



The Rhodoteller

www.nirs.rhodos.ca

HAPPY
ST. PATTY'S
DAY!!



North Island Rhododendron Society 2012/2013 Executive

President

Paul Wurz287-4301

Vice-President/ Secretary

Pauline Thompson339-3423

Past President:

Diana Scott338-0208

Treasurer

Dave Godfrey335-0717

Director: Ways & Means

Nadine Boudreau339-0909

Director: Membership

Brian Staton337-5228

Director: Revenue Table

Chris Aldred335-3221

Director: Newsletter

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

Social Committee:

Claudia & Jake Ellis337-8516

Publicity:

Helena Stewart.....339-1733

Sunshine Lady:

Nancy Munro.....334-3719

Library:

Ruth Fowler890-9448

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

COMING EVENTS

Lucky

5th March 2013 - Executive Meeting 2:00 pm

The executive meeting will be held at the home of Brian and Barb Staton, 1524 Seaview Road, Black Creek. Seaview is in the Miracle Beach area. From Courtenay/Comox go north on the Island Highway, turning onto Miracle Beach heading towards the park. As you approach the park, keep 'right' don't go into the parking lot! If you keep going you will end up on Seaview Rd which is on the other side of the Park.

12th March 2013 - Regular Monthly Meeting

Jamey Lauinger - Valley Succulents

Our speaker this month is Jamey Lauinger from 'Valley Succulents', a new specialty nursery here in the Comox Valley. Jamey states that his goal is 'to raise an extensive selection of rare and unusual cacti and succulents and offer these to collectors and amateurs alike', and he is doing just that!

We are very fortunate to have such a knowledgeable plants man in our own neighbourhood providing one of the largest collections of succulents and cacti in BC. We look forward to hearing his presentation and learning more about these wonderful plants. As an added bonus, Jamey will be bringing a small selection - so there will be an opportunity to purchase a few plants at the March meeting to get a 'jump' on our spring planting!

President's View

...by Paul Wurz

It is always with great anticipation to see the first rhododendrons showing color in the spring. In our climate there is always a certain risk in planting and growing some of the earliest. In "Greer's Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons" (a book all rhodo growers should have) he uses VE (very early) in describing bloom time – these are the ones I will mention in this article.

In walking through our garden last week, I will mention the earliest that are showing color and a very brief description. *R. ririei*, a species, grows to 4-5 feet in 10 years, and produces a light blue to slightly purple flower. We have four in the garden at least 5 feet tall. When planting these very early rhododendrons, I tend to place them in a well protected location often in a treed or shady area; as a consequence blooms are limited due to lack of sunlight. I have approximately 15-20 buds ready to pop! I strongly recommend this rhodo for your garden as it is a hardy, vigorous grower with a very attractive flower.

'*Lee's Scarlet*' is another rhododendron showing color, and will produce a rosy crimson flower, not spectacular, but worth growing if you like early and hardy. The *R. ciliatum* series also produced several hybrids that we grow, '*Cilipense*' and '*Snow Lady*'. Very early and compact, we frequently have them covered in snow and seem to survive. They are worth having in the garden, particularly if you like the smaller, more compact plants. The flowers are pink to white.

'*Christmas Cheer*' and '*Rosamundi*' are very similar and very difficult to differentiate, with '*Christmas Cheer*' blooming slightly earlier. The flowers on both plants are pale pink to almost white – worth growing mainly due to their early flowering time. Another rhodo showing pink that we grow is '*Bodega Crystal Pink*', a semi dwarf plant, with very attractive small pink flowers surrounded by relatively small narrow leaves, probably a lepidote. This plant is very hard to find, and I have had difficulty propagating it. I like it!!

'*Promise of Spring*' is also showing color and produces a highly rated florescent rose flower and is well worth growing. '*April Rose*' is another plant that I grow that blooms very early (in the April series by Mehlquist) that is very compact, attractive and a lepidote (small leaves and scaly). It is a very interesting plant.

I will quickly mention two rhododendrons that bloom very early in our garden, that Greer's rates as early, but are showing colour: these are '*Maxime Childers*', a wonderful rhododendron with "fiery bright red" flowers; and '*Heatherside Beauty*', a very nice pale white to pink.

Finally, it is important to recognize that our garden, just north of Campbell River, is at least 7-10 days behind the Comox Valley. Also our climate, which has very variable

bloom time, varies significantly each year. Hopefully, at our March 12th meeting, trusses of these plants will be on display for our "Show & Tell". I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Raffle Rhodos

...by Diana Scott

Rhododendron 'Head Honcho' is another of our plants donated by Alan Campbell and grown on by the club. Head Honcho ('Siouxion' (yak Larson #6) x 'Mrs. J.G. Millais') is a selection from seed crossed by Clint Smith; grown, selected, named, described, registered and released in to the trade by Chris Trautmann. 'Head Honcho' is a midseason



bloomer that will grow about 3 feet tall in 10 years. It has white broadly funnel-shaped flowers with a light greenish yellow centre and deep orange spotting. The glossy mid-

green leaves are held for 3 years.

Rhododendron 'Mary Fleming' (racemosum x keiskei) x keiskei) is an early blooming lepidote hybridized by Guy Nearing of Ramsey, New Jersey (1959). This plant is a reliable performer with attractive foliage and a good winter



bronze colour. The combination of its parentage gives 'Mary Fleming' a lovely pale yellow flower with streaks and edges of salmon pink. A delicate addition to the garden!

An Irish Friendship Wish

- ★ May there always be work for your hands to do;
- ★ May your purse always hold a coin or two;
- ★ May the sun always shine on your windowpane;
- ★ May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;
- ★ May the hand of a friend always be near you;
- ★ May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.
- ★ And may you be half an hour in heaven
- ★ before the devil knows you're dead!



Member's Notes

...by Dave Godfrey

February is usually a quiet month, both in our gardens and at the NIRS meeting. However, the meeting last month brought out a record attendance. Our public relations program is certainly successful, as 18 guests joined 57 members to hear NIRS associate member **Terry Richmond** speak on "Common Sense Fertilizing". Three of our guests became members during the meeting. We give a warm welcome to **Donna Young**, **Betty Lou Rattray** and **Maureen & Mike Shipton** for joining our ranks.



It was great to have associate members **Alan** and **Liz Murray** from Cowichan join us once again. As they have done in the past, they generously donate several plants for the raffle and the door prizes. Thank you again, Al and Liz.

During the business portion of the meeting, it was announced that we now have 4 new books added to our collection. Librarian **Ruth Fowler** purchase a copy of the book "1001 Gardens You Must See", while **Pauline Thompson** donated a book on orchids and **Gloria Guyader** donated two other books. An updated listing of all library books available for members to borrow can be found on our web site.

For the "Show & Tell" this month, **Brian Staton**, **Isabel Petch**, **Lois Clyde** and **Nadine Boudreau** brought in an assortment of colourful flowers that are beginning to brighten their gardens. After much discussion and debate, it was decided that the rhodo that has been blooming in Isabel's garden since November was likely 'Christmas Cheer' and not 'Rosamundi'. It is so hard to tell these two rhododendrons apart.

Associate member **Terry Richmond** was our featured speaker for the evening on a subject near and dear to his heart... "Fertilizing!" Terry and his wife, Verna, live in Port Alberni. For many years back in the 1980's, Terry travelled

to Comox every month as a member of the NIRS. In 1990, when members from the Parksville/Qualicum area decided to form their own chapter (Mount Arrowsmith), Terry was one of its founding members.

In addition to growing rhododendrons, Terry has studied soil structure and fertilizers for many years. He eventually discovered that, depending on the soil conditions present, most rhodos need different fertilizers. In his words, gardeners should throw away the 'one size fits all' approach and feed according to the individual needs of their plants. He finds that organic fertilizers provide much more consistency and prefers his own formulas over many of the chemical fertilizers found on the market. One recommended source of organic fertilizers in bulk is the 'Borden's Mercantile' store on the corner of Quadra and Mackenzie Streets in Victoria.



Terry had a limited number of handouts for those interested. However, to ensure a copy was available for all NIRS members, a scanned copy has been distributed electronically to all our members. Terry, Alan and Paul attempted to answer as many questions as time would allow, and

suggested members contact them with any further concerns regarding fertilizers.

While mentioning soil conditions, Terry suggested checking the pH levels in your garden. Our club has a Kelway pH tester available for use by the members; just call **Bernie Guyader** to arrange for pickup and drop off of this valuable soil tester.

Before packing up and everyone heading out the door, it was time to announce the winners for the various draws. The raffle prize of R. 'English Roseum' was won by new member **Betty Lou Rattray** and R. 'Dora Amateis' won by guest **Richard Earl**. Two subsequent raffle prizes donated by **Alan Murray**, R. 'Jean's Favourite' and the Azalea 'Fraser' were won by **Don Morgan** and guest **Jan Harding**, respectively.

For the door prizes, R. *Fabia x bureavii* was won by **Dany Fortin** and **Chris Aldred** won a jug of fertilizer donated by **Terry Richmond**. In addition, **Al & Liz Murray** had donated four potted perennials: 'snowdrops' won by **Jamie Wilms**, 'winter aconites' won by **Jake Ellis**, and flowering primulas won by **Sheila Medori** and **Lily Vanderhorst**. Congratulations to all the lucky winners and a thank you to all who support our club through buying raffle tickets.



Remember to wear your NIRS name tag to our meetings in order to receive an extra raffle ticket when buying.

The 2013 Yearbooks/Rosters have now been distributed to most of our members. If you have not yet received your copy, be sure to see me (*Dave Godfrey*) at a future meeting. The booklets include a roster of your contact information, including your ARS number. You will need this number to register in order to access the ARS Journal on-line.

In order to involve younger generations interest in rhododendrons, the ARS is promoting "junior" memberships for those students 18 years and younger. Instead of the usual US \$30 ARS fee, junior membership fees will be \$10 annually and will include access to the online Journal magazine. If any member knows of a student who might be interested in joining our chapter be sure to invite them along to a meeting.

It seems every day looking through our gardens noticeable changes are taking place. Don't forget to have your camera at the ready! *Diana Scott* has requested members take photos of their gardens throughout the different seasons. Now is an ideal time to capture those late winter/early spring bulbs and buds as they begin to brighten our gardens. Many of these photos will be compiled into a PowerPoint presentation for a possible program next winter.

It is that time of year again when members begin dividing up some of their perennials. Please be generous and pot up a few to donate to our Revenue table. *Chris Aldred* always appreciates your donations of plants, or any garden related items, to help raise funds through the table sales. These funds generally help pay for our monthly rental of our meeting hall. For those wishing to pot up a few donations to either the monthly revenue table or our annual sale on May 5th, we do have a few half-gallon pots available. Just let me know and I can bring a supply to the next few meetings.

Our social convener, *Claudia Ellis*, was once again delighted with the response for her request for goodies at the meeting. Thanks to *Fran Thornton*, *Chris Aldred*, *Judi Murakami* and *Cathy Storey* for offering to bring goodies for our March 12th meeting. This meeting will feature *Jamey Lauinger* from 'Valley Succulents', a new specialty nursery here in the Comox Valley. Jamey states that his goal is "to raise an extensive selection of rare and unusual cacti and succulents, offering these to collectors and amateurs alike." We look forward to hearing his presentation and learning more about these wonderful plants. As an added bonus, Jamey will be bringing a small selection - so there will be an opportunity to purchase a few plants at the March meeting to get a 'jump' on our spring planting! We hope to see many of you, especially our newer members, at the meeting on March 12th.



BIRDS IN WINTER

...by *Shane Tillapaugh*

Birds have a variety of readily observable characteristics. They forage, build their nests and perform territorial and courtship displays. They also sing vociferously and oft-times have colourful plumages. Furthermore, they do all of these things during the day. And it is for this reason that birds are the most visible wildlife in our gardens.

At this time of year, the birds we observe are usually residents, as our migrant bird populations have yet to return from their wintering grounds. These resident birds are able to sustain themselves during our winters because of their ability to find food. As insect populations have declined or are hidden in the leaf-litter or rotting trees at this time of year, means that birds are usually eating seeds or berries, or at least that these foods compose a large part of their diet.

Small flocks of the ubiquitous *Dark-eyed Junco* can readily be observed as they fly about looking for seeds near the ground or in the lower tree canopy. We often see multi-species flocks foraging together in large groups. *Chestnut-backed Chickadees* and *Golden-crowned Kinglets* can be found together in search of seeds as well as insects and spiders. These tiny acrobats will often hang upside-down or even hover beside a branch while they glean insects from it. These two species are in many instances joined by *Ruby-crowned Kinglets*, *Red-breasted Nuthatches*, *Brown Creepers* and *Bushtits*. We also may see groups of finches, whose diet is composed mainly of seeds year-round, such as *House Finches*, *Purple Finches*, *Pine Siskins* and *American Goldfinches* as they forage in the trees.

While these birds are regularly observed flitting about in the taller shrubs and the canopies of trees, other birds, notably the sparrows and thrushes, are generally found foraging lower to the ground. *Spotted Towhees* and *Fox Sparrows* are commonly found hopping about in the leaf litter at the edges of shrubs. These two birds will stir up the leaves in search of insects and other food items by jumping forward and then quickly back. *Song Sparrows* and *Golden-crowned Sparrows* will also be seen foraging on the ground, as will *American Robins* and *Varied Thrushes*. If you have a stand of trees, especially trees with some rot, you may be lucky enough to see a woodpecker such as a *Red-breasted Sapsucker*, *Northern Flicker*, or a *Hairy Woodpecker*.

Birds have a variety of requirements for their life needs to be met. These include food, water, shelter, nesting sites and nest building materials. Furthermore, the importance of

each of these requirements changes with the demands of each season. During autumn and winter, food and shelter become essential to help them cope with the rigours of scarce food and cold temperatures. In the spring, birds need nesting sites and nest building materials to help meet their life goals of raising enough young to replace themselves. In the summer, water is often limited and is important to help regulate their body temperature.

You can attract birds to your garden by installing plants that provide food and shelter, as well as supplying nesting materials in the spring and providing a source of water in the summer. Native plants are the best possible providers of food and shelter for birds as they are adapted to the local climate and, if planted in the correct place, can require less care than imported ornamental species. In addition, the native bird life will be adapted to the types of food and shelter the native plants provide! Berry, nut and seed producing plants such as red-elderberry, wild rose, Oregon grape, red-osier dogwood and Indian plum provide food for thrushes, sparrows and finches. Other plants, such as red-flowering current, salmonberry and orange honeysuckle provide nectar for hummingbirds.

Furthermore, all plants should be a haven for a myriad of insects, which are food for insect eating birds and the young of seed eating birds. Let this be a reason not to apply pesticides, especially insecticides! Plants with a dense branch structure such as salal, oceanspray, snowberry, red elderberry and red-osier dogwood, provide important shelter as well as nesting sites. Grasses and plants with small twigs are good sources of nest building materials. In the summer, supply an elevated birdbath with gently sloped edges and a consistently fresh supply of water – be sure to clean often.

By providing food, water, shelter and nesting opportunities in your garden, you will create a haven for birds and a hotspot for happy bird watching!



...by Nadine Boudreau

CONTROLLING WEEVILS IN YOUR RHODODENDRON GARDEN

While enjoying a mild January day in the garden inspecting my Rhododendrons in one of my borders, I remembered my strong conviction that this was going to be the year I was going to focus on weevil control. This strong desire came when one of my favourite rhodos, Rhododendron pachysanthum with its wonderful tomentum on its leaves was being chewed, leaving

ragged notches on the edges. I have always been tolerant of a few leaves being feasted upon, but when the uninvited, non-paying guests eat more than their share, its time to close the kitchen. The problem is not only leaf damage, but they feast on roots in their larvae stage, which is the most worrisome.

There are several kinds of root weevil, with three main species that feed on broad leaf evergreens in our area. They are obscure root weevil (*Sciopithes obscures*), black vine weevil (*Otiorhynchus sulcatus*) and woods weevil (*Nemocestes incomptus*). They all have a similar look - six legs, and oblong hard bodies ranging in length from ¼ to ½ inch. They have a



Black Vine Weevil

narrow head with antennae; a feature that really differentiates them from beetles. Their colouring ranges from black, brown, dark brown and grey. They walk in a mechanical toy-like style, if

you touch one they flop over and play dead.

Weevils are nocturnal, during the day they hide and sleep in loose bark, leaf litter or cracks in soil, coming out at night to eat. They cannot fly, so they crawl up plants and chew on the edges of leaves, leaving their signature notches on our lovely plants. In their larvae stage, all 3 species are creamy white with a brown head and are semi curled in a C shape. The larvae have no legs. This stage feeds on roots and serious infestation can result in the death of a plant. The plant starts to wilt even when watered because of its inability to absorb water.

So to plan our control strategies, we must know their life cycle - egg, larvae, pupa and adult. We have two stages of life cycle to



Larvae stage – Yuk!

try and control – adult and larvae. They can over winter in either the larvae or adult stage. Adults don't feed during coldest temperatures. Black vine weevil can emerge as early as April, but usually in June. Obscure weevil and

woods weevil emerge in August, eating through to October or early November. The adults feed on foliage for 21-45 days before starting to lay eggs, they then lay several eggs each day on soil or leaf litter. They live for 90 to 100 days laying up to 200 eggs. The eggs hatch as larvae 2 to 3 weeks later and enter the soil.

Now that we know the life cycles, we can try the methods of control. As always, a healthy plant is a strong plant and doesn't seem to be as vulnerable to any pest or disease. I plan to remove a couple of straggly rhodos that seem to be a real target for weevils, removing as much soil around the roots in hopes of taking away larvae that are in the root system. When buying them, try choosing Rhododendrons that seem to be resistant to attack. There is a list of these rhodos on the Washington State

University website. I have read that rhodos having leaves that curl slightly at the edges are good choices. It seems that the weevils have a hard time chewing the edges; maybe they slide off! The removal of suspected host plants, such as salal and huckleberry, is also recommended. I have been removing a large patch that is among my rhodos to see if this helps, I hate to lose the salal, but I'd rather have healthy rhodos.

Physical control means picking them off the plants at night. Yes, that's right, go out at night with a flashlight and pick them off your plant. If you don't like touching them you can place a white cloth under your rhododendron, shake the plant to knock the weevils onto the cloth, you can then put them into a jar of water to drown. You could step on them on a sidewalk, but they have a hard shell body and make quite a crunching sound. I was instantly remorseful when I did this.

Since the adults have to crawl up plants, using a sticky barrier such as Tanglefoot can be effective. Place a tight fitting band around the trunk, then a layer of the sticky material. Make sure there are no branches touching the ground, and no other plants touching the rhodos from which the weevil can travel. I've read that with over head trees they can still drop down on the plants, I guess they throw themselves off the trees. Always remember, when using a barrier to check that it is not restricting growth after a while.

You can also have success with traps. Corrugated paper (cardboard) and folded burlap placed at the base of the plant can be a hiding place for the weevil during the day. Shake the weevils from the trap into a bucket of water. Small pieces of plywood have also been used with good results. Just remember to check the traps daily, or you will just be setting up a Hilton Hotel for your weevils.

As for chemical insecticides – easy – don't bother! Some say coffee grounds spread around base of plants will deter weevils. However, the downfalls are the amount you have to use, repeat applications and the grounds can become moldy.

Beneficial nematodes are used to target the larvae stage. Nematodes are microscopic roundworms; the genera for weevil control are *Steinernema* and *Heterorhavirus*. They attack by entering the larvae through a body cavity, bacterium is released, multiplies and causes death to the weevil larvae. The difficulty with applying nematodes is soil temperature and moisture. The soil temperature should be above 13° C. This can be tricky in spring applications before larvae pupae, for the early hatching weevils. This can also be done in early fall.

I have noticed the Bug Lady is offering a new Coldshot nematodes (*Steinernema karsussei*), which can be applied at a soil temperature of only 5° C, which is promising. The soil needs to be really well watered before applying nematodes as they are 'free swimming'. You mix the juvenile nematodes in water then apply around the base of plants. You must keep soil moist for a couple weeks after application. Application should be done in the early morning or evening avoiding the sun. Nematodes are

expensive to buy, but even though we don't get a sure kill, this is a good method to try. Be sure to get more detail information before applying.

A botanical pesticide that is fairly new is called Neem from the Neem tree of India. It is proving useful in the control of larvae. You drench the soil with a mixture of water and Neem. I have yet to see it available in our local stores; but again something promising to try.

The safest and cheapest control is from Mother Nature, which has provided the best control - the Ground Beetle, a native predator to both weevil grubs and adults. Learn to recognize them, and encourage them to flourish by providing loose mulch for the beetles to hide in.



DR GLEN JAMIESON'S EXPLANATIONS FOR DISJUNCT PLANT GENERA, WITH EMPHASIS ON RHODODENDRONS

...by *Pauline Thompson*

The Paleontology Society in Qualicum invited Dr. Jamieson to present his work on the disbursement of rhododendrons around the world at their monthly meeting on February 24th. At first glance it seems like an odd choice of speaker for a paleontology society – more interested in fossils than gardens. But Dr. Jamieson had a fascinating and appropriate perspective. He described the tectonic shifts from 60 million to 20 million years ago.

60 million years ago North America, northern Europe and Russia were connected with land bridges. The climate at that time was temperate in the northern regions of this super continent and rhododendron pollen fossils found in Alaska date to this period. As the tectonic plates moved apart, the large common population of rhododendrons became pulled apart. As the shift continued and the climate in the northern region became colder, the rhododendron populations moved south in these emerging new continents. The segregated populations of rhododendrons continued to diversify and the reasons for the "disjunct genera" now make sense in the context of 60 million years of plate motion.

Dr. Jamieson's presentation included pictures of rhododendron pollen fossils and one of the members of the society said that they were finding 40 million year old fossilized pollen in a site they are working on near Campbell River. An unusual perspective on rhododendrons and a good day out too!

Around Stonetree

...with Becci Russell

March flower & foliage pictures from my garden.



Hamamelis Jelena

This witch hazel bears large coppery orange flowers midwinter, with orange/red autumn foliage. Responds well to pruning which encourages lots of bloom and likes full sun to part shade



Skimmia Japonica Magic Marlot

This colorful broadleaf evergreen forms mounds of green & cream foliage. Its white buds appear in late autumn, turning deep red as they mature and open in the spring to fragrant white flowers. Plant with lots of compost for moisture retention; Height & spread 0.50 meter, partial to full shade.



Hellebore Regal Ruffles Strain

Being seed raised, this double Lenten Rose will show a lot of variation in its flower color. This strain was bred by Marietta O'Byrne of NW Garden Nursery, Eugene Oregon.



**Tsuga canadensis Moon Frost (left)
Hebe rakaiensis(right)**

These provide good contrast for the winter garden. Tsuga Moon Frost has bright white new growth with older inner foliage that retains a light tone giving this plant a distinctly white appearance. In winter the foliage takes on a blush of pink. A reliable small dwarf that grows 2 to 3 feet in 10years. Hebe rakaiensis a rounded evergreen shrub grows to 3 feet tall. Bears white flowers in mid summer



THE LODERI STORY PART 7

...by John M. Hammond. (continued from the February Rhodoteller)

The Years leading up to The Great War and its Aftermath:

Although it was many years before Robin Loder took to a rifle or a gun, he very much enjoyed the times in Scotland in the deer forests. The first time he went was to Benmore in 1898. This year was a marked one in the Loder family's Scottish annals, for then a collie named "Ross" became part of the family circle which played a very important part in their lives, and was indeed the pride of Leonardislee for thirteen years and Sir Edmund's inseparable companion. It would never do to leave Ross out in any account of either Sir Edmund or Robin. It was the proprietor of the hotel at Inveran in Nairn who in 1898 gave Ross to Robin. Sir Edmund's daughter Patience says of Ross:

"For many years our dear old collie Ross went with my father stalking, and if he wounded a stag Ross was always trusted to chase it; and he seemed to understand his job, for he never made a sound till he brought his stag to bay in a burn—then he would bark from pleasure and excitement. Ross's exploits and accomplishments were many, and varied from hunting a stag to sitting up on his hind-legs and holding a biscuit on his nose for my mother's Borzoi 'Masha' to take! We were all devoted to him and he was father's closest companion for many years."

In 1899, the Loders were hunting at Clunie Lodge, twenty-five miles from Invermorrison, and at the end of the season Lady Loder had a very terrible accident whilst out deer-stalking. She fell over a precipitous rocky brae and was very nearly killed. The man who got down to her did not expect to find her alive, and years passed before she recovered from the effects of her injuries. Robin was at school when this happened, and it was not till the Christmas holidays that his mother described to him how nearly she had been killed; but she had to stop and change the subject, as the boy's eyes filled with tears.

In 1903, Sir Edmund's brother, Gerald W.E. Loder, later Lord Wakehurst, purchased the 500-acre Wakehurst Place estate, some six miles north of Haywards Heath in Sussex. Here Gerald landscaped and developed the great garden that in January 1965 became an outstation of R.B.G. Kew but, as our story unfolds, he would also become more heavily involved with Leonardislee.



After Sir Edmund gave up hunting in Schwarzensee, Austria, he had several forests in Scotland, including Glencarron, Rothiemurchus, Achdaluie and Glenclunie. It was during this same period that he probably had Ben More Asynt, which provides a good illustration of how deeply he became involved in everything he did. After Glenclunie, Sir Edmund took Hopfreen in Tirol for three years and then came back to Scotland once more. Amongst other places he took Forest Lodge for one season.

A year or two later, he took Dundonnell on a lease, and that was the last forest he had. Dundonnell was a most attractive place, though at that time the stags were not very good. Lady Loder killed one very heavy stag on the low ground, around 20 stone (280 lbs.), but the general run of stags was much smaller. The fishing was good, as there were several lochs and the Gruinard River. The best of the fishing was earlier in the summer, but in August there was still a certain amount of sport to be had.



When hunting, Sir Edmund's spare time was spent on colour photography, and nothing that he took up showed more clearly his determination to do a thing well or not at all. He was never quite satisfied with his work, though to the ordinary individual his results seemed perfect. There was a certain rowan-tree near the lodge which was scarlet with berries, and this tree made an excellent subject for colour photography. I should not like to say how often that tree was photographed. If the light seemed extra good or different from a previous day, another plate would be exposed in the hope of eliminating some tiny defects in previous pictures. To attain perfection in his work seemed almost an





obsession, but those who have seen an exhibition of his colour photographs will agree that his striving after perfection was justified. He had mastered the technique by sheer hard work and constant repetition, and his scientific mind enabled him to select and use to the greatest advantage the best lenses and apparatus.

Whilst at Cambridge, Robin formed a very close friendship with Charlie Williams, the son of his father's friend J. C. Williams of Caerhays Castle. They had known each other at Eton, and after their Cambridge days they went off together on a shooting trip to New Zealand in 1911 and returned home across America. On August 9th, 1913, he married Miss Muriel Hoare, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Rolls Hoare of Horsham.

In the same year Sir Edmund took on-board a somewhat different challenge. He pored endlessly over the proof of his first publication, *List of Trees and Shrubs Grown in the Open Air at Leonardslee*, a somewhat rare book of 122 pages published in the same year by, Army and Navy Co-operative Society of London. Meanwhile, with the clouds of hostilities on the horizon, Sir Edmund finally decided to dispose completely of the Whittlebury Estate, which had been a "White Elephant" ever since he had inherited it in 1888. The House and Park were sold at auction on 7 July, 1914; however, the impact of The Great War meant it took many years to sell the rest of the estate.

On August 4th, 1914, Robin Loder was with his regiment, the 4th Sussex, on the way to Salisbury Plain when war was declared. Robin's son, Giles, was born on November 10, 1914, whilst Robin's regiment was being mobilized for action and they were sent to the War Station at Newhaven till May 1915—then once more he was at Cambridge for three days when en route for Bedford. The regiment remained at Bedford till July. On July 17th they sailed from Devonport and eventually landed at Suvla Bay.

At this time Robin was machine-gun officer. He was seconded as Brigade Machine-gun Officer on September 3rd, and was in the Gallipoli Peninsula until the evacuation. He stood the hardships of this awful campaign and was one of three out of twenty-nine officers who were never in hospital. Even during the blizzard and the privations of the evacuation he took no harm.

(...continued in next month's Rhodoteller)



tidbits...

Bernie Guyader is asking our members if anyone has found his copy of "Simon and Schuster's Encyclopedia of Gardening—Plant Propagation Volume". It was left behind a year ago at the panel discussion meeting held in the church while the hall was in renovations. If someone accidentally picked it up, he would certainly appreciate it returned as it's a valuable resource for him.



C V HORTICULTURAL PLANT SALE
SAT. APRIL 27th - 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Florence Filberg Centre

NIRS Annual Rhodo Sale & Show
Sun. May 5th - 9 AM - 1PM
Komox Band Hall
Dyke Road(Comox Rd.)

NIRS Annual Mother's Day Garden Tour
Sun. May 12th - 10 AM - 4 PM

Glacier Grannies Plant Sale
Sat. May 25th - 10 AM - 2 PM.
Comox United Church
Beach RD., Comox
FMI - Jan Harding –

C V HORTICULTURAL Annual Gardens In Bloom
Sat. June 22 & Sun. June 23 - 10Am. - 4PM.

MARCH 2013 GOODIE GALS:

Fran Thornton Chris Aldred
Judi Murakami Cathy Storey



MARCH:

As in the Roman year, so in the English ecclesiastical calendar used until 1752, this was the first month, and the legal year commenced on the 25th of March. Scotland changed the first month to January in 1599. This month was called Martius by the Romans, from the god Mars, and it received the name 'Hlyd Monath', ie 'loud' or 'stormy month' from the Anglo-Saxons.

The stormy March is come at last
With wind, and cloud, and changing skies;
I hear the rushing of the blast
That through the snowy valley flies.

Ah! Passing few are they who speak
Wildly stormy month in praise of thee;
Yet though thy winds are loud and bleak
Thou art a welcome month to me.

For thou, to northern lands again
The glad and glorious sun dost bring
And thou hast joined the gentle train,
And wear'st the gentle name of Spring
And in thy reign of blast and storm
Smiles many a long, bright summer day
When the changed winds are soft and warm
And heaven puts on the blue of May

..... Bryant





Chocolate Flour-Less Cake

(Judi Murakami)

Ingredients:

- 16 oz. chocolate chips or pieces of chocolate bar
- 1 C light brown sugar, packed
- 1/2 C white sugar
- 3/4 C very hot strong coffee (or use espresso powder in very hot water)
- 1 C unsalted butter, room temperature, cut into pieces
- 2 Tbsp unsweetened cocoa powder
- 8 large eggs, at room temperature
- 1 Tbsp vanilla

Instructions:

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Prepare a 10-Cup Spring form pan by lining the bottom with buttered parchment. Put the chocolate and sugar into the food processor. Pulse until turns an even sandy grain. Pour the hot water or coffee slowly into the feed tube, pulse again. Pulse until the chocolate is melted. Magic! Add the butter pieces and the cocoa powder, and pulse to combine. Add the eggs and vanilla, and process till smooth. The batter will be liquid and creamy.

Pour the batter into the lined Spring form pan. Wrap the outside of the whole pan with a big piece of foil. Bake at 350° F in the center of the oven, till puffed and cracked and lovely - about 55 to 65 minutes.

Place the cake pan on a wire rack to cool. The cake will deflate. Don't worry! When cooled a bit, press down on it gently with a spatula to make it even, if you wish.

When the cake is completely cooled, cover, and chill it for at least three hours until serving. Overnight is even better.

Serve thin slices with drizzled chocolate sauce or a sprinkle of sifted powdered sugar. Garnish with a fresh berries or mint leaves.

Yield: 12 to 15 slices

Three Bears Blueberry Cake

(Isabel Petch)

Bowl 1 – small (streusel)

- 1/2 C brown sugar
- 1 Tbsp butter
- Mix until crumbly.
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- chopped pecans (optional)

Bowl 2 – medium

- 1 C flour
- 1 1/2 C wholewheat flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- dash of salt

Bowl 3 – large

- 2 eggs
- 1/2 C oil or melted butter
- 1 1/2 C buttermilk or plain yogurt
- 1 C brown sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla
- Mix together.

Combine bowl 2 into bowl 3 and top with 2 Cups of blueberries and rind of 1 orange. Mix lightly. Pour into angel food pan. Top with streusel from bowl 1. Bake at 350°F for 50 minutes. Do not thaw the frozen blueberries if using.

Recipe will also make 12 large muffins.



Corn Meal Muffins

(Isabel Petch)

Bowl 1

- 1 1/2 C flour
- 1/4 C sugar
- 1/2 tsp salt
- Mix together
- 1 C cornmeal
- 2 Tbsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp dry mustard powder

Bowl 2

- 1/4 C vegetable oil or melted butter
- 1 egg
- dash of hot sauce
- 1 1/3 C milk

Mix together

Mix bowls 1 and 2 until just mixed. Pour into 12 well oiled muffin Cups. Bake at 400°F for 15 minutes. Add grated cheese if desired. These are best hot or reheated, not cold!

