

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



May 2014



FROM THE PRESIDENT

The end of April and early May, once again a great time to be a gardener, especially of rhododendrons. At present (April 27th) 70 plus rhodos in bloom and many with the buds swelling rapidly. The Trilliums are now finishing, with 230 clumps of plants. The garden and forest can still support more.

The Mount Klitza Garden Club came for a tour early Thursday morning, a caravan of cars with 20 plus members. They arrived about 9:30 just after the sun came out and had a good walkabout, with Susan supplying tea, coffee and treats. This Port Alberni club has existed for 60 years and has a founding member still attending.

A reminder: Nanaimo Rhododendron Society is managing a kiosk Saturday, May 3rd, in the Woodgrove Mall. There will be a free Rhododendron raffle and lots of information about our club.

The upcoming NRS meeting, Thursday, May 8th is immediately before the annual 'Show and Sale', so we will have lots of information about where and when members can help out. The 'Show and Sale' is a good time to display our special rhodos and to shop for hard to find plants.

Our club is sponsoring a large banner (15 feet) to be hung on Front Street, Nanaimo, for three weeks in May to advertise, 'May as Rhododendron Month'. As well, Allen McRae has produced, with some help, two banners to be hung by the city on their lampposts throughout the summer. We will keep you posted on their location.

See you at the meeting. Art.

EXECUTIVE

President	Art Lightburn	468-7516
Vice President	John Deniseger	778 424-3605
Secretary	Ann Beamish	758-2574
Treasurer	Krystyna Sosulski	729-0948
Directors	Craig Clarke	390-4090
	Susan Lightburn	468-7516
	Dorothee Kieser	390-4136
	Bryan Jubinville	956-6178
	Gaylle McRae	758-7589

COMMITTEES

Advertising	Bryan Jubinville	
Library	Ann Beamish	758-2574
Newsletter	Kathryn Grant	585-2706
Membership	Sandra Dorman	390-0136
Program	Art Lightburn/John Deniseger	
Raffle	Ann Davey & Val Harvey	
Social	Susan Lightburn	
Bargain Table	Reinhold Gorgosilich	758-6533
Website	Craig Clarke	

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

NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 8

BEBAN PARK SOCIAL CENTRE

7:30 pm

Dany Fortin & Shane Tillapaugh
"From Rhodos to Rock Gardens"

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

TWIGS and STEMs



Goodies for May Meeting

Ann Beamish
Jane Lauzier
Brenda Lewis

Eaglecrest Garden Club
Des Kennedy is their speaker on May 22.
For details, contact Nicola g_n@shaw.ca

Dorothee hosting Windup June
14th

Our May Speakers Dany Fortin & Shane Tillapaugh.

Dany has worked in horticulture for 16 years including landscaping and tree care. He is an ISA Certified Arborist and Tree Risk Assessor. He works at the Comox Parks department. Shane is a gardener and a naturalist who, as he puts it, “loves birdies, bees, plants and trees”. Through Gaia College, he earned the designation of Ecological Landscape Designer and Certified Organic Land Care Professional. He is also an ISA Certified Arborist and Tree Risk Assessor. Shane ran his own gardening/landscape company, ‘Eco Island Landscapes’, for seven years and is currently a horticulturalist in the Parks Department of the City of Courtenay.

Raffle Plants

‘Arneson Gem’ 3’ -26⁰ C



Warm, golden flowers are edged in brightly glowing orange. The beautiful large blooms make a prolific display. Held in ball truss of 10-15 flowers - striking. Additionally, it’s a good compact grower, yet vigorous, a real gem!

‘Nancy Evans’ (‘Hotei’ x ‘Lem’s Cameo’) 3’, -15°C, M, 5/4. Take a look at this plant’s parents, and it goes without saying that it must be a wonderful rhododendron. Shining, golden-yellow flowers combine with good foliage to produce a magnificent plant. It is simply excellent and it flowers young, so you won’t have to wait forever for your reward.



Taliensia – Peter Wharton #218

5’, -5°F, EM, 3/3. A warm coat of buff colored indumentum covers the undersides of this lovely foliage. Flowers are creamy yellow or cream blushed rose with intense crimson markings. One of the most beautiful species to be found.



NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Truss Show Saturday May 10

Love of Beauty is taste. The Creation of Beauty is art. Ralph Waldo Emerson

Increase your knowledge and appreciation of rhododendrons by participating in our annual truss show. Access valuable information and tips from the winter 2013 ARS journal, the NRS website and the NRS May, 2012 2013 newsletters.

Largely due to the increase in truss show entries, we have introduced new efficiencies in the registration process. Registration forms can be obtained at the NRS meeting, prior to the show, or from the May 2014 newsletter or at the registration desk. Your name, the name of the truss and its entry class should be entered on the registration form. On the second page, provide a duplication of the **truss show names in the same or identical order as on the registration form.**

On arrival, give the registration form to people at the desk, thus enabling the withdrawal of the appropriate rhododendron name cards from the bank. Keep the separate list for assistance in organizing your entries. (Matching the identifying cards to the entries has been a major hold-up in the past).

On the table adjacent to the registration desk, entrants can then place trusses in the water filled bottles and arrange them in **the same order as on the registration form.**

Help will be available for this and for transporting the bottles to the adjacent registration desk.

To ensure uniformity in the show, don't guess which class your truss belongs to. There is a PDF file with a list of plants sorted into show classes available from the truss show page of the club website. If in doubt, leave the class blank and it will be filled in by the clerk.

Avoid the Saturday morning rush by bringing trusses between 6PM and 8PM Friday evening (May 9).

Alternately, trusses can be entered from 6:30 – 7:45 AM Saturday morning.

The judges this year will be: Doug Kitts, Wolfgang Ruff, & Terry Richmond.

Tips on Exhibiting Trusses and Sprays

A day or two before the show go around and make a list of the blooms you will pick on Friday morning, the day before the show. Organize whatever containers you will be using to transport your blooms to the show. They needn't be elaborate. Empty bottles or cans work well. Be careful to avoid crushing the blooms. Fill the containers with water almost to the top. Bottles in six-pack cartons are great for transporting blooms.

Picking blooms always takes more time than you think it will! When choosing trusses, select ones that have straight stems with the bloom at the top. Don't choose ones with crooked stems that are growing at odd angles (e.g. pointing straight down). When choosing sprays, look for ones that will present themselves gracefully in a bottle. Pieces of cork can be used to stabilize the stem in the neck of the bottle.

Prune judiciously if need be to enhance the shape of a spray. Avoid choosing entries with bruises. Sometimes rain damage is inevitable, but avoid it if you can. Look for freshness. In a spray, it is better to have one or more unopened flower buds (for they frequently open after they have been picked) than to choose blooms that are already open and going over. Some judges like to see one or two unopened or partially opened buds, but a **truss must not have flowers from more than one bud (except for the hammerhead class).**



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Truss Show Registration Form (*to be handed to registration clerk*).

Alpine/dwarf species. Azalea (truss or spray) Blue/flare hybrid. Lax truss. Elepidote species Hammerhead Foliage Hybrid: Red, Yellow, Pink, Salmon/orange, White, Purple/Blue Scented (species or hybrid not azalea)

Number Please leave blank	Entrant's Name	Truss Name	Category/Class

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Members and Friends Garden Tours

Fridays, May 2nd, May 16th and May 23rd from 6:00 pm until 8:30 or dark....

Hello everyone, we are excited to have organized three local garden tours. Each of these gardens is unique and interesting. Please make an effort to attend these tours as all of the owners of these properties have worked hard to show off their handiwork! Thank you to each one of them for offering to do this for other garden lovers.

Regards, Chris and Sandra

Friday, May 2nd - Parksville

1. Susan and Art Lightburn Bay Drive Rhodo Garden

Susan and Art Lightburn's garden, **1489 Bay Drive**, is a successful attempt to grow approximately 400 rhododendrons (about half species) and ornamentals while maintaining much of the native plants including firs, cedars, wild currant, Oregon grape, ferns and trilliums.

Directions: From Nanaimo: North along Highway 19 to the first exit (exit 60) to Parksville (large "Welcome to Parksville" sign)(weigh station opposite side), cross the tracks and turn right at the first light just passed the visitor center; follow NW. Bay Rd. about 1 km turning left on Terrien Road, just past Craig Bay Estates storage yard; follow the pavement that turns into Bay Drive; it's the third home from the end (1489) - check for the Pampas grass.

2. Doug Kitts: My garden is 4 years young. I have collected interesting trees and rhododendrons which are not commonplace. Under plantings and companion plants abound. Viburnum "Anne Russell" fills the air.

Directions: 509 Temple Street, Parksville I am on the water side of 19A highway in the northern part of Parksville. Exit at Pym St by Oceanside RCMP. Two blocks turn right on Soriel, another 2 blocks turn right on Temple St. I am on right at 509 with cedar rail fence and R. Malahat in flower.

Friday, May 16th Nanaimo

There are four gardens in this tour – three are in the north end of Nanaimo and one fantastically unique and a must-see garden (Mary's) is in mid-Nanaimo. It is easy to get to – just off the 3rd street connector.

1. Mary Parker: Mary's garden is exclusively in pots. She has a large collection of plants which are mainly hybrid as well as some species rhododendrons. She also has many other types of plants. Almost all of her plants are mature specimen – yes, some of these pots are BIG. This garden was featured in the winter ARS journal. Some of these plants she transplanted from her former garden in Qualicum Beach. This is an amazing garden that you don't want to miss.

Directions: Heading south on the Nanaimo Parkway, turn left at the 3rd Street Connector light and then a left into Valley Oak Estates. Take an immediate left as you enter this complex and Mary's property you won't be able to miss – it's the only one completely surrounded by colour – **1981 Valley Oak Drive**.

2. Sandy Carpenter and Ben Nixon: In our "never-ending" garden along with rhodos, we have a variety of flowers, etc. to capture your interest. Sandy and Ben are relatively new members and they live almost across the street from where Ward and Donna Porter lived before moving from Nanaimo.

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Directions: Take Hammond Bay Road from the North end of Nanaimo to Brickyard Road. Turn left on Brickyard Rd. for about 1/4 mile to Sunset Road on the right. Turn right on Sunset Road until the road branches off, then turn left and we are in a brown house right on that corner. **6250 Azure Road**

- 3. Bryan and Eileen Jubinville:** The Jubinviles enjoy flowers and foraging in the garden on any day that suits them. In the garden you will find rhodos blooming in the spring, and a variety of other flowers through the summer and early fall. The best showing is in the spring when the garden wakes up from the winter sleep. While enjoying the blossoms we also take full advantage of the foraging. The forage includes blue berries, raspberries, loganberries, blackberries (thornless), strawberries, apples, plums, to name a few and then we can switch to the vegetables or whatever is in the greenhouse. Several times during the summer the garden is simply a place to hide or socialize ... whatever suits our fancy...!

Directions: 6280 Ferley Place. Driving from Sandy and Ben's home continue towards the ocean (north) on Azure Road to Waldbank Road and turn right. Heading east on Waldbank take the next right onto Ferley Place. Their home is over half way up Ferley on the left.

- 4. Bill Hardy:** Bill and his wife Mary were long-time members of the Nanaimo Rhodo Society. They are also keen alpine gardeners. Bill has an interesting garden at the back of their condominium and he is also responsible for the gardens around their visitor parking area and more in their development.

Directions: The address is **5992 Waterton Place** – their home is in the condominium complex across from Dover Bay Secondary on Hammond Bay Road. Heading east on Hammond Bay from the “old” highway, make a right onto Garibaldi Drive (first left after Uplands Park Drive). Parking is limited in the complex, so car-pooling is advised. Visitor parking is the first right on Garibaldi.

Friday, May 23rd – Nanaimo

Three North Nanaimo Gardens – conveniently for us, all on the same street!

- 1. Stan and Lilian Peters:** Our garden is a visual cornucopia that is ringed by borders that delimit the space and keeps the house within these perimeters. It is a small garden but an interesting use of the allotted physical space. This is how Lilian designed the garden from an empty lot into her own personal vision.

Directions: 6200 Sechelt Drive - corner of Waldbank/Dover Road, one block past McGirr Elementary School

- 2. Royce and Anne Tennant:** Our pie-shaped lot is designed with a good-sized pond and no grass to give us maximum pleasure with less labour. The Silk Tree gives dappled shade to many of the rhodos, and because we love colour we have roses, clematis, lilies, perennials and some annuals. The lower patio, accessed by a woodland path or steps, is sunny and sheltered.

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Directions: 6256 Sechelt Drive, which is off Dover/Waldbank, one street south of the McGirr School 4-way stop intersection. We are down the road on the right in a mini cul-de-sac. Park in the driveway or nose-in.

- Dot and Charlie Hardy:** Rhodos in horseshoe at curbside, along left side of house, front of house and into the backyard on right side. The center of the backyard has a large cedar tree with a planter with several rhodos. Other than some lawn, all available areas have rhodos and azaleas and a few places for wild plants. Also two large planter boxes hopefully for veggie gardens.

Directions: From Hammond Bay Road turn onto McGirr Road. Turn right on Dover (past both first Dover Bay Secondary, then McGirr Elementary school). Drive one block and turn left onto Sechelt Drive. We are halfway down on the left side. Rhodos visible in horseshoe shape around fire hydrant (6255 Sechelt).

The Difference between Azaleas and Rhododendrons

All Azaleas are members of the genus *Rhododendron*.

Deciduous Azaleas are in the subgenus *Pentanthera*,

Evergreen Azaleas are in the subgenus *Tsustusti*.

All Azaleas are elepidotes; they never have scales on the bottom side of their leaves.

Azaleas have 5 lobes on the flower.

Azaleas have hairs on their leaves that grow parallel to the leaf surface.

Chili Cheese Appetizers (++ easy /tasty recipe) submitted by Susan Lightburn

1 cup cottage cheese
1/3 c flour
½ tsp Baking soda
½ tsp Baking Powder
4 eggs
3 Tbsp butter, melted

Combine these, then add
1 ½ c sharp cheddar cheese, grated
1 14 ml can chopped mild green chili peppers
½ cup red pepper, chopped



Spread in a greased dish (better if not too thick) and bake at 350 F for 45 – 50 minutes.

Serve warm or cold. Freezes well.

**** I sometimes add Art's dried tomatoes – get creative! Great for company!**

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Getting to know each other...

By June Bouchard

This month, I have the pleasure to introduce you to Mary Jane Derksen. Mary Jane joined the NRS about 10 years ago and has faithfully come to most meetings, braving all kinds of weather on the ferry from Gabriola Island! You might bump into Mary Jane, and her husband Bob, at plant sales up and down the island, filling their truck and adding to their growing collection of special plants, particularly rhododendrons. Mary Jane's smile with her beloved Grace Seabrook clearly shows her enthusiasm for gardening and for rhododendrons. Thank you Mary Jane for sharing a bit of yourself with us.

1. How long have you been growing rhododendrons?

Rhododendrons captured my interest around fifteen years ago while living in southwestern Ontario. The arboretum at the University of Guelph had a young rhodo garden, mostly planted under conifers -- jack pines as I recall. I knew they could handle the harsh climate and planted a few lavender hybrids such as R. "Roseum Elegans".

2. How long have you lived on Vancouver Island?

We've lived on Gabriola Island 12 years.

3. Describe your best day in the garden. ☺

Every day that I'm able to be outside doing something with plants is a good day; the best day, though, happens when there's one or two (or three!) less rhodos waiting in pots for me to clear and prepare a spot for them!

4. What other interests do you have?

I plant a fairly large food crop as well. We eat from our harvest year round. I boat and fish off the flat tops and we enjoy the live theatre that Victoria provides.

5. Do you have a favourite rhododendron?

Any rhodo that survives without much intervention from me is a favourite and that's why I've included a shot of **R. "Grace Seabrook"**; she just grows bigger without fertilizer or water and she just happens to be near my front door reminding me every day just how magnificent she is!

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

When I joined NRS I knew very little about rhododendrons. The willingness of others to pass on their knowledge is what I love most. The ARS journal has been most helpful as well.



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Rhodos worth Growing



Lemon Dream 3', - 20° C, M

Rhododendron 'Lemon Dream' — ('Creamy Chiffon x degronianum ssp. degronianum 'Exbury')
Abundant, frilly, lemon yellow flowers adorn this lovely rhododendron in mid-May. Growth habit is low and compact with dark green rounded foliage that has a touch of cinnamon indumentum underneath. A great yellow rhododendron. 6-10"

Recommended by: Terry Richmond (NRS Associate member)



Golfer 2' (-23° C)

Elepidote Rhododendron: *R. degronianum* ssp. *yakushimanum* x *R. pseudochrysanthum*
Flower pale purplish-pink with slight brown spotting, reverse striped darker, widely funnel-campanulate, wavy lobes, 2" across. Silver tomentum on new growth. Likes mid-afternoon filtered shade.

Recommended by: Terry Richmond (NRS Associate member)

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

April 10, 2014 General meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:05

Welcome Guests:

Shout out Rhodo blooms-just about everyone has something in bloom mostly pinks, reds and some yellows.

Business Meeting

-Reminder of plants for show and sale- we have 12 confirmed vendors at this time but still need members to bring plants for the truss show and for the NRS sale table.

-Show and Sale Sign-up sheets - Signup sheets were circulated

District 1 Meeting –Art reported s successful District 1 meeting was held at Longwood Station, followed by some quick tours of a couple of gardens

Distribution of Posters- Posters are available and all members are encouraged to take some and see that they are posted. There are 10 large ones and 50 yellow smaller ones.

June 14 windup- Currently looking for a venue.

Milner Gardens Update- Art reported that VIU will match funds for a Landscape Designer. There has been a memorandum of understanding agreed too with each group permitted 1 advisor and 1 alternate. MARS has already agreed to \$5,000 and NRS \$2,000 when a firm plan is in place. Victoria and Cowichan Chapters are also contributing.

Tonights refreshments: tonight's refreshments were provided by Brenda, Debbie and Elaine and were much appreciated.

COMMITTEE DIRECTORS REPORTS

Secretary Ann Beamish indicated we cards from both Muriel Gustavson and Pat Haugan thanking us for having them to our meeting.

Library Ann Beamish advised that for the first time in 6 years the club purchased 6 books from the South Fraser Chapter. They are available for circulation tonight and are:

- Moss Gardening by George Schenk
- Winter Flowering Shrubs by Michael W. Buffin
- Rhododendron Species Series by H.H. Davidian
- Ilepeidotes
- Lepidotes vol. 1
- Lepidotes vol.2
- Azaleas

TREASURER Krystyna Sosulski gave a financial update with our current balance being \$14,079.00

Membership: Sandra Dorman no new members

Sunshine: Sandra Dorman send a card to Art Lightburn, and received a letter from Philip Paul's daughter indicating that he enjoys our newsletters..

MAY AS RHODODENDRON MONTH IN THE CITY OF NANAIMO, this project comes with costs attached.

- by City of Nanaimo \$247, for hanging and removing banner (it is strung across Front Street by the intersection of Front and Church Streets.
- Acme Signs single sided \$225
- Double sided \$3000 can be viewed coming in both directions
- **NOTE- BANNER HANGING APRIL 27**

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Advertising and Promotion Brian Jubinville reported that our banners have been completed at Nanaimo North Center. We are not permitted to have any printing on them so are unable to show the parent and offspring Dido X Anna = Lems Cameo

Brian Jubinville has booked the Woodgrove Mall Kiosk for Saturday May 3 from opening to closing (0900 to 1900). Susan Lightburn circulated a sign-up sheet

Business Cards with QR codes have been ordered.

Web Page Craig Clarke no report.

Social no new report.

BUS TOUR SATURDAY MAY 17 John Denisiger was absent but there currently is a waiting list.

Garden Tours-Chris Southwick and Sandra Dorman have arranged for tours 3 Friday evenings May 2, 16, and 23. To date they have booked The Peters, George Hardy, The Tennants, The Jubinviles, and Bill Hardy.

Friday Evening Garden Tours Chris Southwick and Sandra Dorman are arranging Friday evening tours for the club members in May and are looking for four gardens each Friday. They to date have the Peters, and Hardy.

8:00 **Short Break**

8:10 **Raffle winners:**

Montrosianum – Earl Daniluk

Horizon Lakeside – Elaine Hutchinson

Honey Butter – Brian Jubinville

Alina – Joyce Clarke

Fletcheranum – Edith Higgins

Door Prizes

Joyce Clarke, Ann Beamish and Chris Southwick

8:30 **Speaker-Presentation:** Norma Senn presented a vision of her trip to the Taupo Conference in New Zealand and tour of New Zealand's North Island

9:45 **Adjournment**