

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



September 2008
September 2008



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi Everyone:

I hope you all had a great summer break. We have planned another "Rhodo Year" with a variety of speakers and events.

Please take the time to speak with past members who have "fallen to the side" and encourage them to attend our meetings.

Our meeting in September will be another of our "Internationally Famous" finger lickin' pot luck meetings. Bring something that can be shared with others and enjoy a tasty and sociable evening.

Our Christmas Auction is just around the corner and we will need plants and items for the auction. Check your overcrowded yard for a plant or two that can be sold at the December auction.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting,

Paul

PS: I hope you will be able to attend as we are having a very "special" evening.

EXECUTIVE

President	Paul Lawry	390-2370
Vice President	John Deniseger	390-3605
Secretary	June Bouchard	390-3605
Treasurer	Chris Southwick	758-0993
Directors	Glenda Barr	390-2822
	Linda Lawry	390-2370
	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
	Barb Coy	758-8497
	Rosina Schmidt	751-3386

COMMITTEES

Advertising	Michael Miller	758-2879
	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574
	Helene Sullivan	758-7023
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Program	Glenda Barr	390-2822
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey	
Social	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Dollar Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society
Box 241, #1 – 5765 Turner Road
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4
Website: nanaimo.rhodos.ca
email: nanaimo@rhodos.ca

NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

BEBAN PARK SOCIAL CENTRE

7:30 pm

START OF YEAR POTLUCK
GARTH WEDEMIRE
LU ZHU – A PLANT COLLECTOR'S PASSION

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Horticulture and Garden Survey

Vancouver Island University (formerly Malaspina University-College) Centre for Continuing Studies department is interested in expanding on the learning opportunities in the area of Horticulture and Garden. We would like to hear about your learning needs, objectives and continuing education preferences related to the area of Natural Resources. We would like to ask you to take a few minutes to complete a survey.

The survey is open until September 20, 2008. Completed surveys will be eligible for a one year household membership to Milner Gardens.

Thank you in advance for taking time to provide us with your valuable input. If you have any questions or would like to provide feedback in another form please do not hesitate to contact me.

Type in the web address below to begin the Horticulture and Garden survey.

<<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB227YN5A5D2E>>

Jennifer Merner
Administrative Coordinator
250-740-6536



TWIGS AND STEMS



SEPTEMBER MEETING POTLUCK

Please bring finger foods to share.

MILNER GARDENS FALL PLANT SALE 2179 West Island Hwy, Qualicum Beach

September 27 & 28, 10 am to 4 pm

Great discounts on heritage trees, shrubs and perennials propagated on site. Master Gardeners and BC Fruit Growers will be on hand to offer advice. Afternoon tea in the Tearoom, outdoor refreshments & hot dogs. Admission by donation. All proceeds support the Garden. Members only early access Sep 26 from 5 to 7 pm; membership card required for entry to the early access sale. FMI 250-752-6153 or www.milnergardens.org

September Speaker Garth Wedemire

Lu Zhu - A Plant Collector's Passion

This talk is about Dr. Mike Bale's Garden on Mount Woodside near Harrison Hot Springs which he calls "Lu Zhu".

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Trekking in Nepal

Hello, my name is Tom Carter. I am a Vancouver Island mountaineer and an organizer of treks to Nepal. In the spring of 2009, From March 16 to April 11, I am leading a sixteen day rhododendron trek.

This trek explores the rhododendron forests that clothe the shoulders of the Himalaya. The cloud forest rhodos of Nepal's Annapurna Range can grow, in the heat and rains of the monsoon, to thirty meters tall!

In Spring sun we will walk under enormous canopies of pink and rose and scarlet. From every hilltop an endless sea of red flows down into terraced farmland and up to the snow peaks towering above. Pathways are carpeted with petals. Village girls glow with blossoms in their jet black hair. To walk this land below Annapurna, the goddess of plenty, is to be blessed with renewal, joy and delight.

Although requiring fitness, this sixteen day trek has short walking days with only two above 3000m. The focus is on relaxed enjoyment of this magnificent setting.

After two days exploring Kathmandu's medieval bazaars and temples, our trek begins by winding through steamy lowland rice paddies. Hiking up the Modhi Khola River we arrive in Rhodoland. Following the blossoms up the valley we suddenly emerge into the Annapurna. Sanctuary. Surrounded by ice peaks soaring to 8000m., this is one of the Himalaya's most spectacular vistas.

Back down in the blossoms the villages of Ghandrung, Tadapani and Ghorepani are garlanded by the most enchanted forests of all. From Poon Hill, the sunrise on the Annapurnas and the sea of rhododendrons below is stunning! Almost impossibly beautiful! In one day we descend from the rhodoforests to the subtropics. We return to the delights of Kathmandu, one of which is a party with our Nepali crew. They have carried, cooked and cared for us all this way. Totally charmed, it is hard to say goodbye



Nima Sherpa and I invite you to join us on a culturally rich and truly magical journey in extraordinary landscapes.

For more information about this trek and trekking in general, please visit my website:
<http://www.moonmountainadventures.com>

Sincerely,
Tom Carter

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



Richard and Linda White send their regards



Nova Scotia Agricultural College offers an innovative online program for those wishing to become a Master Gardener or for those with an interest in gardening who wish to expand their knowledge and chat with other avid gardeners online!

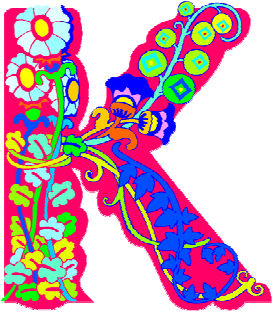
The following courses will begin October 1, 2008. Registration is due by September 22, 2008.

Plant Identification and Use
The Science of Gardening
Maintaining the Garden
The Art of Gardening

Please visit our website, nsac.ca/cde for course descriptions and more information on how to register.

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Companion Plants



K is for Koelreuteria
of the Soapberry Family
Family: Sapindaceae, and
K is for Kirengeshoma
of the Hydrangea family
Family: Hydrangeaceae

Koelreuteria paniculata

For creating light dappled shade over rhododendrons in open areas, the Golden Rain Tree, or Pride of India, is a good choice. Not to be confused with the Golden Chain Tree (Laburnum), which blooms with long trailing racemes of yellow in the spring, this one is a late bloomer. The 12-inch panicles of small yellow flowers stand up above the foliage in August or so. The pinnate leaves are up to 18 inches long, emerging pinky-red in late spring and turning to butter yellow in fall. For good flower set, you need a good warm summer. Place in full sun with well drained soil – perhaps a bit of a rise in the border or open yard, with the rhodos lower down for the moisture. The blooms may turn to bladder-like pods, pinkish to brown, which are quite striking on their own, like little Chinese lanterns. Two similar species may be available, *K.*

bipinnata or *K. paniculata*. Both develop to open spreading trees of 20 to 30 feet in time, but are not overly vigorous. They will grow from seed or root cuttings, and require little or no pruning once the tree is established and headed up to the height you wish. A fastigiate form has been selected which is excellent for smaller gardens, but it is rare as yet. There is also a later-blooming form called 'September Gold'. It is well worth a search for this one since it adds texture and colour at an important time in the garden.



Koelreuteria paniculata

This Golden Rain Tree is part of the Sapindaceae family, a large family of over 140 diverse genera, including many of the tropical fruits such as Lychee Nuts, Rambutans, and Longans

Kirengeshoma palmata

Yellow Wax Bells (*Kirengeshoma palmata*) is a perennial for the woodland border in moist acidic soil, and WOW! does it add punch to the fall garden. There's no way by looking at it that you'd think "hydrangea" though – pairs of fuzzy maplelike leaves on delicate black stems, topped by tubular soft yellow flowers, standing 2 to 4 feet tall. Nope – not a hydrangea. But it is! Never invasive, the clumps can grow to 30 inches across. The foliage dies away for winter. Divide the rhizomes in spring, being gentle with the fresh shoots. Control slugs and snails at this time also, as the sprouts are apparently quite delectable. Place out of winds to keep the stems from going over. The flowers last well when cut for the table. It won't be in every plant center, but specialty growers should have it.

Happy Planting!



Colleen Forster