has resulted in one of the most diverse collections of mature tree and shrub species in the Pacific Northwest. She became one of the most knowledgeable garden experts in western Canada. In 1994, Edwin and Francisca Darts donated their 7.5-acre garden to the City of Surrey. Their intention was to give Surrey its own garden, as a

horticultural center. Today, the non-profit Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society works in partnership with the City of Surrey.

"This much anticipated history of Darts Hill Garden by Margaret Cadwaladr is well told and beautifully illustrated. Beyond describing Francisca Darts' amazing horticultural journey, Cadwaladr brings to the page a fascinating cast of local characters and a lucid, evocative record of the times. It is a delightful tribute to Francisca and her wonderful garden." Douglas Justice (Associate Director, Horticulture & Collections, UBC Botanical Garden)

Need a ride to one of our meetings?



Call Chris at 250-390-3415 or 250-616-2742 (cell)

or send her an email at csouthwick@shaw.ca

Twigs and Stems

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Milner Gardens and Woodland: Open Thursday to Sunday daily 10:00 am to 5:00 pm (last entry at 4:30) from September 5th to October 13th, plus Sunday October 20th and 27th 11:00 am to 3:30 pm (last entry at 3:00). Check their website for other events and details.

<https://www2.viu.ca/milnergardens/events.asp>

Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society: Margaret Cadwaladr: **A Secret Garden – The Story of the Darts Hill Garden Park.** Qualicum Beach Community Center, October 9th; 7:30 pm.

North Island Rhododendron Society: United Church in Comox, 7:30 pm, October 8th: **Margaret Cadwaladr: A Secret Garden – The Story of the Darts Hill Garden Park**

Eaglecrest Garden Club: Wednesday, October 16th; at 7:00; Qualicum Beach Civic Center; **Colin Bartlett, “Getting Your Garden Ready for Birds”**. Fall is a great time to enjoy the many birds in your backyard....

Nanaimo Horticultural Society: First United Fellowship Church, 595 Townsite Rd; Wednesday, October 9th, at 7:30, **Bob and Vera Duncan “Fruit Trees”**

Nanoose Garden Club: Joan Wyndam: **Permaculture”**; Nanoose Library Center & Event Hall, October 4th; 1:15pm.

Qualicum Beach Garden Club: Terry Taylor: **“Mushrooms and More”**. QB Civic Center, Tuesday, October 8th, 7:30pm.

Goodies for next meeting:



Thank you to the following people for bringing the goodies to our next meeting:

Krystyna Sosulski,

Deborah Francis, Rosina Schmidt.

Congratulations to our new executive!



At our September meeting, past-president Allen McRae led the election of our new executive for the year 2019-20. Thank you to all members who stepped up to fill in vacancies! See the full roster on page one of this newsletter!



WANTED!!

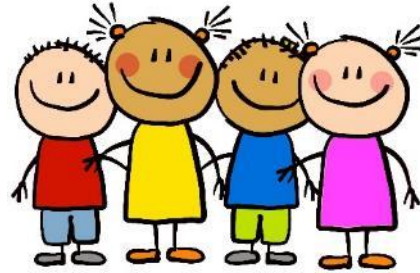
*****The Propagation team needs all your empty 4”, 5” and 1-gallon pots. Please bring them to the next meeting.*****



Likely, the youngest person to ever attend one of our meetings!!!!

It was such a pleasure to welcome Emily to our September meeting! She was accompanied by her mother Amy and her grand-father, NRS director, Don Noakes.

Obviously, our recruiting program for younger members is paying off!



WE COULDN'T HAVE SAID IT BETTER!!!

As editors of the Rhodomentum, we're always looking for relevant contents for our monthly newsletter. We welcome all contributions from members and would like to encourage all of you to be part of this process – it is after all, **YOUR** newsletter! Here's what Nadine Boudreau, the NIRS newsletter editor, included in their most recent newsletter:

"I'm reaching out to all members to submit any tidbits, helpful tips or articles on: rhodos, tools, pest controls, companion plants, any garden experiences you have enjoyed or even disappointments. Submissions can be a short paragraph or a page full. You don't need to be an expert to share experiences. We can all learn from each other and even have a good laugh over our garden endeavours."



September 12, 2019 - General Meeting Minutes:

Meeting opened at 6:30pm at Beban Park Social Centre Nanaimo. Vice President Rosina Schmidt welcomed members, speakers Garth and Susan Wedemire, guests and new members to the 2019/2020 year and to the potluck this evening.

At 7:30 pm the business commenced with the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

1. Presidents Report:

Rosina Schmidt introduced Allen McRae, Past President, to act as coordinator for the Election of Officers and Directors of the society

2. Board Elections:

Allen McRae presented the existing candidate for each office in turn – President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary – and invited members from the floor to stand for office; each office was offered three times ending with a vote to accept the candidate. Members were invited to be directors of the club, and to join the committees being formed this evening. The voting process was then closed. The result of the voting process is shown on page 1 of this newsletter.

3. Treasurer's Report:

Monthly Report for Sept 2019

Balance in Bank as at May 9, 2019		7,469.54
Revenue May 9 – Sept 4	16,277.41	
Expenses May 9 – Sept 4	12,586.74	
Balance in Bank as at Sept 12, 2019		11,160.21
(Less 1 outstanding cheque for 12.50)		
CASH AVAILABLE BALANCE		11,147.71

Plant Sale 2019

Total Income	13,283.51
Total Expenditure	9,084.54
Profit	4,198.97



The Treasurer, Liz Higgins, presented the 2019/2020 budget for approval.

Allen McRae (Past President) proposed that the budget, as presented by Liz, be accepted. Gayle McRae and Rosina Schmidt seconded the motion.

Members voted to accept the budget, no dissenters.

The 2019/2020 budget was accepted at the AGM.

4. Secretary's report

No report. Jan Moles requested that members, both renewing and new members, please fill in the part of the membership form giving permissions to hold their address, email and phone information which is needed to comply with the data protection act.

5. Krystyna Sosulski accepted annual membership fees.

Rosina welcomed two new members from VIU Paine Centre:

6. President Rosina Schmidt reminded the meeting of the following dates before closing the business part of the meeting.

- On 17th September at the Paine Horticultural Centre, East Wellington Rd., the propagation group will meet to visit the centre and tour the facilities.
- Next General Meeting: Thursday, October 10th.
- Next Executive Meeting: September 18th, 2pm at Chris Southwick's.

7. The members then enjoyed an interesting, informative presentation by Sue and Garth Wedemire on 'Gardens in Wales 2018'.

8. Meeting closed at 9:30 with thanks to Sue and Garth.



A note from our membership chair - Krystyna Sosulski:

"The membership dues will be collected in October and November and must be deposited by the club to ARS by December 2nd. The single membership is \$40, family \$45, associate member: single \$10 and family \$15."

*"It must be October, the trees are
falling away and showing their
true colors."*

— Charmaine J Forde



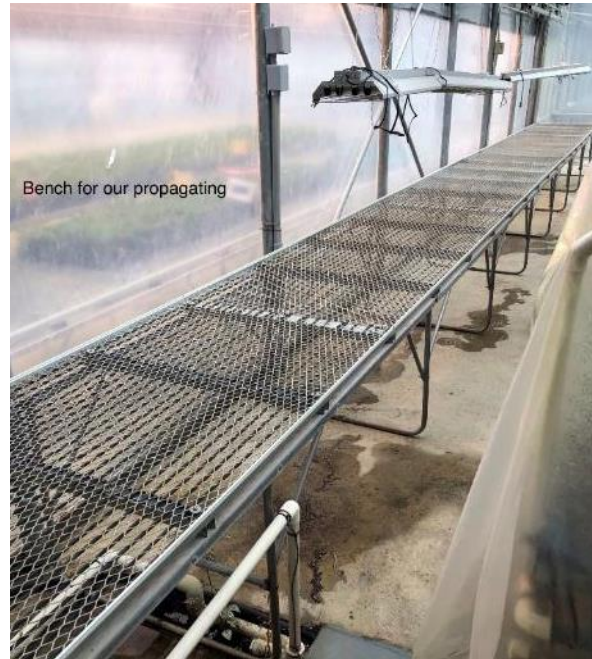
Rhododendron Propagating Program ~ Part 1 by Ron Sutton



Familiar Faces with Christine Quist holding the dog.

At the last executive meeting, the club executive proposed a rhododendron propagating program with the purpose of growing plants for members and the annual plant sale, the proceeds from which will boost the club's revenue. It was suggested that Vancouver Island University could assist with this plan.

On Tuesday, September 17th, 12 members of the Nanaimo chapter visited Vancouver Island University G. R. Paine Horticultural Centre. We were greeted by Christine Quist, an Instructional Assistant at VIU and a certified Production Horticulturalist. She gave us a short tour and explained what they do there.



We were shown a long bench with under-mounted hydronic heating of which 10 linear feet has been allocated for our club's use. The growing medium of perlite and sphagnum peat moss will be supplied by VIU and purchased by the club.

The rhododendron cuttings, which are best taken now through autumn, will come from members gardens and other sources such as public gardens, with permission.



Some of the attending members of the group have experience with propagating.

We will return as early as Monday September 23, to set up and begin the propagating with some cuttings.



Propagation – Part 2 ~ also by Ron Sutton

The first propagation session on Monday, September 23rd went well.



We had a good turnout of 11 members, who all pitched in to help get our fledgling project started. Some members brought cuttings of their own, but the bulk of cuttings were sourced from Chris Southwick and Ken Gibson's plants. The source initials were placed beside the plant names in our log book.

#	Plant Name	Source
1	Davidson	CS
2	Davidson	CS
3	Davidson	CS
4	Davidson	CS
5	Davidson	CS
6	Davidson	CS
7	Davidson	CS
8	Davidson	CS
9	Davidson	CS
10	Davidson	CS
11	Davidson	CS
12	Davidson	CS
13	Davidson	CS
14	Davidson	CS
15	Davidson	CS
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26	Davidson	CS
27	Davidson	CS
28	Davidson	CS
29	Davidson	CS
30	Davidson	CS
31	Davidson	CS
32	Davidson	CS
33	Davidson	CS
34	Davidson	CS
35	Davidson	CS

Some supplies such as rooting hormone, tools, tags, trays were supplied by various members. We were given a tutorial by Allan Murray and Rheinhold Gorgosilich on how to prepare the cuttings. It took 3 hours to get all of the approximately 380 cuttings into trays planted, which are comprised mostly of hybrids and a few species.

A big thank you to those in attendance who helped get our project started:
Glenda Barr, Deborah Francis, Rheinhold Gorgosilich, Liz Higgins, Doug Kitts, Jan Moles, Allan Murray, Liz Murray, Rosina Schmidt, Chris Southwick, and Ron Sutton.



And now, we wait.....





NRS PROGRAM

Our club's program committee (Chris Southwick, Dorothee Kieser, Art and Susan Lightburn, Glenda Barr, and John Denisege) have been busy. Working together (isn't it always easier, when we work together?), they have booked speakers for the entire 2019-20 season. You'll notice a fairly diverse range of topics while adding more rhododendron content. As the year progresses, we hope to add more demos and short presentations on topics of interest.

Date	Speaker	Topic
October 2019	Margaret Cadwaladr	The Making of Dart's Hill Garden (White Rock)
November 2019	Main speaker: Bill McMillan Demo: Paul Wurz on Rhodo cuttings	Rhododendron Pests and Diseases
December 2019	Christmas potluck and auction	
January 2020	John Denisege and June Bouchard	Gardens of New Zealand's North Island
February 2020	Sean Rafferty	Favourite Himalayan Plants
March 2020	Linda Gilkeson	Life After Pesticides
April 2020	Shannon Berch	Soil Biology
May 2020	Dick Beamish	My Favourite Trusses

Getting Ready for the Conference!



Gaylle and June filling registration bags



Jan, Liz and John dealing with all of those name tags and tickets

Useful Links

Victoria Rhododendron Society: victoriarhodo.ca/index.html

Cowichan Rhododendron Society: cowichanrhodos.ca/

Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society: marsrhodos.ca/

North Island Rhododendron Society: nirsrhodos.ca/ws/

The American Rhododendron Society: rhododendron.org/

Linda Gilkeson's website: lindagilkeson.ca/

Nanoose Bay Garden Club: nanoosegardenclub.ca/

Two ARS Silver medals awarded to fellow members from Vancouver Island at the ARS Conference



Congratulations to Marilyn Dawson from Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society and Ian Efford From the Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society!



Raffle Plants:

R. 'Only Yours'

Good dark green foliage and large ruffled flowers of peach pink colour, shading to light pink with an orangy red throat. 'Only Yours' makes a stunning presentation in the garden as it has large very dark-green leaves on a very lush and full plant. This is a hybrid from the master hybridizer Jim Barlup of Bellevue, Washington. The blooms appear in mid-April and the plant will only be 3-4 ft tall and wide in 10 years.



R. 'Brocade'

'Brocade' is a hybrid of *R. williamsianum*. It and a related *R. williamsianum* hybrid, 'Bow Bells,' were developed in England in 1934 by Lionel de Rothschild, and registered in 1958. They have beautiful heart-shaped foliage that emerges copper, and then ages to green. Their April flowers are bell-shaped and held in loose clusters. With their compact, dome-shaped habit (about 3 ft. tall in 10 years) and elegant beauty, they make excellent plants for small urban gardens.

R. 'Brigitte'

'Brigitte' is a compact and very bushy growing rhododendron. It has attractive, evergreen, glossy long and narrow leaves. Flowers are beautiful and burst out late in the season from pink buds into white flowers with rich pink overlay at the margins and golden yellow throat. The shrub grows slowly making a cushion-like bush about 1 m tall and 1.3 m wide in 10 years. Hybridized by Hans Hoffman in 1980. Very hardy to a minimum of -27°C, possibly more.





ARS FALL CONFERENCE HELD IN PARKSVILLE, SEPTEMBER 27TH TO 29TH

CONGRATULATIONS and a huge THANK YOU to the Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society; their organizing committee, volunteers, sponsors and partners; and all who attended the 2019 American Rhododendron Society Fall Conference in Parksville from September 27th to 29th. It was a resounding

success! All that hard work and planning over 2 years really paid off! The more than 240 attendees had lots of positive comments about the great facility, delicious food, camaraderie, exceptional speakers and the wonderful gardens on the tours. The overall theme of “Growing Rhododendrons while the World Warms” served as a timely backdrop for an array of outstanding and diverse presentations. It was great to see so many NRS members sharing in the experience!



Photos by Susan Lightburn



*Looking forward to
seeing you all at the
October meeting!*