



The Rhodomentum

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Newsletter

October 2021



President's Message

Hello NRS Gardeners,

It sure was a lovely AGM in-person meeting at the Community Gardens on September 9th. Enjoying the splendid sunshine, seventeen members attended, including our Membership Chair Jan Moles, who was collecting the dues and issuing membership cards right on the spot. Thank you, Jan! The NRS dues are unchanged, \$40.00 per member and \$45.00 per couple, including the \$2.50 donation per member to District 1.

Congratulations to Chris Southwick and John Denisegeer for their Shaw Spotlight presentation about the Greig Rhododendron Species Garden! Splendidly done, Chris and John!

Gaylle McRae is taking over Library duties from Sandra Dorman, and will work together with Ann Beamish. Our warmest thanks to Sandra for diligently looking after those chores for many years! Well done, Sandra!

The rains just rolled in on time, after our too long no-rain and water restriction summer. Some of our rhodos did not fare too well, and the propagation group plans to start focusing on more drought and heat tolerant plants. Please see: <http://nanaimorhodos.ca/rhododendron-species-for-changing-climate/>.

Hopefully by now you have registered for the October 23-24th "Fall into Gardening" seminar that is being arranged by NRS, MARS and VIMGA. The Zoom link will be sent to those of you who have registered. There will be many interesting presentations that we should not miss.

Our next in-person meeting will be at Beban Park on October 14th at 7:30pm. Masks are required and your vaccination passport will be checked also, as per the BC's health requirements. The speaker will be our own Chris Southwick telling us all about Rhododendron culture. We can't miss this!!

Looking forward to see you all on the 14th of October and in the meantime, please stay well,

Rosina

OUR EXECUTIVE

President	Rosina Schmidt	751-3386
Vice President	Chris Southwick	390-3415
Past President	Allen McRae	758-7589
Secretary	Deborah Francis	
Treasurer	Ron Sutton	416 951-1373
Directors	Ann Beamish	758-2574
	Bryan Jubinville	668-2965
	Dorothee Kieser	390-4136
	Art Lightburn	468-7516
	Susan Lightburn	468-7516
	Gaylle McRae	758-7589

COMMITTEES:

Advertising	Allen McRae
Library	Ann Beamish / Gaylle McRae
Newsletter	June Bouchard / John Denisegeer
Membership	Jan Moles
Program	by Committee
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey
Social	Deborah Francis
Bargain Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich
Website	Deborah Francis/Rosina Schmidt
Bus Tour	David & Joyce Mitchell
Sunshine	Wanda Brenton
Propagation	Rosina Schmidt
Hailey Grove	Bryan Jubinville
Show and Sale	Jan Moles and Brenda Lewis
Nanaimo Rhododendron Society	
Box 241, #101-5170 Dunster Road	
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4	
Website: nanaimorhodos.ca	

Next meeting: Thursday, October 14th, 7:00 pm, Beban Park Social Centre

"Gardening with Rhododendrons" by Chris Southwick

****Please note: Public Health Guidelines require that all participants wear masks and show proof of double vaccination at the door.**

October Program: "Gardening with Rhododendrons" by Chris Southwick

- Basic information about the genus rhododendron
- Suggestions for growing rhododendrons successfully and how they can be used in gardens
- Suggestions for purchasing rhododendrons
- Frequently asked questions



Chris Southwick had the good fortune to be born into a family that loves the outdoors, gardening, and rhododendrons in particular. Her grandparents were Ted and Mary Greig, who were pioneering rhododendron and alpine plant enthusiasts on Vancouver Island. They passed on an appreciation for plants to their son Jim and their daughter-in-law Jean, Chris's mother.

Chris has been gardening all of her adult life. When she moved to Nanaimo in 1992, she purchased a property just off of Hammond Bay Road and began gardening with rhododendrons in earnest at that time having purchased some lovely rhodos with that property.

Joining the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society in 1994, Chris became involved with that chapter and served as program chair, treasurer, vice-president, president, and board member for most of the years since joining the Society. She has co-chaired the annual Show and Sale, judged shows for other Vancouver Island clubs, and was co-chair of the 2012 Fall ARS Regional Conference. She was honoured with the NRS Bronze medal in 2008. As a rhododendron species proponent, Chris currently serves on a committee that

helped create the Greig Rhododendron Species Garden at Milner Gardens and Woodland in beautiful Qualicum Beach. After retirement she became a certified Master Gardener to carry on learning about plants and giving back to the gardening community. She is currently the Vice-President of the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society and Past President of the Vancouver Island Master Garden Association. She is also on the Board of Milner Garden and Woodland and the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden.

Chris built a new home in 2008 on just over half an acre. She enjoys sharing her garden of several hundred rhododendrons, including many dwarf species rhodos, many native flowering plants, ferns, Japanese maples, dogwoods, primulas and vegetables.

Stay connected - check our web page - new things added regularly! <http://nanaimorhodos.ca/>

Minutes – Nanaimo Rhododendron Society AGM – September 9th, 2021

Venue: Beban Park Community Gardens at 2pm on Friday, 09 September, 2021.

Welcome: Dorothee Kieser welcomed us to the Community Gardens and explained that they were not individual gardens like allotments but truly shared gardens and pointed out the excellent display of vegetables and flowers. A warm welcome was extended to our members to return in the spring for seedlings. It was an extremely comfortable place to have an outside meeting with lots of space for appropriate distancing.

1. President's Report: Rosina Schmidt.

Rosina welcomed back members to the 29th year of the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society. Rosina thanked the 2020/21 executive team for their contributions to the club, as well as to all committee members and volunteers.

Two notable NRS outdoor gatherings were held at Rea and Ron Sutton's beautiful garden in Fanny Bay. Thank you again to our hosts. Rosina reviewed the various zoom presentations, commented on the excellent quality of the presenters and content, including Chris Southwick's joint presentation with the Vancouver Island Regional Library. Do not forget to register for the joint NRS, MARS, and VI Master Garden Association "Fall into Gardening" zoom seminar. This is a free two-day event over October 23-24, however you must pre-register [HERE](#)

2. The AGM – election and ratification of the Officers and Directors of the Society for 2021/2022:

Many of the posts were discussed prior to the meeting, invitations were extended to the meeting for further volunteers, and the incumbent officers/directors voted in and accepted by the meeting. The resultant new club Officers, Directors and Committees are recorded here in Appendix I.

3. Treasurer's Report: Ron Sutton

Report from the last meeting, June 10, 2021, to September 9, 2021

Balance in Bank as at 10 June 2021		9,527.73
Revenue June 10 – Sept 09	2,135.73	
Expenses June 10 – Sept 09	<u>1,563.69</u>	
Balance in Bank as at 09 September 2021		10,042.09
Less cheques written but not yet cashed	<u>1,276.22</u>	
Cash Available Balance as at 09 September 2021		<u>8,823.55</u>

Purchases and expenditures were explained in detail, for further details see Treasurer's detailed reports

4. Secretary's Report: Deborah Francis

No correspondence. Nothing to report.

5. Membership Report: Jan Moles

During Covid all members rejoined. As of today, we have received twenty-one membership renewals, including those who have renewed this afternoon.

Reminder request for renewals has been tabled until after the October general meeting.

6. Program Committee Report: Art Lightburn

The program for this coming year is under consideration. Discussions have taken place on how we can go forward this year with its unique conditions. Online meetings and presentations are being considered, also outdoor events and how we will manage them are under consideration. Due to the pandemic all bus tours plans are on hold.

All Covid health requirements will be followed. As of now the October 14th general meeting is scheduled to be a live meeting at Beban. Chris Southwick will do a presentation about Rhododendrons.

The venue requires that all participants will need to wear masks and show proof of double vaccination at the door.

Reserve the date **November 4th** and details about the December Christmas Meeting and sale will be announced. Zoom presentations are being prepared as a backup plan.

7. Propagation Committee Report: Rosina Schmidt

The 2019 cuttings are in 1-gallon pots and there are plans to repot them into 2-gallon pots in the spring prior to sale. They are doing well despite some losses from the heat dome earlier this year. The 2020 cuttings are now in 1-gallon pots, and all continue to grow in 4 NRS member gardens.

Our next propagation session will be happening soon. Volunteers are welcome, and Allan Murray who kindly offered up his greenhouse location to house our early 2020 starts has graciously extended his invitation into 2021. Dick Beamish has kindly offered his species plants for cuttings, watch for a date in mid-October to be announced.

8. Milner's Gardens Report: Chris Southwick

Milner will remain open Thursday through Sunday to the end of September. Milner memberships are still available to NRS members. The species garden looks particularly good and robust, with Art and Susan's plants looking amazing. Christmas Magic may happen, and Santa may be available.

9. Hailey Rhodo Grove Report: Rosina Schmidt

The Hailey Grove effort is coming along, but we need more volunteers. Workers clean up meetings are scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month. Next meeting is Tuesday 14th September at 10am to 2pm.

10. Advertising Report: Allen McRae

Nothing to report.

11. Sunshine Girl Report: Wanda Brenton

A condolence card was sent to Nancy Greer, wife of the late Harold Greer, who passed away on the 10th of August 2021. Harold was the author of "Greer's Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons." He will be missed.

12. Library Report: Anne Beamish

Look online for a list of new books that will be available soon.

13. Today's topic: 'Highlights of your Garden'

A round table encouraged each person to tell us about the highlight of their gardening year in their own garden.

Meeting closed: everyone very much enjoyed the space and a tour in the Community Gardens. Thank you, Dorothee.

Next Exec Meeting: Thursday, September 16th, at the home of Rosina Schmidt at 2:00 pm

Next General Meeting/Activity: to be announced.

Appendix I: Officers, Directors and Committees of the Club 2021/2022

President: Rosina Schmidt

Vice President: Chris Southwick

Secretary: Deborah Francis

Treasurer: Ron Sutton

Past President: Allen McRae

Directors: Bryan Jubinville, Art Lightburn, Susan Lightburn, Gaylle McRae, Ann Beamish, Dorothee Kieser

Committees:

Advertising: Allen McRae

Library: Ann Beamish

Newsletter: June Bouchard/ John Deniseger

Membership: Jan Moles

Program Committee: Art & Susan Lightburn, Dorothee Kieser, Glenda Barr, John Deniseger, Chris Southwick

Raffle: Ann Davey/Val Harvey

Social, Coffee: Deborah Francis

Bargain Table: Rheinhold Gorgosilich

Website: Deborah Francis/Rosina Schmidt

Bus Tour: David & Joyce Mitchell

Sunshine: Wanda Brenton

Propagation: Rosina Schmidt, Deborah Francis, Bryan Jubinville, Al & Liz Murray. Liz Higgins, Jan Moles, Chris Southwick, Dorothee Kieser, Gaylle & Allen McRae

Hailey Grove: Bryan Jubinville, Art & Susan Lightburn, Rosina Schmidt

A few photos from our September 9th AGM

(Thank you to Jan and Liz for providing these photos)





**Thank you Dorothee for
organizing the venue!**



Membership Renewal:

This is the time of the year when our annual memberships are up for renewal! You can pay your fees either electronically or by cheque – single \$40.00; couple \$45.00; payable now.

- Electronically: e-transfer to rondsutton@shaw.ca
- By cheque, mail to: Ron Sutton, 7310 Cougar Smith Rd.,
Fanny Bay, B.C
V0R 1W0

****In each case, please specify if for a single membership, family membership or associate.**



Jan Moles busy renewing memberships at our last meeting.

October gave a party;
The leaves by hundreds came—
The Ashes, Oaks and Maples,
And leaves of every name.
The sunshine spread a carpet,
And everything was grand;
Miss Weather led the dancing;
Professor Wind, the band... The sight was like a rainbow
New-fallen from the sky...

~George Cooper, "October's Party," in School Education, 1887

Garden Photos of the Month - from Rosina's Garden



Rudbeckia



Medlar



Italian Prune Plum



Persimmon

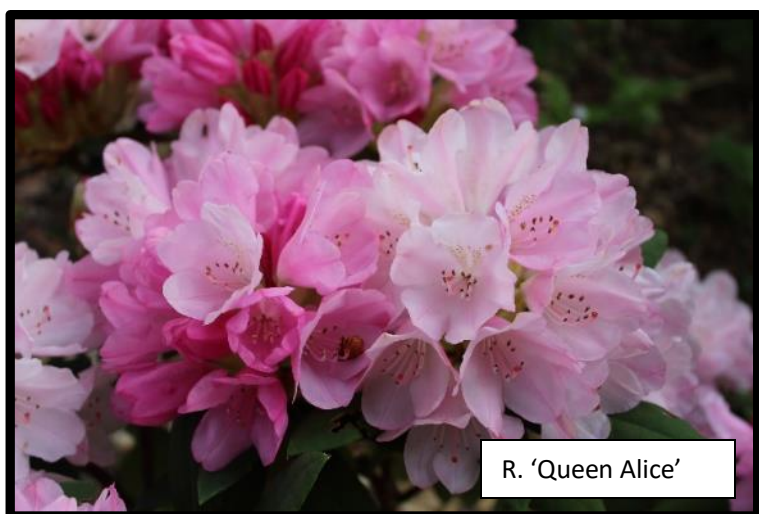


R. 'Yaku Angel'

Propagation Report by Rosina

Later this fall our propagation group is planning to take cuttings from some of the summer hardy/sun and heat tolerant rhododendrons. Once again, Allan Murray has generously allowed us to use their propagator. Next spring, the 2019 cuttings will be replanted into 2-gallon pots and will be ready for sale. Our 2020 cuttings are enjoying the rain after a summer of irrigation or hand watering. They're looking a livelier!

A few photos from last spring - is it little wonder we want to propagate them....



October Gardening Chores by Rosina

There is much to do when October comes around with its golden leaves:



- Bring tropical plants indoors; check for bug infestation;
- Apply lime to your lawn;
- Plant spring flowering bulbs using bone meal;
- Lift begonias, cannas, dahlias and gladiolas;
- Collect mason bees' nests and harvest cocoons. Clean the nest and cocoons; Store cocoons;
- Plant winter varieties of broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and Brussels sprouts;
- Spread woodchip mulch around your Rhododendrons.

Here is a list of some other October gardening chores and tasks you can tackle this month:

(from <https://www.farmersalmanac.com/october-gardening-chores-19365>)

Potted plants need to be re-potted especially the tropicals in outdoor containers. Add new potting mix and increase the pot by one size to keep them happy all winter. This will be the last feeding until March. Make sure to check for any critters and pests before bringing anything inside, and consider applying an insecticidal soap to the soil after re-potting so it leaches down into the new pot.

Lawns are hungry as well. October is the time for your second application of fertilizer with a "winterizer" type on the label, one with an NPK (nitrogen/phosphorous/potassium) of around 28-0-14. New lawns, after you have cut them three times, can be treated for weeds, and yes, you are feeding the weeds too, so just be patient.

Bulbs. It's also time to plant those spring-blooming bulbs. Pay attention to the planting depth as listed on the packages. Dividing perennials is a great way to make your beds fuller and, if you have too many of one thing, seek out another neighborhood gardener and swap — another great way to extend those beds, and make new garden buddies.

Vegetable Plants. Keep pulling up the summer veggies as they ripen, and make room for fall crops as they die off. Composting those "spent" plants will help your success next spring.

Gardening your soil is a must. After pulling out all the spent plants, add some amendments such as compost or manure along with mulched leaves and grass clippings. Let it all "cook" over the winter. And if you need to plant a cover crop, now is the time. A favorite is clover, as it helps correct any nitrogen issues.

Mulch. As leaves start falling, simply mulch them in place—the composting leaf litter will benefit your soil greatly. As leaves start to accumulate, and bagging is a must, use those shredded leaves in your beds, which gives you free soil and nutrients!

Pruning. October is good for pruning most deciduous trees (trees whose leaves fall off). After the leaves have dropped, pruning is easier, because you can see the "skeleton" of the tree, and they are in a dormancy period. Wait on the Crape Myrtles until March, and roses until February. Evergreens can be pruned now, and most folks feed them lightly after pruning, as well as in the late winter (around March). Camelias, Daphne, Sarcococca, and any other winter bloomers, should wait until after bloom, but you can feed them now, to give them a boost.



2021 Virtual ARS Fall Conference “Fall into Gardening” October 23 and 24, 2021



Hosted by Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society and Nanaimo Rhododendron Society in partnership
with Vancouver Island Master Gardeners

**This virtual conference is FREE and open to all interested gardeners - members
and non-members – anywhere in the world!**



ARS 2021 Fall Conference *Fall into Gardening* Schedule:

- **Saturday and Sunday, October 23 and 24, 2021 at NO COST!!**
- Four presentations each day starting at:
9 am Pacific - 12 noon Eastern – 1:00 pm Atlantic – 5 pm UK – 6 pm CET
- **All presentations will be recorded and available for our members in NZ, Australia & Asia to view at a convenient time.**

Saturday Speakers and Topics:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| • Hartwig Schepker, Germany | <i>Sichuan: A Plantsman's Paradise</i> |
| • Shannon Berch, BC Canada | <i>Living Soils</i> |
| • David Sellars, BC Canada | <i>From Rhododendrons to Rock Gardening</i> |
| • Don Hyatt, Virginia USA | <i>A Walk in the Woods</i> |

Sunday Speakers and Topics:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| • David Millais, UK | <i>Conservation of Heritage Rhododendrons</i> |
| • Linda Chalker-Scott, WA USA | <i>Landscape Mulches: The Good, the Bad,
and the Just Plain Ugly</i> |
| • Richard Dionne, QC USA | <i>Growing Rhododendrons in Québec's
Harsh Winters</i> |
| • Don Wallace, CA USA | <i>Fragrant Rhododendrons</i> |

To Join us please register using Mailchimp: [Click here](#)

Please join us for this fall celebration of gardening!

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Plant of the month - by Ron Sutton

Rhododendron 'Kallista'

Here is a spectacular hybrid rhododendron that while too tender for the garden, is worth growing. It is a cross of two *maddenii* species rhododendrons, *R. nuttallii* x *R. lindleyi*. It blooms with large 6" white, fragrant, lily like flowers with a yellow throat.

The flowers open to a pale yellow colour, but then mature to bright white. They don't open all at once, which extends the bloom period to almost 3 weeks. The fragrance is wonderful, perfuming the air around the plant, and smelling like some kind of floral tea.

The leaves held by reddish branches are dark green and heavily textured. It's not a vigorous grower, so can be kept in a large pot. It is listed as being hardy only to 20°F / -7°C

But it can be wintered in a garage, like I do with mine, or other shelter that doesn't get too cold. The only source I know of for this plant is a nursery in California called Singing Tree Gardens. It is where my plant came from - see photo which was taken on May 16th. **Highly recommended and worth having if you can protect it.** (Note: it handled the heat of this recent summer without damage, while getting some direct sun!)



WORK BEES:

An opportunity to spend time outdoors in a beautiful rhododendron garden, while socializing with friends (at a distance, of course...) Sounds pretty attractive doesn't it....

- Greig Rhododendron Species Garden at Milner –work bees have not begun yet but will likely reappear later in the fall. Contact John at juneandjohn@shaw.ca if you'd like to join in.
- Hailey Grove at Bowen Park – it's been a while as we took the summer off. The next monthly work bee will be on Tuesday, September 14th from 10 am to 2 pm, as we return to our regular monthly schedule. Bring your lunch and sunny disposition.

"It was October again... a glorious October, all red and gold, with mellow mornings when the valleys were filled with delicate mists as if the spirit of autumn had poured them in for the sun to drain – amethyst, pearl, silver, rose, and smoke-blue. The dews were so heavy that the fields glistened like cloth of silver and there were such heaps of rustling leaves in the hollows of many-stemmed woods to run crisply through."

~Lucy Maud Montgomery (1874–1942), *Anne of Green Gables*, 1908

Hailey Rhododendron Grove at Bowen Park by Bryan Jubinville

<http://nanaimorhodos.ca/hailey/>

Breaking news....

We had a total of three (3) people out for the first fall work bee in the gardens. Rosina, Ian and Bryan had a great time wondering through the gardens continuing our efforts against alien invaders. We also worked on some of the rhodos that suffered from the summer heat (damage). Many of the rhodos in the shaded parts of the garden faired well, the plants that were exposed to the strong summer sunlight were damaged showing significant leaf burn. Generally, all of the plants that were damaged will recover although it may take a few growing seasons. The city staff, this past summer, did some work on the sprinklers in the gardens improving the broadcast of water.

The next work effort will be on October 12, from 1000 to 1400 hours (2pm) or as per usual for as long as you can provide. Gardening enthusiasts do not have to participate for the entire time, we will graciously accept any and all efforts. If you come for a visit at lunch break for fresh air or just a break from being stuck inside, we will be glad to see you.

It would be very nice to see more club members come out.

Cheers

Bryan



Travelling in Northern B.C. by June Bouchard

As many of you already know, John and I went travelling in Northern BC with our campervan in September. We saw many beautiful sights but one of the places that surprised and impressed us the most was The Ancient Forest Provincial Park located 115 km east of Prince George on Highway 16 and 800km from the coast.

"Nestled in the traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh, the park protects a portion of the only inland temperate rainforest in the world. Hiking the Ancient Forest trail will bring you past thousand-year-old western red cedars and a rich biodiversity of plants, mosses, lichens and fungi."

(from <https://bcparks.ca/explore/parkpgs/ancient-forest/>)

Walking through that forest felt like stepping back in time... Words cannot adequately describe the beauty and serenity of this park so here are a few photos...





We came across these wise words about water while walking the trails of the Ancient Forest. Given the drought that we've all experienced this summer, and the realities of climate change, they're particularly appropriate. They certainly make you stop and think....

Many years ago, while travelling in West Africa, our guide said to us, "L'eau, c'est la vie!" – "Water is life!"



Happy Fall Everyone! Hope to see you at the meeting on Thursday, October 14th at our usual place at Beban Park! ☺