



The Rhodomentum

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Newsletter



February 2024



President's Message

Hi Everyone,
 Now that the big freeze and snow is gone, one gets the feeling Spring is right around the corner. We received approximately a foot of snow here at our place. Several very large branches broke off from the trees and damaged some of our rhododendrons, but it could have been worse.
 Our first meeting of 2024 saw 33 people brave the freezing temperature to enjoy John and June's presentation on their trip visiting English gardens. Our next meeting on February 8 will host the owners of Streamside Native Plants who will give a talk about native plants.
 There is a Hailey Grove party scheduled for February 13, weather permitting. Volunteer some of your time to help Deborah Francis and others to maintain this beautiful garden. The club is going to purchase a new inexpensive laptop computer, as our current one is old and slow.
 The ARS has recently been paid to cover the cost of our memberships.
 Our club will have an information booth at the Nanaimo Seedy Sunday, which is being held on n March 3rd from 10am to 3pm at Nanaimo District Secondary School.
 Are considering going to the ARS Bellingham Conference? Chris Southwick is organizing a bus to take you there and back if interested. (See details on page 11.)
 See you at the next meeting.

Ron

OUR EXECUTIVE

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| President | Ron Sutton | 416-951-1373 |
| Vice President | Dorothee Kieser | 390-4136 |
| Past President | Rosina Schmidt | 751-3386 |
| Secretary | Deborah Francis | |
| Treasurer | Ron Sutton | 416-951-1373 |

Directors:

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Wanda Brenton | 754-1039 |
| Margaret Cadwaladr | 585-6046 |
| Arthur Lightburn | 468-7516 |
| Gaylle McRae | 758-7589 |
| Krystyna Sosulski | 729-0948 |
| Chris Southwick | 616-2742 |

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Advertising | Margaret Cadwaladr |
| Library | Ann Beamish / Gaylle McRae |
| Newsletter | June Bouchard / John Deniseger |
| Membership | Krystyna Sosulski |
| Program | by Committee |
| Raffle | Val Harvey |
| Sunshine/Coffee | Wanda Brenton |
| Bargain Table | Reinhold Gorgosilich |
| Website | Deborah Francis/Rosina Schmidt |
| Bus Tour | |
| Propagation | Rosina Schmidt |
| Hailey Grove | Deborah Francis |
| Show and Sale | Jan Moles and Rosina Schmidt |
| Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Box 241, #101-5170 Dunster Road Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4 Website: nanaimorhodos.ca | |

Our next meeting – Thursday, February 8th, at 7:30

“Native Plants, Naturally”

With Cindy Hampton and Jim Roberts, owners of Streamside Native Plants

At Beban Park Social Centre

Our Program for February - Native Plants, Naturally!

With Cyndi Hampton and Jim Roberts, owners of Streamside Native Plants in Bowser



Join us for a talk about the many benefits of choosing native plants for you garden: promoting biodiversity by aligning with the habitat needs of native insects, birds and other wildlife. [Click here](#) for more details. (Ed. Note – Our club’s bus tour last spring included a wonderful stop at Streamside Nursery. Cyndi and Jim did a great job making the group feel very welcome while also making the visit so interesting. **NOTE: They’ll be bringing a limited selection of plants for sale at the meeting!**)

Cyndi Hampton and **Jim Roberts** are the owners of Streamside Native Plants. For the last two years, and building upon the business’s 27-year history, they have enjoyed the very rewarding work of propagating and growing native plants of coastal British Columbia. Plants from their nursery support revegetation work, landscaping and gardening projects across Vancouver Island and beyond.



Jim is a biologist (R.P.Bio) with more than 25 years experience in fish and wildlife habitat management. His previous consulting experience focused on stream, wetland and riparian restoration work in coastal British Columbia. This included development of planting plans, followed by site preparation, maintenance and monitoring efforts.

Cyndi has a degree in Geography with Master's-level studies in watershed management and ecology. Prior to co-managing Streamside, she was a project administrator at an environmental and engineering consulting firm.



Thank you to Elaine Hutchison and Deborah Francis for bringing goodies to our upcoming February meeting.



And a special thank you to Wanda for including tea in our break selection – the tea drinkers among us are excited about this addition! 😊

Looking Back at Our Last Meeting...



About 35 intrepid NRS members braved the snowy forecast to attend our January meeting featuring Gardens and Travels in England.

Heartfelt thanks to everyone in attendance for their patience and understanding as we worked through our technical challenges which were out of our control. Thankfully, we did resolve the issues...

June and John

Executive Meeting:

Your Executive Team hard at work planning upcoming spring events at their last meeting on Thursday, January, 25th. The food alone might make you want to join this lovely group!!! 😊 From left to right: Rosina Schmidt, Margaret Cadwaladr, Art Lightburn, Christ Southwick, Deborah Francis, Gaylle McRae, Dorothee Kieser, Ron Sutton. Missing from photo are Wanda Brenton and Krystyna Sosulski



Black Forest Picking Basket

Rosina hopes to introduce these beautiful baskets (photo on right) at our next meeting.

From Rosina: "Two of them were made by Wendy Rost, who had an outdoor stand at our last plant sale, and one I bought in the Black Forest. One attaches it to the waist with a belt in order to have both hands free for picking. I am trying to introduce this nifty type of baskets to our verdant Island - no kind of profit for me."



Celebration of Life for Linda White

Long time NRS member Linda White passed away earlier this fall (see December newsletter). Richard has let us know that Linda's Celebration of Life will be held at Nanaimo's Cavalloti Lodge (2060 East Wellington Rd.) on Saturday, February 24th, 2024 from 1 to 4 pm.





NRS Upcoming Program for the rest of the Year:

- **March:** "Ups and Downs of City Gardeners"
- **April:** "Finnerty Gardens" with Garth Wedemire
- **May:** "Plans for Milner Rhododendron Expansion" with Geoff Ball and Jim Cadwaladr
- **June:** End of Year Party! 😊

Twigs and Stems: Calendar of Other Upcoming Events:

Milner Gardens and Woodland: Open Fridays and Saturdays, from 11:00 am to 3:30 pm, **beginning February 2nd, 2024**. For details, check the [Milner Website](#)

North Island Rhododendron Society: "My Favourite Rhodo", with Chris Southwick, Comox United Church Hall, Tuesday, February 20th at 7:30.

Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society: "Pruning Rhododendrons" with Scott Wiskerke, Qualicum Beach Civic Center, Wednesday, February 14th, 7:30pm

Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society: "Round Table Discussion", Wednesday, February 7th, at The Hub in Duncan.

Victoria Rhododendron Society: "The Garden in a Changing World" with Jeff de Jong - Couvelier Pavilion, Glendale Gardens, 505 Quayle Rd, Saanich, Thursday, February 1st, 7:30pm

Seedy Saturday in Qualicum: Saturday February 3rd, 2024 at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre. [Click here](#) for further details.

Seedy Sunday in Nanaimo: Sunday, March 3rd, 2024 - **The NRS will be present at this event – volunteers will be needed** – further details at our February meeting.

Hailey Rhododendron Grove Work Bee ~ Bowen Park

By Deborah Francis, coordinator

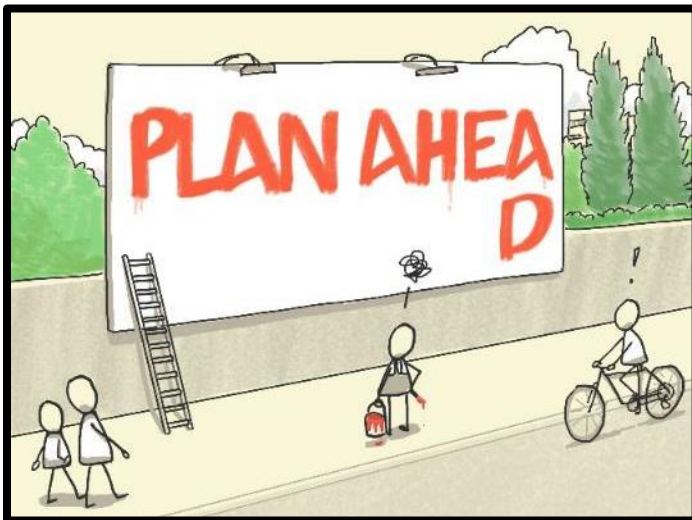
On Saturday January 27, Deborah and Rosina attended an Environmental Steward Appreciation Brunch sponsored by the City of Nanaimo.

The Nanaimo Rhododendron Society was acknowledged and celebrated for the amazing work that has been done over this past year in Hailey Grove. It was a fun event attended by many other dedicated park volunteers and environmental stewards.



Tuesday, February 13th from 9:00 am to 12:00 will be our first Hailey Work Bee of the year at Bowen Park in Nanaimo – parking at the tennis courts. Bring good cheer, your gardening gloves, and a snack. The City will provide gardening tools.

Hope to see you there! Come and be part of the fun! 😊



Our annual plant sale is coming up on Saturday, May 11th. With spring quickly approaching (honest! 😊), you will soon be subdividing perennials – please reserve/pot up some for our Plant Sale table at the May 11th Show and Sale.

Shadehouse at Milner

We've set up a weekly maintenance schedule in cooperation with MARS members – we alternate weeks. Thank you to everyone who signed up to help out. **If you'd like to join the team, please see John or Chris.**

REMINDER:

Shadehouse Checking Crew for the upcoming months...

| Week of: | | |
|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| February 12th | Elaine Hutchison | |
| February 26th | Chris Southwick | Elaine Hutchison |
| March 11th | Dorothee Kieser | Ione Brown |
| March 25th | Ann Beamish | Dick Beamish |
| April 8th | Rosina Schmidt | |
| April 22nd | Dorothee Kieser | |

Propagation News By Rosina Schmidt

Our 2023 cuttings at VIU's greenhouse are doing well - they all look great and nice and moist – even the new growth is to be seen, thanks to all that loving care by the Propagators!



Our Wonderful Propagation Team – thanks everyone for all the hard work!

From left to right: (Back Row) Allen McRae, Chris Southwick, Dick Beamish, Deborah Francis, Dorothee Kieser, Moira Timmons, Wanda Brenton, David Smith. (Front Row) Gaylle McRae, Elaine Hutchison, Rosina Schmidt, Ann Beamish, Liz Higgins. Missing from photo: Jan Moles and Ione Brown.

Plant of the Month by Ron Sutton

Rhododendron 'Contina'

Here is a wonderful floriferous hybrid lepidote rhododendron. It's a cross between hybrid R. 'Chief Paulina' (*R. concinnum* Pseudoyanthinum Group selection) and *R. augustinii* 'Barto Blue'. The hybridizer is C.H Phetteplace. This is one of Steve Hootman's favourite rhododendrons. The foliage is unremarkable, but the flowers are an intense rich purple colour that open in late April to early May. The photo of my plant was taken on May 5. The plant has an upright growth habit, and will grow to be 4-5 feet in 10 years. It can handle full sun, and is hardy to 0°F/ -18°C



Another Upcoming Event of interest in the Garden Community:

Qualicum Beach Garden Club (<https://qualicumbeachgardenclub.ca/>)



Guest Speaker: Bonnie Zand
Topic: "Integrated Pest Management - do you struggle with unwanted garden pests? Learn strategies on how to manage pests while conserving the beneficial insects that live in your home garden setting"
When: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 - 7:30 pm (doors open 7 pm)
Venue: Qualicum Beach Civic Centre (Photo from their web page)

Did you know??? We are now on Facebook as the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society. Upcoming events will be posted there and members will be able to add photographs or items of interest to members. (Thank you, Margaret, for setting that up!)

Stay connected - check our web page - new things added regularly! <http://nanaimorhodos.ca/>

Recently, Chris came across this article by Ted and Mary Greig and shared it with us – we thought that it was interesting from multiple perspectives. It is from a small soft cover booklet (not an ARS Journal) titled, “Proceedings International Rhododendron Conference, held under the auspices of the American Rhododendron Society at Portland, Oregon May 11 – 13, 1961”; J. Harold Clarke, Editor. ENJOY!

Rhododendrons on Vancouver Island, B. C.

Ted & Mary Greig

It seems probable that the first rhododendron species to be grown on Vancouver Island, other than the natives, were from seed sown by the late Mr. George Fraser in his garden in Ucluelet on the West Coast in the 1920's. At this time we have not been able to discover his sources, though from the correspondence between Dr. Phetteplace of Eugene, Ore. and Mr. Joe Gable in the “Quarterly Bulletin” of the A.R.S. it seems probable that seed was exchanged between Messrs. Gable, James Barto and George Fraser. Before or around 1930 the late Dr. C. T. Hilton of Port Alberni gave the late Mr. Buchanan Simpson of Lake Cowichan seeds from various Forrest, Rock and Kingdon-Ward collections which he had received from San Francisco, and some of these Dr. Hilton would almost certainly have sent to Mr. Fraser.

Many old gardens on Vancouver Island still boast fine old plants from both these skillful gardeners. The Departure Bay garden of Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Berkeley particularly contains enormous plants of *R. auriculatum*, *fortunei calophyllum* and many others, including one or two of George Fraser's unrecorded crosses. These all date back to the first plants distributed by Mr. Fraser and the Simpsons.

Ucluelet was for many years a most difficult place to reach unless one had several days to spare—going down the Alberni Canal on the mail boat one day, and returning with it in two days time, so that it is quite remarkable that as many of his plants as did, ever reached the East coast gardens. Unfortunately, owing to lack of time, we had never seen either George Fraser or his garden during his lifetime. However, several years after his death we flew from Alberni to Ucluelet to see what remained of the garden. By then it was in process of subdivision and much of it had been cleared of everything. However a small avenue still remained of what appeared to be *R. fortunei* or *R. fortunei* hybrids. These were planted so closely that though one could walk beneath them, it would have been impossible to see the flowers either from beneath or away

from them. In a damp spot *R. viscosum* had made a small thicket.

George Fraser was a Scot and had been trained as a gardener at Lochabers, in Morayshire. When he came to Canada is not known, but he had a brief greenhouse venture with a partner in Winnipeg in 1890. Later he worked as a foreman under John Blair of Chicago, a landscape gardener who designed and built the pool in Beacon Hill Park, Victoria, B.C. According to his sister-in-law, who is still living in Ucluelet, he went there sometime between 1890 and 1895. When he began receiving rhododendron seed from the British Isles, the Arnold Arboretum and elsewhere, we do not know; but in a letter to Mr. Joseph Gable written in 1925, he mentions that *R. Aucklandii* (now *griifithianum*) and *R. arboreum* were then in flower. These plants must have been at least 5 or 6 years old by then, and probably considerably more.

According to Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Berkeley of Departure Bay, his particular interest was in the breaking up of hybrids in later generations. He certainly had a wonderful opportunity to see the results of his experiments, as he died in 1945 at the age of 90. His hybridizing ranged over a great number of plants—roses, fruit trees, gooseberries and even our native bush fruits.

He had a theory, which he told Mr. Gable that he had proved for himself, that pollen must be from a plant on its own roots to be of any value for hybridizing, otherwise the colors tended to be muddy. It would be interesting to have Mr. Gable's comments on his correspondence with Mr. Fraser.

The West Coast of the Island is a perfect place to grow rhododendrons, having very little frost or snow, cool foggy summers and a heavy rainfall. Given either natural or contrived wind-breaks, almost any rhododendrons flourish there as nowhere else in British Columbia. Whether the conditions which make for lush growth might perhaps make for rather light flowering we do not know, though we have been told that Tofino and Ucluelet in rhododendron

time are a sight to behold, so probably not. In a sheltered dell in heavy woodland on Clayoquot Island Mrs. Brydges has had young plants of the Falconeri, Grande and Maddenii series. *R. maci* and *R. bu'latum* growing quite happily for several years.

In 1933 we bought the nursery stock of Mr. and Mrs. Buchanan Simpson and moved it from Lake Cowichan to Royston, roughly 100 miles north of Lake Cowichan. The Simpson's garden is cut out of the forest on three sides, with the lake making the fourth boundary, so that it is comparatively sheltered from early and late frost. For winter protection it usually has more snow than we do, as the community is about 700 ft. above sea level, lying more or less in mid-island and pretty well surrounded by hills of 4-5,000 ft. Many of the touchy species which flourish in Mrs. Simpson's garden are frequently nipped at Royston. The Simpson nursery was an alpine one and the rhododendrons were grown simply because they could never resist a new and interesting plant. We also were venturing into alpines and the rhododendrons just came along for the ride, without too much enthusiasm on our part. It was not a large collection, but enough to work its way into our affections gently but inexorably so that eventually we let the alpines more or less lapse. We sowed vast quantities of seed, subscribed to Kingden-Ward and Rock collections and imported plants with which to compare our seedlings. One of the great difficulties in the early days was that none of us on the Pacific Coast knew very much about species, and the herbaria and botanic gardens here, with the best will in the world, were of little help. All one could do was agonize over our copy of *The Species of Rhododendron*—and usually come to the conclusion, "it can't be that!" It was also rather disconcerting to find that hardiness ratings in the Handbooks of the Rhododendron Society and later the R.H.S. Handbooks had to be taken with caution, some "B's" being quite touchy here and some "C's" and even "D's" sometimes not too hard to please. In Victoria, and north as far as Qualicum in sheltered gardens, many of the latter do very well.

For more than 50 years the Layritz Nurseries in Victoria sold all the old and most of the newer hybrids and in the past 20 years other nurseries with fair stocks of new hybrids and

some species have become established. There are not many gardens which do not have one or two rhododendrons at least and there are some both in Victoria and further north with good collections. One of the finest new rhododendron plantings has been made by Mrs. R. H. Milner at Qualicum. This is only about 10 years old but already in its lovely setting of forest and seascape is a joy to behold. Also at Qualicum Mr. Oliver West has built up a very fine collection of hybrids and species, many of these now large and flourishing specimens.

Our own garden is probably one of the coldest, if not the coldest on Vancouver Island where a large number of rhododendrons flourish. We are fairly sheltered from wind on a north slope running down to the sea. However, whatever wind blows in the winter comes off snowy hills—the Coast Range across the Straits of Georgia or the Beaufort Range round and behind us. Our chief worries are late spring and early summer frosts.

Only a few of the Arboreum series are hardy enough for us, and very few of the Irroratum series, but apart from the admittedly tender series, we grow at least some of most of the series reasonably well. *R. griffithianum* flowers happily in one of our small cold houses, unheated except in time of dire necessity by electric heaters, along with various Falconeri members, Grande, Maddenii, Edgeworthii, etc. Eventually, many of them will either have to find a warmer clime or push through the greenhouse roofs. If the thermometer falls to zero F. or below, as it does very occasionally, we cannot keep frost out completely, but so far we have lost nothing from cold. In 1955 the thermometer suddenly dived to zero on November 11th after a very mild and damp Fall and almost no previous frost. Of course the losses outside were terrific, and since then we have kept some nursery beds as winter cold frames with board sides and double plastic lights. Though this is primarily to protect young cuttings and seedlings we have found that a number of Maddenii rhododendrons, and all of the touchy hybrids so far tried, do quite well with only that much protection. Possibly the main reason that they do survive is that they are kept dry, except for the underground moisture, from the end of November until we take the lights off—with considerable misgivings—in March or April, depending on the weather. One diffi-

culty here is the hot summer sun which, unless one can give quite heavy shade, is too much for most of the big-leaved species. Another difficulty on the east coast of the Island is the dry summer months. Sometimes they are neither hot nor dry, but an average summer has about five or six weeks without rain, and often much more. Unwatered rhododendrons, if they are old enough and sufficiently well established, will generally survive. However the plants become a very sad sight and bud set is usually affected if the drought is early in the season.

Although we ourselves have some trouble with the newer hybrids of *R. griersonianum* or other tenderish parentage in the open, they do very well elsewhere on the Island. Here *R. griersonianum* and many of its progeny need some protection, if only fir boughs around them. Curiously enough the Feb.-March flowering but otherwise hardy plants here often escape frost damage, where later ones suffer. *R. strigillosum*, a plant acquired originally from the Simpsons and now some 8 ft. high and as much through, often manages to come unscathed through most of its flowering time. Large old trees of *R. calophytum* will sometimes do the same, though both these species are in a very sheltered spot (if such a thing can be said of any part of our chilly domain). A seedling of *calophytum x sutchuenense* which is anything but sheltered also frequently gets in two or three weeks of beauty before it is finally reduced to pulp. The corolla of the latter is very resistant to frost, taking several degrees without any damage whatever, while *R. moupinense* near it would be completely pulped. While this cross was young we carefully built protection around it, but now it is 10 ft. high and far too big to help, it appears to fare just as well.

Once or twice after extremely heavy frost over a relatively long period, say five or six days, as against the usual two or three, *R. calophytum* has been completely defoliated, as it was also in the November 1955 freeze. Though it did not flower for a couple of years after, it suffered no other harm. *R. callimorphum* is another which has once or twice been defoliated and lived to tell the tale.

We have another old plant, inherited from the Simpsons, which was originally tagged *R. basilicum*, though in time we realized that this was wrong. This has spent the 28 years

outside, never turning a hair in the worst winters, and never flowering, either. In the 1955 episode it lost most of its leaves and we felt sure the end had come, but taking a year to recuperate, it again flourished and put forth flower buds as well. After much discussion and earnest study of *The Species* we sent a truss to Edinburgh, and they kindly ran it down as *R. rex*. It is not very typical, but it is pleasant to have a name for it at last. The truss is a fine one, a good pink with a deep blotch and quite worthy of the truly magnificent leaf.

In the past two years the Arboretum Society of Victoria has undertaken a rhododendron planting in Playfair Park, on the outskirts of Victoria. This is a five year pilot plan on a modest scale, to be followed in due course with other more ambitious schemes. It has been furnished almost entirely by donations of rhododendrons from nurserymen and friends and is already a delight, set among native Garry oaks on a lovely rocky slope. The exposed places are thick with camass and other natives, and it would be hard to imagine a prettier spot. The Island is fortunate to have the devoted and energetic men and women of vision who have brought this to pass.

The only two natives growing on Vancouver Island are *R. albiflorum* and *R. macrophyllum*. *R. albiflorum* is common on the hills from 2,500 feet up. It is quite one of the most difficult plants to please; only the rare not-too-happy little specimen is to be found in the gardens of heroic people who cannot resist a challenge. Much rarer is *R. macrophyllum* which grows in one spot a few miles north of Nanaimo. There probably are other stands, but we have not heard of them. In this place it grows beside a small lake, possibly not much more than 500 ft. above sea level, on the edge of heavy bush. Most plants have to go up a long way for light, some being 30 ft. or so high. When we saw it, flowering was sparse but occasionally we are told it is very good. We have not found it a very good garden plant when raised from seed.

In conclusion, as most of the gardens where rhododendrons are grown on Vancouver Island are either on or close to the sea shore, it is surprising to note that there appears to be little or no damage from salt carried by the wind. We ourselves have never experienced any damage from this cause.

Important Information about the upcoming ARS Spring Conference in Bellingham

~ see poster on page 12:

The organizers of the upcoming ARS Convention in Bellingham are planning a silent auction featuring baskets of goodies. The theme of the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society basket is "Vancouver Island". Please consider donating an item to help fill the basket – keeping in mind "no alcohol per hotel policy". Thanks in advance for your contributions.



A GREAT OPPORTUNITY!!!

Leave the car behind and enjoy the ride!!!! See below for more details:



Ferry Transfer by bus to 2024 ARS Spring Convention Bellingham, Washington - Thurs. May 2 – Return Sunday, May 5

Are you keen to attend an ARS Spring Convention? Do you enjoy hanging out with other rhodo people? Would it be helpful to attend a convention with a minimum amount of hassle, cost, and time? This year, the convention is the closest Spring Convention in many years for Canadians in BC and a great opportunity to enjoy this type of event.

The Nanaimo Chapter of the ARS is willing to organize the transfer of registered delegates (with valid passports) to and from the convention by Coach TRAXX bus from the Tsawassen ferry. To confirm the bus, we need a minimum of 40 passengers. We think there should be that many folks from the mid to north-island who would like to do this. **If you are willing to commit to this opportunity, please contact Chris Southwick at: csouthwick99@gmail.com or (250)616-2742 no later than Friday, February 2nd.**

Dates: - **Wed. May 2nd:** 10:45 Ferry from Duke Point to Tsawassen; Bus to Bellingham, leaves upon arrival at terminal 12:45
- **Sunday, May 5th** Bus leaves Bellingham at 11:00 am to Tsawassen for 3:15 ferry; arrives Duke Point at 5:15.

Cost: \$25 each each way, or less if the bus is full = total of \$50 includes tax and tip depending on #s.

Does not include:

- cost of ferry (free for those 65+ on Wed., \$18.50 on Sunday)
- cost of parking at Duke Point would be \$76.00 (\$19 per each 24 hours) so car-pooling would be more economical
- cost of the conference and hotel and only the Four Points Sheraton – not dropped off at other hotels is approximately \$1000 Canadian dollars

Benefits:

- Inexpensive bus trip
- Less time at the border and less stress travelling to the US and back.
- Leaving the driving to a professional driver
- More fun to travel as a group with other rhodo folks.

Plants could be purchased but since we would be walking onto the ferry, delegates would have to keep purchases to a minimum. Phyto certificates would be arranged Sunday am, May 5th.

Check out the conference at: www.ARS2024.org for more information and to choose your conference bus tour for the Thursday, May 3rd. The sooner you register, the better choice of bus trip you'll get. You can register online for the conference, which is helpful.



SAVE THE DATE !

ARS 2024 Spring Convention

Bellingham, Washington

May 2-5, 2024

Four Points by Sheraton, Bellingham

Hotel and Conference Center

714 Lakeway Drive, Bellingham, WA, USA, 98229

Phone: +1 360-671-1011

Highlights:

Pre-Tour: May 1: Private Gardens around Seattle

Convention: Tours * Seminars * Workshops * Banquets

Post-Tour: May 5: Gardens around Vancouver, Canada

Time to check your Passport!

Plus:

Plant Sales * Auctions * Raffles * Photo Booth * Poster Session

Help get the message out!

Please forward to friends and gardeners in your community and around the globe.

Visit [ARS 2024](#) for more information and to register.

(Editor's Note: if you haven't been to an ARS Spring Convention for a while or if you've never gone, this may be the time to go! It's only a ferry ride and a short drive away. Check [ARS 2024](#) and the Journal of the American Rhododendron Society for details.)

You Know You're a Gardener When... (J and J musings on a rainy day...)

You get excited because your compost is heating up ...



Manure is a great gift for any occasion...



Your collection of gardening books rivals your collection of cookbooks...



You know what lasagna gardening is...

You know where all of the nurseries are from Duncan to Campbell River (and you've visited each one!) ...



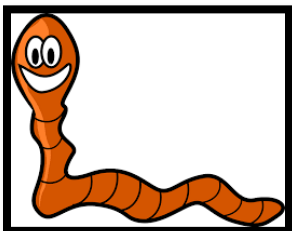
Browsing seed catalogues takes hours...



Touring a friend's garden takes an entire morning....



You get excited when you start seeing earthworms in your new garden...



You spend more on plants than you do on clothing...



Rhododendron Glossary...



We're building our very own collection of terms related to rhododendrons, one word at a time. Each month, we'll add a new word or term to the glossary. If you have suggestions that you'd like us to add, please let us know.

This month's word is: Clone and Grex – [definitions below are from Cox's Guide to Choosing Rhododendrons (1990)]

Clone: A (named) clone is one propagated asexually by cuttings, tissue-culture, grafts or layers, and is genetically identical to the parent plant.

Grex: The seedlings of a hybrid cross are called a grex. At one time all the seedlings, good or bad, were allowed to take the hybrid name, but now each seedling must have its own clonal name.

Refer to previous issues for

January 2024: **Hammerhead**

December 2023: **Chlorosis**

November 2023's word: **senescence**

October 2023's words: **Elepidote and Lepidote**

September 2023's word: **tomentum**

June 2023's word: **indumentum**

May 2023's word: **truss**



Looking forward to seeing you all on February 8th!

