



The September Edition

# Rhodoteller

www.nirsrhodos.ca

## North Island Rhododendron Society

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2016/2017

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## SEPTEMBER 2016 Coming Events

### 6th September 2016 -- Executive meeting

This month's meeting will be held at the home of members *Judi Murakami and Dale Patterson* 565 19th St, Courtenay. The meeting will start at **10 a.m.**

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### 13th September 2016 -- Regular meeting

For our first speaker of the season, we are honoured to have John Deniseger, a past-president of the Nanaimo Chapter speaking about Milner Gardens and the making of our rhododendron species garden. See inside for further details.

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### 30 Sep - 2 Oct 2016

The 32nd Annual Western Regional Rhododendron Conference will be held in Newport Oregon. This major event will be hosted by all of the Oregon Chapters which make up the ARS District 4. Please see the Summer 2016 edition of the Journal for complete details.

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

# PRESIDENT'S

## NOTES

Well, I don't know about your garden, but I've been busy cooking, preserving and freezing all the bounty that seems to be ready at the same time. I was away most of August, but Dale kept the home fires burning tending to the garden and laying carpet. While I was in Port Townsend I did go through the Rhododendron Garden in Fort Worden. I think ours is nicer and much better tended.

Maureen, Garth and I attended the District 1 Presidents' meeting at Milner Gardens, and had an update on the species garden from Geoff Ball, Director at the Gardens. Another new president was Barrie Agar from the Cowichan Valley. She was very interested in our propagation group so there may be people coming up to see how things are done. Did you know we are the largest chapter in District 1? That includes Vancouver and Fraser South. So take a bow NIRS. We were amazed to hear that Nanaimo rose to Ken Cox's challenge for every rhodo society to support Nepal after the earthquakes, and they raised \$440 by auctioning plants donated by members. The \$440 is in addition to the \$500 bursary they award every year to a student in the Horticultural Program.

To top that, Mount Arrowsmith raised \$900 in an auction for Nepal!!! Their profit for their Mother's Day Garden Tour Weekend was \$6,000, with over 400 people enjoying not only gardens, but music, art, the Qualicum Beach Museum and North Island Wildlife Recovery Centre. AND, their auction at the summer barbecue raised \$750, which will fund next year's bus tour of gardens. Looks like we have our work cut out for us.

We were pleased to meet Ken Webb, Glen Jamieson and Sean Rafferty, all those ARS names I've read about but had never met. It gave me a perspective on the history of the ARS and how we fit into the bigger picture. Garth set up the website for District 1 <http://www.rhodos.ca> and it has links to everything you need to know about the other chapters, the upcoming Western Regional Fall Conference and Marc Columbel's website, which starts off with a quote from his book "I do humbly ask for forgiveness of all the rhododendrons which died through my ignorance or bad advice. Hopefully this website will atone for my errors and help the novice growers avoid the same mistakes."

The spring District 1 meeting will be here in Courtenay, as it is the 20th anniversary of the rhodo gardens, a great time to showcase our city. I'm trying to schedule it so that they can attend the March meeting, and you can meet all the representatives from ARS and the other clubs. Keep your fingers crossed.

Stay cool

Judi

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### MEMBERSHIP

*Jill Gould*

At our September general meeting, we start renewing 81 NIRS memberships for 2017. The cost is still only \$35.00 per membership. There are two ways to do this.

1) Pay by cash or cheque made out to NIRS (North Island Rhododendron Society) when you attend the September, October or November meetings.

2) Mail a cheque made out to NIRS at Box 3183, Courtenay, BC V9N 5N4. This address is printed at the bottom of each newsletter page, and inside the front of your Yearbook.

If any of your personal information (address, phone, email etc.) has changed please let us know when you renew, or notify the Membership person (that's me) by email: [jillgnews@gmail.com](mailto:jillgnews@gmail.com).

As you renew, your information will appear in our Yearbook. The book is issued every January to all our current members. If you don't renew your membership, you won't be in it. See you in September!

### WAYS & MEANS

*Lois Clyde*

Welcome back everyone & hope you have had a great summer!

Our Raffle Rhodos this month are "*Nancy Evans*" & "*Conroy*".

"*Nancy Evans*" - is a visual delight with great parentage. She is a 3 footer good to 5 deg, F. Orange buds open to amber yellow, then become rich golden yellow. Very large calyx on a rounded compact plant.

"*Conroy*" - is a 4' from the cinnabarinum group, good to 20deg. F.

It is a large growing, bushy plant with glaucous rounded foliage. Tubular light orange flowers flushed with apricot red in a loose truss.

Our Door Prize is "*PJM Compacta*"

This PJM is 3-5" tall. Very hardy to -25 deg. & tolerant of heat & sun. Bright, lavender pink flowers with burgundy leaf colour in winter and compact, mounding habit.

We also have our "*Greer's Guidebooks*" for sale @ \$25

*"The Public Gardens of Vancouver Island"* by Ian E. Efford. \$25

*Plant tags* @ \$12 a box

*"Fundamentals for Growing Rhododendrons"* @ \$3, great for beginners.

*Lovely bags* @ \$14 in a variety of colours, very handy for shopping, meetings & travel.

Not to forget our truly coveted bumper stickers "*I Brake for Rhododendrons*". Only 2 left!!

We now have an addition to our table... "*Cards by Dick*" Sets of 6 for \$10 & individual for \$2 each.

These cards are pictures of Dick Bonney's garden. *A must have!!*

Hope to see you all at the meeting!

(Photos from [Hirsutum.info](http://Hirsutum.info))



"Nancy Evans"



"Conroy"



"PJM Compacta"

## PROPAGATION GROUP

*Report and photos by Diana Scott*

The NIRS Propagation Group has been very active throughout the spring and summer, working, learning and, of course, socializing! We were particularly fortunate this spring. The group was given the remarkable gift of a large number of potted rhododendron cuttings and the use of the propagation facility at Roberts and Adela Smith's beautiful home and garden. Charlie Sallis has been propagating for the Smiths over the last number of years and many of the most recent plants grown from cuttings have been generously donated to the Club. The care and nurturing was handed over this spring and under the able guidance of Wolfgang, Garth, and Jake, the Propagation Group leapt into action. Over a series of sessions in the spring, the plants were groomed, repotted, labeled, and fertilized. Work parties tidied up, put on shade cloth, weeded, and added bark to the area. Over the summer months under Wolfgang's guidance, teams carried on a fertilizing and maintenance schedule, and checked that the watering was appropriate for the weather conditions.

Throughout the sessions we've shared our collective knowledge and had hands-on opportunities to learn the nuances of bringing out the best growth from these young plants - pruning for shape and growth, looking at various repotting mixes and how to encourage roots to grow in the new medium, and how to fertilize at various points as the plants grow and flush out. The group would like to express special thanks to Charlie Sallis for his ongoing support and to Roberts and Adela Smith for their incredible generosity.



In addition to caring for the potted plants, we are learning about and trying our hand at production. We are fortunate to have a number of experienced propagators in our club who have been sharing their skill and expertise with us.



We had an excellent grafting session facilitated by Wolfgang on July 23<sup>rd</sup> at Smith's garden. With Bob Smith's permission, Garth and his team collected unique and interesting rhodo cuttings for grafting material. Wolfgang had purchased and nurtured Cunningham's White rootstock for the group to use and gave an excellent grafting demonstration. The 18 potential propagators watched carefully, and with materials at hand, gave it a try. Carefully matching the caliber of the scion with the caliber of the rootstock, angle cutting to ensure cambium matched cambium, and then securing it with a grafting band elastic is not as easy as it looks! We finished each 'graft' by labeling the pot with the rhodo name and grafting date, giving it a mist of water which produced a 'mini greenhouse' via a plastic

bag tied with a string. We waited 3 weeks or so before freeing the grafted plant from the bag, and are waiting to see if the grafts have taken. Fingers are crossed!



Garth and Sue hosted our 'What's next?' meeting in early August, where those in attendance worked through the details of how we would proceed over the next year. Garth started the meeting with a sampling of propagation videos available on the internet, and then a mini session on rooting hormone and its uses. Wolfgang was able to add from his experience in the industry, and we were reminded of the shelf life and fragility of the hormone.

Down to the business of our next steps, we agreed to begin propagating by cuttings for the Club that over time will produce rhodos for our plant sales and prizes. The required materials will be purchased from our Propagation Budget. The group members will begin the process September 10<sup>th</sup> by preparing the materials, cleaning and sterilizing pots and then on September 17<sup>th</sup> begin taking, preparing and planting our first cuttings. It was also agreed that each group member could try their hand at propagating a few plants for themselves and use the facility until the cuttings have rooted. Suffice it to say - we are excited!



This is an 'open' group, and we welcome any NIRS members who would like to participate. What a great opportunity to learn more about rhodos -- as we make more! In our usual fashion, when we 'Rhodie-types' get together, we've had a great time - and learned lots as well. Check out the photo section of our website to get a picture of what we've been doing. We invite any of our NIRS members who might be interested in adding to their experience while having a bit of fun to 'come on down' and join us!

## THE REVENUE TABLE

*Fran Thornton*

Did you know that the Revenue Table brought in a total of \$672 last season? That amount of money made from items donated by our members and sold to other members at our meetings is nothing short of amazing! Pure profit to the NIRS. But remember this is only possible because of the generosity of our members. Plants, jams or other produce from your garden? Most of us probably need to top up on our bucket supply and hopefully Dave Godfrey will bring along his usual supply of those for the next meeting.

Just remember, please, to tag and price any items you may bring for sale and to pick up any unsold items at the end of the meeting. Sale of these items will begin at the "break" in the programme.

## THE PROGRAMME SEPTEMBER 2016

**"The Rhododendron Species Garden Project  
at Milner Gardens and Woodland"**



John Deniseger is an avid gardener, outdoor enthusiast and long time member and past president of the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society. He is also a member of the Milner Gardens and Woodland Board and Milner's Rhododendron Species Garden Advisory Group. A retired biologist, in 2013, he received the Premier's Legacy Award and in 2014 he was inducted into the B.C. Hall of Excellence.

An exciting new collaborative project has begun at Milner Gardens and Woodland. The 5 Vancouver Island chapters of the American Rhododendron Society have joined forces in partnership with Milner and Vancouver Island University to create a rhododendron species garden. The presentation will outline the Milner story, the vision and goals of the rhododendron species garden project and its continuing progress.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMMES

*Paul Wurz and Garth Wedemire*

September 13, 2016 - John Deniseger

Topic: "The Rhododendron Species Garden Project at Milner Gardens and Woodland"

October 11, 2016 - Mike Stewart

Topic: "Contributions of legendary plant collectors and hybridizers, and their lasting legacies"

November 8, 2016 - Dennis Bottemiller

Topic: "Rhododendron Propagation"

December 13, 2006 - **Christmas Party**

## THE RHODO GARDEN

Wolfgang Hoefgen



The summer of 2016 is rapidly coming to a close, but what a summer it was!! After some productive, fun-filled work parties in May and June, our volunteers had the garden looking great!

But then came a long hot, dry spell which was complicated by a lack of water -- which is supplied by the City of Courtenay. Some damage had been caused to our rhodos even before the watering problem was noticed. After many phone calls and pleas for help, the Park's Board finally recognized and rectified the problem. Even with a heavy dose of water for the next 2 weeks, the damage was done. It will be awhile before we realize the full effects caused by a prolonged lack of water, but there certainly will be some. I would just like to ask our members to please notify me if you happen to notice anything in the CVRG that seems to be a problem in order to minimize any damage.

We did have a short work party in August -- a quickie weeding and general clean-up. Our next work party will be held on **Sep 15th at 9 a.m. Please note we will be back to our morning work parties.**

Finally, a big **THANK YOU** to all the members who support this important showpiece.

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Lynn Gray and Patty Matthews

Tradition has it that the Board of Directors provides the goodies for the first general meeting of the season and that tradition will certainly be upheld on 13th September. At the meeting a sheet will be passed around for volunteers to provide refreshments for the upcoming meetings.

Please don't forget that although we don't charge for the coffee/tea/goodies, we do accept donations. As with everything else, the costs associated with running a club like ours are continually on the rise and 100% of the donations received go directly to the NIRS.



... by Dave Godfrey, NIRS Webmaster

"Houston we have liftoff!!" Yes, our new website has been launched!

We have a new **Home** page and a new look to our website. Additional features will add to your online enjoyment and allow you to find important information easily. Members can access the site the same as previous (nirsrhodos.ca).

The new site is a 'responsive' Wordpress website. This means it automatically adjusts its appearance depending on the device being used (PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, Android tablet, etc.)

We have added an **Events** page to keep you informed about upcoming activities. There are new **Library**, **CVRG** and **Membership** pages. A **Contact Us** page lets you send an email to Executive Members, Committee Chairs and the Webmaster.

The **Membership** page explains the various types of NIRS memberships available and includes a link to download a membership application form. In addition, there is a link to recent issues of the ARS Online Journal.

Banner photos at the top of each page change when new pages are accessed. A **Sidebar** has been added to many of the pages. The **Sidebar** has links that allows viewers to access the latest 'Rhodoteller' – our monthly newsletter. Our Facebook page and links to other ARS sites on the Internet are easy to find in the sidebar.

Photograph albums of NIRS events and activities have been added to the **Photographs** page and are currently up to date. Be sure to visit the site often to view the many new features. ENJOY!

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## THE DICK BONNEY SHOW AND TELL



This is such an important and fun part of our programme -- the opportunity for our members to bring a flower, foliage or other parts of a plant they have growing in the garden (or maybe their neighbour's garden). We have been introduced to so many beautiful plants over the years and learned a little about them during Show and Tell. I would love to see more of our members participate in this segment -- It seems that only a few members take part yet I know that everyone has a plant(s) in every season of the year that are of note. They don't have to be the most remarkable plant ever. Maybe they're showing interesting foliage, or berries, or twig colour, or whatever. We'd like to see and hear and learn about your plants. Since this is the Rhododendron Society, a rhodo would be nice but any

companion plant or any particularly desirable plant would be more than welcome. Please be prepared, though, to tell us about it -- what's the plant's name -- how big is it -- shade or sun, hardiness, etc. Pass it around if possible -- we like to feel it, smell it and just generally check it out.

It would be appreciated, when you bring a plant, if you could let the President or Secretary know that you have something for Show and Tell so we know who to call on.

And in memory of our late friend, Dick Bonney, a little humour wouldn't hurt.



Hard to believe, but I am heading into my 13<sup>th</sup> year as librarian, with only a half year off last year to enjoy a trip to Europe.....My trusty helper Ruth Fowler took the reins for a few months.

Over the past twelve years I have expanded and improved the library position to run more smoothly and efficiently by implementing the following procedures.

All books have been numbered, carded and cataloged for loan to the members on a sign out basis. These items are normally signed out for a one-month period, unless otherwise requested.

Magazines were added to the lending library for the club 8 years ago and they continue to be very popular with the members.

I have set up and maintain a data base of all inventory and also provide an up to date listing of all books and videos for publication on the chapter's website. A printed copy for viewing is also always available at the meetings.

Our entire inventory is stored in the locked cupboard and the rolling cabinet in the chair storage room at the meeting hall by special permission from the Church. Myself and/or Ruth set up the library for each regular meeting, and secure these cupboards at the end of each meeting.

I do an annual inventory of the books in storage at the Church and cull any old or tattered books when deemed necessary. We then provide the old 'tender' magazines to the Revenue table for sale. Old tattered books don't sell at all, so they are recycled.

For the past few years I have also provided a written annual report to the club's Annual General Meeting as requested.

I have also, on occasion, provided book reports for the NIRS newsletter 'The Rhodoteller'.



Down to the nitty gritty; I have asked for and received an increase in the Library budget from \$300 to \$400 annually at last June's Executive meeting. The reason for this increase was mainly the cost of our magazines going up and in US Dollars, leaving little for purchasing books. Our fiscal year started in April 2016 and to date our three magazines (The Garden \$93.52, Gardens Illustrated \$90.00 and Fine Gardening \$43.81) have totalled \$227.33 Canadian.

We have money left over now based on the annual budget allotment, for ordering garden related books, and purchasing supplies as needed for further educational needs of the club.

In conclusion, I remind all that **only** current NIRS members may sign out books and magazines. Please make sure to sign and leave the card for the librarian. Also, please remember to bring back any books or magazines held over the summer to the September meeting.

“No matter what experience you have, you should always refresh your mind with a book.”

Respectfully submitted,

Noni Godfrey, Librarian



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EEEEK!

## Something's Eating My Azaleas!

by Jill Gould



Fig. 1 Sawfly larva damage of Azalea



Fig. 2 Sawfly larva

And it looks like a little green caterpillar, so you rush off to get environmentally-friendly BtK. Sorry, it won't work. This little green "caterpillar" is a sawfly larva (Fig. 2). While caterpillars are the young of moths and butterflies (*Lepidoptera*), sawflies (not really flies either) are wasps (*Hymenoptera*). BtK only works on *Lepidoptera*.

What is eating your Azaleas (Exbury hybrids are especially susceptible) is the larva of an Azalea sawfly, a small non-stinging wasp. There are two species, but you don't need to know the Latin names. Like many insects, sawfly larvae are a perfectly camouflaged: green, the colour of the leaf. You may not notice the damage until the Azalea is badly afflicted. The good news is that the Azalea sawfly has just one

generation a year. The bad news is that the larvae form cocoons which live in the soil under the plant, ready to hatch out next spring, in greater numbers.

While some folks I have spoken to have never had a problem with Azalea sawfly, others have had devastating attacks in their gardens. The sawfly larvae skeletonize the leaves (Fig. 1), until only the veins remain. The leaves grow back but it puts stress on the plant and looks pretty unsightly.

If you are aware that you may have this insect in your garden, you can hand-pick the larvae and drop them into a bucket of soapy water to kill them, but they are hard to see. Insecticidal soap spray works, but remember, it has to contact the insect directly, as it has no residual effect. This poses a conundrum for those of us who hate using "insecticides". May I point out that an insecticide is something that kills insects. Safer's soap is an insecticide. BtK is an insecticide. Stomping on the larva is an insecticide. Organic farmers are permitted to use Rotenone or Pyrethrum for insect control, both of which are insecticides of plant derivation which break down fairly quickly, and are washed off by rain. A synthetic insecticide which also works is Carbaryl (Sevin). Following Integrated Pest Management (IPM) guidelines, one uses the least toxic choice, in the smallest amount to be effective, and only when needed. You make the choice.

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### A SAD PASSING

The following is an e-mail from our District 1 Director Chris Hodgson:

"Just a note to let you know that Luranna Dougan passed away on Monday, August 22, in Campbell River B.C. Luranna and her husband Dave Dougan were founding members of the Cowichan Valley Chapter, long time members of the Victoria Chapter of the ARS and were well known for their participation in ARS activities in District 1 and beyond. Together they grew Rhododendron gardens in Cowichan Bay, Nanaimo and on the Malahat. Luranna was best known as the lovely hostess that provided goodies and drinks to all who came to view the gardens. She was not fazed by bus loads or just a few people to serve. Many speakers at the meetings were hosted by the Dorgan's and have memories of the meals that Luranna cooked. She was an artist who painted on porcelain; some of her work was raffled at Rhododendron events and are treasured by those who won them. She was a loving and supportive wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother and loyal friend. She is sadly missed by her husband Dave after over seventy-three years of marriage, son Mike, daughter-in-law Sue, grandchildren and great grandchildren and extended family and many friends. There will be no service for Luranna at this time."

THE RHODO IN THE BANNER

*R. bureavii*



Photo by Ken Gibson



Photo by Garth Wedemire



Photo by Susan Lightburn

(Above photos from Hirsutum.com)

*Rhododendron bureavii* -- The following description is taken from the "SPECIES IN OUR MIDST" series which is a well-researched, beautifully written series from the Massachusetts Chapter of the ARS.

This species is a member of Subsection Taliensia, a large and taxonomically complex group of elepidote (non-scaly) rhododendrons. Its name honors a French professor, E. Bureau (1830-1918).

*R. bureavii* occurs in the wild in two fairly limited areas in northern Yunnan, China, in open pine forest and rhododendron thickets, at elevations from 10,000-12,800 feet. It was introduced into cultivation in 1917-1925, and again in 1994.

This singularly attractive, compact and rounded shrub attains a height of 5 feet or more in the open. In shade it becomes more tree-like, reaching to 20 feet or more. For ornamental foliage it ranks among the finest in the entire genus. The leaves are elliptic and acuminate (pointed), up to 7 inches long. The upper surface is usually shiny dark green at maturity, while the lower surface is covered with a dense, rusty-red indumentum. The branchlets are also densely woolly.

As with many species in Subsection Taliensia, *R. bureavii* has a reputation of being shy flowering, but this writer has seen older specimens in the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden that were covered with bloom. Perhaps it simply takes longer than most rhododendrons to attain sexual maturity. The trusses contain 10 to 20 flowers, tubular-campanulate in form, 1 to 1 1/2 inches long, in color white flushed pink to pink. The calyx is large, 1/4 to 1/2 inch long.

At least two forms of this species have received the Award of Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. An astounding 18 different forms are growing at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, near Seattle. Greer rates the species as hardy to -10°F., an indication that it should succeed in Zone 6 gardens in our area. Like so many Chinese species, it needs excellent drainage to avoid root rot, and some shade. It is well worth any extra effort to satisfy these needs.

*R. bureavii* has passed on its superb foliage characteristics to several hybrids, including:

'Cinnamon Bear' (*bureavii* x *yakushimanum* 'Koichiro Wada'); 'Elya' [(*Fabia*' x *bureavii*) x *yakushimanum*]; 'Hazel' (*bureavii* hybrid) and 'Teddy Bear' (*bureavii* x *yakushimanum*).

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### Shopping on-line?

#### Shopping at Amazon.ca/Amazon.org ?



ARSSStore.org

Where every purchase benefits the  
American Rhododendron Society

As long as you go to Amazon via the ARSSStore.org a portion of your payment will be donated to the ARS.

Tell your friends & relatives. They don't need to be members of the ARS.

Tip: visit the NIRS website (nirs.rhododendron.org) and look for the link to ARSSStore.org

\$\$\$\$ Every dollar helps \$\$\$\$\$

## How To Buy On Amazon And Benefit The ARS!

I received similar emails from 2 ARS members, one from the Seattle Chapter and one from the Cascade Chapter. First, thank you for writing in to make sure you are doing things correctly. Remembering to use [ARSStore.org](http://ARSStore.org) when you use Amazon is very much appreciated by all members of the ARS.

### 1. What is the [ARSStore.org](http://ARSStore.org)

At the October 4, 2013, ARS Board of Directors meeting, the board authorized the creation of an online site that would not be directly selling items but would link to Amazon and other providers that would pay the ARS referral fees. Amazon pays a referral fee to the ARS on sales made when entering Amazon from the [ARSStore.org](http://ARSStore.org). These referral fees are typically 5.5% and go entirely to the ARS. [ARSStore.org](http://ARSStore.org) has NO expenses.

### 2. How do I use the [ARSStore.org](http://ARSStore.org)?

Just go to [ARSStore.org](http://ARSStore.org) and from there click on the Amazon logo. Amazon sells just about everything. As long as you go to Amazon from [ARSStore.org](http://ARSStore.org), the ARS gets a referral fee.

## Don't Use AmazonSmile!

Amazon has a program that promises to give 0.5% on each purchase to the charity of your choice. The program has 2 serious problems. First, the ARS is listed 55 different times but only one listing can actually earn money. But, even more serious, if you use AmazonSmile, there is a large probability that it would not pay the 5.5% to the ARS that the ARSStore.org typically earns.

Due to the possibility that the ARS would lose most of the over 5.5% it typically receives on each purchase and also the probability that the wrong 1 of the 55 different ARS 501(c) (3) numbers could be used, use of AmazonSmile is too risky. Let's only use ARSStore.org not AmazonSmile and get over 5.5% rather than hoping we get 0.5%.

ARSStore.org has earned over \$1,400 for the American Rhododendron Society without a penny coming from AmazonSmile. Perhaps in the future Amazon will integrate the two programs, but now, the Amazon ARS Store earns much more than what AmazonSmile gives. Don't combine the two.

**Do NOT use AmazonSmile!**

Steve Henning

[manager@arsstore.org](mailto:manager@arsstore.org)

*P.S.....*

*The Editor*

*As I scanned through the 'Summer' 2016 edition of the Journal it was nice to see that the write-up on the presentation of the ARS Bronze Medal to Ann Chevrier finally made it to the Journal for all the Rhodo world to see. Through an error on my part it took awhile. Sorry about that and congrats again to Ann!*

*At times this Grade 10 graduate finds the Journal a hard read but I guarantee that if you take a good look there is all kinds of interesting material in it. Take a look at page 82. There you will find a list of the top 100 rhododendrons which was established by the U.K. RHS Rhodo, Camellia and Magnolia Group. I was amazed to see that even in my remarkably ordinary garden you will find 8 or 9 of the top 100. And I know having seen many of our members' gardens you have many more in yours. I was very pleased to see "Phyllis Korn" on the list -- I had seen this remarkable rhodo in bloom at Roberts and Adela's a couple of years ago and fell deeply in love.*

*And following that list, there is a beautiful photo line-up of the "Top 20 of the Top 100". Wow!! Those photos are spectacular and most are taken by our own Garth Wedemire.*

*I hope you have enjoyed this edition of our newsletter. And thanks to everyone who contributed articles and photos.*

*Jake*