

# The Rhodomentum

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Newsletter  
September 2018



## Welcome Back!

Hope you've all enjoyed the summer sunshine! While the hot, dry and sometimes smoky weather has been a challenge for some parts of the garden, our vegetable garden has been thriving. How can two plants produce that much zucchini! Overall our rhodos seem to have done well, with lots of early growth and encouraging bud set. The anticipation of spring never really stops, does it!

We look forward to seeing you all at our September meeting. We'll be starting at 6:30 rather than our usual 7:30 start as we'll be having our "welcome back potluck" – see details below. Bring your questions for our panel of experts. It's a great opportunity to learn while sharing our collective experience. Now if only we could have just a little rain .....

John and June

### EXECUTIVE

President	Vacant	
Vice President	Rosina Schmidt	751-3386
Past President	Allen McRae	758-7589
Secretary	Jan Moles	758-2574
Treasurer	Liz Higgins and Sandra Dorman	390-9340 390-0136
Directors		
	Dick Beamish	758-2574
	Craig Clarke	390-4090
	Art Lightburn	468-7516
	Susan Lightburn	468-7516
	Don Noakes	778 441-4783

### COMMITTEES

Advertising	Jan Moles / Gerry Moore
Library	Ann Beamish / Sandra Dorman
Newsletter	June Bouchard / John Deniseger
Membership	Krystyna Sosulski
Program	Committee
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey
Social	Susan Lightburn
Bargain Table	Reinhold Gorgosolich
Website	Craig Clarke
Bus Tour	David & Joyce Mitchell

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email: [rhodomentum@nanaimorhodos.ca](mailto:rhodomentum@nanaimorhodos.ca)

Next meeting: Thursday, September 13th, at 6:30 (NOTE TIME CHANGE)

Beban Park Social Center

Welcome Back Potluck! Panel of Experts

## Our September Program:

The NRS program committee has arranged for three well known rhododendron growers – Don Bridgen, Glen Jamieson and Terry Richmond – for a panel discussion and Q and A session. Members of the Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society, they bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to share with our club. There will be an informal roundtable for all to participate, so please come with all your rhodo and garden questions – be prepared for a lively and entertaining discussion!

### Dr. Glen Jamieson



- Glen has an extensive collection of Vireya rhododendrons, in addition to many collector's rhododendrons in his San Pareil, Parksville area garden.
- ARS Silver Medal recipient.
- Long time MARS member and currently the Mars program director.
- A world traveler and very much involved in the American Rhododendron Society as the editor of our quarterly JARS journal.

### Terry Richmond

- Born and still lives in Port Alberni - retired from the Paper Mill.
- Charter member of MARS.
- ARS Silver Medal recipient.
- Many years of plant sales through his Rhodomania Nursery.
- Well known for his organic rhododendron fertilizer formulation.

### Don Bridgen

- Longtime resident of Port Alberni, presently living in North Qualicum.
- He and his wife Susan have built a beautiful garden which they enthusiastically share with their friends, visitors and other garden fans.
- Long time MARS member and grower/collector of rhododendrons and companion plants.
- He gives his advice and shares his knowledge of gardening freely, and he is a good source of information on rhododendrons.

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## NRS September Finger Food Potluck

**Thursday September 13th**

**6:30 pm**

**Beban Social Center Rm 1**

**Don't forget** to bring cutlery, plates, cup or glass.

**A potluck finger-food dish** that you love to make and share.



**Bring your friends and neighbours**

Coffee, tea and sparkling punch will be provided.



**See you on Thursday, September 13th!!** 😊



## Twigs and Stems

### Calendar of Upcoming Events:

#### **Late Summer/early Fall at VIU's Milner Gardens and Woodland:**

Fall Plant Sale: September 29th & 30th, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Garden open 10:00 to 5:00 Thursday thru Sunday to October 7th

#### **Nanaimo Horticultural Society:**

Wednesday September 12th, 2018 at First Unitarian Fellowship Church of Nanaimo, 595 Townsite Rd - **Pruning Your Garden - Heathers, Lavenders, and more**

**Speaker: Douw Hattingh**

#### **Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society:**

Wednesday September 12th 7:30 pm at Qualicum Beach Civic Center - **Rhododendron Gardens in Denmark, Southern Sweden and Northwestern Germany: Glen Jamieson**

#### **North Island Rhododendron Society:**

Tuesday September 11th 7:30 pm - **Mountaineer and trek organizer, Tom Carter, this presentation will focus on his travels to Nepal.**

#### **Qualicum Beach Garden Club:**

September 11th, 2018 7:30 pm at Qualicum Beach Civic Center – **Karen Cummins: Sustainable and Organic Garden Practices and Design**

#### **North Island Wildlife Recovery Centre: Saturday,**

September 15, 2018: **Wild Woman Day – A Celebration of Women Nurtured by and Nurturing Nature.** ("Wild Men" are also welcome.)

#### **One Day Fall Conference – Sunday, October 28th, 2018:**

#### *In Memoriam*



We were very saddened to hear of long time member Dot Hardy's passing on Friday, June 8th. Our most sincere sympathies to our friend Charlie and to the Hardy family...

#### **NRS May Monthly Meeting & AGM**

**Minutes** Thursday, May 10th, 2018 at 7:30 PM

1. President's Report: Well, our society is still having problems getting people to volunteer to be on the Executive. None of these positions are that onerous and can be beneficial to you for doing them. Regarding the Plant Sale this weekend, if you haven't signed up to help, ask Brenda Lewis where help is needed. Remember, the more rhodos we have donated for our table, the more profit our club will make. Enjoy the program tonight.
2. Secretary's Report: Ann – absent. Chris Southwick took minutes of the meeting.
3. Treasurer's Report: Gaylle absent – The Treasurer's report was presented for review.
4. Library: Ann Nothing new to report.
5. Membership – Krystyna S. Nothing new to report.
6. Sunshine: Ann – absent. Dot Hardy is very ill.
7. Rhodomentum June/John: They appreciate receiving information from members. Those in attendance appreciate the work they're doing on the NRS Newsletter "Rhodomentum".
8. Bus Trip – David and Joyce – Sat. May 19th. There are 10 spaces available for the bus trip. The Wine, Art and Music festival for Cowichan Valley is taking place on that weekend, so lots of good times coming up.
9. Fall Conference Update: John Denisegeer spoke about the October 28th mini-conference. Registration is now available on line. Cost is \$25 for the whole day! Go to: <http://marsrhodos.ca/2018-fall-mini-conference> to register on line.

10. Plant Sale – Brenda Lewis and Jan Moles. Organizers are still looking for help with some of the jobs requiring support. Set up begins at 6:30 pm Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, and clean up starts at 2pm Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. Bringing any larger plants from your garden would be appreciated.
11. Year End Pot Luck Dinner – The date and place have yet to be decided. If any of you have not hosted this before and would like to volunteer your home, let me know please. Chris Southwick volunteered her place for Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup>.
12. **Annual General Meeting** - Election of Officers for next year – Chris Southwick chaired the election of officers for the 2018-2019 NRS Season. Results were as follows:  
President - vacant  
Past President: Allen McRae  
Vice-president: Rosina Schmidt  
Treasurer: Liz Higgins & Sandra Dorman\*  
Secretary: Jan Moles & Sandra Dorman\* e.g., helping when the sisters are on holiday.  
Directors: Don Noakes, Susan Lightburn, Art Lightburn, Craig Clarke, Liisa Rullo, Diana Walker
13. Raffle Table – R. Ginny Gee and R. ?
14. Dollar Table – Reinhold had several plants for sale, most of which he has propagated.
15. The next Executive Meeting will be on May 17<sup>th</sup> at 2PM at the home of Joyce and Craig Clarke
16. Coffee Break
17. Speaker: Introduction by Doug Kitts - Speaker: John Brimacombe from lower mainland. Topic: Use of Hardy Plants, Palms and other Exotics to create Mediterranean Gardens
18. Thanks to the Speaker – Doug

## Useful Links

Victoria Rhododendron Society: <http://www.victoriarhodo.ca/index.html>

Cowichan Rhododendron Society: <http://cowichanrhodos.ca/>

Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society: <http://marsrhodos.ca/>

North Island Rhododendron Society: <http://www.nirsrhodos.ca/ws/>

The American Rhododendron Society: <https://www.rhododendron.org/>

Linda Gilkeson's website: <http://www.lindagilkeson.ca/>

Lee Valley's Gardening Newsletter:  
<http://www.leevalley.com/en/newsletters/Gardening/2567/Article1.htm>



## 2018 Fall Horticultural Mini-Conference

**MARS** (Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society) and **NRS** (Nanaimo Rhododendron Society) are pleased to offer a day of education and enjoyment with internationally recognized gardening experts.

Seating is limited, so register early – don't miss this information-packed day!

See MARS' website for details about how to register:

<http://marsrhodos.ca/2018-fall-mini-conference/>

- Date: October 28, 2018
- Location: Parksville Community and Conference Centre  
132 Jensen Ave E, Parksville, BC V9P 2H2
- Time: 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM

10:00 AM – 10:10 AM	Intro
10:10 AM – 11:10 AM	Washington State University horticulture scientist Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott: Garden Myths – Facts or Fiction
11:10 AM – 11:25 AM	Break
11:25 AM – 12:25 PM	Local garden expert and host of HGTV's Bugs and Blooms Donna Balzer: Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is: Grow Better Food Faster
12:25 PM – 1:15 PM	Lunch
1:15 PM – 2:15 PM	UBC Botanical Garden associate director and curator Douglas Justice: Following the Footsteps of Explorers in Tibet.
2:15 PM – 3:15 PM	Host of CFAX 1070's Gardening 101 and site manager of Abkhazi Gardens Jeff de Jong: Rhododendrons Need Friends Too!
3:15 PM – 3:30 PM	Break
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	Comox horticulturalist Dany Fortin: Crevice Gardening

**Refreshments:** Free coffee, tea, and treats will be provided. **Please bring your own bag lunch.**

Don't forget to enter to win the **door prize** and check out the goodies offered in the **silent auction**!

**Tickets: \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door** (if seats are still available)

**Register soon as there are only a few seats left!!!!**

*“Autumn is a second spring, when every leaf is a flower.” Albert Camus*



## Rhododendron “Blue Baron” from Ron Sutton (Thank you, Ron, for this submission)

I guess we have all had a rhododendron that we struggled to grow. In the attached link, there is a gardener who is so frustrated with R. Blue Baron, that they posted a page about it. I too have tried to grow it in Ontario, and failed. However, I have another one, and am trying it again here on Vancouver Island. I don't know why it is offered in Ontario. But this post made me chuckle, as I can relate.

<https://www.gardenlady.com/i-hate-rhododendron-blue-baron/#comment-6154>

## I HATE RHODODENDRON ‘BLUE BARON’ (Posted at 21:05h in Gardens by CL Fornari)

**Imagine:** Yes indeed. Imagine a plant that looks fantastic in the garden center when it's fresh from the grower. But that plant is out for just one thing: to break your heart.

Normally I post a “I Love This Plant!” every Saturday. Today, I'm not in love. After eight years of heartbreak, I'm talking about the ‘Blue Baron’ honestly...a few days before I rip it out of my garden and toss it into the compost pile.

**Name:** *Rhododendron* ‘Blue Baron’ aka *Rhododendron prettypathetica*

**Type of Plant:** A blue flowering *Rhododendron*, said to be compact in habit. Wow! Why don't we see this plant in every foundation planting? The flower color is amazing, and the photos we find online make the plant look like a low, full shrub filled with blue-purple flowers in the spring.



**Why I hate this:** The only time this plant will flower well for you is when it's fresh from the nursery. So be sure to buy one that's in bud not full bloom, so you can enjoy it in flower for at least three weeks. Even when it lives through the winter, it often doesn't flower because in cold winters the buds get zapped. The foliage is often killed off as well, so that over time these plants get asymmetrical, thin and sad.

**A Word to the Wise:** If you don't see a plant doing well in other people's yards, yet it looks good in the nursery, you have to ask yourself why. “Why does this look great in the garden center every year but I never see it looking great in other's gardens?”

This is the first time in EIGHT YEARS that my Rhododendron ‘Blue Baron’ bloomed. And this is as good as it gets. Yup... *Rhododendron prettypathetica*

## This summer, in Doug Kitt's Garden:

Pictures of my hybrid rhododendron: *R. auriculatum* x "Mrs. A.T. de la Mare" - blooming in the last two weeks of July!!!



### Also from Doug – Plant Sale coming up:

I will be having a plant sale Sept.15 at 509 Temple Street in Parksville, from 10am to 2 pm. About 40 plants, mostly 2, 3 and 5 gallon. I have hard to find hybrids and species.



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## August District 1 Meeting – a brief report from Chris Southwick (also alternate District 1 Director and Treasurer)

On August 21st, a number of NRS members attended the semi-annual District 1 meeting.

District 1 chapters contribute ARS dues of \$2.50 per member. All chapters will now be contributing those dues in August rather than March so that all members, including those joining in the spring will be counted. This fund is used to help send District 1 representatives to ARS meetings.

The group supported a motion to coordinate honorariums amongst the seven chapters. The honorarium of \$100 plus transportation costs was agreed to be a general rule.

Mount Arrowsmith Rhodo Society reported that planning is going well for their September, 2019 conference which will be held in Parksville.

Director, Chris Hodgson from the Vancouver Chapter reported that the ARS is on a more comfortable financial footing and that the Bremen, Germany, spring convention was one of the best in recent memory. He also reported that overall membership in the ARS is down 200 members to 2, 400 members worldwide.

The next District 1 meeting will be taking place on the Island in Shirley, B. C. (west of Sooke).

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## Therapeutic Properties of Ginkgo and Loquat by Rosina Schmidt

Did you know?

Our gardens do not only enchant our soul with their beauty but they are also the God's pharmacy. Take for instance:

**GINKGO TREE** - also known as Ginkgo biloba as well as maidenhair tree



Ginkgo biloba is an ancient plant, claimed to be the oldest tree species on earth and today it is one of the top-selling herbal treatments worldwide. The Germans believe that it is so effective that it's even a prescription herb there.

Ginkgo has been widely studied for its anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, platelet-forming and circulation-boosting effects. The current research claims that the benefits of ginkgo biloba include improved cognitive function, positive mood, increased energy, improved memory, and reduced symptoms related to

multiple chronic diseases, like asthma! It's being used as a natural remedy for ADHD and even as dementia treatment.

The extract can be taken as a supplement, and the dried leaves of the plant can be used to make tea.

Harvest time: end of summer.

## LOQUAT TREE

The loquat tree produces edible fruit that is rich in calcium, iron, vitamin A, vitamin C, B-complex, thiamin, riboflavin, niacin, pyridoxine, folates and folic acid. and potassium. The therapeutic power of loquat is contained in its large and glossy evergreen leaves. It has been used to make tea that has been reputed to promote skin, respiratory, and intestinal health.



To prepare the tea, use a fingernail to scrape off the furry underside of the leaves. Mince the leaves and combine them with water in a small pot. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer for 15 minutes. Remove from the heat, cover and let the tea stand for 10 minutes. Strain and serve hot, or let it cool and serve iced.

Harvest time: year round



## The legend of the rhododendron from Kevin Ebi at

<http://livingwilderness.blogspot.ca/2015/06/the-legend-of-rhododendron.html>

*There have always been stories about the origin of the land and the life that calls it home. Before there was science, those stories came from imagination and spirituality. In this series, I have created contemporary nature photography to illustrate them. Read more about my [Legends of the Land](#) series.*



There was a time when marriage wasn't just for people — trees and shrubs got married too. But they don't anymore and it's because of a tree that was too quick to judge a beautiful potential bride.

Fig cherished her role as matchmaker. Along every forest trail were dozens of happy couples she helped pair up. Alder was about the only tree in the forest who wasn't in a relationship. "Quick! There's someone you just have to meet!" "Not today," Alder replied. "It's a beautiful spring day. I think I'm just going to sun myself." Alder was all about himself. His appearance mattered more to him than anything else. He wasn't even really aware there was anything else. Months later, after seeing how happy everyone else was, he thought perhaps it was time for him to settle down and plant roots, if you will. He thought again about Fig's offer and decided to take her up on it. "Sure, I'll take you to see her," Fig said. "Her name is Rhododendron." Rhododendron was by all means a catch. She had an absolutely beautiful soul and, for part of the year, was one of the most beautiful things in the forest. Winter, however, was not one of those times. "I can't be seen with ... that!" Alder exclaimed, pointing to her blackened leaves and decaying flowers. "I have an image to maintain." "You're making a huge mistake," Fig said.

The following spring, Alder and Fig were walking in the forest when Alder was overcome by the beauty in front of him. He couldn't take his eyes off her vibrant scarlet blossoms. All the forest creatures were surrounding her, singing about her beauty. "Look at her. She's absolutely beautiful," Alder exclaimed! "She's my type! I will marry her! Fig, make the arrangements!" Then Rhododendron spoke up. "I cannot marry you," she said. "You rejected me last winter. I could never be with someone who has such a fickle heart." Distraught, Alder rushed to a bluff and threw himself off, landing in a deep ravine below. That's why alder trees, even today, are typically found only in ravines — and why the ruler of the forest will no longer allow trees to fall in love.

— Based on a Nepalese legend

Need a ride to one of our meetings?



Call Chris at 250-390-3415 or 250-616-2742 (cell)

or send her an email at [csouthwick@shaw.ca](mailto:csouthwick@shaw.ca)

## From your library... by June Bouchard



*Herbs in bloom: a guide to growing herbs as ornamental plants*  
(1998) by Jo Ann Gardner

From the book cover: “Jo Ann Gardner has been growing herbs for more than 25 years on her Cape Breton Island farm. Her A-Z selection of 80 favorite flowering herbs is full of detailed information on how to grow each herb from seed or cuttings, with systematic advice on site selection, soils, transplanting, and other practical concerns based on her own experience. She suggests appropriate landscape uses, and discusses interesting facts of history and lore along with the occasional recipe. As well as the featured herbs treated in depth, she mentions related plants of interest and selected cultivars. In all, more than 700 herbs are described. An appendix grouping herbs by prime bloom season will help the gardener plan for long-lasting garden color.”

Although this book is now 20 years old, the idea of growing herbs as ornamentals in the perennial garden is still very relevant. This is an inspiring book – my only wish is that there would be more photos but this is easily done (easier than in 1998!) by looking on the internet. The last word goes to the author herself: “It is my aim to convince fellow gardeners that herbs also have beautiful flowers and can be used to advantage anywhere in the landscape.” Check it out from the NRS’s wonderful collection of books!

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## Time to think about ordering plants from the Rhododendron Species Garden

(From Craig Clarke)

One of the many benefits of NRS membership is also being a member of the Rhododendron Species Foundation located near Seattle. The RSF membership provides us with an opportunity to access their exceptional collection of species rhododendrons.

The Rhododendron Species Foundation Fall Sale catalogue is now available

online: <https://rhodygarden.org/cms/shop/order-plantsseeds/> The order deadline for International sales to be delivered to UBC is October 4<sup>th</sup>. **If there is interest in placing an order, we need a volunteer to put the order together and to pick up the plants at UBC during the week of October 22<sup>nd</sup>.**



## **Les Jardins de Métis (Reford Gardens)** by June and John

Located 350 km northeast of Quebec City, Les Jardins de Metis is one of Canada's most outstanding gardens and a national historic site. In 1926, at the age of 54, Elsie Reford began the 30-year project of transforming her fishing camp. In 1962, the 28 acre garden was opened to the public. Within the garden are numerous microclimates, a stream that forms the garden's backbone, an impressive plant collection and the Reford summer lodge.

We visited in early July with temperatures in the upper 20's. We found so much in bloom, from rhododendrons and azaleas to peonies, primulas, orchids, poppies and so much more. It seemed as if everything was in bloom at the same time.... And if you're wondering, this is a zone 4b garden!!

If you're ever in the area, check it out! Here are a few photos:



*Looking forward to seeing you all at the September meeting!*  
*Remember we're starting early at 6:30! ☺*