



The Rhodoteller



www.nirs.rhodos.ca

MAY

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

4th May 2014 - Rhodo Sale and Show

6th May 2014 - Executive Meeting 2:00 pm

The executive meeting will be held at the home of Helena Stewart, 2431 Seabank Road. (Just down the road from Dick Bonney, same side.)

11th May 2014 - Annual Garden Tour

13th May 2014 - Annual General Meeting

Venue: This year's Annual General Meeting will be held at the home of Becci and Keith Russell (2271 Lake Trail Rd.). From the round-about at Willemar and Cumberland Rd., drive north along Willemar and turn left on Lake Trail; 2271 is on the right just before Arden Rd.

Note: The garden will be open at 6:00 pm and the regular portion of the meeting following at 7:30 pm. Dress warmly as we will be outside and please bring a lawn chair.

Parking: Please park outside the gate along Arden Rd.

President's View

...by Paul Wurz

Now that it is rhodo buying and planting season, I will make a few suggestions that could lead to more success with your plants. Research has proven that more than half of the rhododendrons that are planted each spring do not make it through to fall. The main cause of death is too wet, mainly the lack of good drainage – good drainage is crucial in growing rhododendrons! The second cause of failure is too dry, young plants have to be watered regularly; sometimes in spite of rainy weather.

In our small nursery we do not sell one gallon size plants, as they require much more care than the bigger plants. The expert gardeners are usually more successful in younger plantings. In the past few weeks I have started a couple of more rhodo beds, (as if we need more!) and started planting some one gallon size plants. After a few plants, and some serious thought, I decided to put them into two gallon pots, and included the pots in the planting. Of course, this will just be temporary! By late summer, they should fill those pots and can then be planted out. Those gallon-sized plants just looked very fragile and delicate in the large beds.

It is also important to do a little research before buying new plants, or get some good advice. There should not be any surprises when your plants start to grow and bloom. If you have a Greer's Book – "Greer's Guide to Available Rhododendrons" you should take it with you on your quest for rhododendrons. If you do not have a copy you might think of purchasing one from our club.

With rhodo club sales on the Island in full swing, there is a good opportunity to pick up some new and different plants. I did sell at the MARS sale in Parksville yesterday (Sat., April 26th) and the Cowichan Rhododendron sale is next Saturday (May 3rd). Of course, our NIRS sale will be held this coming Sunday (May 4th) and we hope to see you all there! Nanaimo has their sale on the following Sunday (May 11th) – the day of our Garden Tour.

As for the business side of our club, we are still looking for a Vice President for the coming two-year term and a few vacancies exist for Directors on the NIRS executive. This is an opportunity to get more involved and to add some new ideas and enthusiasm to the club.

It looks like some good weather is on the way, so our rhodos should start bursting in bloom - always a good time to enjoy a walk in the garden. Don't forget that if you want to show off your garden, pick a date and pass it on to Noni. Fellow members always appreciate viewing the gardens of other members.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at the AGM meeting at Becci & Keith's wonderful garden. Hard to believe, but only one more President's message from yours truly before the end of another term!

RAFFLE * * Rhodos

...by Dick Bonney



We will have a raffle at our Annual General Meeting for the rhododendron Lee's Dark Purple. This catawbiense hybrid grows to 6 feet tall and is hardy to -23 degrees Celcius.

Dick says "an old reliable rhodo, going back long before I was born".

NIRS Member Discounts

Once again a reminder that NIRS membership brings discounts at many garden nurseries and retailers. Those businesses providing discounts for 2012-2013 include:

Arrowsmith Nursery in Qualicum
Art Knapp's Plantland, Courtenay
Bees and Blooms Nursery in Courtenay
Black Creek Farm & Feed Supply
Campbell River Garden Center (not seeds or bulbs)
Growing Concern in Black Creek (seasonal opening)
Hidden Acres Nursery, Campbell River
North Courtenay Landscape Supplies
Paradise Plants, Courtenay
River Meadows Farms, Courtenay
Shar-Kare - both Courtenay and Campbell River
The Plant Collector Nursery and Gardens

If any member wishes to have other businesses considered for discounts to our members please bring them to the attention of our Ways & Means chair, Dick Bonney. Discounts can help save the price of your membership.



...by Dave Godfrey

With 75 members and 5 guests in attendance, there was a packed house (hall) for our meeting on April 8th. As membership chair **Brian Staton** announced, this number matched our membership for the year with 74 regular memberships and 6 associates, as we welcomed back **Alice Potts** with her late renewal. For the information of our newer members, an 'associate' member is one who is a regular member of another chapter of the ARS, but pays a nominal fee (presently \$10 for NIRS) to be an associate of another chapter.

During the meeting portion of the evening, **President Paul Wurz** reminded members that this would be the final meeting at the hall for this term. Our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for May 13th at the garden of **Becci & Keith Russell** on Lake Trail Road. Becci advised members that there is limited parking on Lake Trail, so most members are encouraged to carpool and park on Arden Road just around the corner from their property.

Help is all lined up for the sale next weekend and all are asked to be at the hall around 8:30am for the setup. There is usually an opportunity to make a few purchases and enjoy a quick coffee and goodies before the doors open to the public at 10am. As **Judy Walker** reminded members at the meeting, for those potting up donations to the NIRS table, please avoid bringing any invasive type plants and not to bring too many of any one kind, as they do not always sell.

Hopefully your contributions have already been potted for a couple of weeks so they look half decent for the sale. If possible, please bring them with a small tag to identify the names. The ladies organizing the table appreciate receiving these donations as early as possible, in order to get them sorted and priced before the doors open. Thank you!

Bernie Guayder reminded members to notify him of any trusses they intend to bring for the show. He would like the names emailed to him by Saturday night at the latest, so name plaques can be printed for the display. Bernie's contact information is in your small booklet.

For those planning to bring trusses to the Sale & Show, to help with identification simply use a fine tipped marker to write the name on the underside of a leaf. Also here is some instruction provided by **Glen Jamieson**, of the Mount Arrowsmith chapter:

Trusses and sprays should be cut in the early morning or evening, and stems should be placed in cool water indoors, out of direct sun and at normal room temperature. Cut elepidote trusses will typically last longer and look better if cut a day or two before a Show, than those taken immediately before the event. In any case, stems should remain in cool water until placed in the display vessel at the Show. (Feller, 2013, JARS 67(1): 20-21).

The organizing team of **Adrienne McNabb**, **Margaret Griffith-Cochrane** and **Diana Scott** has everything ready for our 19th Annual Mother's Day Garden Tour on Sunday May 11th. Tickets are now available at our usual business locations (Art Knapp, Anderton Nursery, Home & Garden Gate in Courtenay and Blue Heron Books in Comox.) Gate sitters have their assignments and instructions, so now all we need is cooperation from the weather department. **Helena Stewart** has done a terrific job with the advertising and articles in the newspapers, and **Judi Murakami** has provided a great promo on the Shaw cable channel.

These two major fundraising events provide the bulk of our income for the year, and as such, we really appreciate the support that our many members provide. As was suggested, not everyone needs to be available for the entire sale; so if you wish to come around 11am to help with the second half and the clean up that would be appreciated too.

To conclude the business portion of the meeting, we were treated once again to a 'Show & Tell'. **Dick Bonney** provided a colourful variety of *forsythia*, *golden plum blossoms*, a *white flowering current* and a *viburnum*, which Dick says has been flowering in his garden since December. **Bernie Guyader** showed us some lovely *trilliums*, *Erythronium*, a species *paniculatum*. Bernie also brought along one of his gorgeous bonsai plants growing from a small stump. **Don Law** brought samples of his rhodos in bloom - *Cilpinense*, *Rosa Mundi* and *Fulvum*. Not to be out done, **Paul Wurz** showed off his '*Heatherside Beauty*', '*Maxine Childers*' and '*April Rose*'.



R Rosa Mundi



R Heatherside Beauty



R. Cilpinense





This brought to a close the meeting, and following a short break, the winners of the evening's prizes were announced.

Margaret Griffith-Cochrane was the lucky winner of the rhododendron '*Boule de Neige*'. Margaret was then asked to draw another ticket for another winner and, as luck would have it, she drew one of her own ticket – taking home the rhodo '*Golden Torch*'. With a large attendance, the committee decided to draw for a third prize and **Mary Ashton** was the lucky winner of R. '*Minnetonka*'. The evening's door prizes were a couple of outdoor planter pots donated by **Dick Bonney**. From all who were signed in, **Brad Billings** won the large pot, while **Linda Ashbaugh** won the smaller pot. Congratulations to all our winners!

It was then time to introduce our special speaker for the evening, **Margaret Cadwaladr**. Margaret was born in Vancouver and had lived for many years on Vancouver Island (Lantzville, Qualicum and Royston) before moving back to the lower mainland a couple of years ago. In addition to being a published author, she is also a public speaker and an educator, having earned her Masters at UBC.

In 2002, Margaret self-published her book "*In Veronica's Garden*", a social history of Milner Gardens and Woodland, which is now in its second printing. It was through her husband, Jim, who worked for Malaspina University College (now Vancouver Island University) that Margaret was first introduced to Veronica Milner in May of 1996.

As Margaret explained, Veronica grew up in British aristocracy, was a cousin of Sir Winston Churchill and a distant relative of the late Princess Diana through the Spenser family. In order to give some perspective on Veronica's early childhood, Margaret asked how many in the audience had seen the TV series '*Downton Abbey*'. Many raised their hands, and it was then explained that this was the life-style from which Veronica came.

In 1928, at the age of 19, Veronica Villiers met Desmond Windham Otho FitzGerald, 28th Knight of Glin, and on January 9th, 1929, they were wed. Although they owned Glin Castle and its 500 acre estate on the southern shores of the Shannon estuary, about thirty miles west of Limerick, Ireland, the FitzGerald's were by no means rich. They struggled through the aftermath of the Irish civil war and the Great Depression. They had a shared love of gardening and in addition to vegetables, planted many trees and shrubs, including magnolias, dogwoods, cherries and Persian ironwood that could be viewed from the castle.

Despite the birth of two daughters (Fiola- April 1930 and Rachel – March 1933), Desmond was extremely unhappy that he had not received a son and the male heir they had craved. There was great discord in their lives. But with the death of Desmond's father (Desmond Fitzjohn Lloyd FitzGerald) in September 1936, it appears they had

reconciled, and in July 1937 their son and heir (Desmond John) was born.

Desmond FitzGerald was always a sickly man, and when World War II broke out he was declared medically unfit to serve. However, as with all major landowners at the time, they were forced to give a portion of their crops of fruits and vegetables to help support the war effort. As Margaret explained, "While Desmond struggled with farm management; Veronica developed an increased interest in art and studied painting."

It was in 1944 that Desmond was finally diagnosed with tuberculosis. Veronica had read a magazine article that new treatments were being developed in America. With the financial help of her family, Veronica arranged a flight for herself and Desmond to seek treatments. It was on a train trip to Arizona that they first met Canadian lawyer and successful businessman Ray Milner.

Following Desmond's death in April 1949 at Glin, the family struggled to survive. But survive they did, and in February 1954, Veronica married 60 year old Ray Milner in London, England. As Margaret states in her book "It is likely that Veronica's motivation for marriage was, at least in part, financial. Fifteen years her senior, Ray seemed well aware that money was a factor in Veronica's decision to marry him."

"Veronica once again found herself a new bride in a foreign land," Margaret writes in her book. "This time, however, she was farther from home. In Ireland, she had been able to travel to London fairly often. Here, she felt truly isolated, as Qualicum Beach had a population of about 700 at the time."

Although she was far removed from her British roots, Veronica always kept up her aristocratic airs. Despite this, Veronica became very good friends with Mary and Ted Greig of Royston. It was through this friendship that the gardens grew and were developed into the show garden that it is today – with its many rhododendrons, hydrangeas and trees. The surrounding woodlands with its native wild flowers and trees pay tribute to Veronica's love of artistry.

After many years (and dollars spent) developing Veronica's dream garden, Ray died at home in Qualicum in May 1975 at the age of eighty-six. As Margaret described, this became Veronica's "heydays" – travelling the world and hosting lavish parties. Veronica's behaviour and sense of her own importance offended many people, and over time an increased number of people distanced themselves from her, including her friend Mary Greig.

She soon began to realize that the money would not last forever and her financial situation was such that donating the garden to an organization was not an option. She began to seek financial assistance to help save the property. Plans





with several universities had fallen through, but then in 1995 Rich Johnston, President of Malaspina University-College came to an agreement that allowed Veronica to remain in the house while Malaspina preserved the garden.

Veronica continued to live at the property, complete with her servant staff, until her passing at age 89 years in November of 1998. In summing up Veronica's life, Margaret relates "Her gardens in Ireland and Canada remain her most lasting memorial."

An entertaining and informative presentation, with injections of humour, Margaret's presentation was well received by all who attended. We thanked Margaret for taking the time from her busy schedule to provide us with our final program of the season. Several members took the opportunity to purchase Margaret's book "In Veronica's Garden", and there is also a copy now available in our NIRS library.

As announced by **Ross Munro** at the meeting, another work party was held at the CVRG on Thursday morning April 20th. This time about 16 members arrived at 9:30am ready to tackle the weeds and general cleanup to keep the garden respectable for viewing by the general public. (See photos in our website photo gallery.) Several of the early Rhodos were already beginning to bloom, and we received many compliments by members of the public passing through. No doubt another cleanup work party will be called for the morning of May 8th in preparation for our Annual Mother's Day Garden Tour on May 11th.

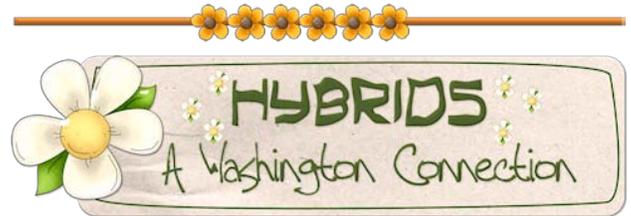
Last summer, for various reasons, we did not have any members open their gardens for informal tours by our own members. However, this year we already have several members offer to host tours by NIRS members. To kick things off, it was a Good Friday opening at **Robert Argall's** garden that brought out about 2 dozen members and guests. The weather cooperated and provided a fine day to view his garden. Even the Snowbirds provided some entertainment with their practises nearby. Every spring, Robert's garden is a blaze of colour with the many colourful daffodils, tulips, camellias and magnolias in bloom; and not to forget a few of his early rhodos too – *Sir Charles Lemon*, *Taurus* and his sister *Grace Seabrook*, along with *April Glow*. (See photos on our website.)

So far, **Ann Chevrier**, **Wolfgang Hoefgen** and **Maureen Shipton** have also offered their gardens for these NIRS member tours. Dates and times will be announced via email messages. If any other members wish to open their gardens for the rest to enjoy, please let our communications lady, **Noni Godfrey**, know ahead of time and she will send out a notice to the other members.

Our newest members **Garth & Sue Wedemire** travelled to Federal Way, Washington to attend the RSF 50th

Anniversary celebrations on May 25/26th. Watch for a report in the June Rhodoteller. Also, sixteen NIRS members planned a visit to tour gardens on Whidbey Island from April 29 to May 1st. Details of the tour will be available in our June newsletter and photos posted to our website.

We hope to see many of you at the Sale, the AGM and on the Garden Tour. In closing, I'd like to mention that I have a good mind. It works like lightning – one flash and it's gone!!



...by Diana Scott



One of the many interesting articles available through the ARS website was written by Gwen Bell on Washington State Hybridizers. As my interest in rhodos continues to grow, I'm becoming more 'tuned', not only to the qualities of rhodos I particularly like, but to the hybridizers who have created them. Wandering through our garden, I'm delighted to note that I remember for some rhodos, not only their names, but who hybridized them. A small thing – but kind of fun!

Over the past few years North Island has alternated visits with our sister Chapter from Whidbey Island in Washington State. It has been a pleasure to get to know these fellow rhodo enthusiasts as we admire members' gardens and share a glass of wine at barbeques and pot-lucks. Two of these Whidbey members have also hybridized rhodos – some of which are available commercially and through specialty nurseries.

Although Bill and Mary Stipe were unable to make the trek to North Island in May 2012, we have been hosted by them at Glynneden Gardens in Greenbank, Washington on a number of occasions. Their nursery and garden is a testament to the many beautiful rhodos that have been locally hybridized – as well as a display of other rhodos, rare species, trees, shrubs and perennials from farther afield. Bill has been an active member of the Seattle and Whidbey chapters, an ARS Director and speaker, the director of Meerkerk Gardens, has collected and grown seed from several trips to China, and been involved with the Northwest Hybridizers Association. A number of years ago, Bill shared some of his wealth of knowledge and experience with us, presenting 'Rhodo Basics 101' to our members.





Bill has hybridized and named a number of rhododendrons, many of which are featured on the Hirsutum website (<http://www.hirsutum.info/>). **Amibblue** (R. ponticum x 'Whidbey Island') is an early-midseason bloomer which forms a dense 5 foot shrub in 10 years. I wonder at the name – is it 'Ami-blue' or 'Am I Blue?'; even Bill admits that for a 'blue' name it is more of a purple rhodo! The dome-shaped truss is strong purple in bud opening to a lighter purple/violet. Amibblue has been propagated by Dover Nursery and is available through a number of outlets.

Two Thumbs Up ('Lem's Cameo' x 'Sierra del Oro') is a beautiful midseason rhodo with trusses that display the charm of Lem's Cameo's wavy pink-edged lobes and red dorsal blotch with a strong touch of Sierra del Oro's gold at the throat. This plant grows about 3 feet in 10 years and is available at Glynneden Gardens.



Creamcicle ('Brandt's Tropicana' x 'Apricot Fantasy') is a beautiful rhodo, aptly named for its creamy-orange blooms with a slight orange striping into a dark pink/orange freckly blotch. This freckled blotch is mirrored in a double calyx which gives it an added 'wow' factor!



Other rhodos hybridized by Bill include **Valarie Jane** ('Unknown Warrior' x 'Whitney Purple'); **Leslie Belle** ('Purple Splendour' x 'One Thousand Butterflies'); **Just Dandy** ('Nancy Evans' (s) X 'Crest'); **Patty Ann**, **Sandra Ann Stipe**, **Karen Gervais Beauty**, **Axelina**, and **Johnsy**. Bill's rhodos may be available at various outlets, and



through Bill at Glynneden Gardens. All of the rhodos have been registered with the IRRC (International Rhododendron

Register and Checklist) which is the official record maintained by the Royal Horticultural Society in England.

It was a pleasure to have renowned plantsman and hybridizer Frank Fujioka of Whidbey Island with us as part of the Whidbey Chapter contingent in May 2012. Paul kept him on his toes ("What's that one, Frank?") as we toured a number of beautiful gardens in our area! Frank's hybrids are somewhat more readily available as a number are in commercial production.

A variety of Frank's hybrids can be found in our North Island gardens. A favorite of many, his rhodo **Elsie Watson** ('Anna' x 'Purple Lace') was named after the great plantswoman and founder of the ARS's Northwest Hybridizer's Group who influenced many of the contemporary hybridizers. Elsie's goals were to develop early blooming plants like 'Tabitha' (named after one of her cats), azure-violet rhodos like 'Blue Boy', plants with dramatic foliage like sister seedlings 'Pink Prelude' and 'Chief Sealth', and rhodos with picotee flowers like 'Marley Hedges'. Frank's purple picotee-flowered 'Elsie Watson' is a wonderful tribute, and always a show-stopper in the garden!

Like many of the hybridizers, Frank takes many, many years of trials before bringing one of his creations to the market. He has an artist's eye, and has developed rhodos with excellent growth habit, great foliage, with beautiful and somewhat unusual blooms. The early star-like flowers of **Starbright Champagne** (Yaku Sunrise x Hansel' x 'Lem's Cameo'), 'champagne'-coloured with a dark purple throat, always receive appreciative comments!



Seaview Sunset ('Nancy Evans' x 'Canadian Sunset') is another of

Frank's plants seen in many of our gardens. This eye-catching rhodo grows to about 3 feet and has blooms of reddish-orange flowing to pinkish-yellow in the throat.



In the same size group, **Silver Skies** (degronianum ssp yakushimanum 'Koichiro Wada' x Medusa) is an early bloomer with beautiful dark green foliage with creamy indumentum, and pale cream-pink blooms edged with darker pink.





Primary Pink (Yaku Sunrise x (C.I.S. x Jingle Bells) x Lem's



Cameo) also grows in the 2-3 foot range with delicate pink dome-shaped trusses that just make one think 'sweet'! The foliage has slight indumentum on a compact, rounded plant.

One of Frank's more vibrantly coloured rhodos is, of course,

Vibrant Violet (impeditum x augustinii 'Tower Court') which



is an early bloomer with vivid violet frilly-lobed flowers sporting brownish-orange anthers. A stunner in the spring!

Some of the many other hybrids that Frank has created include: **Cranberry Lace, Glowing Gold, Louisa Wittrock, Midnight Mystique, Miss Frances, Opal Luster, Pink Pinwheels, Pomegranate Splash, Purple Amethyst, Saffron Silk, Burgundy Lace, Chemainus, Golden Pleasure, Jim's Blueberry Jam, Magenta Medley, Nancy Evens x Crest x Macabeanum, Nancy Evans x pachysanthum, Orchid Bouquet,** and **Spring Fragrance.** Check out their photos on the Hirsutum website!

A number of Frank's hybrids are available commercially, and some are available through our local growers, notably Paul Wurz at Hidden Acres.

It's such a pleasure to have rhodos in our gardens, and it is even more delightful to know where they came from and who had a 'hand' in creating them. Congratulations to our Washington hybridizers for the beauty that they have added to our gardens!

(All photos from Bill Stipe, Frank Fujioka or Hirsutum web site)



Whoever makes a garden
Has never worked alone;
the rain has always found it,
The sun has always known;
The wind has blown across it
And helped to scatter seeds.
Whoever makes a garden
Has all the help he needs.
~Author Unknown



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



The Annual General Meeting of the North Island Rhododendron Society will be held on Tuesday, 13th May 2014 in Keith and Becci Russell's garden 2271 Lake Trail Road, Courtenay. Come at 6:00 for a self directed garden tour, meeting starts at 7:30. The meeting will be held outdoors, be sure to dress warmly and bring a lawn chair.

Business to come before the meeting will include the Annual Financial Report, Reports from Committees, and the Election of Directors and Officers for 2014-2015.

There are four two-year board terms ending in May. Members wishing to put names forward for nomination are to contact the Nominations Chair Pauline Thompson.

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



Tidbits

Mid Island Floral Art Club

"Topiaries" workshop
Thursday May 8 at 1:45
St. Stephens Church Hall
150 Village Way, Qualicum Beach.
Info 250-937-1350

Rhododendron Bloom at Milner Gardens

April 24th through May 11th
Open daily 10:00am to 5:00pm,
last entry 4:30pm
Tea Room open 1:00pm to 4:00pm
Enjoy your walk through the woodland garden while the Rhododendrons put on their best display, then relax in the Tea Room

Comox Valley Hort Society

Gardens In Bloom
June 21 and 22 --10am to 4pm.



Mile of Flowers Plant-In.

✿ May 27. 5:00 to 7:30pm.
Cliffe Avenue, Courtenay.
Volunteers for the Courtenay Annual Mile of Flowers Plant-In — A local tradition since 1967!
Meet and plant anywhere along Cliffe Avenue between 8th and 21st street.
Bring gloves and digging/planting tool.
Free BBQ at Standard Park following planting 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Courtesy of Courtenay Rotary and The City of Courtenay.
For more information
www.courtenay.ca

✿ Art & Bloom Festival.

Kitty Coleman Woodland Gardens
6193 Whitaker Road, Courtenay.
May 17 to 19.
10am to 5pm (Saturday & Sunday)
10am to 4pm (Monday).
Over 3,000 rhododendrons & spring flowers in full bloom as well as presentations of original works by painters, potters, sculptors, glass blowers, original stained glass designers, garden art & other unique art forms.

Recipe Requests

Bacardi Rum Cake Bundt (Diana Scott)

CAKE

1 C chopped, toasted pecans or walnuts
1 18-1/2 ounce cake mix (yellow or white...)
1 1-3/4 oz (4-serving) instant vanilla pudding mix
4 eggs
1/2 C cold milk
1/2 C vegetable oil
1/2 C Bacardi dark rum

GLAZE

1/2 C butter
1/4 C water
1 C sugar
1/2 C Bacardi dark rum

PREPARATION:

CAKE: Preheat oven to 325 - 350° F. Grease and flour 12C Bundt pan. Sprinkle nuts on bottom of pan. Combine all cake ingredients. Beat for 2 minutes on high with electric mixer. Pour into prepared pan. Bake



for 1 hour. Cool in pan. Invert on serving plate. Prick top with fork. Drizzle glaze over top of cake. Use brush or spoon to put extra dripping back on cake. (I put the cake on foil and tip up the sides; then use a pastry brush to pull the excess glaze back onto the cake. I also do this while the cake is still warm so it sinks in better!)

GLAZE: Melt butter in saucepan. Stir in water and sugar. Boil 5 minutes, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and stir in rum. Note: The rum will cause steam. Be careful not to burn yourself.

Chocolate Éclair Cake

Filling:

2 (3.4 oz) pkg Vanilla Instant pudding 3 1/2 C milk
2 (14.4 oz) pkg graham crackers 12 oz cool whip

Frosting:

6 Tbsp butter
6 Tbsp cocoa
6 Tbsp milk
1 C icing sugar

Blend milk with vanilla pudding for 2 minutes. Fold in the cool whip. In a 9 x 13 pan, layer graham crackers to cover entire bottom. (Cut crackers to fit entire bottom). Pour half of the pudding mixture on top and level. Another layer of crackers, second half of pudding, then top with crackers "bumpy side" down. Frosting, microwave butter and milk just enough so they melt together when stirred. Blend cocoa and icing sugar then add to melted butter. This makes a frosting/glaze type icing. Pour over last layer inverted crackers and smooth out. Refrigerate overnight before using.

May Goodies

Chris Aldred - Judi Murakami
Barb Staton - Maureen Denny
Lynn Wurz - Peter Guertler
Cathy Storey - Becci Russell
Myrna Trimmer

Until Next Month
Noni