

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



September 2005
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Allen is still in vacation mode! The Executive hopes you have all had a great summer and are looking forward to another great year. See you at the meeting on September 8.

Christine North

Christine North trained in Horticulture, Land Management and Design at Merrist Wood College in Guildford, Surrey UK and became a member of the British Association of Landscape Industries. A professional landscaper, she won a merit award at the first Hampton Court Flower Show, culminating in a Silver Medal for the Prince's Trust Garden. She designed and built the Metropolitan Police Exhibit at Chelsea.

EXECUTIVE

President	Allen McRae	758-7589
Vice President	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Secretary	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Treasurer	Gayle McRae	758-7589
Directors	Valerie Harvey	754-6659
	Debbie Gaboury	758-1204
	Glenda Barr	390-2822
	Pat Schulson	245-3369
	Mike Miller	758-2879
	Chris Southwick	758-0993

COMMITTEES

Advertising	Mike Miller	758-2879
Library	Vacant	
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Program	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey	
Social	Pat Schulson	245-3369
Dollar Table	Anne Williamson	390-2604

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society
Box 241, #1 – 5765 Turner Road
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4

Website: nanaimo.rhodos.ca
email: nanaimo@rhodos.ca

NEXT MEETING

SEPTEMBER 8, 2005 BEBAN PARK 7:30 pm

CHRISTINE NORTH
"COMPANION PLANTING – THE ENGLISH WAY"

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MAY 12, 2005

The meeting was called to order about 7:30 pm by President Allen McRae. There were 31 members and guests present.

President's report: Welcome back to Mike Miller from Nepal and Bhutan trip and welcome to Carmen Varcoe from Victoria, our guest speaker. Thanks to all volunteers for the Truss Show and Plant Sale. Our sales were down this year due to the conflict of dates with the Duncan chapter and as a result Norm Todd was unable to attend our sale. Hanson's House and Home and Diana's Garden Center were also unable to attend.

Secretary's report: George Fraser Days on Saturday, May 28, 2005 in Ucluelet, B.C. were also announced.

Treasurer's report: general account - \$ 4481.43; Bowen Park Legacy account \$156.31; library fund <26.58>
Plant Sale: Net proceeds were \$949.55 less expenses - down from last year's sale. Thanks to Pat McLeod and all the cash register volunteers.

The wind up B-B-Q is at Helene Sullivan's home on Sunday, June 12, 2005 at 4:00 pm. Bring a salad, appy, or dessert and whatever you want to cook. Her address will be announced later. It is on Polaris Drive, unsure of exact house number .

Social : A reminder from Anne to please call and let her know if you can't bring goodies when you're supposed to.

Membership: We have one new member - Kathy Lowe and an associate renewal.

Advertising: Nothing new

Bus Tour: John has approx. 45 people signed on so far. Bring a picnic lunch as we will be stopping at the Filberg Estate for our lunch break. Ted and Mary Greig 's garden is also on our tour. There will be 9 stops, four of which are linked to the Greig family. We will also be stopping at Allsbrook and Arrowsmith Nurseries. Come prepared for the weather - bring rain gear along. We will be meeting at Woodgrove Shopping Mall by Chapters Books at 7:15 and leaving at 7:30 am.

Booklets are offered for sale on how to grow Rhodos for \$3.00 and the Rhodo book is \$22.00.

Library: Please take out some books for the summer. There are free ARS Journals available.

Liisa Rullo will now help with annual elections.

Election of Directors:

President: Allen McRae

Vice-President: Craig Clarke

Secretary: Kathryn Grant

Treasurer: Gayle McRae

Directors:

Valerie Harvey

Debbie Gaboury

Glenda Barr

Mike Miller

Pat Schulson

Chris Southwick

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Hidden Acres Rhododendrons

Paul & Lynn Wurz
4367 Gordon Rd.
Campbell River, B.C.
1-250-287-4301
pwurz@oberon.ark.com

<http://hiddenacresbc.tripod.com>

Growers of specialty Rhododendrons

Rotary Calendars On Sale

Our Rotary club is selling 2006 calendars this year as a fundraiser that will pay for such things as scholarships for local students, donations to a number of different local not-for-profits, scholarships and a monthly food allowance for AIDS orphans at Sihlengeni High School in Zimbabwe. This is the school that our club member Bill Robinson visited in 2002 and 2005.

Over 50 Vancouver Island artists competed to have their artwork included in our calendar. All are Vancouver Island scenes.

As well as being able to enjoy this calendar in your own home and office, it will make exciting Christmas gifts, especially for our of province friends and family – Can you think of an easier, more attractive gift??

The calendars are \$20 each.

Please see Craig Clarke



Twigs AND STEMs

Goodies for September meeting:
Executive Members

Librarian Needed

Do you have an interest in books? Our library has become quite extensive and is in need of sorting and cataloguing. If you are interested in taking on this important task please see Chris Southwick.

NRS Plant Sale and Truss Show

We would like to thank Pat McLeod and her son Duncan Peterson for their able assistance at the plant sale in May. Pat has been organizing and programming the cash registers and reconciling the sales for several years now – a Very Big Job! Duncan has proved to be a reliable and conscientious cashier. Thanks Pat and Duncan.

Mark Your Calendars!!

Rhododendron Species Foundation 11th Annual
Fall Plant Sale

Saturday, Sept 24, 2005 9am to 3 pm

Location:

Weyerhaeuser Corporate Campus
West Middle Parking Lot
2525 S 336th Street
Federal Way, WA

For more info: www.rhodygarden.org

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Rhodo Notes - by Liisa Rullo
March 10, 2005: Bernie Guyader

- Bernie Guyader has a ½ acre garden/rock garden on a sunny hillside in Courtenay. He made a scree area on the SE side which gets hot in summer. A member of the Alpine Society, Bernie is a self-confessed 'rhodoholic' who loves species and dwarf rhododendrons which do well in alpine conditions. He has an awesome command of Latin.
- Bernie's 3 key words for alpiners & dwarfs: "drainage, drainage, drainage."
- Recipe: Preferably a hillside; a little hummock of soil, great drainage (that word again); quite poor soil, sunshine, adequate moisture in summer (hard to do in our 'Mediterranean climate' – mist if necessary!!).
- Fertilizer 1: Avoid high nitro fertilizers which dry the leaves very quickly. Must have fully moist soil before you do fertilize. Fertilizer + a dry plant = moisture sucked from the leaves to dissolve the salts in the fertilizer inside the plant (burned leaf edges).
- Fertilizer 2: Bernie likes a little 'Sustain' from Green Valley (3/4/2) and Raindeer organic (3.5/2.4/0.8). About 1 cup/wheelbarrow (that's all), plus a tiny bit of superphosphate (1 tsp/bucket or 2 tbs/wheelbarrow, well mixed in). Apply screened compost in early winter – rain washes it in.
- Bernie's advice on building a rock garden: Don't plunk the rocks on top of the soil in a rock garden – they look more natural well buried. Bigger, natural rocks look better. Add shale on top - the plants root underneath the shale and rocks for a cool root run (as in his scree area).
- General soil mix for dwarfs and alpiners: 1 part coarse sand, 1 part soil, 1 part peat, well mixed.
- The word on gentians (Bernie has lots of different ones - great blue accent plants): No water, grow on gravel, and do NOT feed! They will bloom beautifully.
- Bernie had a bed of 10 rhodos (large ones) which he replaced with 20 dwarf rhodos, plus other plants. He likes them much better and there are more of them. He has too many kinds to list, but he noted Peter Cox's 'Birds' series (Curlew, Egret, Wren, etc.), 'Thor', 'Scarlet Wonder' and many others.
- Favorite rock garden: Memorial University, St. John's Newfoundland (<http://www.mun.ca/botgarden/index.php>). Closer to home: Beacon Hill Park, Abkhazi Gardens, Victoria.

The Rhododendron Species Foundation Fall Plant List has arrived. Orders must be placed by October 24, 2005. The list will be available at the September meeting. If you would like to place an order please see Craig Clarke.



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Rounding the Rim – Plants from the Pacific Rim

31st Western Winter Study Weekend

March 3 to 5, 2006

The Mary Winspear Centre

2243 Beacon Avenue

Sidney-by-the-Sea, B.C.

(20 minutes north of Victoria,
minutes from the Swartz Bay ferry &
Victoria International Airport)

Hosted by VIRAGS

Vancouver Island Rock & Alpine Garden Society

www.islandnet.com/~voltaire

Registrar

Claire Hughes

2901 Colquitz Ave.

Victoria, BC V9A 2M2

250.-388-6595

Email Enquiries

John Veillette <ua024@victoria.tc.ca>

Speakers and the Program

TIM BALL

Dr. Timothy Ball has an extensive background in climatology, especially the impact of climate change on human history and the human condition. Following his retirement as a professor at the University of Winnipeg in 1996 he has spent his time as an environmental consultant, public speaker, and author.

Topic: “Climates of the Pacific Rim”

JOE CARTMAN

Joe Cartman lives in Christchurch, New Zealand and holds the position of Nursery Manager for the Christchurch City Council’s two nurseries. He is the author of “Growing New Zealand Alpines” and his photographs are regularly featured in the New Zealand Alpine Garden Society Bulletin. Many will recognise his name from *Clematis x cartmanii* ‘Joe’.

Topic: “Daisies, Harebells, Buttercups and Friends – New Zealand’s Alpine Treasures”

“Tangling with New Zealand’s Shrubs”

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BRENT HINE

Brent Hine is the curator of the E.H. Lohbrunner Alpine Garden, University of British Columbia's Botanical Garden where he grows many plants from the Pacific rim. He is also coauthor of the recently published book "The Jade Garden".

Topic: "All Over the Map: Cultivating Rim plants at the edge of the Pacific Northwest"

DAN HINKLEY

Dan Hinkley is a horticulturalist and plant hunter par excellence. He is cofounder of Heronswood Nursery in Kingston, Washington and is the author of two books and numerous articles, lectures extensively throughout the world and is the recipient of many awards. He is featured in Bobby J. Ward's new book "The Plant Hunter's Garden – the New Explorers and their Discoveries"

Topic: "Denizen's of Shade from Japan and Korea"

"Heading South: Garden Worthy Plants from Chile, Guatemala and Costa Rica"

ANDY MACKINNON

Andy Mackinnon is Manager of Ecosystems and Habitat Planning for the British Columbia Ministry of Sustainable Resources Management. As well he is co editor and contributor of "Plants of Coastal British Columbia – including Washington and Alaska". Along with his family he spent January to May, 2004 in Patagonia working with Argentinean and Chilean botanists on a guide to plants of southern Patagonia. The book is due for publication in March 2006.

Topic: "Plant Treasures of Patagonia"

SHARRON MILSTEIN

Sharron Milstein has been making photographs since she was eleven years old. Originally from the prairies and many other places she has studied with some of Canada's top photographers such as Freeman Patterson and Courtney Milne. She now lives and works on Hornby Island. Most recently her images were included in "Gardening in the Northwest" published by Sunset books in 2003.

Topic: sound/slide presentation following the Saturday night banquet

PAIGE WOODWARD

Paige Woodward and Pat Woodward are the owners of Pacific Rim Native Plant Nursery located on Chilliwack Mountain in south-western British Columbia. where BC natives remain their focus.

Topic: "Pacific Northwest Treasures: 50 knockout native plants and how to grow them"

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Workshops

1. **'From Fishbox to Flowerpot: lightweight troughs'**
John Sheridan & Jacqueline Bradbury
Learn how to make lightweight, portable troughs that look like their heavier counterparts.
2. **'New Zealand Clematis'**
Joe Cartman
More and more New Zealand Clematis are being grown in our gardens. This is an opportunity to learn about them from a New Zealand clematis specialist.
3. **'Alpines in Pots - How, Why, What, When & When not!'**
Roger Barlow
A talk & demonstration about how to grow alpines both for sale & as stock/display plants & the pros/cons of growing in pots vs. in the ground – Good practical stuff from one of our favourite nurserymen..
4. **'Crevice Gardens'**
Zdenek Zvolanek, Paul Spriggs
Learn about Czech crevice gardens, their construction, planting and care from a world renowned expert.
5. **'The Essentials of Cross Pollination and Propagation of species Peonies'**
Joe Harvey
There is something very endearing about species peonies...learn about them from an expert.

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Jim Greig and Daughters