



The Rhodoteller

www.nirs.rhodos.ca *Happy New Year*



2014

January

North Island Rhododendron Society

2013/2014 Executive

President

Paul Wurz287-4301

Vice-President

Jake Ellis337-8516

Past President/Director:

Diana Scott338-0208

Secretary

Adrienne McNabb898-8712

Treasurer

Dave Godfrey335-0717

Director: Ways & Means

Dick Bonney339-7594

Director: Membership

Brian Staton337-5228

Director: Revenue Table

Chris Aldred335-3221

Newsletter

Noni Godfrey335-0717

..... nonigod@shaw.ca

Social Committee:

Claudia Ellis337-8516

Publicity:

Helena Stewart.....339-1733

Sunshine Lady:

Nancy Munro334-3719

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



Coming Events

7th Jan 2014 - Executive Meeting 2:00 pm

The executive meeting will be held at the home Chris and Phil Aldred, 4769 Kilmarnock Drive, Courtenay, B.C.

Drive south on the old Island Highway, turn left onto Sprindrift Road (about 1 km South of the Kingfisher). Right onto Kilmarnock, Chris is on the right hand side, way down close to Argyle Road.

14th Jan 2014 - Regular Monthly Meeting

A PowerPoint Presentation of.... "NIRS Gardens Throughout the Seasons"

Beautiful gardens... Butchart? Van Dusen? Yes – but also here in our own neighbourhood. It may be a few months before we are able to venture into our yards with friends in tow, admiring the tiny shoots coming up and thinking of the glorious seasons to come. So January is an ideal month to look back at the year and the many beautiful gardens that our members nurture and share with each other. This will be our own little virtual 'Garden Tour' – the first Tour of the Season! We are delighted to welcome Diana Scott who has put together a selection of wonderful photos sent in by NIRS members. This will be an evening to relax and enjoy glimpses of our beloved gardens throughout the seasons, whetting our appetite for the coming year!

Presidents' View

...by Paul Wurz

It seems 2013 has flown by and our Rhododendron Society has had another busy, productive, and rewarding year. Plant sales, garden tours and social activities were all very successful, with lots of fun, and most importantly our membership continued to climb. Once again the Christmas party was enjoyed by all, and it was an excellent opportunity to wish everyone season's greetings. We hope all our members had a wonderful, relaxing holiday.

On the rhododendron scene, the weather over the past year was excellent with very few extremes that were detrimental to our plants. Last winter was mild with little snow, moderate temperatures and no southeasters. Our spring and summer certainly were conducive to "good gardening" with the exception of a rather moist cool spring. And if we had the opportunity to control our summer to suit our rhododendrons, we probably would have limited some of that hot sun that tended to cause much more leaf burning than usual.

In talking with other rhododendron gardeners, there seemed to be a bit more mildew this past year, probably weather related. The resiliency of the rhododendron has certainly been evident in our garden this winter with two short term weather patterns that could have been devastating to many other plants. Three or four days of weather where the thermometer dropped to -10 C causing the leaves to hang and roll up pathetically. But with the first sign of the mercury rising above zero, they responded magnificently and within hours were restored to their previous splendor! I am confident I could use the rhododendron leaf as a thermometer!

The second weather concern was fairly recent when, here in Campbell River, we were blessed with a good foot of wet snow just several days before Christmas. (You Comox Valley gardeners were lucky to only get 3 to 4 inches.) Those 4 to 5 foot plants were suddenly dwarfed to "foot size"! Then after a good week, they are finally bouncing back to their original size. On a recent walk through the garden, I have been lucky not to have found a single broken branch!

So all is well in Rhodoland, and we are looking for a gentle, pleasant January and February. Hope to see many of you at the January meeting. Happy New Year from Paul & Lynn!

Ring in the
NEW YEAR!

Raffle Rhodos

...by Dick Bonney

Our monthly raffle rhodo is 'Holden' (Cunningham's White x red catawbiense seedling) hybridized by A.M. Shammarello from Euclid, Ohio (1958). Compact growth to only 5 feet in 10 years, this rhodo will have an open upright form with glossy, slightly twisted dark green foliage. The flowers are stunning - large red buds that open rosy red and mature to rosy pink with green and red spots held in a conical truss. An added bonus - these flowers are lightly scented! An early - midseason bloomer, this rhodo is vigorous, heat tolerant, and hardy to -15F.



For a change, our second raffle prize in January will be for one of the colourful North Island Rhododendron Society logo embroidered Carry-Tote bags.

Wishing you a year where:
Dreams become a reality,
Success becomes routine,
And Happiness a habit.



MEMBER'S NOTES

...by Dave Godfrey

I know I've said it before, and I'll say it again... "Wow, wasn't that a party?" With 68 members and guests in attendance, we had a packed house for our annual Christmas party on December 10th.

In addition to welcoming associate members *Art & Susan Lightburn* from the Nanaimo chapter and District Director *Ken & Madeleine Webb* from Victoria, we also welcomed *Carolyn & Harris Chester* who became our newest members that evening.

The team of *Barb Staton, Nadine Boudreau, Lois Clyde* and *Claudia Ellis* did a terrific job of organizing the party, gifts, centerpieces, and dinner. Claudia cooked the hams and *Noni Godfrey* with the help of *Ruth Fowler*, prepared the "cider station" (22 liters consumed). Other executive members set up the tables and chairs and decorated the hall to give it a festive atmosphere. All was ready in record time... we must know what we're doing by now! And with seasonal music playing, members began to arrive shortly after 5 PM.



Another before dinner tradition is the guessing games. *Corrine Innes* had jars filled with jelly beans and mini M&Ms. Most in attendance gave it their best guess, and the eventual winners, with the closest guess, were *Gloria Guyader* (434 - jelly beans) and *Christine Aldred* (1467 - mini M&M's). Apparently it took Corrine over an hour to count the mini M&Ms, so I think we may be seeing chocolate covered raisings next year, ha!



Dinner was served at 6 pm, with President Paul's table leading the way. A delicious assortment of appetizers, salads and desserts were enjoyed by all who attended, even *Shane Tillapaugh*, who arrived just in time to join the end of the line. There was no shortage of desserts, most people were seen enjoying 3 or 4 tasty treats. Everyone appeared to be sufficiently stuffed, which is thanks to all the members who brought contributions to the festive feast. Thank you one and all.

Prior to the gift draws, *President Paul Wurz* announced a special presentation of a Bronze Medal award to a very surprised, but deserving, *Nadine Boudreau*. Nadine has served on the executive since 2009 as a director and fundraising chair. She has contributed greatly to the success of our sales and garden tours; as well, she has been an active member of our social and work events. As President Paul said, "*Nadine has been a tremendous asset to our club. For her many efforts on behalf of our chapter, we congratulate Nadine on being awarded the ARS Bronze Medal.*"

During the gift draws, *Shane Tillapaugh* found the surprise card attached to his gift. He is now the proud keeper of "Miss Piggy". Last year's caregiver, *Jill Gould*, gave "Miss Piggy" a new look prior to returning her to the party. Congratulations Shane, and remember the rules state that she must be prominently displayed in your garden all year. There are spies who will be discreetly checking up on her from time to time!



Congratulations to *Lily Vanderhorst* and *Sheila Medori*, winners of the beautiful wreath door prizes. All of the gorgeous centerpieces and the two wreaths were masterfully made by *Lois Clyde* and *Claudia Ellis*. The centerpieces were awarded as gifts during the draws.

Following the draws, and while setting up for the Trivia Game, *District Director Ken Webb* took the opportunity to inform members that preparations are well underway for the "2015 ARS National Convention" hosted by the District.



Each island chapter will be taking an active role in the organizing and running of the Convention to be held from May 6th to 10th, 2015 at the Winspear Community Centre in Sidney, BC. A short introductory YouTube video was then played to showcase all that the Convention will have to offer. For those members not in attendance, this video can be accessed on-line at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=cQOOM8oEMcY

For this year's Trivia Game, there were 8 teams with 7 or 8 members ready to take up the challenge. Host *Dave Godfrey*, with technical assistance from *Noni Godfrey*, prepared another fun filled set of questions in the various categories ranging from "Christmas" to "Rhodos." After all 30 questions were answered and marked, the winning team with the unlikely name of "Table #1" was declared the winners, having 28 of a possible 38 points. Congratulations to the team members *Art Lightburn, Jill Gould, Pauline Thompson, Brian Storey, Cathy Storey, Rob McNabb, Helena Stewart* and *Carolyn Chester*.

(Ed. Note: Photos of the party can now be viewed on our club's website.)

Once again, *Margaret Griffith-Cochrane* thanks all members who helped support our Christmas Hamper project this year. There were sufficient donations of cash and gift items to ensure a happy Christmas Day for our assigned family of four.

On January 14th our meetings will resume for the New Year with a collection of wonderful photos from member's gardens in a colourful presentation compiled by *Diana Scott*. A look back at "Gardens through the Seasons" will reflect changes throughout the year in various member gardens. Then on February 11th, it will be our ever popular "Garden Panel" program moderated by *Pauline Thompson*. This year there will be a variation from previous years with *Dany Fortin* and *Shane Tillapaugh* giving a presentation of various aspects of gardening from their perspectives as horticulturalist. Following their presentations, there will be

an opportunity to answer questions which members may wish discussed. Be sure to mark your calendars for these two exciting meetings.

A reminder that, if you are making a purchase of anything online through Amazon.ca or other online merchants, please consider going through the online ARS store. There is no additional charge to members, but using this route will provide a dividend to the ARS; thereby helping to protect our dues from future increases. There is a direct link to the ARS Store on our website under "Links".

In closing, here is a special message received from *Ken Webb*, our District 1 Director:

"Please convey my extra appreciation to everyone who made it to more than their own chapter's Christmas Party. I'm sure many made it to both parties on the mainland and also around Nanaimo and MARS. But the prize goes to Art & Susan Lightburn for making it to all 5 island Christmas Parties. Madeleine & I made it to 3 out of the 5, but in the end had to cancel out of the Nanaimo one due to illness. Liz and Al Murray from Cowichan were noticed at VicRS and Glen Jamieson was seen at Cowichan. A good time was had by all I'm sure. And once again, I managed to miss the PIG from NIRS! Merry Christmas to all" from Madeleine & Ken Webb.

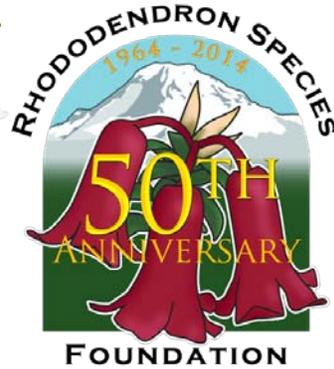
ARS BRONZE MEDAL AWARD



Presented to Nadine Boudreau

At the North Island chapter's annual Christmas party on December 10th, a special presentation was made to a very deserving Nadine Boudreau. In making the presentation, President Paul Wurz summed up Nadine's contributions as follows:

"It is with great pleasure that we present the American Rhododendron Society Bronze Medal to Nadine Boudreau. The ARS Bronze Medal is awarded for outstanding contributions to a chapter and is the highest commendation awarded by a local chapter in the society. Nadine has served on the executive since 2009, as a Director and Fundraising Chairperson. Nadine's interest in rhododendrons has augmented her extensive knowledge of plants and experience in garden design. Nadine has written articles for our newsletter on Rhododendrons, companion plants and club outings. In addition to organizing our prize draws at meetings and bus tours, Nadine has played a significant role as chair of our annual Rhododendron Sale, plus both organized and assisted with the fundraising Garden Tours. An active participant at both our social and work events, Nadine has been a tremendous asset to our club. For her many efforts on behalf our chapter, we congratulate Nadine on being awarded the ARS Bronze Medal."



The 50th Anniversary of the Rhododendron Species Foundation will be celebrated with a special event on April 25th and 26th of 2014. This is an event that any Rhodo enthusiast will not want to miss. Nor, in fact,

should any serious gardener or horticulturist. From special internationally-acclaimed speakers to in-depth tours of the RSBG and the opportunity to talk with like-minded horticultural folks, this celebration will be memorable.

While events get underway on Friday, April 25, you will probably want to arrive the evening of April 24th, both to be present at the welcoming reception that evening and to be on time when events begin the following morning. Excellent arrangements have been made with the Hampton Inn and Suites, where the hospitality will be most gracious.

There will be an emphasis on informal time and tours in the RSBG and its facilities at the height of the rhododendron species flowering season, meeting casually with staff and other delegates in what has become over the last several years an internationally renowned botanical garden, arguably containing the most comprehensive collection of natural rhododendron species in the world. Saturday will also mark the grand opening of the Hilltop Artists Glass Art Exhibit in the RSBG's Rutherford Conservatory.

There will be a reception and banquet on Saturday evening with speakers David Chamberlain, Research Associate at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Edinburgh, and Harold Greer, proprietor of the famous Greer Gardens nursery in Oregon. In addition, there will be presentations by Douglas Justice and Steve Hootman.

Registration fee is US\$65 before or US\$75 after February 1st. (meal costs extra.) Everyone welcome! For additional details and a registration form check the RSBG website link on our North Island Rhododendron Society website's "Links" page.



Member Profile
Judi Murakami & Dale Patterson



...by Helena Stewart

Judi and Dale make no bones about it—when they stumbled on NIRS a few years ago, they didn't know very much about rhodos aside from the fact that they had a few overgrown plants in the front yard of their Courtenay home. "We heard about the rhodo club meeting and went to see if they would tell me how to keep the rhodos alive," says Judi. What kept the pair returning to the club and becoming members was (as they say in unison): "It was such a friendly group."

And knowledgeable too. "I found that in the club there wasn't a person who doesn't appreciate all it takes to grow healthy rhodos," says Dale.

Originally from Toronto, Judi met Dale while they were both crewing for Dragon Boat races in Victoria. With a background in social work, Judi worked in a range of related social work jobs including a stint as a safety advisor for Vancouver Island Health Authority. Raised in Victoria, Dale was practically born with a hammer in his hands. From the time he was young he worked with his father learning techniques and skills as a wood worker. Need something built? Dale's your man!

In his Courtenay workshop today, Dale creates a wide range of wood pieces from one-of-a-kind picture frames to entire kitchens. In fact, it was this workshop that brought Judi and Dale to the Comox Valley. With city prices what they are, Judi says "Dale wanted a two-car garage and I figured it would take me until I was 80 to buy that in Victoria."

In his workshop he caresses a piece of maple burl but is still unsure what he'll make with it. For someone who can see the beauty in wood, sometimes the wood itself dictates what it eventually becomes. In their neighbourhood, Dale is known as "the Wizard"—someone who can fix anything or build anything, a perfectionist. Judi, meanwhile, instead of retiring has become one of Shaw TV's more active

freelance producers pulling together everything from last year's "spot" on the NIRS garden tour and sale to small features on YANA, Tree Island Yogurt, Santa's Workshop, Empire Days Parade in Cumberland, the 100th Anniversary for St. Joe's and lots more. Somewhere she also finds time to paint and one of the first paintings she sold was of a rhodo. (Check with Judi on the January show in which she will have some of her paintings.)



Much of the couple's gardening filters down to "the Wizard" who has planted 2500 bulbs in front of their house on 19th Street and he is always scrutinizing and planning his limited planting space so he can add select species. "We're learning a lot thanks to the Club—I now know what to put where," say Dale. He has two tender rhodos in his garage waiting spring planting—one is "Chemainus," a gift to Judi from Frank Fujioka. This reddish hot pink beauty has beautiful foliage with a brown indumentum. "When we were down in Whitby with the Club I got to see his garden," says Judi. Since she and Frank share a Japanese heritage, they spent time sharing stories and then, lo and behold, Chemainus turned up as a gift from Frank.

TiBbits...

12TH ANNUAL QUALICUM BEACH SEEDY SATURDAY

Saturday, 1st February 2014 - 10:00 am – 3:30 pm
Qualicum Beach Civic Centre,
747 Jones St., Qualicum Beach, B.C.

Seed Swap: *Lions' Room*

Speakers: *Windsor Room*

Farmer's Market: *Main Stage*

Speakers:

KATHLEEN MILLAR 10:30-11:45 a.m.

"The Elephant on your Dinner Table; why organic doesn't always mean nutritious"

ARZEENA HAMIR Noon -1:15 p.m.

"GMO's 101"

KATHY CLAXTON, 1:30-2:45 p.m.

"The Life & Times of the Tomato; from seed to seed saving"

Other Activities: 70+ Vendors, Farmer's Market, Seed Swap, Milner Garden's "Shoots With Roots" children's program, Master Gardeners, Seedy Café, Door Prizes, and Raffle.

Raffle prizes: Art Glass Vase donated by Ted Jolda, value \$200.00

Gift Certificate donated by Qualicum Foods, value \$200.00

Wheelbarrow supplied by Dolly's Home Hardware, value \$89.99

Hand Tool Set & Kneeler donated by Lee Valley Tools Ltd., value \$71.00

Cost: Admission by Donation

Other: ATM on-site

Town of Qualicum Beach truck in parking lot to collect garden chemicals

Contact: Sandy Glazier, Publicity Coordinator
250-752-9650 sandyglazss@hotmail.com

Website: www.qbseedysaturday.com



The Garden of Your Daily Living:

PLANT THREE ROWS OF PEAS:



1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of soul



PLANT FOUR ROWS OF SQUASH:



1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF LETTUCE:



1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another



NO GARDEN IS WITHOUT TURNIPS:



1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another

TO CONCLUDE OUR GARDEN WE MUST HAVE THYME:



1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends



Water freely with patience and cultivate with love. There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow!

January Goodies

Lynn Wurz - Gwen Wright

Lynn Gray - Maureen Denny



Until Next Month
Noni



Sidney, BC, Canada

May 6 – 10, 2015



'Champagne Lace', the official convention rhododendron is a magnificent hybrid donated by Jim Barlup.



Location: Mary Winspear

Come join us at the convenient Mary Winspear Community Centre, 2243 Beacon Ave. in spectacular Sidney-by-the-Sea, BC, Canada.

Keynote Speakers

Our world-class line-up of speakers:

Jim Barlup, Washington State

Marc Colombel, France

Kennth Cox, Scotland

Harold Greer, Oregon

Guan Kaiyun, China

Lionel de Rothschild, England

Hartwig Schepker, Germany

Check website, www.2015rhodo.ca for updates.

Garden Tours

Large selection of the finest rhododendron gardens in the Greater Victoria area.

Accommodation

Get list of approved accommodations at website.

Things to Do

Website has links to the vast array of activities in the Greater Victoria area.

