



# The Rhodoteller

www.nirs.rhodos.ca



**JUNE**

## North Island Rhododendron Society

*2014/2015 Executive*

**President**  
Jake Ellis ..... 337-8516

**Vice-President**  
Nadine Boudreau..... 339-0909

**Secretary**  
Carolyn Chester..... 619-5864

**Treasurer**  
Dave Godfrey ..... 335-0717

**Past President:**  
Paul Wurz..... 287-4301

**Director: Ways & Means**  
Dick Bonney..... 339-7594

**Director: Membership**  
Jill Gould..... 331-1859

**Director: Revenue Table**  
Fran Thornton..... 339-3754

**Director: Library**  
Ruth Fowler..... 890-9448

**Director: at large**  
Garth Wedemire ..... 941-5598

**Newsletter**  
Noni Godfrey ..... 335-0717  
.....nonigod@shaw.ca

**Social Committee/Sunshine Lady:**  
Claudia Ellis ..... 337-8516

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

## COMING EVENTS

### 2nd June 2015-Executive Meeting 2:00 pm

The executive meeting will be held at the home of Nadine & Gerry Boudreau, 1817 Preston Road, Comox.

**Directions:** At the lights at Anderton and Ryan Roads, turn left (north) on Anderton Road, turn again at the first right, Greenwood Cres which turns into Preston. Drive to the very end of the cul de sac to the gated yard.

### 13th June 2015-Wrap Up Picnic Pot Luck



#### Picnic Protocol.....

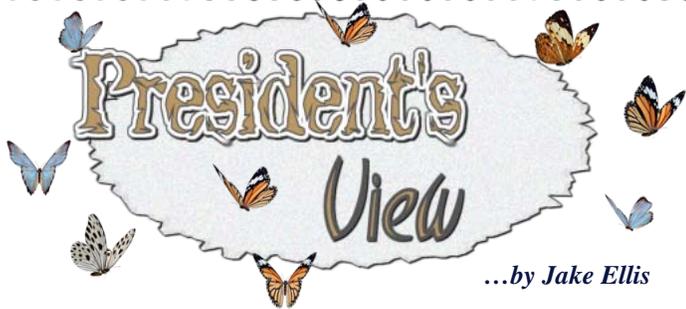
The season's finale beckons! This year the gathering will be held in the garden of Carolyn and Harris Chester, 2636 Parker road, Courtenay. Driving north past Art Knapp's Garden Center, turn right onto Parker Road, which is the next road past Huband. Their garden is on the left side, directly opposite Frederick Place. Attendees to this year's gala can once again participate in the infamous "Bean Bag Toss Game". 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. Or just bring whatever you signed up for....

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).



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



# President's View

...by Jake Ellis

The month of June is almost upon us, and that means we have just one more get-together before the end of our season. Our annual June picnic will be held on June 13<sup>th</sup> at the home of our secretary Carolyn and her husband Harris. For the most part, the picnic is purely a social event. A time to chit and chat and maybe reflect on the season passed, or dream of those "lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer" which lie ahead. I'm not sure about the lazy part though; if this warm, dry weather continues - sounds like a whole lot of hose dragging to me. 

As I look back on this season -- my first as President -- I'm very pleased how it all unfolded. This was a particularly busy season with the Convention taking place smack-dab in the middle of our Plant Sale and the Mother's Day Tour. But everything unfolded just the way we planned it. However, this didn't just happen - the membership of the NIRS pulled together just like they always have done to make every one of our major events an outstanding success. 

The highlight of the season for me, though, had to be the Convention. We had a good showing from the North Island Rhododendron Society, but I wish every one of our members could have been there. It really was like an oversized version of one of our club meetings - it was all about people and rhododendrons. I'm sure you saw the list of the speakers at this event and I can assure you they didn't disappoint. I'm "that guy" who falls asleep when the lights dim in the theatre -- I once snored my way through the entire showing of "The Bridge over the River Kwai". A war movie in Technicolor! But so intriguing were these speakers that I never so much as nodded off for one second. Equally exciting were the daily tours to so many beautiful Victoria gardens. So many rhodos - maybe too many - I think my brain almost went into rhodo overload. As I look back, however, 2 species rhodos made such an impression on me that I actually remembered their names and learned how to

pronounce them. The first one, *R. quinquefolium*, wasn't in bloom but the foliage was just remarkably dainty with each leaf edged in red. The other one, *R. campylogynum* was in full bloom and I totally fell in love with every aspect of this small plant with outstanding pinkish, thimble shaped flowers. But before I forget, there was of course a plant sale and we did not come home empty-handed. I think the most interesting of the few plants we purchased was a new introduction from Ken Cox's Glendoick Gardens. *R. 'Wine and Roses'* is unique in that the undersides of the leaves are deep red-purple. I'm not sure that they've determined its hardiness so I can only hope we can make it happy in its new home in Black Creek. 

As I said near the start of this piece, I am happy with the past season. But that's only because I had so many people looking after me -- poking, prodding and reminding me of what needed to be done. We had a great team on the Board of Directors this year, and even with some key changes next season, I anticipate that team effort will continue. Dave Godfrey will step down as Treasurer and will no doubt be missed by all, but especially me as he was so helpful in trying to keep me on track, as well as being a meticulous treasurer. Noni will step away as editor of the newsletter, a job she did so well for 10 seasons and the Rhodoteller will probably take some time to recover. Dick Bonney is taking a rest from the Board and the Ways and Means Committee, and the Board will never be the same. I was going to say that we'll miss him, but I know he will never be far away. In fact, we may have some of our Board meetings at his house just to get some of those tasty homemade goodies. 

Thank you very much Dave, Noni and Dick. Thanks also to those members who let their names stand for election at the AGM - our V.P. Nadine, Secretary Carolyn and Claudia, who will take over as Treasurer.

It was especially pleasing to see the response to a call for a work party at Gwen's place on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June. I was touched, but not surprised, to get responses from 17 members who plan on being there and I know Gwen will be pleased and grateful. 

I look forward to seeing you all at the picnic on June 13<sup>th</sup> at Carolyn's place.

# Member's Notes

...by Dave Godfrey

Where does one begin when you reach the end? This is the final issue of the Rhodoteller, at least for this NIRS year, and likely my last column of Member's Notes. It has been ten long years since Noni took over editing and publishing our North Island newsletter, and almost as long since I have been keeping everyone informed (rightly or wrongly) about the goings on within our chapter. Oh well, all good things must come to an end, so we will have to see what happens come September.

In looking back to our busy month of May, we had another sunny, successful Mother's Day Garden Tour (our 20<sup>th</sup>) on Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. Our two major fundraisers of the year (Sale & Tour) were very successful, thanks in no small part to the team of **Nadine Boudreau**, **Margaret Griffith-Cochrane**, **Louise Casson** and **Jake & Claudia Ellis**, and the many volunteers who helped out at the events. Our annual budget for the coming year is off to a great start!



The winner of the Garden Tour Rhodo draw for R. 'Percy Wiseman' was **Jake Thorold**. Along with his wife Laura and baby Isaac, they were thrilled with this new addition to their garden. They have just bought their first house in Courtenay and are so excited to begin gardening.

Our thanks go out to members **Robert Argall**, **Bernie & Gloria Guyader**, **Dany Fortin & Jamie Willms**, **Wolfgang & Wilma Hoefgen**, **Helen & Joe Stefiuk**, along with non-

members **Linda Blake** and **Maggie Seymour**, for opening their beautiful gardens for the nearly 300 paying guests to tour through. A lot of extra work goes into preparing gardens to be on a tour and we appreciate everyone's efforts to make it such a tremendous success. Thanks you everyone!

Two days later, on Tuesday May 12<sup>th</sup>, it was time once again for our Annual General Meeting. This year we were hosted at the garden of **Ron Cameron** in Merville. President **Jake Ellis** opened the meeting by thanking all 40 members and 1 guest (**Carol Wybenga** – a friend of **Dorothy & Don Law**) for attending. Jake also thanked all those members who throughout the year have contributed to the success of our club.

Although we have never had an 'election' in recent memory, the main business of any AGM is the election of officers for the coming term (July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> each year.) Nominations and elections chair, **Pauline Thompson** called for nominations

from the floor three times; and hearing none, declared **Nadine Boudreau**, **Carolyn Chester** and **Claudia Ellis** elected by acclamation to the positions of Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. **Jake Ellis** continues in the position of President for his second of the two-year term. The remaining four Board Directors are **Jill Gould**, **Ruth Fowler**, **Fran Thornton** and **Garth Wedemire**. Congratulations to all!



The BIG surprise of the evening was the presentation to long standing member **Ann Chevrier** with the Bronze Medal award. In presenting the well-deserved award, President Jake read...

*"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. Ann has been an active member of the NIRS for over 25 years, serving on the Executive as Ways and Means Director and most recently assisting at our Revenue Table. Ann has been one of the fundraising Garden Tour Coordinators, taken on a lead role in the organization of the Companion Plant area of our Rhodo Show and Sale, spent many hours working at our public Rhododendron Garden, and participates fully in club*



*activities. Ann has opened her beautiful garden to the public for our Garden Tour and hosted our members on many, many occasions. We congratulate Ann on being awarded the ARS Bronze Medal by the North Island Rhododendron Society. The Bronze Medal was presented as part of a framed certificate stating: "The American Rhododendron Society*

North Island Chapter Recognizes Ann Chevrier for the Bronze Medal Award for her many years of service and continued dedication to the Society." Congratulations Ann, a well deserved recognition!

As scheduled, on Thursday morning May 14<sup>th</sup> there was another work party called for our Comox Valley Rhodo Garden. **Wolfgang Hoefgen** was pleased with the turnout and work performed, and has provided a separate article in this issue.

Wolfgang also arranged a field trip for the NIRS Propagating group to attend the Green Thumb Nursery in Nanaimo. This provided the group an opportunity to see propagation on a commercial level. It was a warm sunny day, perfect for the dozen members who took the trip. (See separate article in this newsletter.)

As reported by Past President **Paul Wurz**, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary ARS Convention in Sidney was a tremendous success with approximately 450 registered to attend from around the world. Sixteen members of our chapter attended and helped in various capacities. **Barb Staton** has kindly provided an article in this issue.

Our congratulations go out to MARS member and NIRS associate member **Terry Richmond** winner of the ARS Silver Medal award. To his surprise, Terry received his award at the Saturday evening banquet at the ARS Convention in Sidney. Originally a member of the NIRS, Terry was a founding member of the Mt. Arrowsmith chapter when they formed in 1989. His citation reads in part: "For more than 30 years you have been a stalwart devotee of the American Rhododendron Society. You have spent countless hours at workshops, truss shows and meetings in the interest of the genus. Your willingness to hold office, research, donate plants and work with colleagues from many chapters has contributed to the healthy growth of interest in rhododendrons." A well deserved award to a delightful friend and member. Congratulations Terry!

With May behind us, we can now slow down and enjoy the summer months. We have a few small work parties coming up; on June 4<sup>th</sup> to help our dear friend **Gwen Wright** deadhead and clean up her *Haida Gold Gardens*, and in lieu of our normal Tuesday evening meeting on Tuesday May 9<sup>th</sup>, a deadheading work party will be held at the CVRG at 7 PM. So come out and lend a hand, enjoy some goodies and socialize with fellow members.

The only other activity scheduled for June is our fun potluck picnic on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. The fun begins at 4 PM with a delicious dinner available around 5 PM. This year our gracious garden hosts will be **Carolyn & Harris Chester**. Let's hope this weather holds up as gorgeous as it has been for the past few weeks. They are forecasting a long hot summer - so lots of watering to keep our darling rhodos alive.

That's it for me! Now back out to water some more plants! Take care and hope to see you at the work parties and the picnic.



## North Island Rhododendron Society Executive and Committee Chairs

2015 - 2016

### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:

President: Jake Ellis;  
Vice Pres: Nadine Boudreau  
Secretary: Carolyn Chester  
Treasurer: Claudia Ellis  
Past President: Paul Wurz



### DIRECTORS:

Jill Gould, Fran Thornton,  
Ruth Fowler, Garth Wedemire

### COMMITTEES:

#### FUNDRAISING

Ways and Means/Raffle: Lois Clyde  
Revenue Table: Fran Thornton, Ann Chevrier  
Membership: Jill Gould  
Rhodo Sale: **VACANT**  
Garden Tour: **VACANT**

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletter: **VACANT**  
Sunshine: Claudia Ellis  
Webmaster: Dave Godfrey  
Publicity: Helena Stewart  
Historian: Lois Clyde



#### SOCIAL AND EVENTS

Meeting Refreshments: **VACANT**  
Rhodo Garden: Wolfgang Hoefgen  
Facilities: Don Law  
Christmas Party: **VACANT**  
Hamper: Margaret Griffith-Cochrane

#### EDUCATION

Library: Ruth Fowler  
Program: Paul Wurz, Garth Wedemire



friends fill the hours  
with sunshine and  
flowers!



# Rhodogarden News



...by Wolfgang Hoefgen

The work party on May 14<sup>th</sup> was another successful and social event. Ten members invaded our Rhodo garden to make it even more beautiful than it already is. Many hands helped with the weeding... there is always some weeding... a bit of pruning, deadheading and some rhodo identification where possible. The truss colour and size helps to determine the placement and the names. I am trying to put some sort of identification on all the rhododendrons with a metal tag and a piece of flagging tape to mark the tag spot as they can get lost on their own.

Some members had a hard time to stop for coffee and goodies. Thanks everybody for your help. Remember, our next work party will be June 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. The work parties for June, July and August, if needed, are scheduled for the evening. This to enable those that still work the opportunity to get in on all the fun for the summer months because now begins the deadheading of old flowers. But this is not really work, almost relaxing and with healing power in itself. Bring your pruners, buckets etc. Pick a rhodo and make it beautiful night!

Margaret and Dale hard at work



R. Gwendolyn Wright in full bloom!



Noni pruning!

Trying to identify some of the rhodos



Wolfgang eyeing up the situation!



Ah! The social gathering!



# Propagating

...by Noni Godfrey

Our little propagating group met once again, only this time we were off on a road trip! After a quick garden walk around at Dave and Noni's garden, we all set out for Nanaimo on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May. A dozen 'bunny' group members (*Carolyn Chester, Diana Scott, Dick Bonney, Helena Stewart, Noni & Dave Godfrey, Garth & Sue Wedemire, Jill Gould, Jake & Claudia Ellis, Ruth Fowler and Wolfgang Hoefgen*) were welcomed upon arrival at the Green Thumb Nurseries by nursery owners and operators *Gerhard Gerke* and his son, *Jarrett*. Gerhard's other son *Kyle*, who also works at the nursery, wasn't in attendance.



This family owned commercial business covers 45 acres, countless greenhouses and propagating sheds, as well as orderly rows and rows of trees and shrubs covering the remainder of the acreage. Jarrett tells us the nursery was started by his grandfather in 1959, and most of the greenhouses were built from 1969 to 1970. The family once again now operates the garden center, which had been leased out since 1997 to another business enterprise.

The Green Thumb Nursery is pretty hard to miss if you drive thru Nanaimo! All those orderly rows and row of trees, shrubs and plants off to the left between the two large malls, that's it! We were so fortunate to be able to have a 'behind the scenes tour' of the nursery and facilities, hosted by Jarrett. Doubly fortunate, in that our own Wolfgang had worked as the Forman at the nursery from 1969 to 1980, so he had a lot of insider information to pass along in regards to the propagating.

We were overwhelmed with information on how they do their propagating at the nursery. Jarrett tells us that they are aiming to do 50,000 rhodo cuttings this fall, around September-October time. He claims that 80% will probably take, as that is their normal average, so that's a good 40,000 new little babies! He explained about the air and water circulation, under heating requirements and the need to keep

temperatures at a constant 70°F.



The rhodo grafting area was a bit of a surprise to some of us that have done grafting before. The root stock isn't cut off clean, and the scion is grafted onto the side of the root stock. A method I have never seen before. By leaving the root stock whole, so to speak, if the graft doesn't take, it can be used again. (See picture of Jake holding the grafted rhodo). Their grafting is usually done in December, and ready to clean up and plant up around May-June of the same year. Because they use the same greenhouse for several other plants under propagation, they have a rather unusual way of treating the grafted rhodos. The whole pot is laid down in bark mulch, covered with mulch and just left there for the winter. Surprisingly this method works rather well as Jarrett says they have a 70 to 80 percent success rate with the grafting. The root stock used is generally Cunningham's White, as it has proven its strength and stability over the years. He also mentioned Chionoides as a good substitute. Needless to say, there are lots of little Cunningham's White cuttings all over the show.



According to Jarrett, a wealth of knowledge, Azaleas are a lot more difficult to propagate by cuttings. He states that the parent plant is only useable for cuttings for about 3 or 4 days in May-June time. Totally dependent on the weather and the state of the new growth, so a trained eye is needed for those proper conditions....interesting!

A few other little tidbits that I learned from our little tour that I thought I'd pass along regarding fertilizer, weed and pest control. They use only a granular, slow release fertilizer 21-7-14, and put in a scant 15 gram on a 1 gallon pot. This amount is adjusted accordingly for larger pots. For pest control they only use Biological control on any and all of the plants in the nursery. Jarrett gave us a very graphic description of how the "Aphidius and Aphidoletes" work on aphid control. I think his final words on the subject were "they are both mass murders and out do ladybugs 100 to 1." For information on these aphid soldiers and other safe and effective Natural Biological Pest Control for gardeners: <http://www.defenders.co.uk/>

One final bit of gardening advice I took away from this tour was their practice of putting a fine layer of sawdust (about 1/2 to 1 inch thick) on the top of all their pots. This practice stops any air born seeds from germinating on the top. The theory behind this is the layer of sawdust dries up much faster than soil so the seeds can't germinate! How clever is that!

After our tour we had to have a quick stop in the garden center, where some of us loaded up the cars...

We all went for a pleasant lunch at the White Spot before heading home. What an enjoyable outing with like minded gardeners and friends...Thank you all, especially Wolfgang for organizing this event.



Pots hand filled from hopper....nice!



Pots being topped off with sawdust!



Finishing off, meandering the fields of rhodos!



Small 1 gal pots under cover in a greenhouse



## New Rhododendron Species Discovered in Sidney, BC

### Subtitle: Rock Stars of the Rhododendron World

by Barbara Staton



On May 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> a new rhododendron species, 'Rhodophotoholic', was discovered by rhodo enthusiasts attending the 70<sup>th</sup> American Rhododendron Society International Conference in Sidney by the Sea.



Here the new species is seen as they frantically capture a spectacular garden in bloom immediately after disembarking from their tour bus. A similar sighting of this new species occurred countless times throughout the 28 gardens on tour.

United by their inability to say "No" to seeing displayed rhodos for sale, a keen group of approximately 400 participants, some from as far away as New Zealand, arose at dawn; boarded a flotilla of tour buses; dined in Sidney's beautiful Mary Winspear Convention Centre; and listened intently or perhaps nodded off as internationally acclaimed "Rock Stars of the Rhododendron World" rounded out each day of the three day conference. These international 'Rhodo Rock Stars' were: Jim Barlup from the USA; Marc Colombel of France; Kenneth Cox of Scotland; Harold Greer, the Guru of West Coast Rhododendrons, from the USA; Guan Kaiyn from China; Lionel de Rothschild from England; and Hartwig Schepker from Germany. Each

presented interesting and varied perspectives from their broad skill sets and from their native lands.

Our NIRS chapter was represented by 16 keeners: Robert Argall, Nadine Boudreau, Lois Clyde, Jake & Claudia Ellis, Jill Gould, Woldfang Hoefgen, Arlene Hooper, Heather MacKenzie, Barb & Brian Staton, Judy Walker, GarthWedemire & Sue Grant, and Lynn & Paul Wurz. Some days we joined each other on the daily bounty of tours, while on other days Brian & I seemed to be the sole bus tour survivors, alone amongst 50-60 new acquaintances. The plethora of tour options left us breathless and in awe of the variety and the size of the Victoria gardens. The tour buses were in constant motion weaving in and around the highways and the narrow roads of Sidney & Sanich, then manoeuvring some switch backs of Triangle Mountain in Sooke. This made for some hairy rides, but the buses always arrived safely and punctually at our many destinations.



Our friendly tour guide, Ian, made sure that we left the gardens on time and were herded back onto our tour bus adhering to the very tight schedule. Here Ian is featured wearing an old police clown costume that he rescued from his father's tickle trunk. It was complete with a whistle made out of an old Campbell's soup can and a billy club fashioned from a chair leg. His obvious sense of humor and his knowledge of the local area certainly brightened our day.

It was extremely difficult to select a favourite garden at the end of each day as every garden was uniquely and lovingly presented to all 'Rhodophotoholics', so a comparison was difficult to make. In some of the larger public gardens such as UVic's Finnerty Gardens, Hatley Castle of Royal Roads, Domion Brooks Garden and Horticultural Center of the Pacific we were guided by expert head gardeners or volunteers as the "Rhodophotoholics" wandered through many different display gardens. At the end of each day we could not have toured one more garden and the 'Rum Runner Pub' on the beach in Sidney was a welcome favourite watering hole for a round of 'Happy Hour' beverages and shared memories before dinner and a 'Rhododendron Rock Star' presentation.

The beauty of 'Sidney by the Sea' enhanced each day, as did the friendliness of the countless volunteers and garden hosts. The enthusiasm of all host gardeners was much appreciated and all 'Rhodophotoholics' returned home enchanted and inspired with new ideas for their own ever changing, ever growing gardens.

A huge bouquet of 'Thank You's' to all who spent the last two years organizing and hosting this incredible conference. We are blessed to live on such a beautiful, rhodo friendly island.



# Tidbits

## Get your ARS Journal on line.

### Instructions:

1. Access the ARS Office website: [www.arsoffice.org](http://www.arsoffice.org)
2. Click on the link that now reads "Members: Winter 2015 Journal Issue Published"
3. If you already have a username and password, click on "login". If you do not have a username and password, click on "Register Now" and follow instructions for obtaining them.

(To register, one has to know their ARS membership number which is found on the address label of the Journal magazine or in your North Island Rhododendron Society Yearbook)

## In Memory of Isabel Petch 'Gardens In Bloom'

In collaboration with the daughter of Isabel Petch, the Comox Valley Horticultural Society decided to organize a garden tour somewhat like 'Gardens in Bloom' in memory of Isabel Petch. The date will be June 20<sup>th</sup> and they have 6 gardens that will be open that day. Some of the gardeners are also members of the Rhodo society of which Isabel was an active member.

We would like the tour to be open to members of the Rhodo society as well as the Hort. Society. Friends and family of Isabel will be invited, as well. The plan is not to sell tickets, but to provide club members with the addresses of the gardens via email and entry to the gardens will be by donation. Proceeds of this day will go to Glacier View Lodge gardens, a favourite project of Isabel. The gardens will be open from 11 AM until 4 PM and a welcome gathering to share stories will be at 10 AM at the garden of Colleen Melsness. More details will follow as the date draws closer....

ELLEN VAN HEERDEN [ellenvh@shaw.ca](mailto:ellenvh@shaw.ca)

## Alpine Gardeners of Central Vancouver Island

Krista Kaptein, of the Strathcona Wilderness Institute to speak on "Beyond Paradise"

Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> June 2015

1-3 p.m. East Hall,

Qualicum Beach Civic Centre

747 Jones Rd, Qualicum Beach

\$5 at door includes coffee/tea, prize draw

## Milner Gardens

### 5th Annual Fairy House Surprise

June 25 to 28, 2015, 10am to 5pm

with last entry at 4:30pm.

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 areas Fairy Houses may have magically appeared, in honour of International Fairy Day and Veronica Milner's belief in fairies. Admission adults \$11, students \$6.50, free entry to members and current VIU students with card, and children 12 and under accompanied by an adult.

### Fairy Tea Time 1pm to 4pm

June 25 to June 28

Served in the Queen's room

and at the Milner House patio

Tea and Fairy Cupcake \$8.50 per person

## Milner Species Garden Working Party

After years of discussions to get work underway on the **Milner Species Garden**, work is about to begin. The first step is to cut down the smaller trees (less than 6" diameter) on the site. The trees cut down will be cut into manageable sizes.

**Volunteers** are needed to help move the resulting logs and branches to the road at the edge of the garden where they will be chipped.

The date set for the volunteer action is **June 18, 2015 from about 8:30 am to noon.**

Please note that the site is very rough. It is recommended that volunteers wear boots and heavy gloves and clothes appropriate for working in a wild forest environment.

If enough volunteers come forward, another project is to remove the old fence from around the proposed holding area. This area will be cleared and a new fence will be built. The area is to hold plants acquired which are not yet ready for planting.

If you are interested and can help out, or have any questions, email Marilyn Dawson at [dawsom@shaw.ca](mailto:dawsom@shaw.ca)

*A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill, except for learning how to grow in rows.*

*The philosopher who said that work well done never needs doing over, never weeded a garden.*

*All the flowers of all the tomorrows are in the seeds of today.*

# RECIPE REQUESTS

## Rhubarb Cake with Caramel Frosting

(June Deniseger)

- |                                      |                                  |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2 C. fresh or frozen chopped rhubarb |                                  |
| 2 C. flour                           | 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ C. sugar         |
| 1 C. chopped nuts (optional)         | $\frac{1}{2}$ C. veg oil         |
| 1/3 C. water                         | 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. baking soda |
| 1 tsp. salt (I used less)            | 1 tsp. cinnamon                  |
| 1 tsp. ground cloves                 | 1 tsp. nutmeg                    |
| 1 tsp. vanilla                       | 3 eggs                           |



Heat oven to 350°F. Grease and flour 9x13 pan. Mix all ingredients and beat on low speed, scraping bowl constantly, until blended - about 1 minute. Beat on medium speed for another 2 minutes. Pour in pan. Bake for 45-50 minutes or until done.

### Caramel Frosting

- |                                      |                         |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| $\frac{1}{2}$ C. margarine or butter | 1 C. packed brown sugar |
| $\frac{1}{4}$ C. milk                | 2 C. icing sugar        |

Heat butter in 2 quart sauce pan until melted. Stir in brown sugar and heat to boiling, stirring constantly. Boil and stir over low heat for 2 minutes. Stir in milk and heat to boiling again. Remove from heat and cool to lukewarm. Gradually stir in icing sugar; beat until smooth and of spreading consistency (I sometimes use a whisk or hand mixer). If icing becomes too stiff, stir in additional milk, a little at a time. Frosts a 9x13 pan cake.



## JAMAICAN BANANA BREAD

(Noni Godfrey)

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 2 C. all-purpose flour   | $\frac{3}{4}$ tsp baking soda |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt   | 1 C granulated sugar          |
| $\frac{1}{4}$ C butter, softened                                 | 2 large eggs                  |
| $1\frac{1}{2}$ C mashed ripe banana (about 3 bananas)            |                               |
| $\frac{1}{4}$ C plain low-fat yogurt (or pina colada flavored!!) |                               |
| 3 Tbsp dark rum OR apple cider                                   | $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp vanilla     |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ C flaked sweetened coconut                         |                               |

### Topping:

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1 Tbsp flaked sweetened coconut   |  |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ C powdered          |  |
| $1\frac{1}{2}$ Tbsp fresh lime or |  |



Preheat oven to 350°F. Combine flour, baking soda, and salt, stirring with a whisk. Beat granulated sugar and butter in large bowl at medium speed until well blended. Add eggs, 1 at a time, beating well after each. Add banana, yogurt, rum, and vanilla; beat until blended. Add flour mixture; beat at low speed just until moist. Stir in 1/2 cup coconut. Spoon batter into a 9 x 5-inch loaf pan coated with cooking spray; sprinkle with 1 tablespoon coconut. Bake at 350° for 1 hour or until a wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool in pan 10 minutes on a wire rack; remove from pan. Whisk powdered sugar and juice, drizzle over warm bread. Cool completely on wire rack.



This is my last issue of The North Island Rhododendron Society's Newsletter, The Rhodoteller. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those members that helped over the past 10 years with President's Views, Member's Notes, Member Profiles, Recipes Requests and numerous articles large and small.

As much as I love to put this newsletter together, I cannot continue to devote so much time to its production. I have thoroughly enjoyed working on the graphics and the formatting of the Rhodoteller, but much of my time is now devoted to finding or researching articles and recipes. I am constantly worrying if I have enough Rhododendron relevant content. As the old saying goes... "Worrying does not take away tomorrow's troubles; it takes away today's peace." So it is time to pack up my editor's hat and move on to more time spent golfing and gardening. Hopefully another member will be willing to continue where I leave off.

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

I bid you adieu



Noni

