



The Rhodoteller

www.nirs.rhodos.ca



North Island Rhododendron Society

2010/2011 Executive

President

Diana Scott338-0208

Vice-President

Paul Wurz287-4301

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: Revenue Table

Chris Aldred335-3221

Director: Newsletter/Library

Noni Godfrey335-0717
..... nonigod@shaw.ca

Social Committee:

Louise Casson.....334-2331

Publicity:

Helena Stewart.....339-1733

Sunshine Lady:

Nancy Munro.....334-3719

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

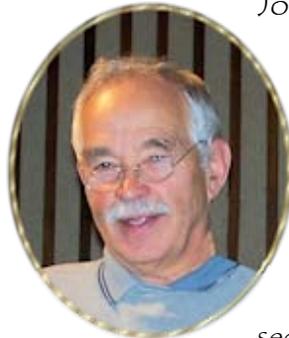
Coming Events

5th April 2011-Executive Meeting 2:00 pm

The executive meeting will be held at the home of Louise and Roger Casson: 2345 Suffolk Cres. Crown Isle Subdivision. Directions: Driving along Lerwick, turn onto Idiens then turn right on Suffolk Crescent.

12th April 2011-Regular Monthly Meeting

**A PowerPoint Presentation of....
"A Walk in Two Gardens"**



Join us on Tuesday, April, 12th, for another amazing PowerPoint presentation. Paul Wurz, our current vice president, will feature a presentation entitled "A Walk in Two Gardens." This colourful show will feature many beautiful photographs taken by Paul in two very famous gardens. Paul is being very secretive about which gardens, but hinted

they were toured when he attended the 'Ultimate Rhododendron Conference' at UBC last spring. Knowing Paul's eye for the beautiful Rhododendrons, I'm sure we are in for a real treat.





PRESIDENT'S View



...by Diana Scott

Spring seems to have taken a long time in coming, but our major fundraising activities are just around the corner! As we plan for both our Rhodo Sale and Truss Show and the NIRS Annual Mother's Day Garden Tour, we will be looking for our usual contingent of VOLUNTEERS. In addition to our regular helpers, this is a great opportunity for some of our newer members to get involved, and we encourage you all to step forward!

We need many volunteers to help out at our Rhodo Sale and Truss Show on Sunday, May 1st which takes place from about 9am til 1:30pm for our working members (10am til 1pm for the public!). Most folks will have specific jobs such as helping to organize our NIRS table of member-donated plants, working in the cashier area tagging plants and assisting the cashiers, greeting the buyers and facilitating the flow of traffic, participating in the Truss Show area organizing the trusses and sharing NIRS information, assisting patrons by wheeling plants out to buyers' vehicles, and working in the kitchen making sure the volunteers have access to tea, coffee and goodies. Everyone helps out with setup and takedown, and with general 'help'.

At the end of the day we will again get a chance to put up our feet at the now annual 'Morrison Bunwich' celebration! This is a wonderful opportunity to relax, reflect on the day's event, have a bite to eat, and simply socialize.

The Annual NIRS Mother's Day Garden Tour is on Sunday May 8th, taking ticket holders to 7 gardens in the Courtenay/Comox/Royston area. Tour goers are also invited to admire the show at the Comox Valley Rhododendron Garden by the Air Park in Courtenay.

As in the past, there will be two members required at each garden from 9:45 am to 1 pm, and from 1 pm to 4 pm to greet the visitors and check their tickets. We need 28 people to attend to the gardens, so I encourage you to

find a friend to join you. Volunteers get to spend half the day greeting visitors, and the other half touring the gardens with a complementary ticket. A great way to spend the day!

For both these events there will be signup sheets at the April Meeting, however anyone able to help is asked to contact me ASAP at 250-338-0208 or diascott@telus.net. These are the two major fund-raisers of the year for our Chapter and the support of many members will be needed to once again make them a success!

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming meeting as Paul takes us through some beautiful rhodo gardens and shares his extensive knowledge! See you there!



Member's Notes



...by Dave Godfrey

Spring has sprung, the grass has ris, I wonder where my email is? Yes, the inevitable happened to yours truly on Friday, March 25th, when my computer failed to start up. It is hard to describe the sickening feeling when told that the hard drive was frozen and all files, emails and data were gone forever! With the last disc backup done in September 09, all was not lost, but enough to make life difficult.

Included in the loss were my member's notes that I had not yet sent to Noni for this issue of the newsletter. So referring to our minutes, and racking my memory banks, I'm reminded that there were 46 in attendance, including four guests, at our meeting on March 8th.

During the business portion of the meeting, Ways & Means director **Nadine Boudreau** reminded members that we need lots of helpers for both the May 1st Sale and Show and the May 8th Mother's Day Garden Tour. These are our two major fund raising events of the year, and to make them successful we need the help of many hands. Those members available to help with the Sale and Show can contact either Nadine or Diana. In the meantime, **Diana Scott** is also seeking volunteers as gate sitters, two at each garden on the May 8th tour, for both the morning (9:30 am to 1 pm) and afternoon (1 to 4 pm) shifts. Sitters will receive a



complimentary tour ticket for use that day, before or after their shift. So don't be shy, find a partner and let Diana know that you are available.

As you begin your spring cleanup around the garden, dividing and splitting some of those ever expanding perennials, we ask our members to consider potting up any companion plants for our NIRS table at the sale. We have a small number of half gallon pots available for any members wishing to donate to the cause. In addition to companion plants, *Chris Aldred* also reminds us that any garden related items, books, magazines, tools, that are no longer of value to our members can be donated to our Revenue Table or the NIRS table at the sale.



Rhododendron Garden director *Ross Munro* advises that most of the plants have survived the winter months reasonably well. However a spring cleanup work party will be needed shortly to prepare for the coming season, likely to be announced at our April meeting.

Vice President *Paul Wurz* has been in contact with friends in the Whidbey Island chapter who were planning a 3 day tour of gardens in our area. However, due in large part to the May ARS Conference in Vancouver, Washington, they were unable to entice enough members to attend the trip this year. Therefore, Paul thanks all NIRS members who had been willing to billet the Whidbey members, and advises that the trip may be rescheduled next spring.

Brian Staton is preparing a signup sheet at our next meeting for those members interested in the bus tour of gardens of the Mount Arrowsmith chapter in Port Alberni and Qualicum/Parksville. A large touring bus is being chartered for Tuesday, May 17th, so be sure to get your name on the list if you are interested. The bus trip will be open to NIRS members on a first come - first served basis, and will only be open to guests once members have paid, and if space is still available. More details of the trip to follow at our April meeting.

As Nominations Chair, Brian is also seeking members who are willing to fill various positions on the executive for 2011/2012. The Committee needs to have a 'slate'

presented to the membership in April to be voted on at the May 10th AGM. If you are approached by someone, give some serious thought to becoming involved. If you want to volunteer, contact Brian or any member of the executive.

For the March 'Show and Tell' members were asked to bring along rhodo trusses, but due to the late spring very few were in bloom. However, just to help brighten the evening, *Harry Wright* brought a beautiful display of Gwen's silk flowers. He also brought along a sprig of witch-hazel and a few small perennials that are beginning to add colour to their garden. Not to be out done, *Bernie Guyader* and *Dick Bonney* also brought along samples of hellebores, crocuses, cyclamen and viburnum to show their colours.

Following the business portion of the meeting draws were held for our many prizes, with *Ron Cameron* winning the raffle prize of Rhododendron 'Cheer' and *Lois Clyde* the winner of 'Vulcan's Flame.' Congratulations also go out to guest *Ellen van Heerden* for winning the door prize of a mason bee house donated by *Ross Munro*, to *Bob Trimmer* for winning 'Lavender Queen' donated by *Brian Staton*; to *Susan Lightburn* winner of two rhodo prints donated by former member *Dave Crucq*; and to *Gwen Wright* who won a small gardening book donated from the revenue table.

The program for the evening was our annual gardener's panel of experts moderated by *Paul Wurz*. This year's panel consisted of *Bernie Guyader*, *Naqine Boudreau* and *Bob Smith*, as they fielded questions on the care and maintenance of Rhododendrons, hellebores and Japanese maple trees, just to name a few. When asked about combating the dreaded weevils that munch on the rhodo leaves, the answer was to buy some nematodes to sprinkle around the garden. These microscopic creatures eat the weevil larva and are the only effective way to rid your garden of the pests.



The panel unanimously agreed that one of the most important factors in growing healthy plants is the soil conditions. Checking the pH levels around the garden will help determine the type of nutrients needed for the plants. To determine your soil conditions, you can take samples to





a local lab for testing, or you can do a simple test yourself. We are fortunate to have a pen-like tester that is available for members to borrow. Anyone needing to use the tester should contact *Harry Wright* to arrange for pickup at his home.

A reminder also that Harry is in the process of updating his publication of Rhododendron listings for all gardens in District 1 (British Columbia.) He hopes to have the revised publication printed in time for the ARS Western Regional Conference being held in Nanaimo in September 2012. He asks all members to please provide a list of all their rhodos either by email or pass along a printed copy to him ASAP.

Our April meeting promises to be an entertaining one, as *Paul Wurz* will present "A Walk in Two Gardens" showing a colourful slide presentation of photographs taken while he attended the Ultimate Rhododendron Conference at UBC last year. For the educational portion of the meeting, *Brain Staton* will be describing his successful methods of plant 'layering'. We hope to see you there, and be sure to wear your name tag for an extra ticket for the raffle prizes.



STINKING HELLEBORE
(*Helleborus foetidus*) it does have a fragrance but I don't think it stinks. I think it is now called odorous. Also blooms in January and February.



CORSICAN HELLEBORE
(*Helleborus argutifolia*) or sharp toothed hellebore blooms in February to March.

Hellebores are happiest in limey soils, but do very well in acid soils as well, which make them an ideal companion to rhododendrons. They are tolerant of sun or shade, but do best when shaded from the noon day sun. Growing them under deciduous trees with a tall canopy of foliage is ideal. A good alternative is the north or west side of a house or wall. Organic matter is crucial and leaf mould is the best choice along with garden compost. If this is not available, old well rotted manure can be used.

When planting, dig a hole about eighteen inches across and twelve inches deep. Use a planting mix of equal parts of compost or leaf mould and compost based potting soil with the addition of bone meal, or super phosphate (0-18-0) and osmocote or some other slow release fertilizer. The crown of the root should be one inch below the surface. If planting from a pot plant keep it the same depth as it was in the pot. Be sure to water in with transplanter fertilizer, such as 10-52-10 using a full pail of water. Mulch around them with about two inches of bark mulch. If the plants are happy, they will grow quite large. Be sure to leave about three feet between plants. You can interplant with primulas and wood anemones. This is also a good spot for your cyclamen and winter aconites.

You can propagate hellebores by either dividing or starting from seed. Division is the only way you can ensure your plant will be true to form. Divide 'Orientals' at the end of August or early September. The flower buds should be set, so you should get blooms in the spring. They may not blossom the following spring, but they should bloom continually afterwards. Divide the 'Christmas Rose' in the early spring after it blossoms... early February, if possible, as the sooner the better.



HELLEBORUS

...by *Bernie Guyader*

Helleborus belong to the same family as the buttercups, which include columbines, clematis, winter aconites, globe flowers and marsh marigolds.

The hellebores that are usually grown in our gardens and more readily available are:



CHRISTMAS ROSE
(*Helleborus niger*) because of its black roots. It blooms in Dec. and Jan.



ORIENTAL HELLEBORE OR LENTAN HELLEBORE
(*Helleborus hybridus*) Blooms in Feb and Mar.





When dividing, dig the plants, wash off the soil and cut apart. Try to keep at least one leaf with each division, and make sure the plants don't dry out. Cover with moist peat or a damp burlap bag. Pot them up in rich organic mix or plant them out using the procedure described above.

You can also grow hellebores from seed. The surest way to get a true plant is to hand pollinate or isolate the plants. They are very promiscuous, so any plant from self pollination could have the characteristics of a dozen plants. It's always interesting. As soon as the pods start to split they should be cut off and upended in a paper bag. (Now is the time to label) Allow pods to open fully so the seeds fall into the bag. Keep bags with pods inside in a dry location for a couple of weeks. Separate seeds from chaff and store them in labeled envelopes in a cool dry place. Be sure to plant the seeds no later than mid-June at which time germination should be excellent. If stored any longer, they may not germinate.

To sow in pots, fill the pots to within ½ inch from top with a seed sowing mix. I can't emphasize enough the value of cleanliness of both pots and seed mix. Clean your pots with a mild bleach solution and rinse well. If you are using a soil based mix, the soil should be sterilized. Sow seeds sparingly - about twenty seeds to a five inch pot. They will be in the pot for quite a while. Press the seeds into the soil using a presser board, and cover with grit. Set the pots in two or three inches of water until the top is moist, then set them out in a shady area ensuring they are level. The pots may have to be plunged in coarse sand to ensure they won't dry out. Be sure to cover the pots with chicken wire or some other protection to keep the birds out. Germination should begin by October and they should all have germinated by Christmas. After germination, bring them into a cold greenhouse. You can then pot up seedlings in the spring. For further information, I recommend reading the books 'The Gardeners Guide to Growing Hellebores' by Graham Rice and Elizabeth Strangman and 'Hellebores' by Brian Mathews. (Editors Note: Both of these books are available in the NIRS library.)



The World in Your Garden Rhododendrons 2011

65th Annual International Convention of the
AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

11 to 15 May 2011

Vancouver, Washington

Convention Website www.ARS2011Convention.com



International Collaboration: Creating The Rhododendron Species Foundation - Part 3 ...by Joe Ronsley

(Joe Ronsley was the past President, Rhododendron Species Foundation and past President of the Vancouver Rhododendron Society)

In 1973 when the idea was broached to George Weyerhaeuser, CEO of Weyerhaeuser Corporation, and evidently a keen gardener himself, he was immediately and enthusiastically receptive to providing space on the new Weyerhaeuser corporate campus, and in 1974 the Weyerhaeuser Company generously leased at no cost a permanent site of 24 acres for the collection at its corporate headquarters in Federal Way, Washington, a suburb just south of Seattle. The collection was moved there in 1975, and the resulting botanical garden has been developing ever since, with new acquisitions constantly being added from, among other sources, newly collected propagating material from the wild. Executive Director Steve Hootman has been responsible for most of the more recent acquisitions, but his colleagues from around the world have contributed as well.

A membership program was started in 1976, and plant distribution to members was also begun about this time, with the profits helping to support the garden. In this last respect the Rhododendron Species Foundation and Botanical Garden is unique among horticultural organizations and botanical gardens. Visiting most famous botanical gardens, and the sales areas afterwards, one is almost inevitably disappointed not to be able to purchase the special plant he has just seen. Only the common commercial varieties are usually for sale.

At the RSF the dissemination of special plants as well as their display is important, and the very best and rarest of species in the collection are distributed to its members in a twice-a-year sales offering. Of particular interest to RSF members in British Columbia is the scheme, initiated a few years ago, whereby plants ordered by BC members are brought en masse to the UBC Botanical Garden, where they can be picked up by the members who ordered them.

1980 marked the limited opening of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden to the public, the formal establishment of a coordinated volunteer program, and the completion of a garden master plan that proposed replanting the collection in the Garden to reflect taxonomic groups (those species that are most closely related are planted near one another). This replanting was completed in 1984.

In recent years the emphasis in plant acquisitions, and distribution, has moved from cuttings of superior cultivated clones to an emphasis on plants propagated from seed collected in the wild.





The propagation greenhouse

Cuttings from superior clones continue to be taken, and offered for sale to members, but these are considerably augmented by plants from wild collected seed. Our brilliant Curator and Executive Director Steve Hootman is one of the world's foremost contemporary plant explorers, with a reputation among his adventurous international colleagues for intrepidity, and knowledge. Collection of wild seed began in the 1980s, but was advanced seriously in the '90s when Steve began to engage in frequent expeditions to Asia in search of new and special plants. He continues to do this, with this article actually being written for the most part while he has been struggling with the wet, the cold, and the leeches in China. His collections of known species increases the gene pool of plants already in cultivation, often with new variants, and, what to me involves a certain horticultural glamour and romance, he and his colleagues are still discovering entirely new species not known previously in the west.

The first issue of an RSF yearbook, with the catchy title *Rhododendron Species*, appeared in 2006. For the 2007 issue RSF volunteer Prudence Holliger, a professional editor, began to assist with the publication's editing, and beginning with the 2008 issue she took over as Editor, with Steve Hootman and Rick Peterson as Associate Editors. Then for the 2009 issue, Rick having left the organization, it was published with Prudence as Editor, and Steve Hootman and myself as Associate Editors. In 2009, too, publication time was getting closer to the goal—of November/December—with publication taking place in January—a big improvement from April the first year. There was considerable tweaking of details in these first issues, improving the publication from one issue to the next.



The Rutherford Conservatory

The yearbook is comprised of articles on diverse subjects, written by *Rhododendron* enthusiasts, professional and amateur, around the world, along with the plant catalogue for the spring distribution. It provides an incentive for membership in the

RSF, even after members possess all the plants they want or can accommodate (though I know such a statement as this last is nonsense), since it comes complementary with membership. The publication also gives the organization an increased international stature and authority.

(Ed. Note: Series continues with Part 4 in next month's *Rhodoteller*.)

Tidbits...

MILNER GARDENS & WOODLAND

Milner Gardens 10th annual spring plant sale

Apr. 16 & 17

April 16th and 17th Spring Plant Sale admission by donation-10 am to 4 pm.



Master gardeners will help answer your plant questions or choose the right plant. Outdoor refreshments are available and the Tea Room will be open from 10 am to 4 pm serving soup, scones and tea. Members only early plant sale access is Friday April 15th from 5 to 7pm. Please show your membership card.

Used book sale Apr. 16

Used Book Sale at Milner Gardens parking lot, 10 am to 2pm April 16th; most books are \$1.



Easter Bunny Search Apr. 23rd to Apr 25th

Bring the children or grandchildren for a Children's Easter Bunny Search taking place in the Gardens. At the Welcome & Interpretive Centre, children can pick up maps for clues to finding the bunnies, and then return the map to the Pool House Gift Shop to receive an Easter treat. In addition, keep your eyes open along the forest trails for interesting rabbit facts. Free admission for children 12 and under accompanied by an adult. Gates open 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tea Room open 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

FMI 250-752-6153 www.milnergardens.org



River Meadow Farms

3125 Piercy Ave in Courtenay (29th street, over tracks, turn South) presents the "Think Before You Plant" series on ALL (but the first) Saturdays in April, from 9:30 to noon. Judy Walker will be covering important design issues each Saturday.

"Know Your Soil", "Location, Location, Location", "What Plant & Why?", and her personal favourite..."You can't prune it if you don't know its name".

For more information visit their website: www.rivermeadownursery.com



Free Pots:



Dick Bonney says he has a supply of 1 and 2 gallon pots for anyone that needs them for potting up. Give Dick a call ASAP, before they are all gone....His number is in your member's directory.

NANAIMO RHODODENDRON SOCIETY Nanaimo garden tour

The Nanaimo Rhododendron Club is hosting a self guided tour of 9 local gardens on May 22nd. The tour highlights spring gardens and of course Rhododendrons in Nanaimo. The gardens in the tour showcase a real range of sizes, maturity, and styles. In other words, there's something for everyone. The tour is also a fundraiser in support of the 2012 ARS Fall Western Regional Conference which Nanaimo will be hosting, from Sept 21 - 23, 2012.



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the North Island Rhododendron Society will be held on Tuesday, 10th May 2011 at 7:30 pm at Harry and Gwen Wright's, Haida Gold Garden. Address 769 Chaster Road, Courtenay, BC.

Business to come before the meeting will include the Annual Financial Report, Reports from Committees, and Election of Directors and Officers for 2011-2012.

There are four two-year board terms ending in May: Pauline Thompson, Dave Godfrey, Noni Godfrey and Nadine Boudreau. The incumbents have agreed to allow their names to stand again.

Members wishing to put names forward for nomination are to contact the Nominations Chair Brian Staton.

Following the AGM, the elected Board will select a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer from among the elected Directors and will assign roles to Committee Chairs.



FRAGRANT RHODODENDRONS

Norm Todd wrote an inspiring article in the Feb. 1992 "Island Grower" and I will copy or paraphrase some of it to remind us of the lovely scents we can have in the garden in spring.

"Very often we describe a smell by saying it is like some other smell; we just don't have any usable units, but talk about strong smells or sweet smells. We often try to make ourselves appealing by masking our own body smell with expensive distillations."

In rhododendrons, strong scent is not usually associated with strong colour. Some of the azaleas are exceptions. They are pollinated by bees, and I am told bees cannot see the red end of the spectrum but there are no pure red deciduous azaleas. Some have bright colours and strong sweet smells. The yellow azalea known as *Azalea pontica* or *R. luteum* is renowned for its fragrance and for the source of toxic honey. It has been used extensively for hybridizing. Often found growing with *R. luteum* is *R. ponticum*. This purplish-mauve flowered rhodo is a terrible weed in all of Britain. It has crowded out many plants, including its relatives the heathers, which also often have delicious scents.

R. occidentale, another lovely scented azalea which blooms in June, bridges the gap between spring- and summer-blooming plants. It gives a vibrant showing of fall colour also.

The most famous of all fragrant Rhodos is *R. fortunei*, named after Robert Fortune, one of the first of the European plant breeders to tap the floral wealth of China. It is a shrub, or a tree for the larger garden, growing to 15' or more. It has pale pink flowers and handsome leaves which on the better forms have striking purple petioles. It is quite hardy and can be grown in colder climates like Nova Scotia.

R. fortunei has passed on its good smell to some hybrids. The gene that renders the fragrance in Rhodos is generally recessive but it has come through in a famous group of Rhodos called the Loderis. These came from a cross of *R. fortunei* and *R. griffithianum*, made by Sir Edmund Loder of Leardslee, England, in 1901. This cross has been made many times since but never with the same spectacular success. The flowers are huge, sometimes measuring 6-8" in diameter and powerfully fragrant. 32 clones were named - a practise that would not be allowed now, but the best, certainly the best known, are 'Loderi King George' and 'Loderi Venus'. There are mature plants of these in the University of Victoria's gardens.

The Loderis are quite hard to propagate and not easily obtainable, but worth searching for if the gardener has space for them.

There are other Rhodos, for the most part close relatives of *R. fortunei* that are famous for their perfume, but are all of large dimensions and are not for the impatient gardener. One called *R. auriculatum* in our garden is over 25 years old and has never bloomed. In one Victoria garden it reputedly took 65 years before it bloomed.



One can get speedier performance from a group of Rhodos called the Maddeniis. Unfortunately those are not reliably hardy in the Victoria area; taking temperatures down to about -5C. Some very sheltered areas in the Courtenay-Comox area have a few plants and they would be hardier in the Royston/Union Bay area.

These Maddeniis come from that area where Burma, India, China and Tibet come together, and where they often grow as epiphytes (grow on trees) and often have a very leggy form. Their shape can be improved by pinching out the young leaf buds.

R. Edgeworthii is one of the best but other attractive ones which are probably hybrids of R. edgeworthii are 'Frangrantissimum' and Lady Alice Fitzwilliams'. Another fine species is R. lindleyi, which has 4" lily-like flowers, white but often with a tint of yellow or orange at the base.

Another group called the Vireyas is receiving considerable attention, particularly south of the border. They probably would have to be grown as houseplants in our area. They come from New Guinea, Borneo, Sumatra and Malaya, and will not take any frost. The dark coloured species have no fragrance, but the paler shades are powerfully scented. These often have very long, tube-like corolla which have evolved to be dependent on one species of long-billed bird or moth for pollination.

They were quite widely grown in Britain in the 1900s in large conservatories or stove houses. I have seen fine displays at Edinburgh and Kew. I am trying to grow a few in a greenhouse but am told they do best if temperatures do not go below 10C (50F).

As a group, Rhodos are not renowned for their fragrance. Most nurseries do not stock many with good smells but for the discriminating gardener they are worth the trouble to search out.

Rhubarb Muffins

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 2 cups flour | 3/4 cups sugar |
| 1 1/2 tsp baking powder | 1 tsp salt |
| 3/4 cup pecans | 1 egg |
| 1/4 cup oil | 2 tbsp orange peel |
| 3/4 cup orange juice | 1 1/4 cup rhubarb |

Mix dry ingredients. Mix wet ingredients. Add wet to dry. Add rhubarb. 350 degrees C for 25 -30 mins



Doughnut Muffins

For the muffins:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 12 oz. (24 Tbs.) unsalted butter, room temp | |
| 1- $\frac{3}{4}$ C sugar | 4 eggs |
| 6 C flour | $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. baking soda |
| 1 Tbsp. plus 2 tsp. baking powder | |
| 1- $\frac{3}{4}$ tsp. salt | 1 tsp. nutmeg |
| 1- $\frac{2}{3}$ C milk | $\frac{1}{4}$ C buttermilk |

For dipping:

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 8 oz. (16 Tbs.) unsalted butter; more as needed | |
| 2 C sugar | 2 Tbsp cinnamon |

To make the muffins



Cream the butter and sugar, beat in the eggs, one at a time, until just mixed in. Sift together flour, BP, BS, salt, and nutmeg. Combine milk and buttermilk. With a wooden

Mix a quarter of the dry ingredients into the butter mixture. Then mix in a third of the milk mixture. Continue mixing in the remaining dry and wet ingredients alternately, ending with the dry. Mix until well combined and smooth, but don't over mix. Grease and flour a standard-size muffin tin. Scoop enough batter into each tin so that the top of the batter is even with the rim of the cup, about 1/2 cup Bake muffins until firm to the touch, 350°F. 30 to 35 min.

To finish

Melt the butter for the dipping mixture. Combine the sugar and cinnamon. When the muffins are just cool enough to handle, remove them from the tin, dip them into or brush them all over with the melted butter, and then roll them in the cinnamon sugar.

Make Ahead Tips

You don't have to bake all the muffins right away; the batter will keep, covered and chilled, for up to three days in the refrigerator.

Until Next Month



Goodie Group
for April Meeting:
Jake Ellis
Myrna Trimmer
Gwen Wright