



The Victoria Rhododendron Society Newsletter

4821 Townsend Drive, Victoria, BC V8Z 5P2

March 2019
tkmcmillan@telus.net

Thirty-Ninth Year of Publication
<http://victoriarhodo.ca>

General Meeting
starts at 7:30
MONDAY, March 4, 2019
Annual General Meeting and
Circle of Learning
Bring your questions and share your experiences.
Couvelier Pavilion at the HCP Gardens
505 Quayle Road, VICTORIA, B. C.

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REFRESHMENTS

by

Florence Newcombe Shirley & Ron O’Brien

Patricia Owen Calvin Parsons

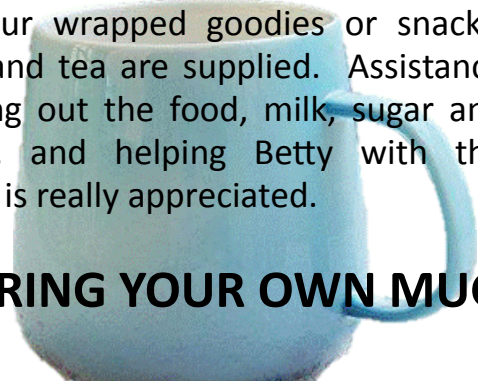
Jackie Ralph Janet Renouf

PLEASE EMAIL Betty Gordon at
bbgordon@shaw.ca



or phone 250.479.0210 if you are coming with your wrapped goodies or snacks. Coffee and tea are supplied. Assistance in setting out the food, milk, sugar and napkins, and helping Betty with the cleanup is really appreciated.



BRING YOUR OWN MUG



Upcoming Events

2019	Event	Place
Mar 4 7:30	General Meeting and AGM - The Couvelier Pavilion Circle of Learning' Bring your rhodo questions; share your experiences; it will be learning and fun for all. 	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road 
Mar 16 5:30	Ole Jonny Larsen, Norwegian Species Enthusiast Tickets available via phone (250) 479-6162 Parking attendants needed info TBA	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Mar 18 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Apr 1 7:30	General Meeting - The Couvelier Pavilion Susan and Garth Wedemire - Visiting Wales	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Apr 12-13	Rhododendron Species Foundation & Botanical Garden has its Spring Sale on April 12-13th. The 2019 Spring Catalogue is available : https://rhodygarden.org with information on plant ordering.	
Apr 14 10-2:00	VicRS Plant Sale	5008 Old W. Saanich Rd
Apr 15 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
May 6 7:30	General Meeting - The Couvelier Pavilion FLOWER SHOW	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
May 12 10-2:00	VicRS Plant Sale	4640 Cordova Bay Rd
May 16-19	ARS Annual Convention Registration starts December 1st, 2018	Malvern, PA
May 20 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Jun 17 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Jun 23 Noon	Sunday VRS Summer BBQ Picnic at Lois and Roy Blackmores'	758 Walfred Road
Sept 2 7:30	General Meeting - The Couvelier Pavilion	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Sept 16 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Sept 27-29	ARS Fall Conference	Parksville, BC
Oct 7 7:30	General Meeting - The Couvelier Pavilion	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Oct 21 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA

Editor's Notes



by Theresa McMillan

A Review of Ann Nightingale's talk, "Winter Birds of Victoria", on February 4, 2019

The first meeting of 2019 was on an unusual topic for a garden club, a talk on birds. Most gardeners end up interested in birds because we are often outside and can see and hear them in our gardens.



Anna's hummingbird- male
© Tom Grey

Our recent very cold weather has made gardeners who are feeding birds anxious about our hummingbird feeders. We don't want them to freeze, and become useless to the Anna's hummingbirds who over-winter here. One way to help is to bring the feeders inside overnight, and get up early to put them out by dawn's light. Another is to wrap them in Christmas lights, but not LED lights because they don't get warm enough. Another way is to put them close to a strong light outside at night. As well, the standard 1 part sugar to four parts water for the hummingbird feeder can be changed in cold weather to 1 part sugar and three parts water to give the birds an extra survival edge when there are fewer insects or flowers.



Anna's hummingbird- female

On cold winter nights birds often huddle together or hide in holes or crevices, changing positions so that their body heat and feathers protect them all.



Ann Nightingale, Birder

Ann Nightingale told us about on a migratory female Rufous hummingbird who was banded at the Rocky Point Bird Sanctuary one spring, overwintered in Mexico, and returned to her feeder for eight consecutive springs! For such a tiny bird, and such distances, it is almost unbelievable.

Ann also told us about the tiny grey Bush Tits, one of her (and my) favorite birds. They come readily to suet feeders. The feeders can be bought in blocks or made at home as a mixture of lard, black sunflower seeds and peanut butter.



Bush Tit

A flock of Bush Tits flies swiftly from tree to tree, reminding me of dandelion fluff scattering in the breeze. Up to 14 birds land

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on our suet block. They feed co-operatively, so that they look like a pin-cushion of dark grey tails.

An individual Bush Tit looks like "a disheveled-looking, long-tailed ball of fluff" to quote famous birder, David Sibley. They are very social birds, huddling together at night. They make a messy sock-like nest with a small hole near the top. They use spider webs, and

camouflage it with moss, lichen and dry grasses, and line it with feathers. Up to 10 babies, their parents, and sometimes adult male helpers share the nest, so it can be very warm.

It can be hard though, to dead-head your rhododendrons while looking out for birds in your sunflower or suet feeders. They are distracting.



Bird Feed - [Zick Dough](#) - Recipe

by Brenda Macdonald and
courtesy of Ann Nightingale, Birder

Melt together in the microwave until liquid:

- 1 cup lard
- 1 cup (cheap, smooth) peanut butter

Combine separately:

- 2 cups quick (not rolled, not steel-cut) oats
- 2 cups unmedicated chick starter
- 1 cup yellow corn meal
- 1 cup flour

Mix dry ingredients in a large bowl, pour in melted lard/peanut butter and mix until crumbly. This mixture does not need refrigeration.

(The chick starter is available at a feed store; I got mine at my local Home Hardware.)

This mixture is too crumbly for a suet feeder. I just sprinkle mine on my snow-covered deck and grass area - keeping the cats inside all the time.

President's Remarks

by Brenda Macdonald

Well, that was interesting. More snow than ever before, more snow than was comfortable, and certainly more snow than anyone wanted.

And the cold! We have been pushing the hardiness envelope for a number of years now, and perhaps this is the year of our comeuppance. Certainly, the banana plant looks very sad indeed. And we will have to see whether my laziness in not excavating and storing the dahlia tubers will have been a shortsighted decision. The reticulata iris, always a patch of blue sky in the garden after a grey winter, seems unfazed, but the New Year's growth tips on a number of other things (various clematis, including our new *Clematis armandii*, and the Spanish broom *Spartium junceum*) look bedraggled. During the cold snap everything looked so withered. The rhododendron leaves were rolled up like cigars, as if they hadn't had a drink for months, and even the newly emerged *Cyclamen coum* blossoms, usually so perky, looked limp and dismal. The only things that remained positively vibrant were the clumps of snapweed (*Cardamine hirsuta*), missed in the last weeding cycle of the fall and now looking like small cabbages.

As an aside, I should note here how difficult it was to come up with the name of that weed using the internet. I knew it was not the very similar shepherd's purse (*Capsella bursa-pastoris*) with which I was already far too familiar, and that I had sussed out the name a few years ago. But I had

known its common name as popweed, and let me assure you, looking up anything involving the search terms BC, garden weed, pop weed, or any other combination of similar terms, in this post-legalized marijuana world is an exercise in complete frustration.

We spent three days without power (no light, no heat, very soon no water, no internet, no telephone, and, as always, no cell coverage) and we began to worry about the Head Gardener's two grow ops – one in the greenhouse, one in his half of the garage. All the rhododendron seedlings and cuttings looked quite unhappy, but when light and heat were once more available they perked right up.

Our snow did not last long, but while it was here, there were flocks of juncos and varied thrushes marching back and forth. The [Zick dough](#) I made, following the suggestion of the February speaker, Anne Nightingale, was deeply popular.

Now we are back to weather, which if not temperate, is at least not below freezing and does not involve frozen precipitation of any kind. A walk round the garden showed some leaf burn but generally speaking, things are good. Now if it weren't for those weeds!

Clematis armandii
Courtesy of Emőke Dénes, 7 April 2015



Cyclamen
Mar. 20, 2011

Jim Barlup: the man, the hybridizer, our benefactor

Part Three

by Lois Blackmore

Jim Barlup: our benefactor

This chapter of the Barlup saga and the Victoria Rhododendron Society began with the purchase of five one-year-old cuttings at the Olympia ARS Convention in 2003. Why did the names Windsong, Light Years, Palouse, Mindy's Love and Loon's Call make such an impression on a novice and first time buyer? Basically, it was in the "romance" of the names. It was only some years later that the name Jim Barlup was added to this story. By 2007, I realized who the hybridizer was, and a start of a larger collection of Barlup hybrids began.

In that same year, I was helping with obtaining speakers for our club and was tasked to contact Jim Barlup as a speaker. Little did I know that he had recently fallen from a ladder and had broken many bones in his ankle and foot. No speaker for us in 2007. However, the Barlup collection in our garden continued to increase with yearly visits to Whitney Gardens.



Jim Barlup

At the Bellevue ARS Convention in 2009, I met Jim in person and asked for a list of his hybrids. "Not available at the moment, but here is my card and I will email a list to you." OMG! This man recognizes I am an amateur and he knows I buy plants based only on their names. I cannot do this to a man who has been awarded a gold medal from the ARS. No contact was made.



Judy and Jim Barlup

Lloyd and Linda Gilmore now enter this story. In 2011, they were going to visit Jim after the ARS Convention in Vancouver, WA. I asked if Roy and I could tag along, as I still had no list of the plants that Jim had hybridized. I knew this time that "on his home turf" it most likely would be available. On our way, and to assure Jim that we were indeed Barlup hybrid fans, Roy suggested I write down the number of Barlup hybrid plants already growing in our garden. Using the Whitney catalogue as a resource, we were able to list 31 Barlup hybrids growing in our garden.

This list began a serious conversation about the connection between Canada and the US, and the issues associated with bringing plants into Canada, and the fact that few Barlup hybrids were available in the Canadian market. As well, we asked if there were other growers producing Barlup hybrids. That very

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afternoon, we were able to find “Cody” growing at Hazelwood Gardens, ensuring a return trip, as one more plant could not be added to the phytosanitary certificate provided from the sale at the convention.

From those early beginnings, a friendship grew and blossomed to include Ken and Madeleine Webb, Tony and Carolyn Marquardt, Calvin and Jeannie Parsons, and Lloyd and Linda Gilmore. Visits, emails and ongoing communications continue to this day. As Jim is slowly reducing his collection of parent plants, the Victoria Rhododendron Society has and continues to be the recipient of such gifts. Our propagating group continues to produce these lovely hybrids and now other ARS members on Vancouver Island have access to this new market for rhododendron lovers. We are ever grateful.

The words, written on The ARS Pioneer Achievement Award, presented to Jim in May of 2018, tell the real story.

“I DWELL IN POSSIBILITIES”

In every human, there is a need to know. The questions of who, what, why and how are instinctive and are a force within our very existence. What makes one person search half their lifetime to answer these questions and then to excel in their chosen field of interest?

A very special human has taken these questions and created a plethora of answers.

Your research is groundbreaking, making way for further study.
Your body of work speaks for itself.
Your benevolence is most admirable.
Your friends are worldwide.

You have created an example of a cross-border, cross-country, cross-nation legacy by donating the majority of your creations to the Victoria Rhododendron Society.

You have demonstrated an example of what others can do and follow.

Your gift of graciousness knows no bounds.

The American Rhododendron Society is pleased to present the
Pioneer Achievement Award

CAN YOU COUNT

To
Jim Barlup



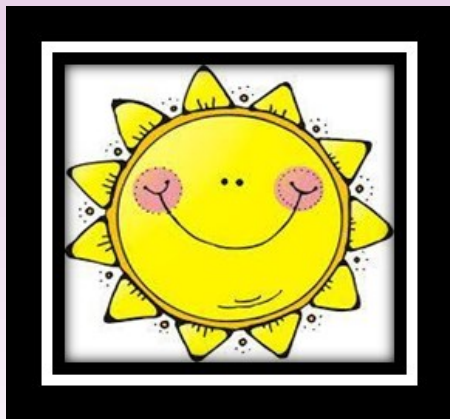
Fire Rim (Nancy Evans x Pink Petticoats)



Windsong (Nancy Evans x Berg's Yellow)

SNOW - THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE BEAUTIFUL

By Lois Blackmore



The Good - The obvious benefit of snow is that it is an excellent insulator. Without it, the cold temperature can freeze the ground deeply, causing damage to the root system. Snow cover protects the plants from harsh drying winds and from the freeze-thaw cycle. The shape of snowflakes and the air they contain provides low heat conductivity so the fluctuations of temperatures are more stable. The process of freezing and thawing disturbs the soil and improves soil structure, allowing plants to develop roots more readily.

The Bad - The weight of heavy snow on branches can cause the branches to break and plants to be uprooted. Branches from adjacent trees can fall and damage the plants.



The Beautiful - One cannot deny the beauty of a snow-covered garden. Benches, pathways, and arbors become highlights. The plants wear crowns of snow calling “look at me”. Whenever a garden is covered in snow the world seems peaceful and still.

Announcements

Plant Hunting: Experiences of an Amateur with Ole Jonny Larsen

March 16 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Horticulture Centre Of The Pacific, 505 Quayle Rd.

Victoria, BC V9E 2J7 Canada + Google Map



Saturday March 16th 2019 Doors at 5:30pm, Start at 6:00pm (end at 7:00pm) The Gardens at HCP presents Rhododendron Author Ole Jonny Larsen **"Plant Hunting: Experiences of an Amateur"** Enjoy a spring evening in the Gardens and hear Ole Jonny Larsen speak on "Plant Hunting: Experiences of an Amateur". Tickets are regular \$40 or \$30 for members of The Gardens at HCP or Victoria Rhododendron Society. HCP/VRS members will need to show their cards at the door.

This event...[Find out more »](#)

VicRS Members:

To reserve a seat for this talk, please PHONE HCP at 250-479-6162, ask for the VicRS discount, which is \$30 (\$40 for non-members).

There are no tickets; your name will go on the registration list, to be checked at the door on the evening of the talk.

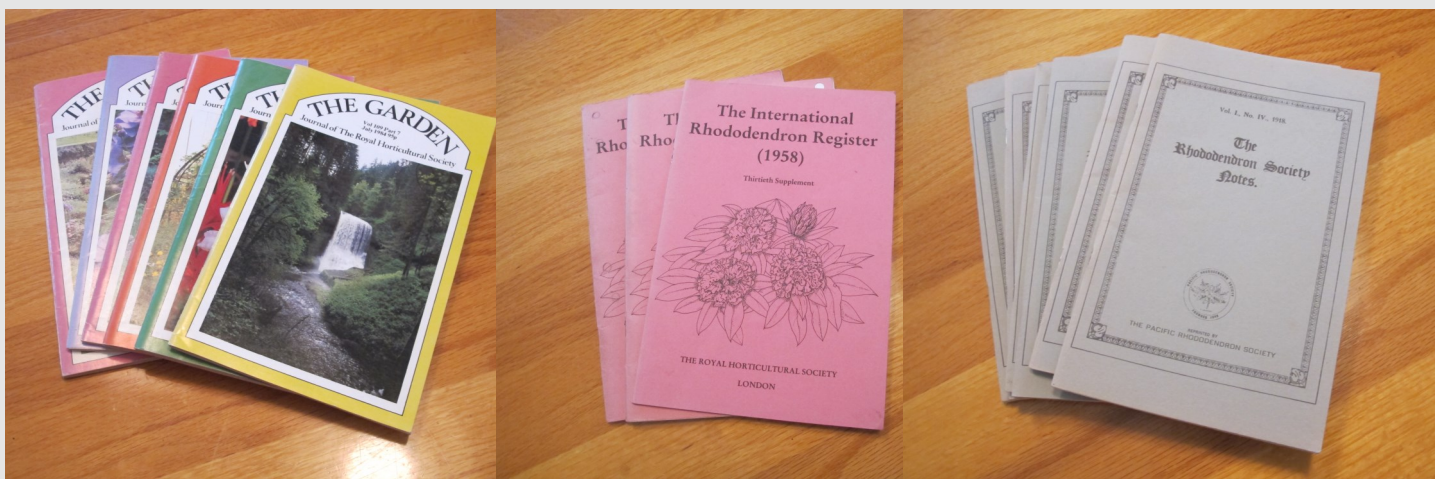
There will also be an opportunity to reserve a seat at our next meeting, Monday, March 4, 2019 by cash or cheque only, if any seats remain available.

FREE Historical Rhododendron Journals and Notes

**Contact Art Lightburn by email: slightbu@shaw.ca or (250-468-7516)
A walk about and a coffee could go with the books (all are in boxes).**

American Rhododendron Society Journals	142 issues	1982 to 2017
Quarterly Bulletin		
American Rhododendron Society	81 issues	July 15 1952–1981
Rhododendron with Magnolias and Camellias	6 issues	1977–1990
Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society	17 issues	1972–1973
The Rhododendron Society Notes	6 issues	1918–1928
The International Rhododendron Registry	3 issues	(1958)
Rhododendron Yearbook	2 issues	1945, 1948 (hardbound)
The Rhododendron and Camellia Yearbook (hardbound)	7 issues	1961 – 1971
The Garden Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society	6 issues	1984 – 1985





Annual General Meeting

Running Candidates of Victoria Rhododendron Society Board Election

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| President - | Brenda Macdonald |
| Vice-President - | Lloyd Gilmore |
| Secretary - | Sharon Joseph |
| Treasurer - | Bill Gordon |
| Members-at-Large - | Carolyn Marquardt |
| | Ian Duncan |
| | Carrie George |
| | Jackie Ralph |
| | Lynne Ferrie |
| | Theresa McMillan |

Upcoming Events



Hand Pollination & Hybridizing Class

March 23, 2019
Saturday 10:00 am - 12:00 pm



2019 RSBG Spring Plant Sale

April 12, 2019 - April 13, 2019
Friday - Saturday see event details



2019 Rhododendron Species Symposium April 26 & 27

Rhododendron Species Symposium 2019

April 26, 2019 - April 27, 2019
Friday - Saturday 9:00 am



Mother's Day Weekend 2019

May 11, 2019 - May 12, 2019
Saturday - Sunday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

>>>>> Click on the [links](#) to access the Catalog and Order Form <<<<<<

Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden

The 2019 Spring Catalog is [here!](#)

For ordering instructions and more information, visit [here.](#)



Rhododendron huanum

THE VANCOUVER ISLAND
ROCK AND ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY

✻

ANNUAL SPRING FLOWER SHOW



Fritillaria michailovskyi

FRIDAY, APRIL 5 - 1 PM TO 8 PM
SATURDAY, APRIL 6 - 9 AM TO 3 PM
PUBLIC SALE OF MEMBER DONATED PLANTS-
11 AM SATURDAY

Come to see rock and alpine, succulent, woodland and
wetland plants. There will be plant and seed sales,
door prizes, a silent auction, tea and more!

CADBORO BAY UNITED CHURCH
2625 ARBUTUS ROAD, VICTORIA
ADMISSION BY DONATION

Visit our website at www.virags.com
Or find us on facebook at vancouver island rock and alpine garden society

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Refreshments Organizer

Betty Gordon 250-479-0210
Carrie George, Alternate

Website

Calvin Parsons 250-590-0489
<http://victoriarhodo.ca>



CAN YOU COUNT ?

How many rhododendrons are mentioned
in the Jim Barlup: our benefactor
article?

Answer: _____

Win a free raffle ticket.

