



The Rhodomentum

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Newsletter



June 2023



President's Message

Hello All,

This is the last newsletter of our club's 31st season.

We have added a few new members this year and had some wonderful events such as our Christmas Party, Truss Show & Plant Sale, and more recently, a Bus Tour. Thank you, David and Joyce, for another successful Tour.

We also had some member garden tours which gave the hosts a chance to show and share their wonderful gardens with their fellow members.

This past year, we also enjoyed some good speakers at our meetings.

Our plant sale, organized by Rosina Schmidt, did very well grossing \$6,872, and netting \$5,604 after expenses. Thank you, Rosina, and all the volunteers who helped make it successful. You know who you are!

I would also like to thank our executive team of Chris Southwick, Dorothee Kieser, Art Lightburn, Paul Lawry, Jan Moles, Margaret Cadwaladr, Rosina Schmidt, Deborah Francis and Gaylle McRae, who worked to keep the club functioning.

I would also like to thank John Deniseger and June Bouchard who have prepared all the informative newsletters this past year.

And lastly, a thank you to the unsung heroes that work hard to keep Hailey Rhododendron Grove looking good.

We will wind up the year with a potluck party at Chris Southwick's wonderful garden on June 18, starting at 3pm.

See you there,

Best regards,
Ron Sutton,
NRS President & Treasurer

OUR EXECUTIVE

President	Ron Sutton	416-951-1373
Vice President	Chris Southwick	390-3415
Past President	Rosina Schmidt	758-7589
Secretary	Deborah Francis	
Treasurer	Ron Sutton	416-951-1373

Directors:

Margaret Cadwaladr	585-6046
Dorothee Kieser	390-4136
Paul Lawry	816-2370
Arthur Lightburn	468-7516
Gaylle McRae	758-7589

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Advertising	Margaret Cadwaladr
Library	Ann Beamish / Gaylle McRae
Newsletter	June Bouchard / John Deniseger
Membership	Jan Moles
Program	by Committee
Raffle	Val Harvey
Social	Deborah Francis
Bargain Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich
Website	Deborah Francis/Rosina Schmidt
Bus Tour	David & Joyce Mitchell
Sunshine	Wanda Brenton
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: nanaimorhododendron.ca

Our next get-together - Sunday, June 18th, at 3:00

NRS WIND-UP PARTY

At Chris Southwick's Home and Garden (details on p.3)

Hailey Rhododendron Grove Work Bee ~ Bowen Park

By Deborah Francis, coordinator



We need your help to assist in removing invasive species from Hailey Grove at Bowen Park. Come and be part of the fun! 😊

We will have 3 work bees in June: the 6th, 13th and 20th. We will be concentrating on deadheading and pruning the rhododendrons on the 6th and 13th. On June 20th we will be top dressing with bark mulch. The July work bee will be on Tuesday, the 11th concentrating on removal of invasive species. No work bee in August. Hope to see you there!

**Please note: Our next regular meeting will be on
Thursday, September 14th, 2023:**

NRS Meeting and AGM – details will be in the September newsletter. Our speaker will be David McIntosh on “The George Fraser Project”.

September is AGM month - please consider joining the NRS Executive!!!



There will be available positions on our executive for next season. Please consider joining! Full details will be in the September newsletter.

From the last executive meeting:
David Mitchell, Jan Moles, Joyce Mitchell, Ron Sutton, Chris Southwick, Margaret Cadwaladr, Deborah Francis, Art Lightburn, Rosina Schmidt (missing from photo Gaylle McRae, Dorothee Kieser and Paul Lawry).





NRS WIND-UP PARTY

A reminder for our NRS Potluck Wind-up Party!
Sunday, June 18th – **3:00 pm with dinner served at 5:00.**

Chris Southwick's home and garden
6647 Green Acres Way, Nanaimo

Don't forget to bring cutlery, plates, cup or glass.
A potluck dish that you love to make and share.
A chair to relax on **and** a beverage of your choice.

Please note: main course (pork loin or turkey), coffee, tea and non-alcoholic punch will be provided by the club.



We will be having a draw – if you can, please bring a plant that other members would appreciate, or any horticultural-related item, to donate for the draw at the end of the event – anything would be welcome!

**Bring your friends, neighbours, or visiting relatives to help celebrate our year-end! 😊

Please car pool if you can

See you ALL at the Wind-up Sunday, June 18th at 3:00

“What is one to say about June, the time of perfect young summer, the fulfillment of the promise of the earlier months, and with as yet no sign to remind one that its fresh young beauty will ever fade.”

– Gertrude Jekyll

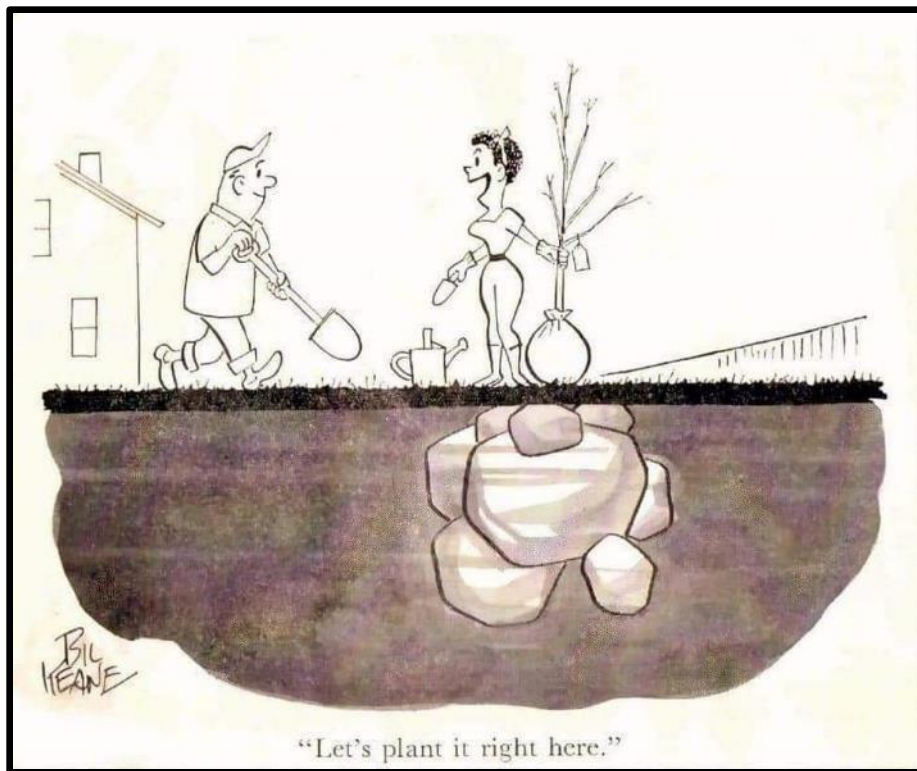
Twigs and Stems: Calendar of Other Upcoming Events:

Milner Gardens and Woodland: open Thursday through Sunday: 11:00 to 5:00. Check the Milner website for details: [Milner Garden Events](#)



We now are 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/>



Thank you, Ron, for sharing this cartoon with us! 😊

Looking Back at our Annual Plant Sale and Truss Show



Paul diligently sorting vendors tags during the sale.



Eliane and John at one of the cashiers stations.



Wonderful show of colour as always in the truss show



The plant sale ready for the customers...



(Photos by Rosina Schmidt, June Bouchard, Chris Southwick.)

A little more on the Truss Show ... by Jan Moles (All photos by Jan Moles)

Hello again everyone ! This is my take on the 2023 Truss Show...

First of all, I would like to thank everyone who took part in the once more very successful show: the judges, the team who registered the trusses, those who helped set up the tables, those who set up the bottles with water, everyone who helped to dismantle the operation at the end of the show, and also the general public who came to admire the display.



Every part makes the show a bit better each year: to quote Mr. Beamish (more or less) “Here in Nanaimo we have the best show in town!”

This year again, we welcomed Sean Rafferty and Garth Wedemire as our judges and they did an excellent job. Liz and Jan accompanied the judges to record the judging process and filled in a report called “Judges’ Comments” in which the judges could make general comments or comment

on any entry, good, bad, or otherwise.

This process was very interesting, especially after our previous meeting where we brought trusses and talked about what was expected to enter a truss to the show. The meeting was great fun and very useful; the judges’ comments only confirmed and emphasized the discussion in that meeting.

Some general comments were:

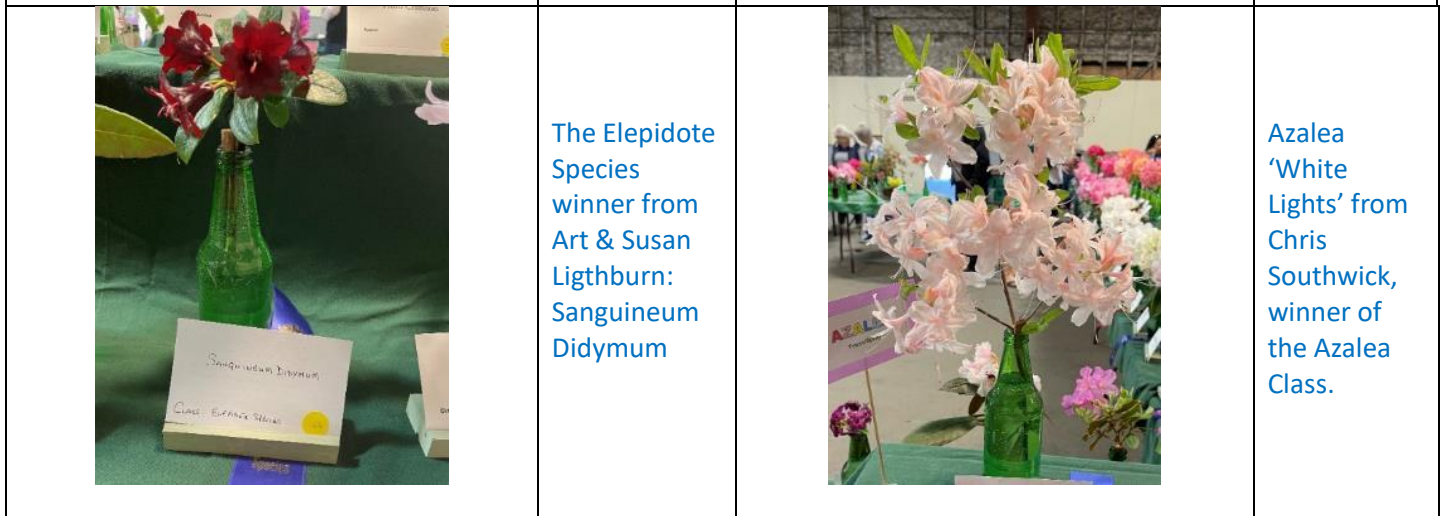
- A truss should only have a MAXIMUM of ONE unopened bud, an azalea spray could have more BUT they should mainly be open and it would be wiser to trim off any branches with lots of unopened flowers.
- An occasional truss had extra branches attached to it, and these should most definitely be trimmed off.
- The truss should if possible, have one single circle of leaves attached, the previous year’s leaves being removed.
- It is better that the leaves encircle the truss flower and be in good condition; the best way of getting this is to take a truss from the TOP of the plant if possible; several trusses could have been in the running, but were not straight, obviously side shoots.
- Apparently, many of our ‘lax truss’ entries were considered ‘not really lax’, but were accepted for judging anyway; I think we may need to review this category, to really understand the classification.

This was the first year that we have included a Novice Class. We received some excellent entries to this class. The rules for qualification for the class entries will be firmed up for the next year, and input from members will be very welcome. **This year, as an incentive for new members to participate in the show, the first place received a voucher for dinner for two at Alexandra’s Restaurant which has been very generously donated by Ann and Dick Beamish.**

Trophies and voucher will be presented at the year-end summer party at Chris Southwick’s on Sunday, June 18th.
A few photos follow :



Above: A view of the Novice Class display table



..... there are so many more it is hard to choose.

**Editor's note: A GREAT big thankyou to Jan Moles for organizing and supervising the Truss Show for many years – a BIG job!!!! But as always, "Many hands make light work" so thanks go to "the crew" working with Jan, many of them also for many years! THANK YOU!

NRS Annual Truss Show Results

Year: 2023

Class	Prize	Plant	Winner
Red hybrid	1 st	Britton Hill	A&R Beamish
	2 nd	The Hon Jean Marie de Montague	S&A Lightburn
	3 rd	Johnny Bender	A&R Beamish
Blotch/flare hybrid	1 st	Kathie Jo	A&R Beamish
	2 nd	El Camino	S&A Lightburn
	3 rd	Shogun	A&R Beamish
Lax truss	1 st	May Day	Elaine Hutchison
	2 nd	Winsome	Elaine Hutchison
	3 rd	Thor	A&R Beamish
Pink hybrid	1 st	Douglas Stevens	A&R Beamish
	2 nd	Red Walloper	A&R Beamish
	3 rd	Hallelujah	A&R Beamish
White hybrid	1 st	Platinum Pearl	A&R Beamish
	2 nd	Yeti	A&R Beamish
	3 rd	Mary Greig	Chris Southwick
Salmon/Orange	1 st	Lem's Best Orange	A&R Beamish
	2 nd	Sandra Ann Stipe	A&R Beamish
	3 rd	Hank's Orange	A&R Beamish
Purple/blue	1 st	Persuasion	A&R Beamish
	2 nd	Contina	Chris Southwick
	3 rd	Elsie Watson	G&A McRae
Yellow	1 st	Creamy Chiffon	Chris Southwick
	2 nd	Loon's Call	A&R Beamish
	3 rd	Hotei	S&A Lightburn
Best Scented	1 st	Edgworthii	A&R Beamish
	2 nd	Puget Sound	S&A Lightburn
	3 rd	Ilam Cream	A&R Beamish
Hammerhead	1 st	Rubicon	A&R Beamish
	2 nd	Susan	M&J Cadwaladr
	3 rd	Yeti	A&R Beamish
Alpine species	1 st	Charitopes	Chris Southwick
	2 nd	Campylogynum X	Chris Southwick

Scribe: Liz Higgins

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NRS Annual Truss Show Results

Year: 2023

	3 rd	Trichostomum	S&A Lightburn
Elepidote species	1 st	Sanguineum Didymum	S&A Lightburn
	2 nd	Menziesii	Chris Southwick
	3 rd	Cerasinum 'Cherry Brandy'	Chris Southwick
Lepidote Species	1 st	Linearifolium	A&R Beamish
	2 nd	Crinigerum	Chris Southwick
	3 rd	Unknown Lepidote (see judges comments)	Chris Southwick
Azalea	1 st	White Lights	Chris Southwick
Truss or spray	2 nd	Girard's Fuchsia	S&A Lightburn
	3 rd	Kaempferi	S&A Lightburn
Foliage	1 st	Mallotum	S&A Lightburn
	2 nd	Quinquefolium	M&J Cadwaladr
	3 rd	Falconeri ssp Eximium	A&R Beamish
Novice	1 st	Lem's Monarch	Eliane Leclerc
	2 nd	Nelda Peach	Eliane Leclerc
	3 rd	Carmen	Eliane Leclerc
Best in Show		Douglas Stevens	A&R Beamish
Best Scented		Edgworthii	A&R Beamish
Most Points		79	A&R Beamish
Best Hammerhead		Rubicon	A&R Beamish
People's Choice	114	Kathie Jo	A&R Beamish

Points for Calculating Most Points: (Paull Award)

Best in Show 8

People's Choice 6

First 5

Second 3

Third 1

(Half Points for Tie)

People's choice draw was won by : Lois Jack

Scribe: Liz Higgins

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NRS Plant Sale Raffle Winners: by Gaylle McRae

I am thrilled that this year's raffle table earned the club **\$386.00**. Here is the list of the lucky winners:

- Ari Wesley: Filbert tree
- Jacquie: Calla Lily
- Mike O'Neill: Pink Azalea
- Jeff Houle: Lonicera, honeysuckle
- Mendy Roberts: R. 'Razzle Dazzle'
- Heather Walker: Blueberry Plant
- Paula Shemming: Anemone 'Winter'
- Liz Monahan: R. 'Lee's Scarlet'
- Eliane LeClerc: R. 'Wind Dancer'

****Editors Note:** Our thanks go to Gaylle McRae for organizing this raffle year-after-year for "quite a long time" – such a cheerful table to welcome people attending our show and sale. 😊 (Photo by June Bouchard)



Club Members Garden Tours:



Thank you to Lillian and Stan Peters, Chris Southwick, Mike and Mary O'Neil, Margaret and Jim Cadwaladr, Wanda Brenton and April Johnson, who so generously opened their gardens to club members from mid-April to mid-May. While the weather may not have always cooperated, the gardens were beautiful and appreciated by many club members. Sharing our gardens with club members is one of the pleasures of belonging to a club like ours.

Have a look at the club website to see photos of the various gardens by clicking [here](#) .

A Successful Day visiting North Island Gardens and Nurseries

Photos from the May 20th Bus Tour organized by Joyce and David Mitchell.



Jean Rhodes and Mary Jane Derksen enjoying some beautiful blooms!



Photos above and left contributed by MJ Derksen.



Bus photo with Susan and Art Lightburn contributed by Chris Southwick.



How many more plants can we fit on the bus???

Plant of the Month by Ron Sutton

Rhododendron kiangsiense

People who know me, know that I am a collector of specie rhododendrons and other unusual plants. I like many hybrid rhododendrons also, but have special affinity for Maddenii rhododendrons.

R. kiangsiense belongs to the maddenii group of rhododendrons. However, don't reach for your Greer Guide or Rhododendron Species books for this one, as it is a fairly new introduction and won't be in them. Not much information is available on this plant.

Rhododendron kiangsiense comes from China and is found in Fujian, Hunan, Jiangxi regions in very limited numbers, growing on cliff sides or rocky outcrops. It has shiny green leaves and produces fragrant white flowers in pairs, in early May here on the island.

Considered a dwarf, its expected size in 10 years is only 2 feet high by 2 feet wide.

My small plant surprised me by flowering after a cold winter that saw a low here of minus ten degrees twice. I put a plastic flowerpot over it during the coldest periods and it came through unscathed. The Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden lists its hardiness at 5°F/ -15°C, it is where my plant came from.

Given how it grows in the wild, good soil drainage is essential. It can probably handle a lot more sun, than the mostly shade where my plant is positioned. This photo of my young plant was taken May 5th, 2023.



The Shadehouse and Nursery at Milner

It has been a long time coming but the shadehouse is finally ready for use by our club as well as MARS and Milner. The irrigation system has been installed and the necessary agreements are in place. The facility is ready to receive our cuttings when we feel they are ready to move on to the next phase in their growth. As we move forward, it will make things easier for our propagation group and our future plant sales.



Rhododendron Glossary...



We're going to begin 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: indumentum

Indumentum (Latin, literally: "garment") is a coating of hairs on the undersides of a leaf. (Generally a prized characteristic which adds to the plants year-round attraction.)

Indumentum forms a protective, woolly layer that sheds water and/or provides leaf protection. During cold, dry weather, the hairy indumentum that covers the leaf's underside becomes an insulating shield. Some of the plant hairs hold water and absorb it to provide the plant with moisture in times of drought. During times of heavy rain, the hairs are used by the plant to transpire excess water from the surface of the leaf. Indumentum also provides some protection from insect damage. (from ARS website)



May's word was: truss

"A group of flowers which join one rachis or flower-stalk. Rhododendrons have trusses of 2 to 40+ flowers, depending on the variety, the trusses varying greatly in shape from upright to loose." (from *Cox's Guide to Choosing Rhododendrons* by Peter and Kenneth Cox, 1990).



*Have a wonderful
summer in your
garden and beyond!
Looking forward to
seeing you all at our
year-end event on
June 18th!!!
And at our AGM in
September! 😊*

