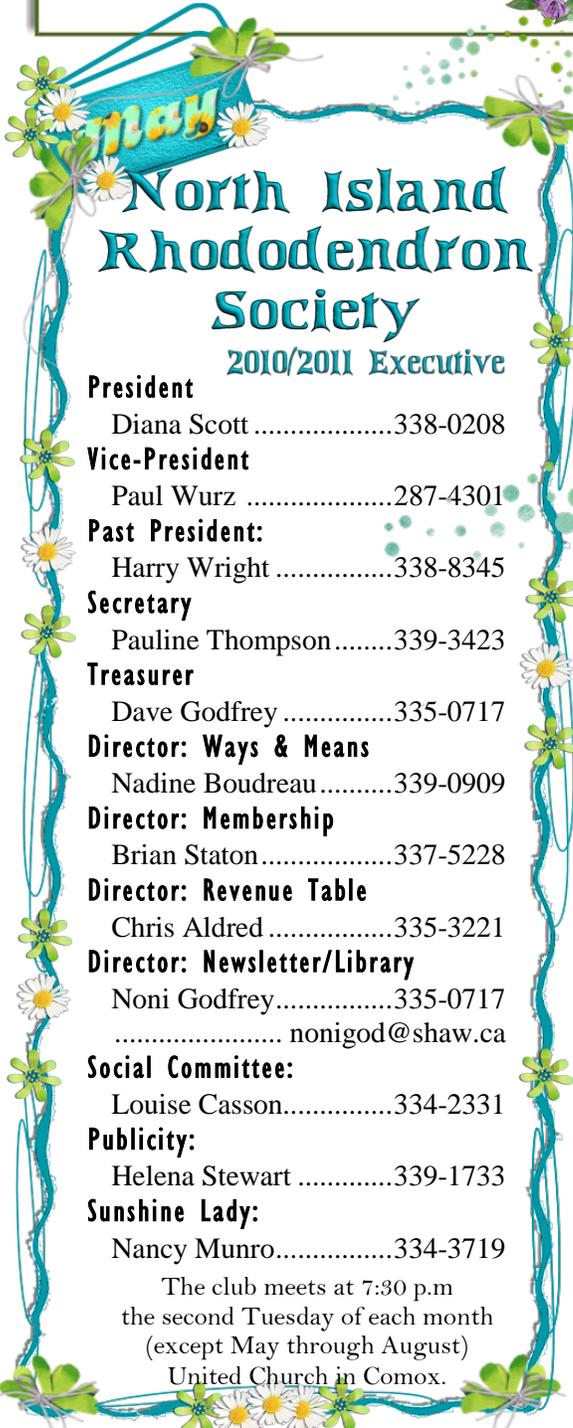




# The Rhodoteller

[www.nirs.rhodos.ca](http://www.nirs.rhodos.ca)



## North Island Rhododendron Society

2010/2011 Executive

**President**

Diana Scott .....338-0208

**Vice-President**

Paul Wurz .....287-4301

**Past President:**

Harry Wright .....338-8345

**Secretary**

Pauline Thompson.....339-3423

**Treasurer**

Dave Godfrey .....335-0717

**Director: Ways & Means**

Nadine Boudreau.....339-0909

**Director: Membership**

Brian Staton.....337-5228

**Director: Revenue Table**

Chris Aldred .....335-3221

**Director: Newsletter/Library**

Noni Godfrey.....335-0717

..... 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

1st May 2011-Rhodo Sale and Show

3rd May 2011-Executive Meeting 2:00 pm

The executive meeting will be held at the home of secretary Pauline Thompson 350 Torrence Road, Comox. Going north along Pritchard Rd. turn right on Dogwood St. to the end. Turn right on Torrence, and house (not visible from the road) is on the left just after Casey Rd. (350 is across the street from 327)

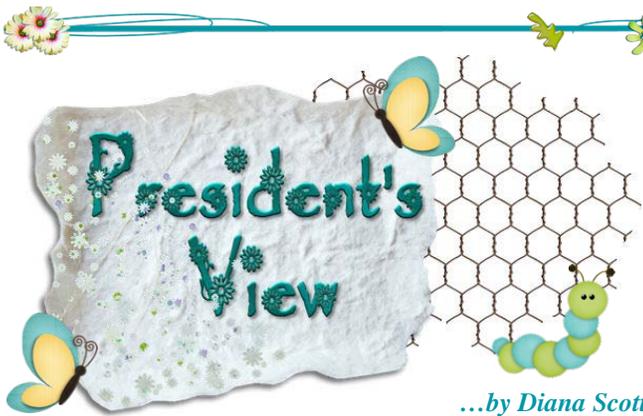
8th May 2011-Annual Garden Tour

10th May 2011-Annual General Meeting

**Venue:** This year's Annual General Meeting will be held in the garden of Gwen and Harry Wright, 769 Chaster Road, Courtenay. 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 6:30 pm with a tour of the garden. The regular portion of the meeting will follow around 7:30 pm. Dress warmly!!!





...by Diana Scott

## MAY HAS BEEN PROCLAIMED

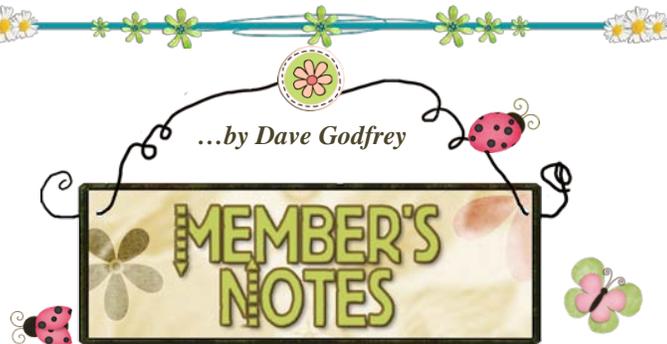
### 'RHODODENDRON MONTH' IN THE CITY OF COURTENAY

Despite a slow start to Spring here in the Valley, we are as busy as ever! This is a beautiful time in our gardens, and with all the events we have planned we are able to take advantage of what May has to offer! We begin the month with our Rhodo Sale and Truss Display on Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, followed by our 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Mother's Day Garden Tour on May 8<sup>th</sup>. If you have not already signed up to volunteer at these events, make sure you contact me in order to be part of the experience ([338-0208/diascott@telus.net](mailto:338-0208/diascott@telus.net))! We have a lot of fun, and it's a great way to get to know your fellow members. Bernice Morrison will be hosting the famous 'Annual Morrison Bunwich' immediately after the Rhodo Sale. It's an informal affair where we put up our feet, have a wee bit to eat, and re-hash the day. It's been a great way to top off the Sale and we encourage you to attend!

Our Annual General Meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup> will be held at Haida Gold Gardens at 769 Chaster Road, home of Gwen and Harry Wright. We typically arrive around 6:30pm in order to informally tour the garden and socialize before the meeting starts at 7:30pm. Please bring a chair to sit on as usual! We will have a short business meeting, review our committee reports, hold the 'elections' and enjoy our lovely beverages and goodies! Joining us will be Herman Van Ree and Marjo Schlenter who are traveling from the Netherlands. Herman, as you know, has established the Hirsutum website that we have found so helpful (<http://www.hirsutum.info>)  
Welcome Herman and Marjo!

Brian Staton has once again organized a terrific Members' Bus Tour. On Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> we head to Port Alberni and the Qualicum/Parksville area to visit a number of beautiful private gardens. Thanks to Terry Richmond and Marilyn Dawson from our sister Chapter MARS who have organized the gardens. They will also be our guides, to the MARS members who are opening their gardens. And a special thanks to Brian for organizing the Tour!

As the weather warms up and the rhodos come into their glory, we anticipate many more members of the public out walking at the Airpark. We will likely have another tidy-up time at the Rhodo Garden this month so watch for the email and come out to help. We always have a fun time socializing while we work, and it's a great way to learn or review your rhodo pruning, deadheading and weeding skills!



...by Dave Godfrey

The birds are chirping, the flowers are blooming, and everything seems to hold the promise of new life. It's finally spring! Judging by the number of members (54) that attended our meeting on April 12th, many are anxious to get back to their beloved gardens to see what surprises await following the cool, wet winter.

It was great to welcome former member **Bernice Morrison** back as a guest for the evening. Bernice has graciously hosted our annual post-Sale & Show 'bunwich' for the past couple of years, and has invited members again this year.

Following the business portion of the meeting, our usual trio of 'Show and Tell' members, **Bernie Guayder**, **Harry Wright** and **Dick Bonney**, each displayed several beautiful flowers in bloom from their gardens. Bernie had two bonsai rhododendrons that were magnificent in colour and structure.

In addition to the short educational on 'Layering', which explained his method of reproducing rhodos, **Brian Staton** showed members a hay fork that eases the task of shovelling

bark mulch. Being the 'loader' of mulch into many wheelbarrows, **Barb Staton** confirms the fork is the answer!

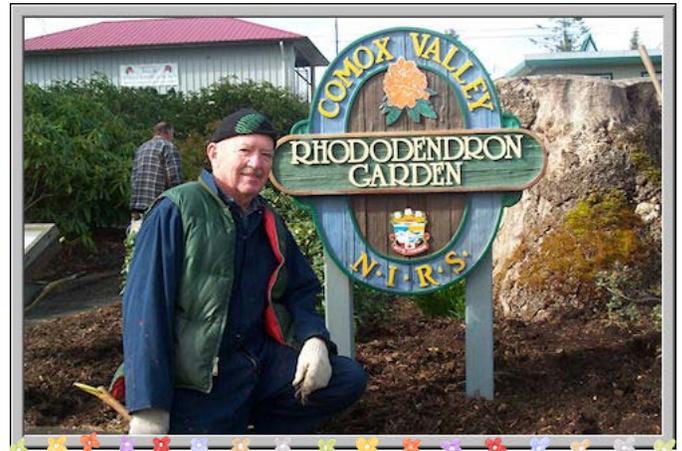
Congratulations to our rhodo raffle winners, **Bob Smith** ('PJM Elite') and **Fiona Clarke** ('Dreamland'). Also, congratulations to the winners of the many door prizes ... R. campylogynum Myrtilloides (donated by **Arthur Ralfs**) – **Paul Wurz**; 'Carmen' (donated by **Arthur Ralfs**) – **Peter Guertler**; 'Yaku Princess' (donated by **Barb & Brian Staton**) – **Ann Chevrier**; Garden clippers – **Claudia Ellis** and 1 litre of liquid Transplant Fertilizer won by **Brian Staton**.

Our program for the evening was a slide presentation by Vice President **Paul Wurz** titled "A Walk in Two Gardens." Paul, along with **Bob Smith** and **Pauline Thompson**, attended the 'Ultimate Rhododendron Conference' last spring at UBC in Vancouver. While there, they had a chance to tour both the UBC Botanical Garden and the world famous vanDusen Gardens. Paul shared some of the photos he took of the giant rhododendrons and various other plants in these well established gardens. The history and beauty of these gardens was enjoyed by our many members in attendance.

We are nearing our busiest time of the year, when 'May is Rhododendron Month'! Our annual 'Rhodo Sale & Show' is coming this Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup> followed by our 16<sup>th</sup> annual 'Mother's Day Garden Tour' on Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. Our Ways & Means director **Nadine Boudreau** advises that the vendors are confirmed for the sale and all hands would be appreciated to help make this year's event another great success. The hall will be setup at 5 PM on Saturday evening, and any members wishing to drop off donations to our NIRS companion plant table may do so at that time. Otherwise, the main setup will begin at 8:30 AM on Sunday with doors open to the public from 10 AM until 1 PM. Goodies for the coffee break before and during the sale will also be appreciated

So while you are busy sorting through your garden and splitting up some of those many companion plants, please pot-up some offerings for our table. If you would like half-gallon pots (saves on giving away too much of your dirt) contact me (**Dave Godfrey**) at 335-0717 to arrange to get some.

**Diana Scott** has the garden gate sitters lined up for this year's tour, and tickets have been distributed to the usual retailers (Art Knapp's, Anderton Nursery, Blue Heron Books in Comox and Home & Garden Gate in Courtenay and Cumberland.) The tour this year will feature gardens from several of our members with the ticket price remaining \$10 each. Those helping with the tour will once again be treated to a complimentary ticket. Thank you to all our members who help to make these events so successful each year.



In preparation for the garden tour, our first work party of the season was held at the Comox Valley Rhodo Garden on Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. The dozen members attending made short work of pulling weeds and spreading four truckloads of mulch. A little fertilizer and a raking of the pathways spruced the gardens up for the spring (see photos on the 'Photo Gallery' page of our website.) Although not many of the rhodos are in bloom yet, it won't be long before another work party is called to start the deadheading.



Our next meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup> will be the Annual General Meeting, held this year in the garden of **Gwen & Harry Wright**. In addition to reports from our various committees, we will be holding our election of officers for the ensuing term. There are four executive positions open for the 2011-2013 term and any members wishing to join the executive either as a director or committee member, please advise nomination chair **Brian Staton** or any member of the current executive.

At the AGM, on Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, we will be welcoming 'Hirsutum' website founder, Herman van Ree and his wife, Marjo. They will be visiting Tofino and the Comox Valley as part of a two week Canadian holiday. Herman and Marjo will be staying at **Nancy & Ross Munro's** 'Royston House' guest suite. They look forward to touring several NIRS

members' gardens on Wednesday, before heading back to Vancouver and home to Holland on Thursday. We encourage all members to attend the meeting for the opportunity to meet the van Rees and learn more about the Hirsutum website.

As announced at our April meeting, NIRS members are invited to attend a 'Garden Tea of Remembrance' for **Pauline Bonney** on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> from 1 to 3 PM. Pauline was one of the founding members of our chapter and loved to share her garden whenever anyone stopped in for a visit. Her husband, Dick, felt it fitting to invite all members to enjoy a tour of the garden in loving memory of our dear friend. Members of the social committee will be helping with the refreshments provided by the club.

**Brian Staton** advises that the bus tour to the MARS gardens in Port Alberni and Qualicum is confirmed. A 47-passenger tour bus has been chartered and will depart Haida Gold Gardens (**Gwen & Harry Wright's** - 769 Chaster Road, Courtenay) at 8 am on Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. There are still seats available for members only until the AGM on May 10<sup>th</sup>. After the AGM, any remaining seats will become available to non-member guests. The cost is \$25 each (payable in advance) and members are to bring their own bagged lunch. Three gardens have been arranged for Port Alberni in the morning with lunch being held at **Terry & Verna Richmond's** garden. They will be providing coffee and tea. Three or four gardens will be toured in the Qualicum area in the afternoon, culminating with a pot-luck gathering hosted by MARS members. The bus should arrive back in Courtenay around 7 pm. So be sure to book soon if you wish to join this fun-filled day or garden touring!

## International Collaboration: Creating The Rhododendron Species Foundation - Part 4 ...by Joe Ronsley

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

The first Membership Directory, listing RSF members in eighteen countries, was issued for 2009, and accompanied the yearbook in the mailing to members. The intention is to publish it every second year in the future. The Directory is a means for RSF members to know of the existence of other people with similar interests in rhododendrons, who may live in close proximity to themselves, and also to provide the means of communication among members wherever they may live.

A tropical conservatory for the RSF had begun to be contemplated in 1998. Several people contributed to finance the construction project over the succeeding years, some of them substantially, but the prime mover and contributor was long-time Board member Francis Rutherford. Finally, in 2008, with various delays having taken place over ten years, and with Fran Rutherford in his mid-80s, there was felt to be a sense of urgency to get started. The building fund was substantial enough for planning to begin in earnest, and would be topped up by Fran in order actually to begin construction. Construction began in early 2009. A bequest from Rutherford's sister was placed in the RSF endowment fund to support the ongoing cost of operating the newly named Rutherford Conservatory.

Unfortunately, while Francis Rutherford was on hand for the ground-breaking ceremony, he died before completion of the conservatory. He left his entire estate, totalling over \$1,000,000 including his home, to the RSF in the form of an endowment for operation and maintenance of the conservatory and the cultivation of Vireyas and other tender rhododendrons. The Rutherford Conservatory is now in full operation and open to the public. A visit to it is very impressive indeed, though it will be a couple of years before the plants have the effectiveness that comes with maturity.

## The World in Your Garden Rhododendrons 2011

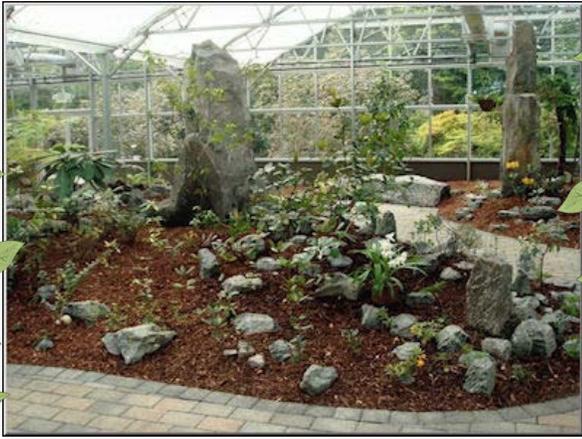
65<sup>th</sup> Annual International Convention of the  
AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

11 to 15 May 2011

Vancouver, Washington

Convention Website [www.ARS2011Convention.com](http://www.ARS2011Convention.com)

april  
showers  
bring  
May  
flowers



New plantings in the greenhouse

Fran Rutherford's contribution to the RSF, very considerable as it was, was only part of recent augmentation of RSF finances. At the 2008 April Annual Meeting President Joe Ronsley announced that Fondation Franklinia, a charitable foundation based in Switzerland and devoted to botanical and horticultural causes, and belonging to Belgian RSF Board member Philippe de

Spoelberch and his family had pledged \$1,000,000 to the RSF endowment fund, to be paid over five years. Philippe de Spoelberch has also personally contributed an additional \$50,000 over five years for renovation of the azalea sections in the RSBG. He and his daughter Caroline de Spoelberch (Vice President of the Foundation) were in attendance at the meeting when the announcement was made, and, not surprisingly, received a standing ovation.



One of Philippe's motives in making his generous contribution to the endowment was to encourage others to do so as well. To what extent he actually generated such contributions or was only coincidental with them it is hard to tell, but his

contribution was quickly followed by others, including the Rutherford bequest.

In 2008 there was also a \$100,000 contribution to the endowment from the Benjamin and Margaret Hall Foundation, along with \$25,000 contributed to operating expenses for 2008. Shortly after, the Hall Foundation also established an ongoing trust fund to provide up to \$40,000 a year for 15 years, primarily for the endowment, and contingent on the satisfaction of the trust manager, but with flexibility during the first five years allowing it to support operating costs, particularly the salaries of valued employees. Ben Hall was, and is, a member of the Executive Committee.

Then, an unexpected \$235,000 was received in 2008 as a bequest upon the death of long-time RSF member Charles Larus, of Connecticut. Another \$100,000 followed, upon settlement of the estate. Other, substantial but slightly more modest, contributions, usually for specific projects, have also been increasingly made. When all these contributions are fully realized, the RSF endowment fund will be more than tripled in the last few years, reaching approximately \$3,000,000, and placing the organization on a newly solid financial footing.

In early 2009, the long-standing collaboration between the RSF and the Hardy Fern Society produced a new stumpery in the RSBG, an area of large stumps and logs to be planted mainly with epiphytic ferns and rhododendrons. This stumpery, evidently a Victorian invention—no, I didn't know the word either—is quite a sensation to see, but will be spectacular with the approach of its maturity in several years.



*(Ed. Note: Series concludes with Part 5 in the next month's Rhodoteller.)*

**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**



# The Legend Continues...

...by Harry Wright

When we arrived in the Comox Valley over 40 years ago, what impressed me most were the mountains. I had spent the first 20 years of my life in a valley in New Brunswick with surrounding hills. But here in the Comox Valley it was even more beautiful. Not just for the Comox Glacier, but also the many peaks and valleys each with their own name.

One such name, Forbidden Plateau, intrigued me. So I decided to find out why that name was chosen.

Legend has it that many years ago the local natives living in the valley were frequently raided by neighboring tribes, and should they lose the conflict their women and children would be taken away as slaves.

One year, the tribe decided that come attack season the women and children would be taken up to the plateau for return later when it was safe. Once the raiding season was over in the late fall, the tribe's men went back to the Plateau to retrieve the women and children. But they were nowhere to be found. They searched and searched until the snow started falling. Upon seeing the snow turning red or pinkish red, the natives deemed the area to be "evil" and declared the area as "Forbidden". Thus, to this day, this area of the Comox Valley has been called "Forbidden Plateau".

The nice thing about legends is that every time it is passed along from generation to generation parts are forgotten or new items are added.

Over two decades ago, when I first started hybridizing Rhododendrons, I wondered "should I ever be looking for names for any plants, what names would I choose?" Having spent over half my life in this part of Canada, it didn't take me long to decide that I would use Comox Valley names as a base for my naming system.

During May of 2009, while checking some of my hybrids in the field, I noticed a white one that was blooming for the first time. White isn't really what I was hoping for, so I carried on with my day's chores. A few days later I took the same tour and noticed that the white rhodo, after having been open for a few days, was now a nice light shade of pink.

Since the Forbidden Plateau can be seen from our garden, I glanced up, viewed the plateau, and then gave my plant one more inspection. I told it that from now on you will be called

Rhododendron 'Forbidden Plateau'.

The plant performed well during the extremely cold winter of 08/09 and during last summer, one of the hottest, driest summers on record.



I checked with the American Rhododendron Society to see if the name could be used, and they said "yes." However, I would have to clear the name through the Royal Horticultural Society in England as they oversee all International Plant Registrations. I have received word from the ARS that they will reserve the name for me until I register the plant with the RHS, which I hope to do this spring.

Oh, and to add a little more info to the legend, areas of the Plateau's snow appear to be red or pinkish red due to some type of chemical interaction between "old man's beard" moss and the temperature of the snow, or some other factor.

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

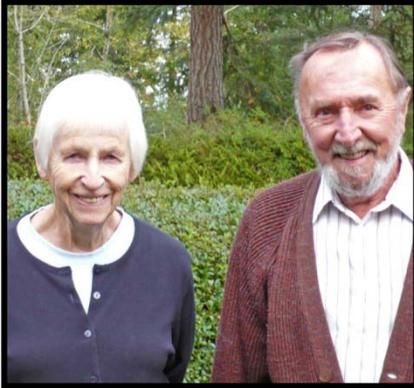
The Annual General Meeting of the North Island Rhododendron Society will be held on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2011 at 7:30 pm at Harry and Gwen Wright's, Haida Gold Garden. Address 769 Chaster Road, Courtenay, BC. Business to come before the meeting will include the Annual Financial Report, Reports 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

PAULINE BONNEY  
TEA IN THE GARDEN



The North Island Rhododendron Society and Dick Bonney are hosting a "Tea in the Garden" in remembrance of Pauline Bonney, founding member and long-time executive with the NIRS who passed away November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Please join us for tea and goodies from 1:00 until 3:00 pm  
Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> 2011 at the Bonney Garden  
3293 Seabank Road in Courtenay

There will be an informal tour, with the opportunity to enjoy the garden that she loved, and remember a wonderful person, a fine gardener and a well respected and loved member of our club.

Beautiful  
Spring



While strolling through the park one day,  
In the merry merry month of May; (April actually, but it doesn't rhyme)  
I was taken by surprise,  
when there before my eyes,  
A beautiful new bench all tucked away  
For all weary travelers to sit and stay.



Dick says... "The Bench was established in the early part of April 2011, donated by her husband and four children. Pauline walked along this path in Seal Bay Park whenever she could make it since 1986. Looking across the water at the smoke from the Powell River pulp mill she would make a weather projection for the day. Lots of fun involved."

In memory of Pauline Bonney  
who at 81 walked here  
everyday she could

Photo by Helena Stewart

# "Slugs and snails, and puppy dog's tails"

(from various internet sources.)

Most gardeners detest slugs and snails for their destructive nature. Although less attracted to rhododendrons than to their companion plants, they are nonetheless liked by few in the gardening world.

Slugs and snails are molluscs, relatives of clams and oysters, not insects. There are several hundred species of snails and approximately 40 species of slugs in North America. One study calculated that there were 6000 slugs in a large garden, and that for every slug collected in a night, there was 20 more still hiding. They come in a variety of sizes and colors and eat a wide assortment of plants. Introduced species have developed into serious pests, whereas most native species tend to do little damage.

Both slugs and snails travel by secreting a mucus or slime on which they glide. This slime trail serves as a calling card, clearly identifying their presence in the garden.



***Helix pomatia*, a species of land snail.**

***Arion rufus*, red color form snail on a rhubarb leaf**

Slugs and snails are hermaphrodites, having both male and female sex organs. Most slugs live up to 2 years, while the common brown garden snail may grace your garden for up to 12 years. Eggs are laid in masses of up to 100 eggs in soil, under debris, rocks and plants. The eggs are large, 1/8 to 1/4 inch in diameter, and white or colorless. A single slug can lay up to 400 eggs in a year, and they start doing it at the age of three months. Eggs will not hatch until they come in contact with moisture. The incubation period varies with the temperature and moisture; at 60° to 70° F it is about 28 days, and this is shortened at higher temperatures.



**Slug eggs and baby**

Moisture is the key to slug and snail survival. They avoid the sun, spending daylight hours hiding in cool, damp places such as under mulches, low-lying plant, boards, and in the soil. At night or on cloudy days, the migration begins. Certain ground covers provide shady moist havens during the day. Ivy and other succulent groundcovers are favourite snail hangouts. Thinning out groundcovers increases sunlight and airflow, makes the habitat warmer, drier, and less popular with slugs and snails.

Reduce attractive slug and snail habitat by removing unnecessary debris such as bricks, boards, garden clippings, and weeds in the vicinity of your garden. Mulching provides an ideal slug habitat so mulch lightly around plants that are attractive to slugs. Another option is to use mulches that are

slug irritants such as shredded bark, crushed rock, or cinders. Wood ashes, diatomaceous earth, cedar wood chips, cinders, and copper strips or screening can all be effective barriers against snails. Wood ashes and diatomaceous earth are only effective when dry. Cinders remain effective when wet. Salt does kill slugs and snails, but repeated use can make the soil toxic to plants.



**Banana slug, *Ariolimax***

Simple slug and snail traps can be made by placing boards, asphalt shingles, old towels, rocks, plastic bags, or overturned flower pots on grass or soil surfaces. One foot square boards placed on one-inch risers are excellent snail havens. Asphalt shingles with the rough side up are good traps for slugs in grassy areas. These simple traps serve as easily identifiable locations that can be handpicked during the day. Traps also serve as a good tool for monitoring your slug and snail populations.

Baits reputed to be attractive to slugs and snails may be used in traps. Baits include banana peels, inverted grapefruit halves, raw potato slices, lettuce leaves, dead slugs and snails, fermented bread dough or beer. Slugs are attracted to the smell of the yeast in beer.

Extreme care must be taken if using any commercial bait products. Poisonous baits are hazardous to children, dogs, cats, birds, and other animals that ingest the bait. In addition, slug and snail populations can become "bait-resistant." Least-toxic strategies for controlling slug and snail populations do work. By using several of these techniques, you can protect your plants from excessive slug and snail damage without exposing yourself, your children or your pets to toxic pesticides.

Some gardeners prefer to use less toxic methods of repelling slugs and snails. Louise Casson suggests collecting drier lint and placing it around susceptible plants. While a friend of Helena's, Linda Gilkeson, suggests the following...

"If you wish to use natural eradicators then cultivate beetles. Both ground beetles and rove beetles eat slug eggs and small slugs; also root maggots and other soil-dwelling larvae. The immature ground beetles also attack earthworms--but I figure I have lots of earthworms and I am happy to have the beetles.



There are several common species of ground beetles and rove beetles. They are all native insects and there is no where to buy them--but if you don't use insecticides and have natural mulches and ground cover (as opposed to using landscape fabric and bark mulch) under your rhodos they will be around. They are very long-lived (2 years!) for insects so when their numbers build up in the garden you have friends for a long time."

# Recipe Requests

## Banff Springs Hotel Blueberry Flan (Chris Aldred)

### Pastry

1 C butter  
1 egg  
1 ¼ C pastry flour



9 Tbsp sugar  
1 C plus 1 Tbsp flour

### filling

½ C sugar  
¼ C flour  
zest of 1 orange  
1tsp vanilla  
¼ C apricot jam for glaze.



2 C plain yogurt  
1 egg  
zest of 1 lemon  
2 ½ C blueberries



Make pastry: Cream butter and sugar, add egg, mix well. Add flours and mix until dough just comes together into a ball. Cover with plastic wrap and let rest in 'fridge 30 mins.

Divide chilled dough in half; roll out half portion into a circle, (freeze leftover dough for future use.) Carefully press dough into bottom and up the sides of a lightly greased 10" tart shell with removable bottom. Trim the edges, place in freezer to rest 30 mins.

Make filling: Add sugar to yogurt, and mix well, sprinkle flour over yogurt. In a separate bowl, combine egg, zest, and vanilla, add to the yogurt mixture and blend well.

Remove flan from freezer and arrange the blueberries in the bottom, pour yogurt mix over top. Bake - 350F for 1 hour and 15 mins, or until just firm. While flan is cooling, melt jam, spread gently over cooled flan to create a glaze. Sift a small amount of icing sugar over top of flan to serve.

This may seem like a bit of work-but it is WELL WORTH IT

## Sue's Mother's Chocolate Orange Cake

(Chris Aldred)

Oven to 325F grease a loaf pan.

1/2 oz cocoa  
1 tsp Baking powder  
1 tbsp golden or corn syrup  
2oz grated plain chocolate  
Grated rind of 1 orange

4 1/2 oz Self Raising flour  
4oz soft marg  
3oz sugar  
2 beaten eggs  
juice of 1 orange

In a large bowl, beat all ingredients together, pour into pan. Bake 45 minutes or until springs back to the touch.

## TIDBITS...



### Note from Bernie Guyader:

After the panel of experts meeting in March at the Church I left my reference book on the table and was wondering if anyone might have seen it. The book was "Propagation" by Simon and Shuster. If anyone knows of its whereabouts can you please give me a call?

## Nanaimo Rhododendron Society

### 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.

Until Next Month  
Noni

North Island Rhododendron Society's



**16TH ANNUAL  
"MOTHER'S DAY  
GARDEN TOUR"**

**SUNDAY – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

**10 a.m. until 4 p.m.**

**Enjoy a tour of seven great gardens  
in the Comox Valley.**

**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

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