

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



September 2013



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Summer seems to be fading away and what a summer it was: week upon week of dining on our deck with lots of visitors. The second in a row of long cool spring weather has given our rhodos, and plants in general, phenomenal new growth. The downside is that the new growth has pointed out the folly of my plant spacing, necessitating the moving of a lot of rhodos. Also, the late strong appearance of the sun has caused considerable sun scald on plants not normally affected.

I am looking forward to working with the new executive members and committee chairs this year. However, we are short one Director. So if you have a little spare time, please volunteer to join us planning our yearly activity.

See you all on Thursday the 12th, 6:30.

Art Lightburn



EXECUTIVE

President	Art Lightburn	468-7516
Vice President	John Denisegeer	390-3605
Secretary	Ann Beamish	758-2574
Treasurer	Krystyna Sosulski	729-0948
Directors	Craig Clarke	390-4090
	Susan Lightburn	468-7516
	Dorothee Kieser	390-4136
	Ray Lauzier	756-2927
	Bryan Jubinville	956-6178

COMMITTEES

Advertising	Bryan Jubinville	
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Membership	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Program	Ray Lauzier	756-2927
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey	
Social	Susan Lightburn	468-7516
Bargain Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533
Website	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Sunshine	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Awards	Craig Clarke, Chris Southwick, John Denisegeer, Gayle McRae	

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society
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Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4
Website: nanaimo.rhodos.ca
email: nanaimo@rhodos.ca

NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

BEBAN PARK SOCIAL CENTRE

6:30 pm

JEFF DE JONG

"Light up the Garden with Bulbs"

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

TWIGS and STEMs



GOODIES FOR SEPTEMBER MEETING

Potluck finger foods

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please bring or send your renewal funds as early payment saves the treasurer a lot of work, and saves the club money as later transfers to the ARS are expensive.

SALTSPRING ISLAND APPLE FESTIVAL

Sunday, Sept 29, 2013

on Salt Spring Island, BC

Growing over 350 varieties of apples

ORGANICALLY.

Apple Festival Highlights from 2011 (over 1000 photos): www.saltspringapplefestival.org

Apple Festival Website:

saltspringmarket.com/apples/



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jmangan@got.net

OUR SEPTEMBER SPEAKER

Jeff De Jong from Victoria will be giving the feature presentation at the NRS meeting in September titled "Light up the Garden with Bulbs".

Jeff is a horticultural instructor at a number of facilities around Vancouver Island. He has authored articles for gardening magazines, hosts a radio program called Gardening 101 on CFAX on Sunday mornings, and he is a manager at Abkhazi Gardens.

The September meeting starts at 6:30 PM this month with a finger food extravaganza brought in by members.

SEPTEMBER RAFFLE PLANTS

R. edgeworthii (Edgeworthia)



Burma SW China

- light pink flower with fragrance
- open evergreen large leaves with indumentum
- epiphyte or on cliff
- requires some shade and can be on the tender side

R. cinnabarium



Arunachal Tibet

- 5' -21° C 4/4/2-3
- requires some shade
- has fragrant leaves and yellow flowers

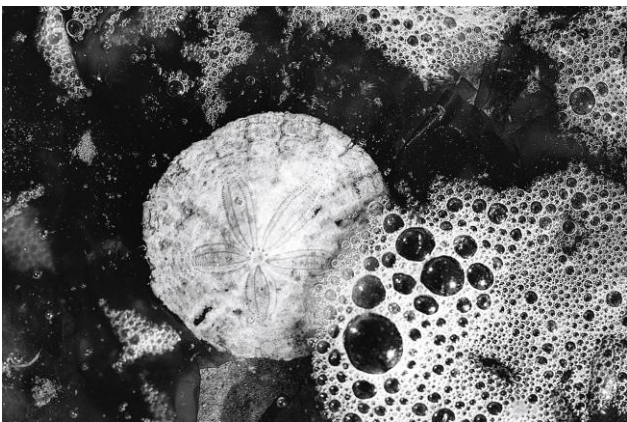
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Seen In Passing

- First flowers appearing on a cross of King George and Sunspray (crossed 6 years ago)



- A Big Beef tomato plant so top loaded that the 19 inch pot tipped over
- A well known NRS member with his daughter & granddaughter checking out the sand dollar population in Craig Bay



Adapted from a *cranberry-orange muffin recipe* by *Anne Lindsay (The Lighthearted Cookbook)*:

Dry ingredients:

3/4 cup bran (I use a mix of oat & wheat brans)
1 cup whole wheat flour (for bread, not for pastry)
1/4 cup sugar
1 tsp each cinnamon, baking powder, baking soda
1/2 cup raisin or other dry fruit
2 tbsp seeds (optional)

Wet ingredients:

1 egg
1 cup of fruit sauce/puree
1/4 cup olive oil (can be replaced by fruit sauce/puree)
1/2 cup milk or yogurt
1 tsp vanilla

1. Mix dry ingredients together.
2. Mix wet ingredients together.
3. Add wet mix to dry mix, mixing well without overmixing.
4. Spoon into greased muffin tins.
5. Bake at 400° F for 22-25 minutes (regular muffin tins) or 13-15 minutes (mini muffin tins)
6. Let rest 5 minutes before unmolding.

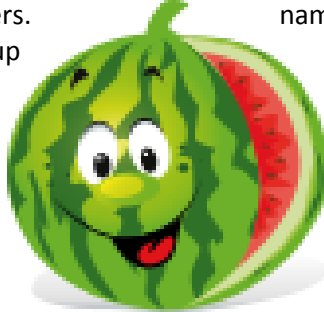
Submitted by Eliane Leclerc



NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

District One News

A District One President meeting was held in the "Queen's Room" at Milner Gardens. Club Presidents gave a report on their club activities past and present, with lots of suggestions on how to gain new members. A large part of the well-attended meeting was taken up with a discussion and walkabout the proposed species garden, which could be a District One initiative. Nanaimo Rhododendron Society will host the District One meeting Thursday, April 3, 2014 at the Longwood brew Pub. Members are welcome.



Come Celebrate Our Start-up to the New NRS Club Year

Our September meeting will begin at 6:30 PM with our traditional finger food potluck dinner. New members and old friends will be welcomed. Please wear your nametags. Members are requested to bring one or more dishes...each suitable for serving several people...of tantalizing appetizers, seductive savories, delicious breads, crispy veggies, succulent fruits, or decadent desserts. The Social committee has requested that members bring their own plates, knives, forks, spoons, etc., and your best mugs and drinking vessels for the communal tea and coffee.



Canadian attendees at May 2013 ARS Convention

Back Row: Robert Ramik (Toronto); Tony Marquardt (VicRS); Art Lightburn (NRS); Al Campbell (CRVS); Cathy and Guy Loyer (MARS); Bob & Jo Wright (FSRS); Dorothy Jamieson (MARS); Earl Daneluk (NRS); Linda Gilmore (VicRS); Lloyd Gilmore (VicRS); Linda Derkach (MARS); Ken Webb (VicRS); Norma Senn (VicRS); Garth Wedemire (FSRS); Nick Yarmoshuk (Niagara); Bruce Feller (Long Island [ARS President]); Sean Rafferty (VFSRS)

Middle Row: Joe Ronsley (VRS); Tom and Ann Widdowson (VicRS); David Moore (NIRS); Mary Lou MacMillan; Sandy Campbell (CVRS); Sondra Meis (Niagara); Rick Simpson (Niagara); Madeleine Webb (VicRS); Elaine Derkash (MARS); Rosemary Prufer (FSRS); Carol Dancer (VicRS); Gayle McRae (NRS); Roy Blackmore (VicRS);

Kneeling Row: Susan Lightburn (NRS); Carolyn Marquardt (VicRS); Lois Blackmore (VicRS); Laura Grant (Toronto); Joanne Ronsley (VRS); Maria & Al Bieberstein (MARS); Mary Parker (MARS); Brenda MacDonald (FSRS); Sue Wedemire (FSRS); Art Prufer (FSRS); Al McRae (NRS)

Reclining: Glen Jamieson (MARS)

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

June 2013 Wind-Up

Location – Art & Susan Lightburn Home, 1489 Bay Dr, Nanoose Bay

Recorded – Susan Lightburn

Start Time – 4pm (chat and garden walk)

Attendance – approx 35+ members and guests

Pre Dining Mix & Mingle Games – Gaylle McRae recording

Identify the rhodos (6 groups of 4)

Winning team –Chris Southwick, Mary Parker, Lilian & Stanley Peters

Winners were each presented with a package of Susan's photocards.

Beanbag Toss – Started, but cut short by cries of, "Let's Eat"

Some wild pitchers, but good fun had by all.

6 pm Dinner – many great potluck dishes provided by members, and the 2 barbecues were busy.

After Dinner

Awards

Art Lightburn presented **Bronze Medals** to 3 members for their outstanding, continuous work for the club, and their efforts at the "Rhodo in Paradise Conference" held in Nanaimo. Recipients: Sandra Dorman, June Bouchard, Gerry Moore (absent).

Doug Blenkarn presented the **Truss Show** awards :

Best in Show:	Jan Dekens	Anne & Dick Beamish
Hammerhead:	Gala	Anne & Dick Beamish
Best Scented:	Lady Blue Fitzwilliam	Chris Southwick
Paull Trophy – most points		Anne & Dick Beamish
Popular Choice:	Black Widow	Anne & Dick Beamish

Cake Cutting & Celebration – A lovely cake delivered by Gaylle McRae was presented to and cut by Sandra Dorman & June Bouchard

Adjournment – The meeting closed approximately 8:30pm



NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Getting to know ... Bryan Jubinville

Bryan joined the NRS in 2009. He has been involved with our club's activities since day one – including Conference promotion and marketing and more recently as a member of the executive, still in charge of publicity. Thanks Bryan for sharing a bit of yourself with us.



1. How long have you been growing rhododendrons?

I could hardly call it “growing” ... I would call it buy, plant, watch, hope and perhaps learn. I have had rhodos in the yard for about 25 years but for the longest time, I thought they were just another pretty flower with a variety of different colours.

Little did I know....they came in different sizes, shapes, colours and attitudes (small, lanky, attractive, robust, sensitive, huge, soft, fuzzy, pretty...) - you name it and you can get any rhodo to match your personality!!! Currently I believe I have a personality disorder ... I do not know which rhodo I like the most.

2. How long have you lived on Vancouver Island?

Wow! I had to take a paper and pencil to figure it out; I have lived on Vancouver Island for 33 years, starting in Port Alberni, then migrating to Qualicum and landing up in Nanaimo.

3. Describe your best day in the garden. ☺

My best day in the garden, tough question! I like all my days in the garden ...be it on Crown Lands or someone else's garden or my own little patch of dirt. If you were to push me, I would have to say the best days are in the spring, when the gardens are waking up from their winter sleep; the colours, bees, birds, etc are all going about their activities greeting a new season. Special is when the hummingbirds are dive bombing you - finally they accept that you are not moving out and they come to rest on a small branch of a nearby tree to say “hello” or to show off (their colours are magnificent). After you turn from viewing the showoff, and you realize you are about to pick the very first raspberry of the season...can you taste it? Ummmmmmmmmm, great day!!!!

4. What other interests do you have?

Well to name a few... chasing Eileen, gardening, hunting, hiking, eating, golfing, kayaking, sailing, cycling, reading, fishing, watching the family grow, teasing the kids on the street, picking mushrooms, watching & listening to wildlife go about its business, playing squash, skiing, travelling etc....

You can easily see that I am a master of none – I am just your back home generalist who has to make compromises. I like most everything, would like to do more but Eileen keeps me in check ...she is the boss....

5. What's your favourite rhododendron?

Tough question – with so many rhodos with personality and for a guy with a personality disorder ... I would have to say President Roosevelt, Paprika Spiced and Starbright Champagne would have to rank very high, Scabrifolium in full bloom is spectacular as well. I may have to compromise and say - the one in full colour and showing well in my garden is my best (ps each one has their day).

6. What do you like about the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society?

Inclusivity, diversity, openness, and knowledge - most impressive is the depth of knowledge members have about rhodos certainly, but the breadth of knowledge about a host of other topics is impressive.

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

First Ever Comox Valley Nursery Crawl

Saturday, October 12th, 2013



The fall is a great time to plant more Rhododendrons, companion plants, bulbs, maples etc.... This year, we're going to try something different: *A NURSERY CRAWL*. We'll explore some great "off the beaten path" plant nurseries and special places in the Comox Valley, including a stop for lunch at a local restaurant. Should be fun!

We'll meet at the Woodgrove Mall parking lot (near Chapters) at 8:30. From there we'll car pool (no bus).

Cost: share the cost of gas (cover your own lunch cost)

Sign up at our September meeting or call John to sign up at 778 424 3605

R. thomsonii

R. thomsonii ssp. thomsonii is perhaps the iconic representation of the large Thomsonia subsection. Rarely confused with other species it is usually easy to identify, particularly in a garden setting, with its combination of waxy, deep red flowers with prominent almost black-red nectaries, rounded leaves, smooth, peeling, multicoloured bark and those remarkable calyces. Often of contrasting whitish or yellow-green, each large cup-shaped calyx



R. thomsonii ssp thomsonii

Photo by Garth Wedemire

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R. 'Aurora' - a *griffithianum*, *fortunei*, and *thomsonii* cross by Rothschild in 1922, it was itself a parent to the prolific 'Naomi' group

Reviewing Salley and Greer's Rhododendron Hybrids I gave up counting when I had reached over 100 hybrids and was only in the middle of the C's.

Not only that, but there seems to have been a particular creativity in evidence as the hybridizers searched for names for these progeny. Either that or the sheer number of crosses made people look deep in their creative psyches for a name that was not already taken. But how can you resist such names as 'Blazing Petals', 'Banned in Boston', 'Black Prince', or my personal favourite, 'Aroma from Tacoma' a Loderi cross from Hjalmer Larson.



R. 'Royston Red' - this small gem is a *forrestii* Repens Group x *thomsonii* cross developed by Harry Wright and named by Alleyne Cook in honour of the local hybridizers Ted and Mary Grieg and their nursery in Royston, BC

securely clasps the base of the flower, often remaining long after the blossom has dropped off. The effect is somewhat jaunty, somewhat like the a hotel bellboy's cap, and, combined with the fat round leaves and clown-like red of the flowers, give the plant a cheerful rather than elegant look.

Generally considered hardy, *thomsonii*'s early bloom time does make it susceptible to late frosts, and it prefers the shelter of the woodland away from the wind. In the wild it can be extremely variable in habit and size, as well as in calyx colour, which can range from yellow-green through crimson to purple.

First introduced by J. D. Hooker from Sikkim in 1849-1850, subsequent populations were discovered in Nepal, Bhutan, Assam, and southern Tibet, and by 1857 it was already part of a cross-breeding program that verged on a cottage industry.



R. 'Oporto' - the almost edible 'Oporto' is a straight *thomsonii* ssp. *thomsonii* x *sanguineum* ssp. *sanguineum* var *haemaleum* cross by Nelson in 1965

A couple of the original crosses became legends in their own right: Gill Richards & Sons developed 'Aurora', which was a parent of the Rothschild's ubiquitous 'Naomi' series, and it seems as if there were hardly a rhododendron developed in the 1950's and early 1960's that didn't have a piece of 'Naomi' in it somewhere.

Although somewhat slow to mature (it doesn't bud up in a two-gallon pot) *thomsonii* is reliably floriferous once it does get started, and is a wonderful addition to any garden.

Brenda Macdonald
Reprinted from The Yak September 2011

Photos from www.hirsutum.info