



North Island Rhododendron Society
2009/2010 Executive

President
Diana Scott338-0208

Vice-President
Dave Crucq941-1957

Past President:
Harry Wright.....338-8345

Secretary
Pauline Thompson339-3423

Treasurer
Dave Godfrey335-0717

Director: Ways & Means
Nadine Boudreau339-0909

Director: Membership
Brian Staton337-5228

Director: Publicity
Chris Aldred335-3221

Director: Newsletter/Library
Noni Godfrey335-0717
..... nonigod@shaw.ca

Social Committee:
Marleen Crucq941-1957

Revenue Table Committee:
Louise Casson.....334-2331

Sunshine Lady:
Pauline Bonney339-7594

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

COMING EVENTS

2nd May 2010-Rhodo Sale and Show

4th May 2010-Executive Meeting 2:00 pm

The executive meeting will be held at the home of Nadine Beaudreau. 1817 Preston Rd, Comox. Going up on Ryan Road, turn left onto Anderton, right on Greenwood Cres.(turns into Preston Road) Nadine's house is at the very end of Preston.

9th May 2010-Annual Garden Tour

11th May 2010-Annual General Meeting

Venue: This year's Annual General Meeting will be held at the home of Diana and John Scott, 6432 Eagles Drive Courtenay. Drive down Coleman Road, turn left onto Left Road, and Eagles is close to the end. Left onto Eagles, their house is on the right hand side and has a push button gate.

This is an outdoor event so please dress appropriately in case of cool weather, and remember to bring a lawn chair.

Note: Meeting will start at 7:00 pm with a tour of the garden. The regular portion of the meeting will follow around 7:30 pm. Dress Warmly!!!

Parking: Please park outside the gate along the road.



presidents view

...by Diana Scott

May brings a flurry of activity in the garden and within the club! We have been busy organizing the two main fundraisers that take place in May and look forward to good crowds and great weather at our Rhodo Sale and Show on May 2nd, and for our Annual Mother's Day Garden Tour on May 9th. We have our volunteers set up, and we're ready to go! If you haven't signed up but are willing to help out – let me know at 250-338-0208 or diascott@telus.net! For those attending the Rhodo Sale, we hope you plan to put your feet up at Bernice Morrison's Bunwich after the sale. It's a great opportunity to have a wee beverage and a bun, and recap the events of the day. Thanks once again to Bernice for her hospitality!

Our Annual General Meeting will be at the Scott garden on May 11th (6432 Eagles Drive –Coleman Road to Left Road; left on Eagles Drive; park on the street and walk down to the garden.) As in past years, we ask that you dress for the weather and bring a chair if possible – the meeting takes place outside! We begin with a walk around the garden beginning at 7pm, and then move into our meeting at 7:30. After a short business portion we review our financial statement and elect the new Officers. We have 8 'Officers', 4 of which come up for election each year, and our Nominations Chairperson Pauline Thompson has a full slate of candidates. Members who are letting their names stand for the next two-year term are: Diana Scott, Paul Wurz, Brian Staton and Christine Aldred. If anyone else would like to let their name stand, or nominate someone, please let Pauline know before the meeting. In addition, we have a number of appointed Committee Chairs, all of whom have agreed to continue. We are delighted to welcome one new person to the group. Helena Stewart will be handling publicity while Christine Aldred continues on with Sue Holt at the Revenue Table. Welcome Helena! We are always looking for more help on our Committees, and we encourage members to step forward and join the fun!

To round out our busy May, we have the NIRS Members Garden Tour to Powell River on May 27th. Thank you to Brian Staton and David Moore for organizing this event. I know that we are all looking forward to seeing the gardens and spending the day together!

May is a beautiful time throughout the Valley, and we hope that you will take the opportunity to stroll through our Comox Valley Rhododendron Garden by the Airpark on Cliffe Avenue. This joint City of Courtenay and NIRS project is always a showpiece in the spring. We are proud to announce once more that the City has proclaimed May 2010 as Rhododendron Month in the City of Courtenay, and our banner will be on display in the garden throughout the month. Bring your friends and check it out!

In between all our May events – have fun in your garden!

Cheers....Diana :)



members notes

...by Dave Godfrey

It was great to see 43 members and 5 guests in attendance at our April meeting. A special welcome was extended to our newest member, Adrienne McNabb, postmaster at the main Courtenay Post Office.

There were a number of wonderful items displayed during the show and tell, which brought humor in the form of member rivalries and kibitzing. At this time of year, it is always wonderful to see examples of the many blooms found in various gardens.

Dany Fortin's presentation of slides from their latest trip to China and Taiwan were enjoyed by all. Both in the urban areas and in the countryside, beauty abounds throughout the area of their travels. Most of their travelling was done on a bus tour; however, Dany and Jamie also did some travelling by the more traditional bicycles. Jamie could be seen in several photos "waiting for Dany" to take the shots and catch up. The intricate stonework around some of the temples left everyone in awe. Thanks to Dany for sharing this experience.



Following the presentation, President Diana Scott thanked Noni Godfrey for all her help with the Power Point presentations and projector setups throughout the year. Draws were then made for the raffle of R. Holden provided by Harry Wright, and won by Ann Chevrier, and for the door prize of a mason bee house donated by Ross Munro which was won by Bob Smith.

As part of the educational portion for the evening, President Diana asked members to indicate their selections for 'Rhododendron of the Year' (ROY). When all tallies were completed, this year's selections were - **Elepidote**: "Jean Marie de Montague"; **Lepidote**: "Patty Bee"; **Deciduous Azalea**: R. luteum and **Evergreen Azalea**: "White Rosebud." These will be submitted to the ROY selection committee of the ARS for their consideration.

Pauline Thompson, Bob Smith and Paul Wurz attended the Ultimate Rhododendron Conference at UBC on April 9th to 11th. By all reports, the conference was well attended (half from Vancouver Island) and very informative.



The first work party for our Comox Valley Rhododendron Garden on Thursday, April 15th saw a small contingent of 9 members out to spruce up the beds. Weeds were pulled, mulch spread and paths raked in this first effort of the season. Garden director, Dave Crucq, supervised Bernie and Dave G. in 'replanting' the sign that was torn out by vandals during the winter

months. The sign has been refurbished and reinstalled in time for the touring season. For those who missed the fun and the goodies, other work parties will be held in the weeks ahead. So be sure to help out whenever you can.

Speaking of touring season, NIRS members have begun to open their gardens for other members to view. On Sunday, April 11th, Robert Argall hosted a large group of members and guests through his park-like garden of spring bulbs and early blooms. Then on Thursday, April 15th, Evelyn Wright also had an open garden to the delight of many. We hope that other members will be opening their gardens for members to tour throughout the spring and summer season. If you'd like to do so, please contact Noni Godfrey and she will spread the word to the other club members.



Robert Argall's Garden Tour



Evelyn Wright's Garden Tour

A group of 20 plus members from our sister chapter MARS of Qualicum paid a visit on Tuesday, April 27th. Touring six NIRS member gardens in the Comox Valley, the MARS members enjoyed the variety that our area has to offer. Although the day started out damp, the weather became sunny and warm before noon, much to the enjoyment of all.



Our Visitors from MARS

Standing (l to r): Ann De Brincat, Sandra Hemsworth, Terry Richmond, Linda Derkach, Don Bridgen, Al Bieberstein, Glen Jamieson, Dorothy Jamieson, Annie Robertson, John England, Arlene England, Sharon Kevis, Carol Hansen, Marilyn Dawson, Judy Matwyko (Guest-Carol's sister),

Kneeling (l to r): Barbara Kulla, Marie Bieberstein, Mary Parker.

Missing from photo: Anne Gutsche, Krista Friede (guest of Anne G), Joanne Hamilton and Moira Green (guest). These four had gone from the Smith's garden to Campbell River to see Paul Wurz.

By the time you read this newsletter, our annual sale and show will be upon us. Diana Scott has many members signed up and assigned to help with various tasks. But we can always use more hands. Any members able to lend a hand, even for just an hour or two, please show up at the Komox Band hall on Comox Road any time between 8:30 am and 1 pm. Doors will be open to the public at 10 am.

Refreshments are available for all helpers, and donations of sandwiches or goodies are much appreciated by all. Donated plants or items for the NIRS table (including any gardening magazines or books) can be brought to the hall by 9 am, or dropped off on Saturday afternoon at 3 pm when members of the committee will be setting up tables. This is one of two major fundraisers for our club, and its success depends greatly on member's help and donations.

Our second major fundraiser for the year is the following weekend, May 9th, when we will be hosting our 15th annual "Mother's Day Garden Tour." Seven wonderful gardens will be featured in the Black Creek area, and our \$10 tickets are available at most major nurseries (see poster at the end of this newsletter. Please print out a copy or two and post around your

neighborhood or at your corner stores.)

So far, 32 members have signed up and paid for our garden tour trip to Powell River on Thursday, May 27th, 2010. Members are to pay their own 'walk on' ferry fares and provide their own lunch and dinner. The ferry departs Little River at 6:30 am, and we will be returning on the 5:15 pm ferry from Powell River. Ferry parking is \$3 for 14 hours. Ferry fares are free to Gold Card holders. A bus and rental van has been booked in Powell River and four gardens are available for the tour so far. Any last minute interested members should contact Brian Staton ASAP!

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 11th in the garden of Diana and John Scott. The meeting will begin at 7:30 PM, but members are encouraged to arrive at 7 PM for a tour of the garden first. Refreshments will be served following the meeting and the election of officers.

Our Nominations Chair, Pauline Thompson, advises there are 4 two-year executive terms up for election. If any member is interested in serving on the executive, or on a committee, please let Pauline know before the AGM. We have some names slated for the open positions, but we would be delighted if others wished to step forward prior to the meeting. Be sure to bring a lawn chair, unless you intend to stand throughout the meeting. See you there, and be sure to wear your name tag for the raffle!



Goodies for the May AGM at Diana's:

Ruth Rose, Adela Smith, Gwen Wright, Peter Guertler, and Astrid Davidson



Last month's newsletter article by Terry Richmond talked about the Watkins product "Medicated Ointment". We have learned from a couple of sources that there are a few representatives in the area. One of the reps has a friend that tried the product and it worked against the deer, so she has ordered a supply in.

Lucia Brodie - Phone: 250-334-1440..... or email: luciabrodie@hotmail.com

Linda Wabie - Phone: 250-338-8642..... also a contact.





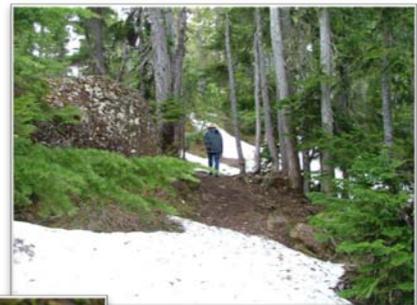
By Bernie Guyader

FIRST BLOOM IN THE MEADOW

Sitting here looking at all the snow on Mount Washington, it's hard to believe that in six more weeks we will be able to walk the trails in the meadows and maybe even get up to Lake Helen McKenzie. It is amazing to see the marsh marigolds blossoming in three or four inches of water with a bank of snow behind. This was one of the first sights to see on the old trail.



This is the trail up to Lake Helen McKenzie where the snow stays longer in the shade. Sometimes you might lose the trail but if you keep looking ahead you should be able to find it and see some more flowers and interesting sights, like this fungus on a log and a Trollius.



If you carry on you arrive at the lake and take time out for lunch.





As you continue on to Battleship Lake....
you will find ferns unfolding and violets tucked away in the rocks.



You might even take time to make a snow man and don't forget to take some peanuts for the feathered friends or they will want to share your lunch



After having a look at Battleship Lake which is still pretty icy, we come back down to the meadows viewing the blossoms along the way



Here we have red mountain heather, shooting stars and marsh marigolds.



And in a few weeks we will see rhododendron albiflorum and another group of flowers in bloom.....Happy wandering, Bernie



By Pauline Thompson

THE ULTIMATE RHODODENDRON CONFERENCE

On April 9, 10 and 11, one hundred rhodoholics from Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland, Washington State, and one from California, gathered at the UBC Botanical Gardens to discuss, admire, photograph, describe and dissect this handsome plant. Attending from NIRS along with me, were Paul Wurz and Bob Smith.

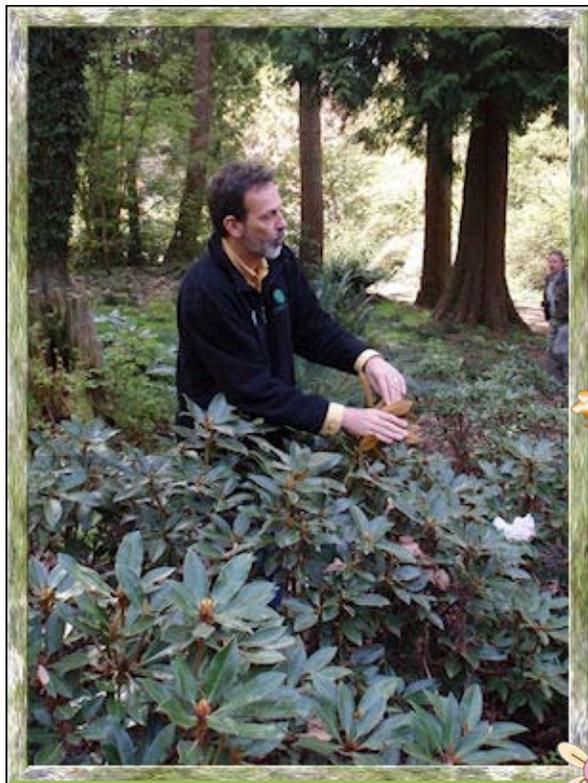
Ron Knight, District 1 President and Douglas Justice, curator of UBC Botanical Gardens, organized two programs – Level 1 and Level 2 – for participants covering everything from the basics to the essentials. The first morning began in glorious sunshine with tours of the UBC Botanical Garden with Doug Justice and Todd Major, former director of Park and Tilford Gardens. In the afternoon we enjoyed extensive guided tours of VanDusen led by Roy Forrester (former director), Gerry Gibbons (head gardener) and Todd Major. During the first day we managed to walk about 8 km.

Day two had us in the classroom delving into the importance of pH, micronutrients and charged ions. By day three we were struggling with *dichotomous keying* – a tool for the identification of things not known to the observer (that would be me!). Forays into the gardens had us looking at fine examples of species rhodos, as well as good examples of rhododendron problems – phytophthora cinnamoni, weevils, chlorosis, lacebug and powdery mildew. I found it really useful to see a whole plant with the problem and not just a photo in a book.

The program was really well done – great conversations, good information and a perfect weekend.



Ron Knight, Doug Justice, Art Lightburn, Ken Webb, Charlie Sallis, and Roberts Smith



Doug Justice curator of UBC Botanical Gardens



At VanDusen with Roy Forrester

Recipe Requests

Strawberry Shells

(Barb Staton)

- 12 wonton wrappers
- 45 ml (3 T) melted butter
- 80 ml (1/3 c) brown sugar
- 10 ml (2 tsp) cinnamon
- 12 whole strawberries
- 250g (1 c) soft cream cheese
- 30 ml (2 T) honey
- 10 ml (2 tsp) Grand Marnier or orange juice



Heat oven to 163° C (325° F) Brush melted butter evenly onto top of wontons, then sprinkle cinnamon/sugar mixture over wontons. Transfer wontons to non greased muffin tins, press down to form cups, and bake 8 - 10 minutes. Remove from pan and cool on cookie rack. Mix the cheese, honey and Grand Marnier together. Place a good 15 ml (1 T) into each wonton cup, garnish with a whole or fanned strawberry

For that extra added decadence try these with chocolate dipped strawberries, or top each with seasonal fruits to satisfy your dessert fantasies!



Blueberry Oatmeal Squares

(Marleen Crucq)



Base:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2 1/2 C rolled oats | 1 1/4 C all-purpose flour |
| 1 C packed brown sugar | 1 Tbsp grated orange rind |
| 1/4 tsp salt | 1 C cold butter, cubed |

Filling:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 3 C blueberries | 1/2 C white sugar |
| 1/3 C orange juice | 4 tsp cornstarch |

Prepare filling first and let cool: Bring berries (can use frozen), sugar and juice to boil, reduce heat and simmer until tender, about 10 minutes. Stir cornstarch with 2 tablespoons water, whisk into berry mixture and boil, stirring until thickened, about 1 minute. Place plastic wrap directly on berry mixture,

refrigerate until cool.

In large bowl, mix oats (not instant), flour, sugar, orange rind and salt; with pastry blender cut in butter until in coarse crumbs. Press half into parchment paper-lined 8-inch square cake pan. Spread filling on top, then lightly press remaining oat mixture on top.

Bake in 350 F oven until light golden, about 45 minutes, let cool in pan, cut into squares.



Garden Supply Discount Offers:

Just a reminder that NIRS membership brings discounts at many garden retailers. Those businesses now providing discounts for 2010 include:

- Arrowsmith Greenhouses - Alberni Hwy, Qualicum
- Art Knapp's Plantland, Courtenay
- Bees and Blooms Nursery in Courtenay
- Black Creek Farm & Feed Supply
- Campbell River Garden Center (not seeds or bulbs)
- CV Ornamental Concrete on Knight Rd. in Comox
- Growing Concern in Black Creek (seasonal opening)
- Hidden Acres Nursery in Campbell River
- Just 'n Tyme Greenhouse Supplies, Courtenay
- Paradise Plants, Courtenay
- River Meadows Farms, Courtenay
- Serendipity, Campbell River (garden ornaments only)
- Shar-Kare - both Courtenay and Campbell River
- The Plant Collector Nursery and Gardens



**Yesterday the twig was brown and bare;
To-day the glint of green is there;
Tomorrow will be leaflets spare;
I know no thing so wondrous fair,
No miracle so strangely rare.
I wonder what will next be there!
...L.H. Bailey**



Until Next Month
Noni



North Island Rhododendron Society's



**15th Annual
"Mother's Day
Garden Tour"**

SUNDAY – 9th May 2010

10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Enjoy a tour of seven great gardens in the
Black Creek area.

Plus a chance to win a Rhododendron!

Tickets only \$10 each... Available at Blue Heron Books in
Comox, Home & Garden Gate (Courtenay & Cumberland),
Art Knapp's Plantland and Anderton Nursery
or call Harry Wright: 338-8345 or Paul Wurz 250-287-4301
Serendipity and Hidden Acres in Campbell River.

Don't miss your chance to see these beautiful gardens!