



The Rhodoteller

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JUNE

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 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

3rd June 2014-Executive Meeting 2:00 pm

The executive meeting will be held at the home of Secretary Adrienne McNabb, 14 Little Bear Way, Royston. At the traffic light in Royston turn up Royston Road towards Cumberland. Turn right just over the railway tracks, (Livingston Rd) go past the school and the road curves to the left. Take the first left out of the curve onto Little Bear Way. Adrienne's house is at the end of the Cul de Sac.

14th June 2014-Wrap Up Picnic Pot Luck



Picnic Protocols

The season's finale beckons! This year the gathering will be held in the garden of Roberts and Adela Smith.. The address is: 1717 Glen Urquhart Drive in Courtenay. Go along Back Road to 10th Turn left, up the hill. The first right off 10th is Glen Urquhart Drive. All the way to the end of the road, through the nature park. (Bob says "lots of parking, but carpool whenever possible, and just ignore any signs that say ... 'Do not enter'.")

Attendees to this year's gala can once again participate in the infamous "Bean Bag Toss Game". New members will be welcomed, old friends embraced - warmly, in both cases. Do wear your name badges. Festive dress would be highly desirable...but any old thing will do!

Members are requested to bring one or more dishes...each suitable for serving several people...of tantalizing appetizers, seductive savories, luxurious breads, crispy salads, succulent fruits, or decadent desserts.

The annual phenomenon of a perfect balance of dishes for all tastes will again be manifest. The picnic committee has requested that members bring their own plates, knives, forks, spoons, etc or whatever is needed to partake of the food. And, your best outside mugs and drinking vessels for the communal tea and coffee, (or your own harmless or otherwise beverages) and please no disposable dishes or cutlery!

4:00 PM....Please bring your lawnchairs!



Presidents View



...by Paul Wurz

Once again, welcome to a few things that are going on in the rhodo world. As most of you are probably experiencing, a large percentage of our rhododendron trusses are nearing the last of a fantastic bloom. Many of our guests and friends often ask if we “dead head” all of our rhodos. It often seems like a daunting task, but my first reply is: “I grew up on a 20 acre orchard in the Similkameen Valley, and we spent many, many hours thinning the fruit during much of May & June – this constituted starting at 7:00 in the morning and finishing around 6:00 pm each day. Picking off spent trusses on a mere 2 acres or so seems relatively easy.”

The next question usually is: “Is it necessary to pick off the spent flowers?” I think any individual can justify ‘doing or not doing it’ depending on whether they want to do it or not. I am a firm believer in getting rid of the old flowers. My main reason is the aesthetics of making your garden look better, and having a nice looking garden is one of our primary goals. Also, I find it very therapeutic, walking through the garden in early morning or evening casually participating in a “mindless” activity, listening to the birds and frogs can be enjoyable.

When I start “dead heading” I usually start with young plants, as we do not want all of the energy going into the development of seeds as opposed to new plant growth. Second priority is those plants that usually display excellent new growth, that in many cases look almost as attractive as the flowers. This group of plants are usually the R. yakushmanum and R. bureavii species and their hybrids. My “Tara-Too” rhodo and Frank Fujioka’s “Chemainus” are both prime examples of wonderful new growth.

Another priority in “dead heading” is attacking those plants that look unusually ugly as they are reluctant to shed their blossoms gracefully; while others you can hardly notice the spent flowers. If you ever have offers to help you pick off the flowers you can always save those sticky ones for them! If you end up doing them yourself, it is best to use a fine gardening glove lubricated by a bit of

vegetable or canola oil – this also helps in cleaning off sticky fingers. Enough on this mundane topic!

As mentioned many times over the years, the most critical time in the survival of young plants is providing enough drainage and water when planting. Hopefully, many of you have increased your inventory of rhododendrons. Also, we have to be aware of those plants that are sheltered under big trees and seldom get the benefit of our natural irrigation.

As most of you are aware, my term on the executive is coming to an end. I would like to thank all of those that have supported my “Presidency” over the last two years. Our executive has always been extremely hard working and has made delegation of jobs within the organization an easy task. I would like to thank the retiring Directors from the executive which includes: Brian Staton, Diana Scott, Chris Aldred and Nadine Boudreau. I would also like to welcome new Directors Fran Thornton, Ruth Fowler, Jill Gould, and Garth Wedemire. It is always invigorating to have this fresh new blood with new ideas join the board.

There are also a few other thank-yous in order, particularly to Keith and Becci Russell for hosting the AGM in their spectacular garden, and to Adela & Robert Smith for hosting the upcoming potluck picnic in June. Also, for the many members that have opened up their gardens to other members of the club – there are still a few more gardens coming up, so if you have time you should attend. Again, a special thank-you to Jake Ellis for taking on the Presidency for the coming term – good luck Jake!

Although I will not be a Director, I will continue with a few old chores. Along with President Jake, I will continue to be a representative on the Milner Species Advisory committee; I will continue representing NIRS on the 2015 ARS Convention planning committee and I’ll continue to be on the ARS Endowment Fund committee. I will also be taking on the task of the Program coordinator for the coming year and I welcome any feedback and suggestions from members.

Lynn and I are looking forward to seeing many of you at the “Potluck Picnic” at the Smiths’ on June 14th. All the very best for an enjoyable summer from your retiring Prez!

North Island Rhododendron Society Executive and Committee Chairs

2014 - 2015

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:

President: Jake Ellis;
Vice Pres: Vacant
Secretary: Adrienne McNabb;
Treasurer: Dave Godfrey
Past President: Paul Wurz

DIRECTORS:

Dick Bonney, Jill Gould, Fran Thornton,
Ruth Fowler, Garth Wedemire

COMMITTEES:

FUNDRAISING

Ways and Means/Raffle: Dick Bonney
Revenue Table: Fran Thornton, Ann
Chevrier
Membership: Jill Gould
Rhodo Sale: Nadine Boudreau, Jake Ellis
Garden Tour: Diana Scott, Adrienne
McNabb

COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletter: Noni Godfrey
Sunshine: Nancy Munro
Webmaster: Dave Godfrey
Publicity: Helena Stewart
Historian: Lois Clyde

SOCIAL AND EVENTS

Meeting Refreshments: Claudia Ellis
Rhodo Garden: Ross Munro
Facilities: Don Law
Christmas Party: TBA
Hamper: Margaret Griffith-Cochrane

EDUCATION

Library: Ruth Fowler
Program: Paul Wurz

A Note from Diana Garden Tour Coordinator and Volunteer Coordinator

19th Annual Mother's Day Tour 11th May 2014

What fabulous weather we had for the 'NIRS 19th Annual Mother's Day Garden Tour'! It was such a pleasure to watch everyone oohing and ahing as people wandered through these amazing gardens. We heard so many appreciative comments and it was very evident that the 'Tour-ists' were having an absolutely wonderful

day. We are so grateful that our Garden Hosts allowed their private bit of paradise to be on the Tour this year. We send that special 'Thank You' to Becci and Keith Russell, Antje and Peter Guertler, Dick Bonney, Bob and Adela Smith (and Charlie!), Wilf and Gail Abel, and Robert Argall. Our Garden Sitters did a great job once again welcoming the public into our Host Gardens, and our Vendors (Art Knapp's Plantland, Blue Heron Books, Anderton Gardens, and Home and Garden Gate) did a booming (blooming??) business for us. Helena Stewart's promotion in the media, with Judi Murakami's TV assistance definitely got the word out, and Dave and Noni Godfrey did a great job once again with poster and ticket production and signage. Thank you to all who worked both out front and behind the scenes to make this year's fundraising garden tour such a success! Bravo to all!.....Your Garden Tour Committee
Diana Scott, Adrienne McNabb, and Margaret Griffith-Cochrane



...by Dave Godfrey

"May is Rhododendron Month" and a busy month it has been! We started the month with twelve NIRS members taking a road trip to visit our friends on Whidbey Island. Leaving early on Tuesday morning (April 29th), we had three glorious days visiting some wonderful gardens, returning on Thursday, May 1st. (More info in a separate article by Helena Stewart in this newsletter.)

No sooner were we home, then it was time for our annual Rhodo Sale & Show on Sunday, May 4th. Unfortunately, the morning started off with rain and showers, so the attendance and income was down somewhat from previous years. This certainly didn't dampen the spirits of the many volunteer members who came to the hall to help. What helped our bottom line this year was the generous donation of all monies raised from their sales by **Bob & Adela Smith** towards the NIRS income. Thank you Roberts and Adela for your great generosity!

As organizer **Diana Scott** says: "Thank you once again to all those who turned out to support the club by volunteering at the Plant Sale. In addition to our

'regular' helpers we were delighted with the number of new members who volunteered this year. Folks jumped right in and in no time looked like they'd been doing it for years! Thank you to everyone who took part in this significant fundraiser with special thanks to **Nadine Boudreau** and **Jake Ellis** for coordinating the event!"

At our executive meeting on Tuesday, May 6th, discussion focused on a request to financially support the development of a new Species Garden at the Milner Gardens in Qualicum. A motion was proposed by **Brian Staton** to bring the matter to a vote by our membership at the AGM. Also being considered by the executive is the need for an increase in our NIRS membership dues. The current annual \$35 rate has been in place for several decades and it barely covers the fees payable in US dollars to the ARS. This matter will be discussed further at the June executive meeting and a decision will be announced in September in time for the renewal of our 2015 memberships.

A morning work party was called on Thursday, May 8th, to prepare the CV Rhododendron Garden for the Mother's Day tour. Although the weather was wet during the clean-up, Garden Director **Ross Munro** was pleased with the work performed by the 6 members who braved the elements to attend. Some weeds were pulled and the paths were raked in preparation for the Sunday tour. As Ross says, another work party will need to be called in the coming weeks to help with the dead-heading and weed pulling. (See photos on our website)

On Sunday May 11th, the sun was shining and the tickets were selling like hotcakes for our 19th Annual Mother's Day Garden Tour. Several ticket vendors called twice for more tickets, and in total more than 300 were sold. This kept organizer **Adrienne McNabb** run off her feet; but happy to do so! At the end of the day, more than 350 visitors took in most of the six gorgeous gardens on the tour this year. It certainly helps when the sun is shining bright. (See details in a separate article submitted by the organizing committee.)

Congratulations to **Melissa McIntosh** of Comox as the winner of the draw for the rhododendron 'Fire Rim' at our Sale & Show on May 4th. For the People's Choice awards, of the 48 ballots cast, the number one choice was shared by 'Chorus Line' and 'President

Roosevelt' both with 5 votes each. Second place was shared by 'Canadian Sunset' and 'Something Special' each receiving 4 votes. In third place was 'Paprika Spice' with 3 votes.



Congratulations also go to **Angela Robert** of Courtenay, winner of the draw for the rhododendron 'Honey Butter' at our annual Mother's Day Garden Tour.

Two days after the tour came our Annual General Meeting at the garden of **Becci & Keith Russell**. For those members who were unable to visit the Russell's garden on the tour, the gates were open early to give an opportunity for some to have a look around this fabulous property. It is not hard to see that it takes a labour of love to maintain such beauty.

Members began to arrive shortly after 6 pm with lawn chairs in hand. By the start of the meeting at 7:30 pm, there were 48 members assembled to hear reports from the various committee chairs throughout the year. Of special importance on the agenda was discussion around the motion on Milner Gardens. Once all had an opportunity to ask questions and voice their opinions, a vote was called which was passed with only three members opposed. More details of the plans and progress reports on the development of the Species Garden will be forthcoming from our NIRS representative on the Advisory Committee, **Paul Wurz**.

Several members have graciously opened their gardens this year for fellow NIRS members to enjoy.

Already we have enjoyed the gardens of *Robert Argall, Barb & Brian Staton, Wolfgang & Wilma Hoefgen, Ann Chevrier* and *Lynn & Paul Wurz*. Still to come on June 7th is the garden of *Mo & Mike Shipton*. If there are any other members who wish to have their gardens open to other NIRS members, please contact our Communications Director *Noni Godfrey* and she will notify other club members.

Now that the bloom is fading on most rhododendrons, it will be time for a few 'dead heading' work parties at the CVRG. Garden Director *Ross Munro* will be calling for help in the coming weeks, and it is always appreciated if more than the usual suspects attend. As mentioned previously, for newer members in particular, it is an ideal opportunity to learn more about the care of rhododendrons, plus an opportunity to socialize and get to know each other better. Watch your emails for calls to help!

As some of you already know, *The Plant Collector* nursery on Waveland Rd. is going out of business. Unfortunately, this is one of the nurseries that have offered NIRS members purchasing discounts (not the reason for their closing out, by the way!) If any members know of other garden related businesses that might offer our members a discount, please notify me or any member of the executive, and we will add them to our list.

Now that warmer weather is upon us, it is time once again to enjoy one final event for the term - our wrap up, potluck picnic. As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of our chapter's charter this year, we are delighted that *Adela & Bob Smith* have once again offered the use of their beautiful garden and home as our venue. No doubt our social chair *Claudia Ellis* will be seeking the assistance of some members to organize the many delicious contributions that will be offered for the meal. So check your emails on a regular basis!

Be sure to bring along your lawn chairs, food items, beverages and cutlery to enjoy another wonderful Saturday afternoon (June 14th) in a gorgeous park-like setting. As usual, we will also have a few games to play for entertainment, so be sure to dress casually. Looking forward to seeing many of you there!

Enjoy your summer season and as the old song says "See you in September!"

2015 Sidney ARS Convention Photo Contest

The contest is open only to ARS members 'in good standing' as of the contest closing date that attend the Spring 2015 ARS Convention. Judges and their immediate family (spouse, parents, siblings and children) and household members are not eligible.

All contestants fully and unconditionally agree to and accept the Official Rules and the decisions of the judges, which are final and binding in all matters related to the contest. The conference organizers have the right to publish runner up and winning photos.

Official Rules: All photos submitted must be digital and have been taken between April 15 2015 —April 15, 2015. All entries should prominently feature either rhododendrons, azaleas and/or Vireyas in the composition.

Competition categories:

1. Macro/Close Up of a portion of a stem, leaf or flower.
2. Foliage (no flowers)
3. Single flower or truss.
4. Single plant, Group of plants or Vistas, either in gardens or in the wild.
5. Other, for creative or artistic effects of any kind that involves these plants. This could involve the use of software products like Photoshop.
6. Peoples' choice for best of show.

Photo Guidelines:

1. The Photo must be in .jpg, .jpeg, or gif format.
2. Images submitted should be sent by email and be of as large a size as possible. To allow full screen projection, they should be at least 1024 to 1280 pixels in length and 480 to 768 in width, which would correspond to a dpi of at least 300 for a 3 x 5 inch (7.6 x 12.7 cm) photo.
3. Cropping of digital images and minor adjustments to exposure and color balance is permitted for entries in all categories. Advanced image editing features available in software products like Photoshop should not be used except for entries in category five.
4. The Photo caption and/or description must not exceed 200 characters in length. Provision of some details about the camera and settings for each entry is desirable, and for submissions in category 5, include a brief explanation of how the image was created.
5. The photo cannot have been submitted previously in an ARS contest (chapter contest submissions are acceptable).
6. Limit of two entries per category by any contestant.

Please email entries by midnight PST, April 26, 2015, to Glen Jamieson at ars.editor@gmail.com with the subject line stating "Sidney Convention Photo Contest Submission".

Member Profile

Ruth and Howard Fowler

...by Helena Stewart

Let me introduce to you our newest NIRS Director Ruth Fowler, and her husband, Howard

If you take your cup of tea and observe our NIRS library in action, you'll notice that it's always well organized, set up and ready for business, even before the first members file into the hall for our monthly meetings. Sitting behind the "desk," librarian Ruth Fowler exudes the same kind of quiet efficiency that reflects her well-organized library. Her reports are brief and to the point; she never toots her own horn. It's not surprising that people may not realize that there is a lot more to Ruth than meets the eye.

At an age when many of us complain about "senior moments," Ruth's memory is impressive. She manages to follow complicated Zumba steps and has been addicted to line dancing for years; a form of exercise that often involves remembering dozens of steps in correct sequence. She and husband Howard are also part of an informal card group. The games they play require a sharp eye and memory for who has what. Her tally sheet for winning has become legendary.



Visiting her home, which displays samples of the many skills she has acquired over the years, you see that Ruth does not "dabble" in anything — take her love of opera, as an example. She doesn't just tune in to the CBC occasionally for operatic background music; she attends every operatic showing at the Rialto at Saturday matinees.

She develops an interest (as she has with her many crafts) and sticks with it until she does it well. On her walls are examples of needlework, including an impressive piece of Henry VIII in a traditional pose. In

her living room, she has a bowl of intricate Japanese Temari balls, a kind of weaving reminiscent of basketry with thread. Ruth owned her own hair salon for 25 years and was once employed in dressmaking doing everything from ladies garments to lingerie and millinery.

And then there is Ruth's phenomenal skill with jigsaw puzzles. She has a gift for shape recognition and well, there's that great memory again. Says Howard: "For a while we had a jigsaw puzzle on the dining room table until it was done. People would actually bring her their puzzles to finish."

Husband Howard chimes in with other skills Ruth hasn't mentioned ("Don't forget your calligraphy!") but he's no slouch either. Ruth was born in London and Howard in Edinburgh, but the pair met in Toronto and married there. In addition to acquiring a host of trade skills, Howard was self-employed as an expert in supermarket installation which had him travelling across the country and as far as Japan. When he retired in 2008, they moved to the Comox Valley where their son, Graeme, lived and farmed.

Howard finally had the time and space to pursue the kind of interests Ruth had been chalking up. With Howard, it is building scale wooden models of everything from intricately detailed Conestoga wagons and train cars to an ancient wooden mill that actually functions. He also has an all-out running war with neighbourhood weasels that carry out commando raids on Howard's beloved chickens.

Ruth's interest in gardens goes back to the 1960s and the large lot the couple had in Mississauga, Ontario where they had a good selection of rhodos, an orchard and Howard's impressive koi pond. Sharing space with the koi were goldfish, catfish, crayfish, a sunfish and above it all a working mill complete with lights. While a member of a local horticultural club, (and this was also while she was working full-time) Ruth completed a three-year course in judging plants and flower arranging.

The pair has many more stories to tell, some of the most fascinating about Great Britain during the war. Ruth was evacuated as a small child and was sent to boarding school since her father was involved in Intelligence after the war. Howard has tales of having pilots billeted with the family. Enough stories for a book or two.

Much of their time is spent with Graeme and his family—Howard could easily apply for "Hired Hand of the Year", while Ruth with all her cooking for the family as "Grandmother of the year!" Sometimes it's hard capturing the essence of interesting people like Ruth and Howard Fowler who tend to hide their lights under a bushel. As a friend, my nosiness was tolerated. Thank you both.

Whidbey Tour

...by Helena Stewart

If we had all chipped in and sent bribes to the Weather Gods, the longstanding exchange visit to Whidbey Island couldn't have been more perfect. Each day was warm and sunny accenting the display of colour that seemed to be at its peak. In gardens such as Frank Fujioka's, it seemed as if he had tinkered with the timing and orchestrated the tableau just for us—each rhododendron perfectly complemented by Japanese maples all in dazzling South Sea Islands colours. Sort of like a painting by Paul Gauguin.

The April 29 to May 1 visit was co-ordinated in Whidbey by Frank and began with a late afternoon "meet & greet" barbecue in Lounsbury Park. The park is owned by Jack and Norma Lounsbury, a couple involved in many charitable activities as well as gardening. Jack at age 90 still does all the maintenance work in the garden. Early arrivals in our group had time to tour the gardens before tucking into barbecued hamburgers and a huge offering of salads and desserts. Members of the NIRS group included: Dave and Noni Godfrey, Barb and Brian Staton, Ross and Nancy Munro, Peter and Antje Guertler, Garth and Sue Wedemire, Judi Murakami and Helena Stewart. Some of the group opted to stay at a local inn; others opted for hosted billeting.

The next morning, after a hearty breakfast, we headed to the first garden at 9am for an hour-long tour. Five gardens were set up for us visiting Canucks—starting with this one in Freeland owned by Sharron and Craig Reide. As the group arrived for the tour, Sharron had hot drinks, juice and delicious biscuits waiting on a deck that overlooked the garden. The garden was on a sloping lot and wound around among flowers and shrubs and a staggered orchard, through cleverly constructed gates to where Craig's prized chickens and ducks lived.

From there it was on to the garden of Carla and John Stroh, (if you're a beer drinker you'll recognize the name) a couple from "back East" who came to BC because of our trees and bought themselves a property overlooking the water in what feels like a provincial park. Carla graciously guided her visitors along a multitude of paths past immense rhodos that had been in place for years. Like many "transplants" there was no doubt that Carla truly loved her garden and she seemed almost reluctant to let us go.

Lunch was laid out at the Meerkerk Garden which felt, in a way, familiar since Susie Reynolds (Meerkerk's nursery manager) was our guest speaker at NIRS last

October. The garden was founded by Ann and Max Meerkerk in the early 1960's on 13 acres, and later expanded with 40 more acres of surrounding woodlands. The Meerkerks' objective was to create a Pacific Northwest style woodland garden and they've done exactly that. In addition to hybridizing rhodos and collecting unique specimens, they have created special areas, such as

the miniature arboretum "secret garden" or—the highlight for many of us "The Valley of the Giants." This is a long cleft in the terrain along which giant-leaf



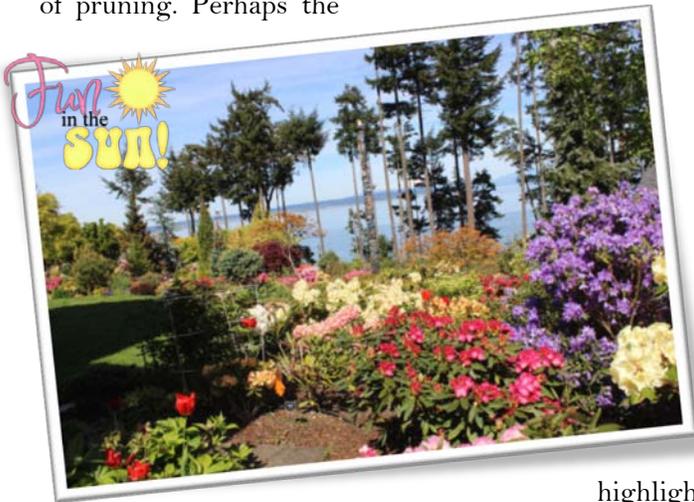
rhododendrons have been planted creating almost a Jurassic-era feel. You half expect a triceratops to stick his horn up over the shrubs. The garden is officially called "Big Leaf Valley" and it was planted to honour a supporter of Meerkerk, Carl Jacobsen.

From Meerkerk to the perfect jewel, the garden of Frank Fujioka, and a living tableau of what can be done when someone loves rhododendrons as passionately as Frank does. Each rhodo is thought out and placed in exactly the right spot complemented by either one of Frank's signature Japanese maples or other shrubs. Hybridizer Frank is well-known for his rhodos and many gardeners proudly display their Fujioka rhododendrons.



Everything in the garden seems to be perfect and it's only when you examine the shrubs carefully can you appreciate the amount of time it must take to prune each one. It's like the whole garden is an exercise in perfectly manicured bonsai.

The last garden of the afternoon belonged to David and Katie Dickerson in Coupeville and the place where Barb and Brian Staton luckily stayed. The sheer concentration of plantings and the richness of variety belies the fact that it is quite a young garden—only eight years old—and the Dickersons have done everything themselves! Many of the rhodos and azaleas are small, another nod to someone who knows the value of pruning. Perhaps the



highlight of this garden was a large totem pole carved by Katie Dickerson and other artistic flavours scattered through the garden.

From the Dickerson straight to an evening potluck laid on by the Whidbey chapter members—with lunch and all the treats at the gardens, enough food to keep us going all the way back to Canada. It was a casual evening to express our thanks and a good opportunity to meet other members and to exchange stories.

Thursday morning was an optional garden visit, but most of the group did get out to the Bacherts' Kettle Garden in Coupeville before heading back home. A "kettle garden" is one built around a geographical "kettle," i.e. a depression left in a mass of glacial drift formed by the melting of an isolated block of glacial ice. (Think British Columbia's 'Kettle Valley'.) The owner, John Bachert, is a master gardener and has applied his vast knowledge to choosing exactly the right plants to highlight the terrain and make the most of it. One of the highlights for those with enough energy left to walk down into the crevice-like terrain was a show of amazing primulas. The vegetable garden was also impressive with grapes and fruit trees and also roses.

It was a hugely successful visit and we came home with lots of ideas, new friends and more than a few extra pounds.

Betty's Memorial Garden...

...by Judi Murakami

Editors Note: During our tour of John Bachert's kettle garden he entertained us with the following short story.

John and Marjie Bachert lived in a 3 storey walkup in Oakland California where they were both teaching. One day John arrived home only to find a strange woman pushing a mattress up the stairs. He asked her who she was and why was she pushing a mattress up to their apartment? She cheerfully replied her name was Betty, a friend of Marjie's, she would be living with them for the next 3 months and made the best damn sticky buns in the world. With that last statement, John agreed that she could stay as long as she wanted. Turns out that Betty was from North Dakota, didn't have the first and last month's rent so his wife had agreed that Betty could stay with them.

Betty was not a shy person, and was quite aggressive in soliciting funds for her music education program. Each year the requests would get larger, and she even invited Wynton and Branford Marsalis for a night of jazz. Although she had no children of her own, Betty touched thousands of young students in her unflinching efforts to provide a musical education.

Although I don't have Betty's recipe for sticky buns, I thought that the UBC cinnamon bun recipe would make do. (see recipe requests)



Milner Gardens 4th Annual Fairy House Surprise 20th to 22nd June 2014

Do you believe in fairies? Did you know fairies wear Foxglove flowers as hats, gloves and petticoats? Meander the sun dappled shadows of Milner Gardens on your self-guided search for Fairy Houses that have magically appeared, in honour of International Fairy Day and Veronica Milner's belief in fairies.

Admission: adults \$11, students \$6.50, children 12 and under free accompanied by an adult.

20th to 22nd June 2014, 10am to 5pm with last entry at 4:30pm.

Fairy Tea Time 1:00 to 4:00pm served in the Queen's room and at the Milner House patio

Tea and Fairy Cupcake \$7.95 per person

For more info www.milnergardens.org or 250-752-6153



Recipe Requests

UBC Cinnamon Buns

Recipe by: UBC (University of British Columbia)

Ingredients:

3 C milk
6 Tbsp sugar
1 tsp sugar
2 envelopes active dry yeast
9 C all-purpose flour
6 Tbsp. margarine
1 Tbsp salt
 $\frac{1}{2}$ C warm water
2 large eggs

Filling:

1 C melted margarine, divided
2 Tbsp cinnamon
 $1 \frac{1}{4}$ C sugar

Instructions :

Scald milk. Stir in margarine, sugar and salt. Cool to lukewarm. Dissolve 1 tsp. sugar in the warm water. Sprinkle yeast over water mixture. Let stand in a warm place for 10 minutes. In large mixing bowl combine lukewarm milk mixture and eggs. Stir in dissolved yeast. Add 4-5 cups of the flour and beat well for 10 minutes. With a wooden spoon, gradually add enough of the remaining flour to make a soft dough. Turn out onto a lightly floured surface and knead until smooth and elastic, adding additional flour as needed. Place in well greased bowl and roll over to grease the top. Cover with a damp cloth and let rise in a warm place until dough doubles in size, about one hour. Punch down and turn out on lightly floured surface. Divide dough in half. To fill, roll out each piece of dough into a 9 X 18 inch rectangle. Sprinkle on filling (made from melted margarine, sugar and cinnamon - but keep some of the margarine aside). Roll dough up like a jelly roll, starting from the long side. Cut into 2 inch slices. Place remaining melted margarine in bottom of 16.5 X 11.5 X 2.5 inch pan. Arrange slices in pan and cover loosely with greased waxed paper. Let rise in pan until double in size, about 45 to 60 minutes. Bake in 350 degree oven for 30-40 minutes. Remove from oven and immediately invert onto serving tray. Makes 18 large cinnamon buns.

NOTE: These cinnamon buns are very popular at the UBC cafeteria. They were first made in 1954 by a Hungarian baker named Grace Hasz. The bake shop produces 120 dozen buns every day!

Smoked Salmon Quiche

(Chris Aldred.....as enjoyed at the AGM)

vegetable oil
1 medium potato, diced very small (like hash browns)
4 oz gruyere cheese, shredded..... I used some Kraft shredded Italian blend
3 oz smoked salmon... end pieces from Quality Foods.
1 green onion, chopped finely
3 or 4 eggs... depends on the size of your pastry shell.
300 ml whipping cream
salt and pepper to taste

1 pastry shell, homemade or purchased frozen

Instructions: Heat oil and fry potatoes until browned a little, turn down heat and fry a little longer, just until tender (you don't want them hard and crispy).remove and drain, or pat with paper towel. Scatter cheese in the pastry shell, followed by the potato, salmon and green onion.

Beat eggs with the cream, add salt and pepper and pour into the pastry shell. Scatter a little more cheese on top.

BAKE at 350°F for maybe 30 minutes, or until the quiche is set, and no longer wobbles in the middle.

NOTE for a nice looking surface, you can add some very thinly sliced tomatoes before the final sprinkle of cheese.



EDITOR'S NOTE

This is the last issue of The North Island Rhododendron Society's Newsletter, The Rhodoteller, until September. I'd like to take this opportunity to once again wish everyone a pleasant and fruitful summer! A little rest from the computer is in order, however there is still time to enjoy and work in the garden, and of course the odd golf game. So I will leave you once again with this last verse or garden proverb:



The kiss of the sun for pardon

The song of the birds for mirth

One is nearer God's heart in a garden

Than anywhere else on earth

