

The Rhodomentum



Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Newsletter

September 2019



Hi everyone!

Welcome to our 27th year of NRS get-togethers!

Our warmest thanks to everyone who have led this fine club in years past, to all of those who participated in so many ways, but especially to Glenda Barr, Joyce and Craig Clarke, our founding members who are still with us and actively contributing to make this club the great success that it is. What a great team this club has turned out to be! No wonder our truss show was again a big winner, with everyone pitching in. Thank you, thank you!

It was a perfect year-end BBQ at Art and Susan Lightburn's lavish gardens, and our great thank-you for their so very warm hospitality!

In mid-July, five of us joined Ken and Madeleine Webb at their splendid home and garden in Saanich to observe Ken build a propagator for the Victoria chapter. While Art Lightburn and Deborah Francis gave a hand, Susan Lightburn and myself made the photographs, so we too can build our own propagator down the road. Glenda Barr was our cheerleader! Please see the photos below.

In the meantime, we have the opportunity to use the greenhouses of VIU's Payne Centre, which we can visit and explore on September 17th at 10 am.

Until then, happy gardening!

Rosina

EXECUTIVE

President	Vacant	
Vice President	Rosina Schmidt	751-3386
Past President	Allen McRae	758-7589
Secretary	Jan Moles	758-2574
Treasurer	Liz Higgins	390-9340

Directors

Art Lightburn	468-7516
Susan Lightburn	468-7516
Don Noakes	778 441-4783

COMMITTEES

Advertising	Jan Moles / June Bouchard
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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Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4

Website: nanaimorhodos.ca

email: rhodomentum@nanaimorhodos.ca

Next meeting: Thursday, September 12th, at 6:30 (NOTE TIME CHANGE)

Beban Park Social Center - Welcome Back Potluck!

Sue Grant and Garth Wedemire

"A Tour of Wales: historic homes, gardens and rhododendrons".

September program: Garth Wedemire (with more than a little help from Sue 😊)



“A Tour of Wales: Historic Homes, Gardens and Rhododendrons”

Based on a 2018 tour with the Scottish Rhododendron Society

Garth has been a member of the Vancouver Rhododendron Society since 1975 and was one of the founding members of the Fraser Valley chapter. He has received two Bronze medals (Vancouver and Fraser Valley) and a Silver medal from District 1. Garth, and his wife Sue, moved to Comox a few years ago and are now active members of the North Island Rhododendron Society. Using his knowledge as a math and computer studies teacher, he has been instrumental in developing and maintaining many of the websites in District 1. His love of the genus Rhododendron has led him to travel to Nepal, China and to many gardens throughout Canada, the U.S., New Zealand and Great Britain.

NRS September Finger Food Potluck

Thursday, September 12th

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, and tea will be provided.



See you all on Thursday, September 12th!! 😊



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

Twigs and Stems

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

ARS 2019 Western Regional Fall Conference-
hosted by the Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society:
Parksville Community and Conference Center – September 27th to 29th. For more information and to register, visit their website at: <http://marsrhodos.ca/ars2019/>
NOTE: registration closes on September 14th

Milner Gardens and Woodland: Open Thursday to Sunday daily 10:00 am to 5:00 pm (last entry at 4:30) from September 5th to October 13th. Check their website for other events and details.

FALL PLANT SALE Saturday September 28 and Sunday September 29th 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

<https://www2.viu.ca/milnergardens/events.asp>

Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society: Glen Jamieson on “North American Deserts” and Linda Derkach on “Gardens of the Delaware River Valley in Pennsylvania”; Qualicum Beach Civic Center, Sept. 11th; 7:30 pm.

North Island Rhododendron Society: United Church in Comox, 7:30 pm, September 10th – John Deniseger: “Why I Garden”.

Eaglecrest Garden Club: Wednesday, September 25th; at 7:00; Qualicum Beach Civic Center; Margaret Mills: “Mason Bees: Everything you need to know”.

Nanaimo Horticultural Society: First United Fellowship Church, 595 Townsite Rd; Wednesday, September 11th at 7:30, Louise Boutin: “Fall Bulbs”

Nanoose Garden Club: Don Hare: “Invasive Plants of Coastal BC”; Nanoose Library Center & Event Hall, September 6th; 1:15pm.

Qualicum Beach Garden Club: Kristin Crouch: “Vegetable Growing 101”. QB Civic Center, Tuesday, September 10th, 7:30pm.



After many years as our social events / coffee break coordinator, Susan Lightburn is taking a well-deserved break! We are happy to report that Deborah Francis has volunteered to take over her functions.

A great big thank you to Susan from all of us for looking after this important part of our society for so long!



And thank you to Deborah for stepping up!



September is our AGM month – please consider joining the NRS Executive!!!

Starting this year, our AGM will be held in September rather than in May. We are happy to report that a number of members are stepping up to join the executive! **We still need one or two more directors – perhaps you'd like to join them??**

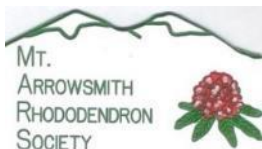
Here's a list of those members who have offered to let their names stand for the AGM:

President: Rosina Schmidt
Vice-President: Chris Southwick
Secretary: Jan Moles
Treasurer: Liz Higgins
Past President: Allen McRae



Directors:
Gaylle McRae
Art Lightburn
Susan Lightburn
Don Noakes
Rea Sutton
Ron Sutton

**Many thanks to our outgoing members who have donated
many hours of their time to our society!**



Coming this Fall!!

ARS 2019 Western Regional Fall Conference

**'Rhododendrons by the Seaside' – hosted by the Mount
Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society**

Sept 27-29, 2019 at the Parksville Community and Conference Center



It's not too late!!! You may have missed the "Early Bird" deadline but registration is still open until September 14th! Although the workshops are now full, there are still great speakers, wonderful garden tours, a quality plant sale, and an opportunity to meet and mingle with rhodo enthusiasts from North America and beyond! It's going to be a special event you won't want to miss. For more information and to register, visit our website at: <http://marsrhodos.ca/ars2019/>

The Beginnings of a Propagator Group at the N.R.S.!

We have a unique opportunity to use V.I.U.'s Payne Center facilities to create a propagation area for our club! We can learn how to root cuttings from the seemingly endless variety of rhododendrons in our gardens. For some, this is the only way to obtain them! Over time, we may be able to sell them at our own plant sale! By working together, it's a great learning opportunity....

On Tuesday September 17th at 10 am, we'll be meeting at the center to visit and explore the possibilities! Access to the Horticultural Centre is from the driveway on 2324 East Wellington Road; the road winds along the south side of the property. A large parking area is located on site and is lit in the evenings for security purposes. Follow the road to the main building.

Learning how to build a propagator at Ken and Madeline Webb's back in July – photos by Rosina Schmidt:



NRS Program: Our club's program committee (Chris Southwick, Dorothee Kieser, Art and Susan Lightburn, Glenda Barr, and John Denisege) have been busy. Working together (isn't it always easier, when we work together?), they have booked speakers for the entire 2019-20 season. You'll notice a fairly diverse range of topics while adding more rhododendron content. As the year progresses, we hope to add more demos and short presentations on topics of interest.

Date	Speaker	Topic
September 2019	Garth Wedemire	Gardens in Wales
October 2019	Main speaker: Margaret Cadwaladr Demo: Paul Wurz on Rhodo cuttings	The Making of Dart's Hill Garden (White Rock)
November 2019	Bill McMillan	Rhododendron Pests and Diseases
December 2019	Christmas potluck and auction	
January 2020	John Denisege and June Bouchard	Gardens of New Zealand's North Island
February 2020	Sean Rafferty	Favourite Himalayan Plants
March 2020	Linda Gilkeson	Life After Pesticides
April 2020	Shannon Berch	Soil Biology
May 2020	Dick Beamish	My Favourite Trusses

Looking back to last June's year end BBQ at Art and Susan's beautiful home and garden.

Wasn't it only a few weeks ago that we gathered at the Lightburn's garden for our year-end wind-up party? To quote Rosina, "Attached are a few photos from the wind-up party at the lavish gardens of Susan and Art. It was a splendid affair, and how could it not be in such a hospitable home?" Here are some of Rosina's photos:



"Youth is like spring, an over praised season more remarkable for biting winds than genial breezes. Autumn is the mellower season, and what we lose in flowers, we more than gain in fruits." Samuel Butler

Greig Species Garden Update

It's been another busy spring and summer! In May, we installed temporary shade cloth to protect the newer and smaller plantings. Through the summer, we've had a rotating team of volunteers checking the plantings 3 times each week to monitor their health and sufficient watering. The 500 perennials planted in the spring together with the ever-growing collection of rhododendrons have really started to fill in the garden. **In July, we had a Species Garden Advisory Group meeting highlighted by the presentation of a \$4000 US cheque from the A.R.S.** The funds will be used to purchase more rhododendrons for the species garden!



Useful Links

Victoria Rhododendron Society: victoriarhodo.ca/index.html

Cowichan Rhododendron Society: cowichanrhodos.ca/

Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society: marsrhodos.ca/

North Island Rhododendron Society: nirsrhodos.ca/ws/

The American Rhododendron Society: rhododendron.org/

Linda Gilkeson's website: lindagilkeson.ca/

Nanoose Bay Garden Club: nanoosegardenclub.ca/

Raffle Plants:



R. "Arneson's Gem"

Deciduous azalea with striking yellow-orange fragrant flowers in May. Dramatic color and sweet-smelling flowers are its best qualities. Thrives in full sun where their evergreen relatives tend to burn. Extremely hardy to -34C. Grows to 3 ½ to 4½ feet in 10 years.

R. "Blaney's Blue" 4/4/4

A vigorous growing, prolific flowering plants reaching 4 to 5 feet in 10 years. The leaves are deep green in summer, changing to bronze tones in the winter. It is hardy to -21C.— 4-5'



Rhododendron 'Aloha' 3-4/4-5/4

A well-rounded plant, which is dense and well branched. It grows to 3 feet in 10 years and is hardy to -23C.

Flowers are openly funnel-shaped, wavy edges, 2¾" across, deep pink fading to pale purplish-pink. Held

in dome-shaped truss of about 19 flowers. Leaves olive green with orange-yellow indumentum, leaves retained 3 years. New growth has white indumentum. Dense, rounded habit (Vulcan x degronianum ssp. yakushimanum, Exbury form).



*Looking forward to seeing you all at the
September meeting!*

*Remember we're starting early at
6:30! 😊*