



THE NOVEMBER EDITION

RHODOTELLER

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NOVEMBER 2018

COMING EVENTS

6th November 2018-- Executive meeting

This month's meeting will be held at the home of **Antje Guertler**.
The meeting will start at **10 a.m.**

13th November 2018 -- Regular meeting

Our guest speakers this month are Sue Grant and Garth Wedemire who are, of course, members of the NIRS. The topic of their presentation will be "The Gardens of Wales". Please see inside for further details.

29 April - 3 May 2020

Eighteen months away but this is an early announcement of an upcoming, star-studded convention. Please see the last page of this newsletter and make a note of this exciting convention.

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

A view from the front of the room - that is the "view" I get every month as the President of our fantastic Club, The NIRS. It is a view that gives me a great feeling as I gaze around our meeting place and observe what is going on.

I see the hubbub and buzz of members greeting each other and chatting. The room is noisy so I can't make out what the conversations are about, but mostly happy faces tell me all I need to know. Many conversations are probably about plants. At the back of the room there is a large group jostling each other to see what plants are for sale at The Revenue Table. Wolfgang has probably brought in a tray of his specialties. Others are scanning the table of sweet offerings in anticipation of tasting the treats at the break, has Antje brought some of her famous German baking? Some are buying their raffle tickets (which Rhodos are to be won this month?)

Those who have not paid their dues are lined up to do so. Magazines and books are coming in and going out. It is a lively scene, fuelled by a wonderful group of people brought together by their love of Rhododendrons and other plants.

All this is happening before the meeting officially starts.....but from what I see going on maybe this preliminary mingling might be what makes the NIRS thrive and keep growing.

See you at the next meeting, November 13th.

Maureen

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP

Nadine Boudreau



Win your membership draw ends November 30, 2018

November is the last month that membership renewals and new memberships will be entered in a draw to win back your membership dues. Why not get in on the chance...you're going to renew anyway. 😊

If you are unable to attend the meeting, you could mail your renewal to our post office box number listed at the bottom left hand corner of the newsletter.

Our October meeting was well attended with 55 members and 4 guests. We are happy to welcome 3 new members, Heike, Kirk and Yvonne. We now have 48 members registered for 2019. Our current 2018 membership is 85.

THE REVENUE TABLE

Judy and Naomi

Every month members supply interesting plants, magazines and anything garden related to add to the revenue table. The items are generously donated by the members and the reasonable prices charged are 100% profit for the NIRS. Although it may seem a small profit from a \$3 plant sale, over the year the revenue table provides valuable funds for the society's activities.

Best sellers are interesting or unusual plants- from alpines to trees, the must-have buckets, garden magazines and tools. But all items are welcome- "ditch berry jam" being a special fall favourite!

The only caveat is that if you bring it, and it doesn't sell, please pick up all your donations at the end of the meeting. We have no place to store excess items to bring them back to a future meeting.

Thank you for making the meetings even more entertaining by donating to the revenue table!

WAYS & MEANS

Claudia Ellis

OUR RAFFLE RHODOS THIS MONTH ARE:

'*Blue Jay*' 5', -23C. Vigorous plant covered by bright green foliage. Lavender flowers have a distinctive dorsal blotch.

Azalea 'Everest' 4', -21C. Evergreen, with dull, mid-green leaves. White flowers 3" across with pale greenish-yellow blotch.

OUR DOOR PRIZE IS:

'*Goldkrone*' 4', -26C. Compact, rounded plant with rich, green foliage. yellow flowers have ruby red freckles on the upper petals.

HELP WANTED

Want a great seat at our monthly meetings? Claudia is in need of an assistant on the Ways and Means table to help raise funds for the club by selling draw tickets and other items. Have you ever noticed all the whispering and giggles coming from the ladies at the back of the hall. Well, you too could be part of that rowdy group --- Please contact Claudia at 702-1416 or just see her at this coming meeting.



R. 'Blue Jay'



Azalea 'Everest'



R. 'Goldkrone'

THE RHODO GARDEN

Maureen Denny

Five club members attended the October work party. Because not many leaves had fallen yet from the large overhead deciduous trees we were able to get the gardens looking good after about an hour's work. **The November work party will be on Thursday the 15th at 10am, weather permitting.** There will probably be lots of leaf raking to do, so bring your rake, buckets and a couple of wheelbarrows will be needed.

THE PROGRAMME

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Our November 13th guest speakers will be NIRS members **Sue Grant** and **Garth Wedemire** from Comox. Sue and Garth will present "Gardens of Wales Tour" which describes a visit to Wales with the Scottish Rhododendron Society this past April.

Doors open at 7:00 pm with the presentation commencing at 7:30 pm. Following the presentation, there will be a short refreshment break before the business portion of the meeting.

THE ARS

I'm pretty sure that most of the members of the NIRS know that our club is a chapter of the American Rhododendron Society (ARS), but how many of us know much more about the ARS and our relationship.

So, if we live in Canada and we're a member of the American Rhododendron Society, are there other countries in this Society? How many chapters are there? Who and where are they? How many members are there in the ARS? Why is the ARS? -- What led to all these clubs banding together to form the American Rhododendron Society? To fully understand what the North Island Rhododendron Society is all about we really do need to go back in time to the beginnings of the ARS. In the December edition of the Rhodoteller we will take an in-depth look at the history of the American Rhododendron Society. In the meantime, if you look at the back page of this edition you will see that the 2020 Conference in Portland-Vancouver, Washington will celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the ARS -- which means it all began in 1945. Should be one heck of a party!

I'm All Mixed Up

(The latest entry to Garth Wedemire's blog)

To read the steps involved in the process of creating Garth's custom potting mix for rhododendrons please visit:

<https://plantsourceca.blogspot.com/2018/10/im-all-mixed-up.html>

"It is late October and I needed more of my special potting mix. Since time was available, Sue and I decided to document the process and put it on the Plant Source blog.

The first step was to gather the ingredients.



Containers are 5 gallons US pails. Ingredients are pictured above and listed below (from left to right).

One container was used unless stated otherwise.

lava rock (testing this ingredient) The six ingredients (plus lava rock):

-
- fine fir bark mulch (2 containers)
- perlite (2 containers)
- peat
- topsoil (2 containers) (best quality available)
- 9 Kg bag of Mushroom Manure
- 16 Kg bag of Sea Soil

Lest We Forget --This month's Rhodo in the Banner is the Poppy.

□



THE POPPY

The inspiration behind the poppy as a symbol of Remembrance.

During the First World War (1914-1918) much of the fighting took place in Western Europe. Previously beautiful countryside was blasted, bombed and fought over, again and again. The landscape swiftly turned to fields of mud: bleak and barren scenes where little or nothing could grow.

Bright red Flanders poppies (*Papaver rhoeas*) however, were delicate but resilient flowers and grew in their thousands, flourishing even in the middle of chaos and destruction. In early May 1915, shortly after losing a friend in Ypres, a Canadian doctor, Lt Col John McCrae was inspired by the sight of poppies to write a now famous poem called '**In Flanders Fields**'.

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

In Flanders' fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders' fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high,
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders' Fields.



American Rhododendron Society

75th Anniversary

**20/20
VISION**



Looking forward, reflecting back

Portland-Vancouver, April 29-May 3, 2020

The 75th Anniversary of the ARS

Although it is about eighteen months until this event - the 75th Anniversary of the American Rhododendron Society, it is not too early to plan your trip to the Portland-Vancouver Washington area to attend this important convention. World-renowned Keynote Speakers include Kenneth Cox, Steve Hootman, Jens Nielsen and Lionel de Rothschild

The theme of the convention is "20/20 Vision - Looking Forward, Reflecting Back". There will be tours to the Northwest's outstanding gardens and nurseries and time to connect with ARS members like yourself. Stay tuned for more details as they become available.

See You at the Church 13th Nov.