

# NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



September 2007  
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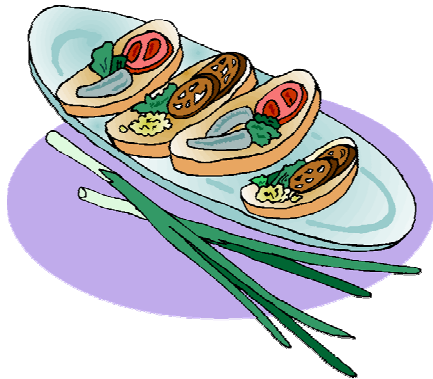
## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi Everyone welcome back to the New Rhodo year.

Thank you to the past executive for a job well done and a welcome aboard to the new members. We will be having a busy year and would like to start it out with a "potluck dinner" at our first meeting on September 13. Please bring finger food to share.

Looking forward to another great Rhodo year.

Paul



## EXECUTIVE

President	Paul Lawry	390-2370
Vice President	Chris Southwick	758-0993
Past President	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Secretary	vacant	
Treasurer	Barb Coy	758-8497
Directors	Debbie Gaboury	758-1204
	Linda Lawry	390-2370
	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
	John Deniseger	390-3605
	Allen McRae	758-7589

## COMMITTEES

Advertising	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574
	Helene Sullivan	758-7023
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Program	Chris Southwick	758-0993
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey	
Social	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Dollar Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society  
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Website: [nanaimo.rhodos.ca](http://nanaimo.rhodos.ca)  
email: [nanaimo@rhodos.ca](mailto:nanaimo@rhodos.ca)

## NEXT MEETING

SEPTEMBER 13

BEBAN PARK SOCIAL CENTRE

7:30 pm

GARTH WEDEMIRE

"THE RHODODENDRON SPECIES FOUNDATION SPECIES STUDY DAYS"

bring finger food to share

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## **TWIGS AND STEMS**



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### **GOODIES FOR SEPTEMBER MEETING EVERYONE!**

Due to the June picnic being cancelled we will begin the year with a potluck "finger food" meeting. Please bring something delicious to share.

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### **"A Year in My Garden at La Bonne Maison"**

The Nanaimo Horticultural Society and the Lantzville Mid Island Rose Society present Odile Masquelier, a world renowned expert on heritage roses from Lyon, France, on Thursday, October 4th, 2007, 7:30 p.m., at Malaspina University College, Building 356, Room 109. Tickets - \$10.00 - available at Diana's Garden Centre in Nanaimo. Tickets may also be ordered by mail - contact Pat Reilly at 756-2685. For more information, contact Yvonne [dandy@islandnet.com](mailto:dandy@islandnet.com) and see <http://labonnemaison.org>.

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### **GARDENWISE MAGAZINE**

has a new website. Check it out at [www.gardenwiseonline.ca](http://www.gardenwiseonline.ca)

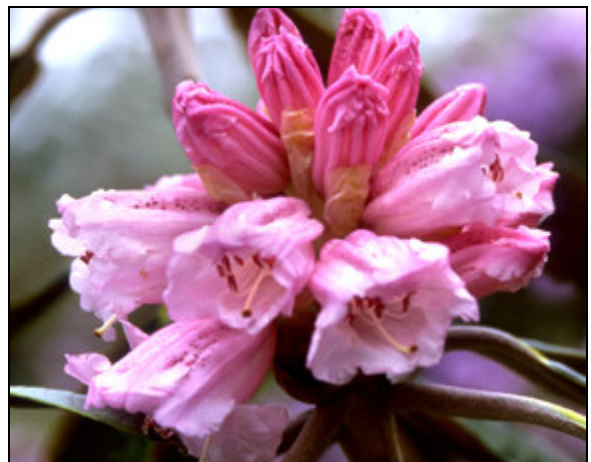
### **A NOTE FROM STEVE HOOTMAN RHODODENDRON SPECIES FOUNDATION**

I think that it would be well worth your time to take another look at the tremendous listing of plants available in the Fall Distribution Catalog this year. In addition to our always fine selection of rhododendrons, we have some outstanding companion plants including species primroses and several species of wintergreen (*Gaultheria*) noted for their fine evergreen foliage and crops of showy blue or purple berries.

We will begin shipping soon and still have a good supply of almost everything on the list. REMEMBER - autumn is the best time to plant! <http://www.rsf.citymax.com/catalogs.html>

Cheers,  
Steve Hootman

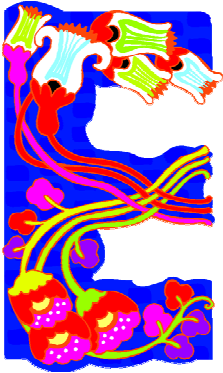
*If you would like to order plants from the RSF catalogue please email Kathryn Grant at [kd.grant@shaw.ca](mailto:kd.grant@shaw.ca) (replace # with @). I will place the order and Craig will pick them up at UBC. Deadline for ordering is September 21. They will arrive shortly after Thanksgiving.*



**R. rex**

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## Companion Plants



E is for Euonymus  
the Spindle Tree family  
Family: Celastraceae

Well-known? – fairly. Well-used? – not often. Well-deserving?  
– very definitely!

Their name, after Euonyme, the mother of the Greek Furies, is presumably a reflection on her evil temperament, since the plants have poisonous fruits and bark and a somewhat unpleasant smell when cut. Variously known as skewerwood, pigwood, bonnet-de-pretre, and gadrose, the spindle tree family has a long history of uses – medicinal, agricultural, industrial and domestic. They are a divided group of plants: evergreen and deciduous types that seem to bear no resemblance to one other. The differences are remarkable, and yet most gardens can easily accommodate both types in good harmony with many other plants. Whether you want all-year foliage effect, fall colour in leaf and fruits, winter bark appeal, or for use as groundcover, background screen or hedging, there's a Euonymus for you.

Some of the deciduous species – *E. alatus*, *E. europaeus*, *E. hamiltonianus*, and *E. nanus*, while excellent border or edging plants, should be placed for best notice in the fall season. The decidedly lackluster green leaves transform almost overnight into a blazing mass of crimson (hence “Burning Bush”) quite startling in intensity. As long as the weather cooperates, the leaves can hold for several weeks. They eventually fall to expose the myriads of small red and orange fruit ‘earrings’ decorating the branches (sometimes quite profusely, as in *E.* ‘Red Cascade’) that last well into winter.



The characteristic corky “wings” of  
*Euonymus alatus*

On *E. alatus*, there is the added attraction of the curiously winged bark; however, most plants offered are the cultivar ‘Compactus’, which has only modest wings, so check labels carefully. Give these plants room to thrive – too crowded or too shady a siting puts a real damper on the colour.

For all-year evergreen foliage effect, the choices are even greater and the uses and colours more diverse. The two common species, *E. fortunei* and *E. japonicus*, have both sported out to many selections, with more coming on the market all the time. The old groundcover standards ‘Emerald Gaiety’ and ‘Emerald ‘n Gold’, however useful, have been superseded by many new cultivars. Try ‘Blondy’, ‘Harlequin’, ‘Sunshine’, ‘Silver Queen’, and others. We are watching a selection of ‘Emerald Gaiety’ of our own that is

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very compact and very white, which we may call 'Blizzard' if it proves to be stable. (There is a propensity for many variegated forms, especially under stress, to revert and have the green overpower the coloured foliage.)

Try using Euonymus as hedging, for a change from boxwood or laurel. For low hedges or edging I suggest *E. japonicus* 'Microphyllus Variegatus', a tidy little shrub not unlike a dwarf silver box, that even grows well in planter boxes for a very nice effect. Suitable for larger hedges, and certainly for borders, the



*Euonymus alatus*

two selections 'Silver King' and 'Ovatus Aurea', make stunning statements. When protected from cold winds and given enough moisture, they grow full and bushy, and need only tidy-up trimming to be kept in bounds.

In fact all the Euonymus prefer a well-drained but not too dry soil. The gold-leafed forms have much better colour in the sun, while the white-leafed ones perform well in partial shade. *E. fortunei* is easily trimmed to shape, and can be kept low and tidy or allowed to scramble over things. But beware, for it can become quite bare at the base if you let it go. The foliage of *E. fortunei* takes on a pinkish or purplish hue in cold

weather, which adds to the appeal.

So whether you're spinning, herding oxen or swine, creating charcoal drawings, or enjoying a pipe in the evening, a Euonymus has been at work for you – and you thought they were just to look good in the garden!

Happy Planting!

*Colleen Forster*

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## **Rhododendron, Azalea and Camellia Mulch**

Rhododendrons, camellias and azaleas are shallow-rooted plants that really do appreciate that extra layer of protection against summer heat and winter cold. Applying mulch in the summer gives them the extra nutrients they need to push out big buds for the following spring.

- 1 bag fish compost
- 125 mL (1/2 cup) greensand
- 125 mL (1/2 cup) organic granular rhodo food
- 250 mL (1 cup) used coffee grounds

The fish compost is slightly acidic and the coffee grounds also add acidity, while the greensand contains necessary trace elements. These plants are shallow-rooted, so chicken and steer manure should be avoided, to avoid burning their roots.

<http://gardenwiseonline.ca/gw/sustainable-gardening/2006/05/01/mulch-mixtures-8-great-recipes>