



# The RHODOTELLER

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## COMING EVENTS

### 5 December 2006 – Executive Meeting

Executive meeting will be held at the home of Dave & Noni Godfrey, 4686 Montrose Drive, Union Bay, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

### 12 December 2006 — Regular Monthly Meeting

Christmas Party: Pot Luck— Fun – Games – Gifts – Goodies!



(by Harry Wright)



Wow, we finally get a month with some moisture, more than enough to have a good return of salmon in the creek behind the workshop. Spawning seems to be very successful this year. The leaves have fallen from all

the trees and the gutters have been cleaned. So, next on the list is Christmas and all that entails; especially the decorating of the garden.

As most of you know we light up the garden over the holiday season and will be opening to the public this year on Dec 20, 22, and 24, from 7 to 9 pm (no pets please). All donations are greatly appreciated and are given to the local "Sonshine Lunch Club". A multi church volunteer organization that feed the less fortunate in our community year round. Last Christmas we had over 650 people through the garden on Christmas Eve alone. Gwen served the cold and thirsty with warm cider in front of an open fire. So why not come on over this year and join in.

Bright spots in our garden in December are the yellow blooming winter Jasmine and the Hamamelis 'Arnolds Promise'. The foliage of 'Pieris Jap variegata', and 'Rhodo Goldflimmer', the coloured bark of the birch 'Betula Jackmanii', with all branches glowing white. And who could forget the Acer Pensylvanicum 'Erythrocladum' with its predominant red bark in the winter months putting on a fantastic show. A walk past 'Picea Breweriana', with its vertical branches, and the needles retaining moisture like crystal droplets on a spiders web; is also a must see.

# NOEL

W.I.R.S.  
2006/2007  
Executive



### President

Harry Wright .....338-8345

### Vice-President

Dave Crucq .....339-7845

### Secretary

Diana Scott .....338-0208

### Treasurer

Don Law .....339-2735

### Director: Ways & Means

Dave Godfrey .....335-0717

### Director: Membership

Brian Staton .....337-5228

### Director: Publicity

Chris Aldred .....335-3231

### Director: Newsletter/Library

Noni Godfrey .....335-0717

.....Nonigod@shaw.ca

### Social Committee:

Evelyn Wright .....339-7493

Bernice Morrison ..339-0932

### Revenue Table Committee:

Joan Walsh .....335-1349

Tiffany Wyles .....336-8188

### Historian:

Lois Clyde .....337-5754

The club meets the second Tuesday of the month (except May through August) at the United Church Comox Avenue, Comox 7:30 p.m.





Our upcoming December meeting is an entertaining and fun social evening giving members more time to get to know each other. Please bring a small wrapped present for the 'gift exchange', (around the \$10 range), and a plate of sweets or savories for the evening's feast. Evelyn and Bernice promise an evening full of merriment, cheerfulness, happiness, fun, high spirits and 'carol singing'. Maybe we can even persuade Brian Staton to accompany us on the piano again this year. Don't forget Christmas goodies are calorie free if eaten via the left hand (or the right hand if you are a 'south paw').

See you at the meeting. Harry



(by Dave Godfrey)

It was a dark and stormy night for our meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup>, but at least the power didn't go out in the midst of it all. Thirty-six members and guests enjoyed an entertaining and informative evening.

Following the regular business and an educational on rhodo truss identification, President Harry introduced our guest speaker, Ron Knight from Pender Island. Ron, who is a member of the Vancouver Rhododendron Society, gave an informative presentation on "Pruning with Confidence."

As Ron explained, and showed in his slide presentation, many gardeners make the mistake of pruning for the wrong reasons. To prune any plant requires 1. a purpose, 2. knowledge of how to prune properly, and 3. an understanding of the timetable when to prune.

"Many gardeners have been known to perform 'desperate pruning' because of poor planning when they first planted their garden," explained Ron. "Not planning for the size a plant will get in 10 years and over planting does not leave sufficient room for growth."

There are 4 main reasons one should prune and they are: Dead, Diseased, Damaged or Disorderly - the four D's of pruning, as Ron demonstrated with slides.

Knowing when to prune is just as important as knowing how to prune. Knowing which plants flower on new growth, versus those which flower on old growth will make a big difference in the

beauty of any garden. Many plants such as Rhododendrons, heaths and heathers, flower on old growth, and as such should be pruned just after they flower. While plants such as Hydrangeas should be pruned just before they bud out in April.

Ron recommended several good books on pruning, which many members immediately placed on their book order following the presentation.

The lucky winner of the raffle prize "Courtenay Lady" was guest Sheila Medori, who will soon become a member. While the door prize "Minetes", a compact little rhodo, was won by our newest member, Susan Holt. Congratulations ladies, and thanks to all who purchased raffle tickets in support of our fund raising efforts.



### NEW BUSINESSES OFFER DISCOUNTS

Ways & Means director, Dave Godfrey, advised members that two new businesses are now offering members a discount. Comox Valley Ornamental Concrete on Knight Road in Comox has a tremendous assortment of concrete items available for very reasonable prices. Everything from bird baths to stepping stones in all shapes and sizes.

In addition to their store on Puntledge Road in Courtenay, Shar-Kare in Campbell River is also offering members a 10% discount on garden related items. This will certainly help our members from up Island. So be sure to show your membership card prior to having your purchases wrung into the register.





## Christmas Hamper News

Many, many thanks to all of those who volunteered to contribute goods to the Christmas food hamper that the N.I.R.S. is putting together for a needy family via the Salvation Army.

We have been allocated a single Mom with three children, and hope we can make this Christmas a little merrier for them.

I would just like to remind all members that I would be delighted if any of you could find the time to bring something to add to our hamper. Anything at all that you can spare would be much appreciated, I am trying to add a few items of the festive kind, that some families usually go without, but we take for granted.

Once again, many thanks for your generosity.

**Merry Christmas to all.....Christine**

## REMEMBER THE BIRDS

With birds, as with weather, every year is different. Last winter, there were almost no Pine Siskins, and recent material from Bird Studies Canada showed maps of the past two years. Pine Siskins came to feeders in 2004-05 in the usual numbers, but in 2005-06 there were almost none. They all went south to spend the winter in California and Mexico.

So the niger seeds I bought were not used. We had only two Steller's Jays most of the winter, but the usual hordes of Juncos as well as Towhees and finches.

This fall, we have no Siskins so far, but 10 Jays are eating steadily. I have found that favorite foods in our yard are black oil sunflower seeds and cracked corn. Some of the corn is mixed with fat and a dish of this mix disappears rapidly each morning. The mixed bird seed is wasted in our garden.

Remember to put out water every frosty day for the birds. They also appreciate a dish of sand or fine gravel if the ground is frozen or covered with snow. Clean all dishes and feeders regularly to prevent infections.

This may seem like a lot of work, but think of the pleasure you get from just watching the birds. Young children and people in wheelchairs can spend hours noting bird behavior and looking for an unusual visitor.

With more of the natural territory for birds and animals disappearing all the time, it is up to gardeners to try to help these creatures. Think of all the bugs they consume during the summer!



## FAVORITE TREES & SHRUBS



A few years ago, our club was fortunate to be able to visit John Trelawny's interesting garden. Down there on the warm (probably Zone 9) Saanich Peninsula, people can grow plants that would not survive our colder winters. However, we can always hope - and try.

Mr. Trelawny wrote in the September Victoria Rhodo Society newsletter, about some of the beautiful plants in his garden:

Acer negundo `Flamingo'. "In some 30 years it has developed into a strikingly imposing tree, approximately 30 ft. tall by about equal width, with a massive covering of small, attractively variegated leaves"

Eucalyptus perriniana `Spinning Gum', originating from Ted Irving's collection of seed of hardy Australian `Snow Gums'.

"A strikingly smooth grey trunk giving rise to a many-branched stem that is hidden by a thick covering of long, oblanceolate glaucous leaves, giving it a rather ghostly appearance."

Magnolia grandiflora `Victoria' with creamy-white flowers the size of dinner plates,



Eucryphia nymansensis `Nymansay', "a multitude of rose-like, white flowers in July",

Rhodo bureavii with fabulous dark green leaves,

Cornus florida `Spring Song', a profusion of small flowers in rose-coloured bracts, these are reflexed in a curious way so that it would appear that each bud had not opened completely",

Fremontedendron californicum "has survived more than 20 winters, unscathed on the south-facing front of the house, in full sun and sheltered from any suggestion of wind from the north. Golden, waxy, cup-shaped flowers..."

*Note by MP: Doesn't this make your mouth water? I know it would be useless for me to try some of these plants, like Eucryphia and Fremontedendron, but I noticed one of the latter on a south-facing wall in Bob Argall's garden. Let's just keep an eye on it. As for a magnolia with flowers the size of dinner-plates - well, you know what one of our south-easters would do to them!*



## LABELLING TIPS

Write on both sides of the label. Use (if you can find) fine-tipped permanent markers. Dip completed labels in polyurethane varnish, or spray on 2 coats of varnish. Aluminum labels and plastic that feels slightly rough will take 2B pencil, which never seems to disappear unless you remove the marks with an eraser. Plastic marked with permanent felt-tip can last for years in the ground, but will soon break up when the sun hits it. Decocolor Permanent



Markers are considered the best (but can we find them in Canada?)

Make your own labels with strips of venetian blinds or aluminum roof flashing. Gertrude Jeykll used small smooth river rocks to paint plant names on. You can use a felt-tip marker then spray the stones with varnish. Mark both sides so if the name disappears from the top, just reverse the stone.

## WINTER BLOOMING HEATHS

Information from Horticulture magazine Nov/Dec 2001

These plants do so well here. I have often seen the flowers poking cheerfully out of a foot of snow.

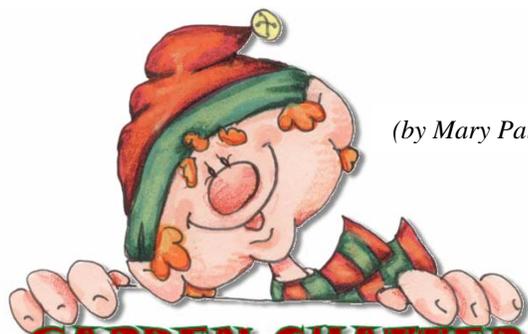
Technically, 'heather' refers only to *Culluna vulgaris*: summer-blooming, lime-hating, with overlapping scale-like leaves that lie flat along the stems. 'Heaths', members of the genus *Erica*, have leaves like tiny fir-needles, and bloom at various times of the year. The two toughest, are *Erica carnea* and *Erica xdarleyensis*. *Erica carnea* x *E. erigena*, Irish heath, are taller and more tender.

Location is the most important consideration for growing winter-blooming heaths. They like cool summers and relatively mild winters. The East coast of Vancouver Island is just about perfect for these plants (except year 2006 perhaps). Snow doesn't hurt them but heavy snow cover means you can't see the flowers in bloom.

Some very good cultivars include December Red, Foxhollow, Heathwood, King George, Myretoun Ruby, Pink Spangles, Springwood Pink and Springwood White, and Vivalli.

*E x darleyensis* include - Arthur Johnson, Darley Dale, Furzey, George Rendall, Ghost Hills, Jenny Porter, J.W. Porter, Margaret Porter, Mary Helen and Silberschmelze, also called Alba or Molten Silver.

Some of these have yellow or bronze winter foliage, and flowers can be white to dark red or purple.



(by Mary Palmer)

## GARDEN CHATTER NAVER AND NOTES

This year, we had a summer that seemed to go on forever. Sure, we complained about lack of water, but most of the plants came through safely, but to have sunshine almost to the end of October was an incredible bonus. No wind, and

cool nights gave us a display of brilliant red, orange and yellow leaves that we seldom see in this area. Now it is November but there are still bright coloured leaves on many trees and shrubs. The ground is covered with beautiful *Acer macrophyllum* leaves to be raked up, mulched and spread on beds. In the woods, a golden carpet of these leaves makes everything glow with colour. I noticed the rhodo leaves offer an interesting background for other, more brightly coloured shrubs. Autumn flowers are hardly needed when the trees and shrubs give such a brilliant show.

Now it is time to read gardening books and catalogues, for inspiration with future years in mind. Do we need to clear out an overgrown shrub or have a tree chopped down? A good excuse to purchase something new. Perhaps a more dwarf plant would be better in that space. Don't forget to consider winter-blooming shrubs with perfume. Look for a *Sarcococca*, *Corylopsis* or a winter-flowering *Lonicera* for lovely winter perfume. Various *Hamamelis* start blooming at Christmas and go right through to March. *H. mollis* seems to have the most scent.

Depending on the kind of winter we get, we can make all kinds of plans for walks or hikes, working around the garden, or simply sitting with a good book and a cup of tea, watching the birds eating sunflower seeds.



**NORM TODD** always has interesting thoughts on gardening, and in the May 2006 issue of the Victoria Rhodo Society he wrote on a large-leaved rhodo, *R. basilicum*, which took over 30 years to move from sprouting from seed to blooming. Finally it bloomed, starting in February and still looking beautiful in May. That was definitely worth waiting 30 years for. By the way, the flowers withstood a temperature of -3C in March of this year.

Perhaps we should be more adventurous in choosing winter-blooming plants. Norm Todd has a *R. 'Lee's Scarlet'* that bloomed for 14 weeks, and *R. 'Nobleanum'* bloomed from October to March. These two open blooms in succession, so that each individual truss lasts 3-4 weeks.

I'd like to quote one paragraph in his article, for the people who complain "This rhodo is 12 years old and I haven't seen a flower yet".

"In a woodland setting there are no better plants for early season impact than the large-leaf rhodo. The big drawback is their slowness in reaching the age of puberty. One can rationalize about this characteristic by reminding oneself that one must treat rhodos as foliage plants; as a bonus they occasionally have flowers. Now that there are one or two that indulge themselves (and me) in an annual floral extravaganza, I consider the 20 or 30 more years waiting to see a bloom time to be well spent; yet there can be no denying the obvious truth that, in modern times, when the average person will not buy a green banana, the large-leaved rhodos are merely botanical curiosities."





(by Rose-Marie Silkens)

As the holiday season approaches, I have to remember that no matter how beautiful is English holly, I must practice what I preach and consider its dangers as an invasive alien. *Ilex aquifolium* is a notorious self-seeder that colonizes understorey in our forested areas. I don't have to look very far in my own neighbourhood, either in Sayward or on Hardwicke Island, to see how invasive this plant is. True, its berries feed the birds in winter, but there are many other berrying shrubs to serve that purpose.

It is only English holly that is invasive, and I'm happy to say that one seldom sees it for sale in garden centres any longer. The offerings are usually other species or hybrids, and varieties that are decorative but sterile, like the male cultivar 'Ferox,' hedgehog holly. Blue or meserve holly (*Ilex x meserveae*) is another good choice. 'Blue Prince', a male pollinator, and 'Blue Princess', the berry producer, have very dark, shiny foliage on compact, slow-growing plants. In Sayward their growth is so slow as to be almost imperceptible, but they are very handsome.

Another English holly hybrid that is not vigorous enough to become a nuisance is Highclere holly, *Ilex x altaclerensis*. Very popular on the lower mainland, this holly is spineless, or almost so, has very large berries and large, shiny leaves. Both plain green and variegated cultivars are available. There is also a Dutch hybrid of English holly, 'JC van Tol,' that is self-fertile. It is a handsome plant, available in plain green or variegated forms, and has smooth leaves. I have been told that it is sterile, its berries containing no viable seed, but I'm not certain that is true.

While it may be traditional, holly is by no means the leading candidate for winter decorations. Many of our own native plants are lovely choices. A stroll through our back field yields more fodder for my decorating binges than I could ever use.

Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*) makes a great Christmas wreath, and is much easier to work with than prickly holly. A few branches of salal make an attractive, long-lasting filler for any bouquet. Oregon grape is another broadleaf evergreen with the same versatility. The shrubby type, *Mahonia aquifolium*, has shiny, holly-like leaves, and the low-growing *Mahonia nervosa* has a duller texture, but softer stems that make it easier to work into a wreath.

The bare branches of many deciduous plants make colourful accents for holiday greenery. I grow red huckleberry

(*Vaccinium parvifolium*) in a shrub border alongside trees, where it provides winter colour and stems for cutting from winter through spring. Red osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea* or *stolonifera*) has deep burgundy stems. The new shoots of most willows are quite yellow. Even a few twigs of alder cones or catkin-laden hazelnut branches are pretty in a mixed arrangement.

While there is no native vegetation that generates berries like a holly, abundant berries do appear on kinnikinnick or bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*). Rosehips, cotoneaster and snowberry are beautiful alternatives, especially when mixed with cedar or pine boughs.

Of my garden plants, none contributes more generously to Christmas decoration than the Japanese skimmia (*Skimmia japonica*). I use both the male plants (darker green with a fragrant cluster of flower buds) and the female (bright green with lots of very bright red berries). They make wonderful bouquets, with a few paperwhite stems added, and are long-lasting in wreaths. This year I've been slipping a few bunches of skimmia into grapevine and twig wreaths.

The once-common Japanese aucuba (*Aucuba japonica*) is another highlight plant. Highly variegated in bright yellow, you need only a little of this broadleaf evergreen for it to make a statement. In an all-green wreath, one full stem end of aucuba is a handsome substitute for a bow made of ribbon.

Florists sell branches of a plant they call Oregonia for wreaths and other seasonal decorations. This is variegated box, *Buxus sempervirens* varieties. It makes a beautiful, long-lasting wreath, but it is also a very handsome garden plant. In fact, a low hedge of variegated box is very distinctive. The cultivar 'Elegantissima' has white variegation and a dense, upright habit. *B. latifolia maculata* and *marginata* have yellow variegation on a more rounded plant. Hardy to Zone 6, these plants shouldn't be a problem in our area.

I have always wished I could grow pittosporum species, particularly the Japanese *P. tobira*. Alas, it wouldn't last a minute up here, as it is hardy only to Zone 9, but I sometimes splurge by buying some for wreaths and arrangements. Its beautiful, shiny leaves are evergreen and have highly fragrant blossoms. There are variegated forms too.

As I'm writing this letter, the weather forecast promises we'll get to -8 in a few days. That means my newly-crafted pittosporum wreath will have to come inside until the cold snap ends.





## Shrubs and Trees with Coloured Stems in Winter **DOGWOODS**

"Amateur Gardening" issue of 7 Jan. has an article on Dogwoods which makes one want to rush out and buy one immediately. If you want coloured stems that gleam in winter, look for *Cornus alba* 'Siberica', *C.a.* 'Elegantissima' or *C. sericea* 'Cardinal'. For yellow stems, try *C.s.* 'Flaviramea'. The leaves also turn yellow in fall. For white (pale yellow) stems, *C.s.* 'White Gold'. The leaves are white-margined. All these are shrubs, and if cut down almost to the ground will produce their brilliant stems on a regular basis. Alas for me, the deer eat these shrubs to the ground in my garden, and they don't recover. Give them a nice dose of fertilizer when you cut them down.

There is a lovely display of red stems in the grounds of an apartment on the corner of Rockland & Is. Hwy on the way to Campbell River.

There are some beautiful *Cornus* trees that produce large bracts in summer (called flowers), bright leaves in fall, and strawberry-like fruits. I noticed, the past two summers, that *Cornus kousa* in local gardens gave a spectacular show.

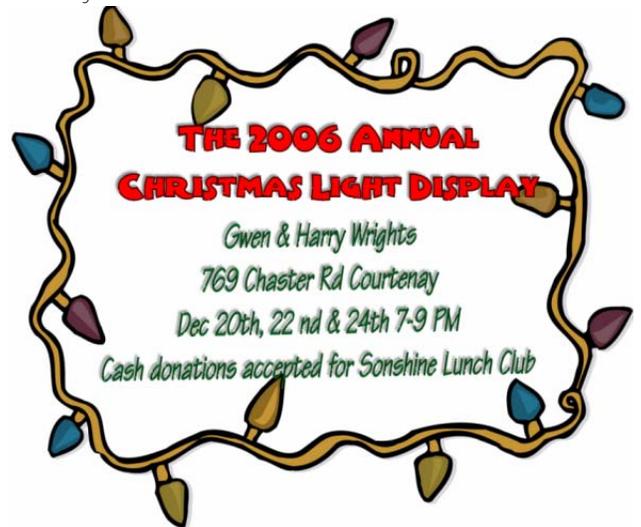
E.H."Chinese" Wilson brought *C.kousa* var. *chinensis* back from China about 100 years ago. It grows to 15-22 ft., has spreading horizontal branches, huge deep cream bracts, fruit like strawberries and brilliant red leaves in fall. What else could a person want? The Wedding Cake tree, *Cornus controversa* 'Variegata' AGM, grows slowly and attains about 20 ft. in 20 years. It shows layers of flowers in large flat clusters. The leaves have a cream margin and the fruits are black.

Another good tree is *C.kousa* x *C. capitata* 'Norman Hadden', semi-evergreen, lovely white bracts which gradually turn pink and red, red fruits, pretty peeling bark, grows to about 14 ft. A sister tree, 'Porlock' AGM is similar.

Apart from the Dogwoods, there are several other easily grown shrubs with bright stems. How about willow? *Salix x rubens* 'Basfordiana' is orangy-red, *S. purpurea*, purplish, *S.* 'Stuart', has dwarf, gnarled looking yellow shoots and orange buds. *S. acutifolia* and *S. daphnoides* have plum coloured stems overlaid with white bloom, and *S. irrorata* is fresh green changing to dark purple with a

white bloom. There are many other willows with coloured stems. Dave Klassen, working with the Regional District, planted many varieties in his demonstration garden at "Farquarson's" and people were invited to take home a few stems of various kinds, for rooting, several years ago. I don't know if this is still allowed, but January is the time to take cuttings for rooting or making willow fences. They root easily.

There are several RUBUS that have lovely coloured stems. *R. cockburnianus* has arching stems, purple under the white bloom. Var. 'Goldenvale' has yellow leaves in summer. *R. thibetanus* has purplish-brown stems under bluish bloom, *R. biflorus* green stems under dense bloom. Add our native *R. leucodermis*, locally called "Blackcap" or "Blackcap Raspberry", with lovely white stems. Even the leaves have white undersides. However, stems and leaves have vicious hooked spines. Remember *Rubus* blooms and fruits on second year wood, so you can trim out the finished stems in fall.



### THE 2006 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LIGHT DISPLAY

Gwen & Harry Wrights

769 Chaster Rd Courtenay

Dec 20th, 22nd & 24th 7-9 PM

Cash donations accepted for Sunshine Lunch Club

## COMPOSTABLE PLASTIC CONTAINERS

I mentioned some months ago that Lee Valley Tools has plastic bags for kitchen scraps that will break down very quickly in the compost pile, for they are made of vegetable oil and cornstarch. A September issue of Amateur Gardening covers more details about this material.

Did you know that plastic bags and boxes take 500 years to degrade in landfills? Sainbury's, a big grocery chain in Britain, will be selling more of their own-brand products, including ready-meals, in compostable packaging. This means food packaging, normally thrown into garbage bins, can be tossed onto garden compost heaps where it will break down quickly into organic matter. This will save (in Britain), 3500 tonnes of plastic per year. This packaging is made from corn, sugar-cane or starch. According to the experts, the material will break down faster than banana skins in a garden compost heap. Let's hope Canadian companies will soon use similar packaging for our grocery items.





A	N	I	A	T	N	U	O	M	E	L	B	O	N	F	A	A	N	N	A
A	L	B	A	T	R	O	S	S	I	C	B	C	A	E	C	D	O	M	D
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C	V	U	L	C	A	N	R	L	T	C	U	N	I	V	W	C	R	L	L
C	B	M	E	U	Q	I	N	U	A	A	K	S	I	Z	L	Y	X	A	E
D	E	S	N	E	N	E	U	H	C	T	U	S	H	A	M	R	O	C	K



Find these Rhododendron's when walking through Haida Gold Gardens, names may be forward, backward, up, down or diagonal, but always in a straight line.

- Aladdin
- Albatross
- Aloha
- Alice
- Amity
- Anna
- Biska
- Cephalanthum
- Cheer
- CIS
- Courtenay King
- Curlew
- Cutie
- Doc
- Dopey
- Eiken

- Elsie Watson
- Elya
- Fawn
- Gala
- Gigi
- Goldilocks
- Golfer
- Hecla
- High Gold
- Hodgsonii
- Ibex
- Idol
- Impeditum
- Iodes
- Jeda



- Karin
- Keleticum
- Kim
- Ladybird
- Lems Cameo
- Linda
- Liz Ann
- Mars
- Ming
- Minus
- Neat O
- Noble Mountain
- Odee Wright
- Ooh Gina
- Pink Twins

- PJM
- Rex
- Rio
- Royston Red
- Shamrock
- Silver Skies
- Sonatine
- Susan
- Sutchuenense
- Taku
- Taliense
- Teal
- Unique
- Viscosa
- Vulcan
- Wigeon



Successfully finishing this "Find A Rhodo Quiz", entitles one to four hours of dead heading Haida Gold Gardens.

Merry Christmas from Harry and Gwen





### CREAMY CORN AND TURKEY SOUP

- 1/2 C chopped onion
- 1 C chopped red pepper, divided
- 2 Tbs butter or marg
- 125 gr cream cheese, cubed.(that's 1/2 package)
- 1 12oz can creamed style corn
- 2 C chicken broth
- 3/4 C milk
- 2 C shredded cooked turkey

Cook onion and half of the pepper in large saucepan on med. heat until tender stirring frequently. Reduce heat to low.

Add cream cheese, cook to melt, stirring constantly, add corn, broth, milk and turkey, mix well.

Cook until soup is heated through, stirring occasionally. Serve topped with remaining chopped peppers. Makes 6 servings of one cup each.

### APPLE CRISP DESSERT

- 5 apples, peeled cored sliced. (5 cups)
- 1/2 C sugar, divided
- 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp ground nutmeg
- 1/2 C flour
- 1/2 C plain breadcrumbs
- 2 C shredded medium cheddar cheese
- 1/4 C melted butter
- 1/2 C sliced almonds
- 1/2 C raisins

Preheat oven to 325° F

Toss apple slices in 1/4 cup of the sugar, the cinnamon and the nutmeg, and place in a buttered 9" square baking dish. tenderness of apples. Mix flour, breadcrumbs, remaining 1/4 cup sugar, cheese, butter, almonds and raisins, sprinkle over apples. Bake approx 45 minutes and check tenderness of apples.



## Christmas Cookies

### CHUNKY TOBLERONE SHORTBREAD

- 2 C butter, softened
- 1 C berry or super-fine sugar
- 3 1/2 C flour
- 1/2 C cornstarch
- 2 bars (100 gr each) Toblerone Swiss Milk Chocolate, chopped
- 3 Tbsp sifted icing sugar

Preheat oven to 350°F . Beat butter and sugar in large bowl with electric mixer on high until light and fluffy. Combine flour and cornstarch. Gradually add to butter mixture, beating until well blended.

Stir in chocolate chunks.

Drop by heaping tablespoons onto ungreased baking sheet about 1 inch apart.

Bake: 20 – 25 min. or until lightly browned. Cool 5 mins on baking sheet. Sprinkle with icing sugar. Remove to wire racks and cool completely. Makes approx 4 dozen.

### CHOCOLATE DIPPED CRESCENT COOKIES

- 1 1/2 C icing sugar
- 1 C butter or margarine
- 1 egg
- 1 1/2 tsp almond extract
- 1 (6 oz pkg) semi-sweet choc chips (1 cup)
- 2 1/2 C Flour
- 1 tsp Baking Soda
- 1 tsp cream of tartar



Cream butter and icing sugar in large mixer bowl.

Beat at medium speed, scraping bowl often, until creamy, 1 to 2 minutes.

Beat in eggs & almond extract, continue beating until well mixed.

Reduce speed to low and add flour, cream of tartar and baking soda. Beat until well

mixed, 1 to 2 minutes.

Shape into 1-inch balls. Roll balls into 2-inch ropes; shape into crescents.

Place 2 inches apart on un-greased cookie sheet. Do not flatten cookies as they will flatten when cooking.

Bake 375° F for 8–10 minutes Yield 4 1/2 Dozen

When cool, dip half of each cookie into melted chocolate; sprinkle remaining half with icing sugar.

