



September 2014

President's Message

Welcome to a new rhodo year! After a long hot summer, the little bit of rain we're having is very welcome and I'm sure our gardens will be soaking it up with delight. I have some interesting plants blooming in the fall for the first time, all of which are either *R. forestii* or *R. forestii* crosses, e.g., *R. Popocatayptl* and *R. Ruby Hart*.

On behalf of the NRS I'd like to thank Art Lightburn for his leadership of the club for the past two years and for his willingness to continue on with the executive in a very active capacity. I'm looking forward to his programs beginning with the September 11th meeting regarding bees. One of the purposes of our group is to help educate not only about the species rhododendron, but about gardening practices in general and I'm sure we'll be learning a good deal this year.

Thanks also goes out to those retiring from the NRS executive this year to have a well-deserved rest, and to those continuing on or stepping up to take a more active role. We have a very healthy club, thanks to all who so willingly lend a hand.

Over the summer we've lost a few Rhodo Club stalwarts, Dr. Bob Rhodes being one of our long term Nanaimo members. We've also lost one of our associate members, my Dad, Jim Greig. Our thoughts and support go out to both Jean Rhodes and Jean Greig and their families.

Hope to see you all on Thursday evening, September 11th starting at 6:30. Don't forget our annual finger food potluck. Bring your own plates, knives and forks. It's a good meeting to bring new members to so invite your friends.

Cheers,
Chris Southwick

EXECUTIVE

President	Chris Southwick	390-3415
Past President	Art Lightburn	468-7516
Vice President	Brenda Lewis	751-3639
Secretary	Ann Beamish	758-2574
Treasurer	Krystyna Sosulski	729-0948
Directors	Craig Clarke	390-4090
	Susan Lightburn	468-7516
	Dorothee Kieser	390-4136
	Gayle McRae	758-7589

COMMITTEES

Advertising	Jan Moles	
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	245-7879
Membership	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Program	Art Lightburn	468-7516
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey	
Social	Susan Lightburn	468-7516
Bargain Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533
Website	Craig Clarke	390-4090
Sunshine	Edith Higgins	390-9340
Bus Tour	John Deniseger & June Bouchard	
Truss Show	Doug Blenkarn	
Spring Sale	Ann Beamish	

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

Next Meeting

Thursday September 11, 6:30 pm Beban Park Social Centre

Brenda Jager

'Many Bees Live Here'

Twigs and Stems



First Meeting of the Year Potluck

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.

Our September Speaker Brenda Jager

'**Many Bees Live Here**' is the topic of Brenda's lecture and although she is, without a doubt, an expert on *Apis Melifera*, the common European honey bee, she will also speak on life cycles and habitat for a variety of native bees in local gardens and fields.

Brenda Jager is a Master Beekeeper and breeder, managing her bee yards on Gabriola Island.

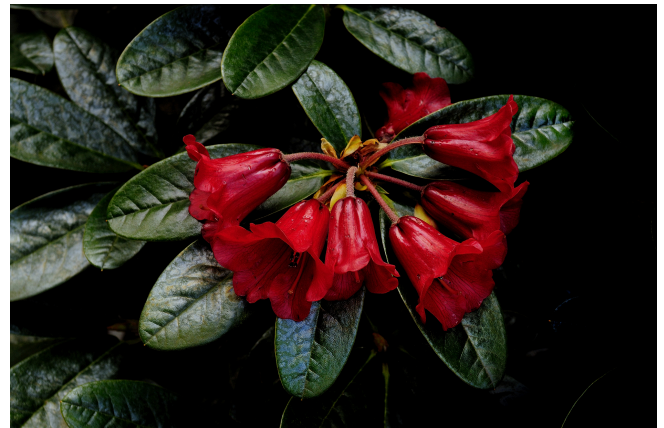
Brenda has provided many years of support to BC Bee Breeders' research and breeding projects. She began her work with the organization in 2006 when she joined Liz Huxter's breeding project in Grand Forks as a research technician. The goal of that breeding project was to improve the honey bees' natural resistance to Varroa mites. After completing three years learning to assess and breed commercial bee stock, Brenda came back to the coast and started the first cooperative BC Bee Breeders' Assessment and Training Yard.

The Breeder Assessment Yards are essential for assessing cold hardy bee stock from across Canada and disseminating the best stock to other BC beekeepers.

Until recently, Brenda was the Apiary Inspector for Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. In her role as the inspector, Brenda provided inspection services for beekeepers selling bees and provided outreach and education opportunities through community organizations.

Rhodos Worth Growing

R. haematodes (-20°) Excellent for both foliage and flower. This plant should be in your garden of low growing plants. Glistening, brilliant scarlet, tubular, bell shaped flowers are carried in trusses of up to 10. The smooth, dark green leaves are densely covered with woolly brown to dark brown indumentum underneath.



R. 'Silver Skies' (degronianum ssp. yakushmanum 'Koichiro Wada' x 'Medusa') 3', (-20°) Dark buds open to reveal magenta pink flowers with darker margins. Dark green foliage with indumentum. **6-10"**



NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Getting to know... John Deniseger

By June Bouchard

September is already here and it's time once again to start moving our thoughts to fall activities after a warm and dry summer.

John has kindly agreed to be my interviewee this month. I would appreciate volunteers for the next few newsletters so please let me know if you would like to be featured in this column – it is fun to get to know each other! ☺

1. How long have you been growing rhododendrons?

We had a few old established rhododendrons at our first house in Victoria (1983). When we moved to Nanaimo in 1985, it didn't take long before we added our first 3 plants. However, it wasn't until 1990 that we really started to grow rhododendrons.

2. How long have you lived on Vancouver Island?

I was born in Victoria and have always lived on Vancouver Island.

3. Describe your best day in the garden. ☺

Living on the coast, our climate allows us to garden year round. We can have great days in the garden at any time of year. Overall, my favourite garden days are in the spring, when we plant, move things around, create new beds, sow seeds in the vegetable garden, clean up, etc. It's all about the anticipation of the season ahead. Harvesting something from the food garden is always a great way to end the day ☺

4. What other interests do you have?

I enjoy spending time outdoors: hiking, canoeing, mushroom picking and walking. I also enjoy woodworking, reading, swimming, sports, cooking, and travelling.

5. Do you have a favourite rhododendron?

My favourite is *Rhododendron barbatum*. Five years ago, June and I travelled in Nepal, including a 14 day trek to Annapurna base camp. One of the highlights for me was hiking through the rhododendron forests near Gorepani, which included extensive groves of *R. barbatum* over 30 feet high. We have a 12 foot high plant in our own garden. It's a reliable, bright red early bloomer (early March), with smoky purple bark. Every spring, I'm reminded of our trip to Nepal.

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

I've met so many interesting people from all walks of life through our club. I enjoy the various club activities, but it's the people that draw me back each year.

7. Anything else you might like to share?

I'm also interested in organic gardening, and growing plants to attract pollinators, butterflies and other beneficial insects.



NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

September Raffle Plants



R. taliense
20', 5' A warm coat of buff colored indumentum covers the undersides of this lovely foliage. Flowers are cream to white

blushed rose with intense crimson markings. One of the most beautiful species to be found.

R. 'Karen Triplett'

('Seattle Gold' x 'Mary Drennen')
4', -20°C, ML.
Rounded mounds of warm satin yellow appear in grand splendor. Attractive jade green leaves on a handsome, well-branched shrub.



Very choice! Just ask Val Harvey about her award winning "Karen Triplett".

R. 'Alena'

('Cunningham's White' x decorum)
5', -12°C, EM.
Introduced from the Czech Republic, this sun tolerant plant has **fragrant** white flowers with yellow spotting in the throat. There will be a slight blush on new flowers. Dark glossy leaves cover the broad, mounding plant.



Mixing it Up in the Urban Garden 2015
Fresh ideas & expertise for new and seasoned gardeners

Adapting to Change ~ Working with Nature

Changing Patterns, Trends & Strategies
Keynote Speaker: Martin Galloway
"The Secret World of Gardens" TV Host

Community Gardens – Jim Harris
Sex in the Garden – Lyndon Penner
Permaculture – Jessica Bloom
Native Plants – Louise Goulet

Plus
Local Vendors & Resources
Silent Auction, Delicious Food

Saturday, January 31, 2015
8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Mary Winspear Centre, Sidney B.C.

COST Until Oct. 31 – \$60
Nov. 1 on – \$75
Great value – includes lunch, breaks and free parking

Register early. We always sell out!

Information & Registration
www.mgabc.org
(Victoria Chapter)

 Victoria Master Gardener Association

Stuffed Peppers With Mediterranean Twist

Ingredients

- 2 small red bell peppers (5 to 6 ounces each), halved lengthwise through stem, seeds and ribs removed
- 1 heaping cup cherry tomatoes (about 6 ounces)
- 1 1/2 ounces feta cheese (preferably goat's milk), crumbled
- 1 teaspoon fresh thyme, coarsely chopped
- 8 basil leaves, torn into pieces
- Freshly ground pepper
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil



Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees, with rack in top third. Place bell pepper halves, cut sides up, in a baking dish. Toss together tomatoes, feta, thyme, and basil in a medium bowl; season with black pepper. Fill each pepper with tomato and feta mixture, dividing evenly. Drizzle each with oil.
2. Bake stuffed peppers, covered with aluminum foil, until they begin to soften, about 30 minutes. Remove foil; continue to bake until tomatoes begin to burst and cheese turns light brown, 13 to 15 minutes more. Remove stuffed peppers from oven, and serve warm.
3. Cook's Note: You can also try other varieties of small tomatoes such as grape, currant, or even yellow pear in the filling.

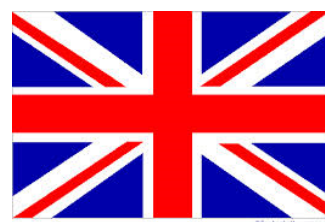
Martha Stewart has a great section called " Seasonal Produce Guide". I find the recipes modern and easy to follow!

Chris Southwick , your new president, has recently tried this recipe (slightly altered to make it vegan) , so get her opinion.

2014 Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia.



CVRS Southwest England *Garden* Tour May 14-25, 2015



Folks-this is it!! The English garden tour of a lifetime in the spring of 2015. Building on a series of successful Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society tours including last year's 5 day California and Oregon redwood forest and garden trip we are heading for the UK in 2015. You are welcome to join our group of dedicated British Columbia garden enthusiasts on this exciting trip, have fun, make new friends and create great memories.

Our 11 day tour includes world class gardens and historic sites in Southwest England. Starting at the Kew Botanic Garden on day 1 after your arrival from Canada we have a welcome event at our Heathrow hotel the first night. Many of our stops are United Nations World Heritage Sites. Local guides and garden specialists will assist where available and provide unique insights into British culture, the attractions and their gardens.

We begin in Heathrow and travel through Devon and Cornwall in SW England right down to the sub-tropical Land's End visiting a series rhododendron and other amazing gardens including the RHS Wisley followed by the intriguing Stonehenge site. We visit Coleton Fishacre, RHS Rosemoor, King Arthur's Tintagel Castle, Lanhydrock, the lost Gardens of Helligan, Caerhay's Castle and Trelissick. A day is spent near Land's End at Trengwainton and the historic St. Michael's Mount followed by a fun evening attending the unique Minack Theatre right on the coast.

After a night in Penzance we head northeast to the wonderful Hidcote Manor gardens which some describe as the world's finest, and enjoy the afternoon in the quaint Chipping Campden village and stay at a wonderful hotel in Cheltenham. Next day we visit Blenheim Castle and Gardens and then to Oxford to admire their gardens and sightseeing and shopping in this medieval and picturesque English town.

Just google these gardens/sites to get a taste of what this special tour includes!

On day 10 we are back in the London area and visit the Royal Chelsea Garden Show one of the most famous exhibitions in the world where landscape specialists create wondrous gardens showcasing the latest in floral and garden designs. That evening we will have our farewell dinner. Our final day is spent sightseeing in central London with a late return to our hotel so you can attend one of the entertaining west end London shows. The detailed itinerary and show lists will be provided after the dry run.

The tour cost includes guided, deluxe coach transportation, double accommodation in 3 to 4 star hotels, all breakfasts and suppers except day 11, welcome reception and farewell dinner, garden and historic site entry fees, a one year membership in the Royal Horticultural Society, bus refreshments, garden guides where available, the Minack theatre performance, gratuities and coveted Chelsea Garden Show tickets.

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

It is your responsibility to get to Heathrow, England from Canada no later than midday on May 14. We can arrange for you to stay at the Heathrow hotel a few days in advance if that suits your plans or you can extend your stay after the garden tour.

Final pricing will be confirmed following a dry run of the tour and will be based on any changes in currency between Canadian \$ and British Pounds. The total cost is in the range of about \$3000 (not including air fares which are your responsibility) for double room and will be confirmed by December 2014. Single accommodation is available for about \$700 extra.

We could do a group booking for the flight to London Heathrow at some discount if there is interest. The flight would likely leave Vancouver on the evening of May 13 and arrive the morning of May 14 with return on May 25. Let me know if you want to pursue a group booking when you make your trip deposit. Otherwise you can use points or purchase your flights from Air Canada, British Airways, Virgin

Airways, Lufthansa etc. Current prices of a return ticket Victoria to London are \$1000 per person for those dates. Participants should be in good physical condition as there is a fair amount of garden and site walking on this tour but no vigorous hikes. You should also arrange to purchase emergency medical/hospital insurance for the UK. Participants must have a valid passport.

To reserve a seat on this tour you must send a cheque for \$650 to Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society, 995 Hutchinson Road, Cobble Hill, BC V0R 1L4 by November 1. Seats are available only a first come first served basis based on date of receipt of deposit. The deposit is 100% refundable if the tour does not proceed. The balance is payable by April 15, 2015. Please provide your full name, address, phone, email address (mandatory), any plans for early arrival or late return, single or double accommodation, any dietary restrictions, whether you are already an RHS member, your interest in a group airfare to and from England, your affiliation, ie. CVRS or other garden club, organisation.

We require a minimum number of participants (there are 48 seats available) to proceed with the tour. **DO NOT book** your flights until the tour is confirmed as a go by late November 2014.

wedumont@hotmail.com 250 743 9882. Don't wait-this tour will sell out quickly.

The CVRS is not liable for unexpected costs or expenses arising out of situations on this tour beyond our control or Acts of God. Our liability is limited to the return of the balance of tour payments that have not been paid on behalf of participants if the tour does not fully proceed due to unforeseen or unexpected events or circumstances