

NORTH ISLAND RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

THE JANUARY EDITION

THE RHODOTELLER



www.nirsrhodos.ca

PO Box 3183, Courtenay BC V9N 5N4

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JANUARY 2020

Coming Events

January 7 – Executive Meeting

This month's meeting will be held at the home of **Carolyn Chester**. 2636 Parker Road, Courtenay. The meeting will begin at **10 a.m.**

January 14 – General Meeting

“Four Seasons in Our Gardens”

This month we have a special presentation by Garth Wedemire of members garden photos through the seasons.

Doors open at 7:00 pm with the meeting beginning at 7:30.



JANUARY

THE FOUR SEASONS IN OUR GARDENS

A Garth Wedemire Presentation

A presentation of photographs sent in by our members throughout the year covering our gardens through the four seasons (Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn).

Included in the thirteen members who contributed photographs are six who submitted photos for each of the four Seasons in the year. They are Nadine Boudreau, Noni Godfrey, Summer Joy, Connie Prain, Judy Walker and Garth Wedemire. NIRS is indebted to all the photographers whose contributions have made it possible to present "*Members' Slides*" in this format.

Garth Wedemire has assembled almost 360 images from various gardens into a PowerPoint presentation accompanied by Vivaldi's The Four Seasons Symphony. The complete presentation is 25 minutes and should be enjoyable for all who attend the NIRS meeting on January 14, 2020.





Happy New Year!

I hope everyone in the club had a wonderful Christmas Holiday season; enjoying family time, plenty of good food and perhaps a few quiet moments to walk the beach, the forest or your own garden, dreaming of spring to come.

I had an unexpected surprise in my garden about a month ago. I went out into the backyard to see what greenery I could pick for making up the Christmas Party table centerpieces when I noticed the most delicious spicy scent wafting in the air. I wandered and sniffed my way around, eventually discovering that the English Ivy was blooming. I can't recall this happening before in my garden, it was a treat!

As I settle down now to write the President's Report on this last day of 2019, January is only a few hours away. It is the month to look back and look forward. This month is named after the Roman God - Janus, the god of beginnings, gates, transitions, passages and endings. He is depicted with two faces, since he looks to the future and the past.

Looking back at the events of our club in 2019 and all we have accomplished, I want to thank everyone in the membership who have given their time, skills and energy in whatever capacity, large and small to make the NIRS so successful. Some the highlights were the visit of Ole Jonny Larsen from Norway last March, and Steve Hootman's visit in November. Robert Argall also hosted all members of the club for another Spring Bulb Garden Tour in his garden and hosted our June picnic. Two other main events for our club were the annual Plant Sale and Mother's Day Garden Tour; both were a great success. On December 10th we had the Annual Christmas Party Potluck. A special thanks to Antje for organizing the food, and Dave and Garth for hosting the Jeopardy and Heads and Tails Games. It was a great evening with lots of food and fun.

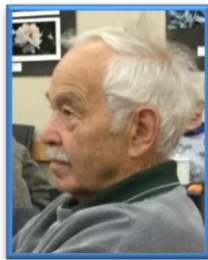
I also must mention that two members of our club, Jill Gould and Garth Wedemire, received the ARS Bronze Medal. This award is given for outstanding contributions to a chapter, and is the highest commendation awarded by a local chapter in the Society.

Looking forward to 2020 when the days will soon be getting longer, and it is time to get busy planning for more events for next spring, the Plant Sale and Garden Tour.

Finally, thanks to Nadine Boudreau for stepping up last fall to take on the position of Newsletter Editor. Despite a steep learning curve at the beginning, she is doing a fabulous job that is much appreciated by all.

Wishing everyone a healthy and happy 2020.

Maureen



PAUL'S SIX WHITE FAVOURITES

By Paul Wurz

Being winter it is fitting that this month's favourites were chosen as white – hopefully, the white rhodos will replace the white stuff that can fall this time of the year, which I have learned to despise! It must be the laziness that comes with aging.

In selecting my favourite whites, I chose to ignore some of my favourite large scented rhododendrons that are found throughout the garden. I left them out because most of them had an obvious touch of pink and many with blotches in the throat. Maybe one day I will write an article about the scented rhodos in our garden. Having said this, several of this month's rhodos do have blotches and one is scented. If you are interested in any of these you can get more information in Greer's Guidebook, or the [Hirsutum](#) website which is currently up, but may not be tomorrow!

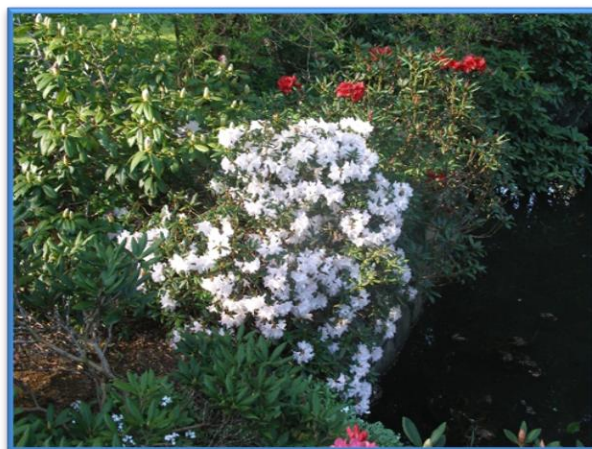
So Here They Are (don't ask me why I chose six and as usual they are not in any particular order):

1. **White Gold:** This rhododendron is 15-15-30. It's 15ft high, 15ft wide, and 30yrs old. Unfortunately, I couldn't find a picture in my image collection showing its spectacular display when in bloom. It grows in full sunlight and never burns or fades. A great rhodo but does require a lot of space.



2. **Helen Schiffner x Norm:** This rhodo was given to me from the late Norman Todd from Victoria. It is a cross between one of my favourite whites (Helen Schiffner) and something else which I don't know. After having it in our garden for more than 10yrs it remains very compact, always covered with flowers and is approximately 3ft tall in partial shade. Unfortunately, this rhodo probably doesn't exist in anyone else's garden.

3. **Dora Amateis:** This picture is taken in our backyard overlooking one of our ponds. It never received the attention it deserved until I saw several of these plants in Frank Fujioka's garden on Whidbey Island. He grew it in full sunlight, and it was almost impossible to see any green. Although, our plant is in lots of shade it does bloom very well - I recently planted another one in front of the house in more sun.



4. **Cinnamon Bear:** It's not often that I say this is, but this is my favourite rhododendron in the garden (some of my friends may dispute this claim!) As Harold Greer says in his guidebook, "This plant is probably the finest foliage plant that you can find". Being a *R. bureavii* hybrid, it possesses a dark fuzzy indumentum all year. I think it is superior to the other Bears (Teddy, Honey, and Kodiak). The pure white flowers give an excellent contrast to the dark green leaves. I have one in partial shade and the other in full shade - both plants bloom very well.

5. **R. degonianum:** A small growing yakushianum species rhodo that was recently rated as one of the best rhododendrons in cultivation. Its low growing compact plant has wonderful fawn indumentum and excellent habit and very dark green leaves. It blooms wonderfully well, and the plant looks superb all year. After 10yrs in the garden it's barely over 2ft tall. Several other forms of yakushmanum are equally desirable.



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6. **R. fortunei**: Another species rhodo that I chose mainly because of its robust healthy plant and is always well-mannered and usually covered with pure white fragrant trusses. Many years ago, I planted seeds from a R. fortunei plant from Madeline and Len Simmons (deceased NIRS rhododendron members) and now have various seedlings 15ft tall throughout the garden. They had to be scented to keep their place. Harold Greer has great things to say about R. fortunei in his Guidebook.



Honourable Mentions:

1. Louisa Witrock (Frank Fujioka's)
2. Babylon (very scented and big)
3. Robert Korn (beautiful green foliage)
4. Yeti (yellow throat and scented)
5. Queen Anne (a double and scented)
6. Magic Moments (Jack Lofthouse's)
7. Horizon Snowbird (Dr. Ned Brockenbrough's)
8. Horizon Serenity (Dr. Ned Brockenbrough's)

SPECIES RHODODENDRONS

A QUIZ

(MATCH THE COLUMNS)

by Jake Ellis

Happy New Year to all! Let's kick 2020 off with a little brain teaser about species rhodos.

It may be easy for some and a real challenge for others but give it a go.
Hopefully it will be fun and provide a learning opportunity at the same time.
Don't know the answer -- when in doubt Google! Answers can be found at
the end of NEXT PAGE. Good Luck.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Specific Epithet meaning "becoming yellow" | (a) First rhodo found growing in cultivation. |
| 2. Species rhodo found growing in all Can. Provinces. | (b) George Forrest |
| 3. Plant hunter gored to death by a bull in Hawaii. | (c) <i>R. yakushmanum</i> |
| 4. <i>R. hirsutum</i> | (d) <i>R. albiflorum</i> |
| 5. Introduced <i>R. yakushmanum</i> to the West. | (e) <i>R. catawbiense</i> |
| 6. Species rhodo found growing on Mt. Washington | (f) Koichiro Wada |
| 7. One of plant collector Ernest Wilson's Iron Clad rhodos. | (g) <i>lutescens</i> |
| 8. Not a species rhododendron. | (h) David Douglas |
| 9. A genus of the Heath family. | (i) 'Album Elegans' |
| 10. Now a subspecies of <i>R. degonianum</i> . | (j) <i>R. groenlandicum</i> |
| | (k) Rhododendron |
| | (l) <i>ferrugineum</i> |

THE COMOX VALLEY RHODODENDRON GARDEN

Maureen Denny, Chair

Thanks to all who volunteered at the work parties in 2019. These work parties are indeed more like a party than work. While the work gets done, there is time to chat and get to know other club members. When the work is done, we have coffee and goodies with more time to chat and have a good time. We know our work is much appreciated by others, as we regularly receive positive comments by people passing through the park as we prune, rake and weed. We are even asked for advice on Rhodo care by some passing by.

The highlight this fall was Steve Hootman's visit and consultation at the garden. He will be sending us a plan for the long-term management of the gardens. A small CVRG committee has been formed and more information will be coming regarding the implementation of this plan.

The work parties will resume in February 2020.

Maureen

MEMBERSHIP, *Nadine Boudreau, Chair*

Kathy Gordon was the winner of the 'Early Renewal Membership' draw. Kathy will receive a rebate cheque in the New Year for her free membership for 2020. Congratulations Kathy!

JANUARY RAFFLE

RHODODENDRONS



Cunningham White



Hansel



Elizabeth Lockhart

SPECIES RHODODENDRON QUIZ ANSWERS:

1(g), 2(j), 3(h), 4(a), 5(f), 6(d), 7(e), 8(i), 9(k), 10(c)

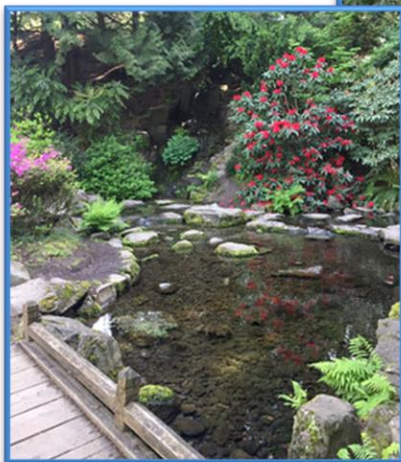
2020 ARS ANNUAL CONVENTION

You're invited to the celebration!

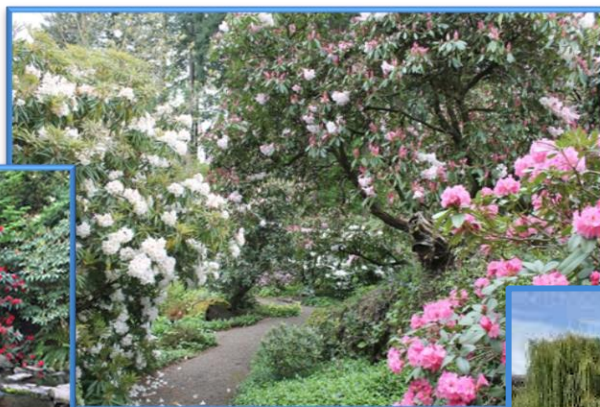


The six chapters of ARS District 4 will host the 75th anniversary Convention, titled “2020 Vision, Looking Forward Reflecting Back” to be held at the Heathman Lodge in Vancouver, WA on April 29 to May 3, 2020, with optional pre-tour, April 27-28 and post-tour, May 3-5. Informative guest speakers include Jens Nielsen, Kenneth Cox, Lionel de Rothschild and Steve Hootman. Outstanding garden tours are planned to the Crystal Springs Garden, the Cecil and Molly Smith Garden and the Lan Su Chinese Garden. Put this event on your calendars.

For more information and registration go to ars75.org



Crystal Springs



Cecil & Molly Smith Garden



Lan Su Chinese Garden

LACE BUG UPDATE

Many of us have experienced or heard of the Lace Bug that has been showing up in large numbers on our *Pieris japonica* shrubs. I recently received an email from Bernie Guyader reporting that three of his Rhodos are showing signs of infestation. The Rhodos are Seaview Sunset, Moupinense and a seedling rhododendron, and the lace bug seems to be migrating to several other rhododendrons. When Bernie did some research on the bugs, he discovered that they can be active throughout the year. Bernie sprayed the undersides of the leaves with Bug-be-gone and this seems to have killed the active bugs. He will continue to monitor plants and treat them as necessary.

I am re-running the article that Leslie Cox authorized for the November 2018 newsletter on the dreaded lace bug. I personally do not have *Pieris* in my new garden, but along my driveway my neighbour has a border of mature *Pieris* and Rhododendrons. I quite enjoy this border that is slightly higher in elevation than my driveway. The large *Pieris* in this border have large infestations of lace bugs. So, you start to wonder why, we have always been taught that an unhealthy plant is vulnerable to pest and diseases. Back in the 80's when I was first working in a parks department *Pieris* were considered a woodland plant. Those beautiful varieties like Valley Valentine and Forest Flame.



This tough plant though was soon used by mass landscaping in full sun. All seemed well, but maybe as weather patterns changed and water restrictions came into play, it seems like the dryness has weakened them to be vulnerable to such a bug. At the conference in Parksville this spring speaker Linda Gilkeson noted that if you have *Pieris* with lace bugs move it to a shady spot. Now looking at the *Pieris* in the driveway border, 1, they are in full sun, 2, when I see the sprinkler system running it is not covering the plants. This would lead one to agree they are stressed.

The other important observation I had with these *Pieris* was last spring. In our area we were delighted with the amount of Rufus and Anna hummingbirds, a bumper baby year, swarms at the feeders. The other place that these little birds were hanging out was around and in the *Pieris*. I'm sure they were



feeding on the lace bugs; they acted the same way to each other as at the feeders and I read they need protein. Anyway, my neighbour's gardener showed up one day and sprayed bug-be-gone on these *Pieris*, and there were no more hummingbirds visiting the *Pieris*. There was a strong smell for days, as it was a dry spell at the time. I kept monitoring the lace bug from my side and about 6 weeks later it seemed they were right back in numbers and most of the hummingbirds had left on their journey south. To control a large infestation through spraying would require multiple applications. That would make it hard to build up natural predators. Before you consider spraying, look around the area at different times of the day, look closely at the plant. Are there some predators that Leslie lists nearby?

Ask yourself what can I do to make my plant healthier first? In this case the plants are too big to move, but with better irrigation, and maybe some good organic fertilizer they could strengthen up. I would say mulch, but it is best to be removing the fallen leaves from the base of the plant, there could be egg masses on them. You'll end up raking up all your mulch with them.

Pieris can end up with a lot of dead twigs and branches inside the plant, prune these out, and deadhead the plant as soon as they finish blooming. Let some air and moisture through the plant. This is really an important step if you do decide to spray, you want to open the underside to ensure better contact with the bug. My neighbour is unable to work in her garden, (thus the gardener) and allows me to prune my side of the driveway border. I have reached as far as I can on the ladder to prune the Pieris and deadhead the rhodos. I regularly give them water and sprayed the undersides during the summer. We will see if this helps and hoping for our little hummingbirds come feasting in the spring.

By Leslie Cox - November 2018

(The following article has been authorized by the author -- Thanks Leslie.)

After first reporting about the Pieris lace bugs (*Stephanitistakeyai*) in January 2015, it would seem their numbers are increasing.

It is not hard to understand why the population is growing in the valley. Having arrived on one or more infested plants...and with a reproduction rate of up to five generations in one growing season...this pest was destined to spread. Especially if the gardener does not know what symptoms to look for on their plant, or plants.

The biggest clue there are lace bugs on your Pieris shrub is a yellow mottled pattern on the upper side of the leaves. This is caused by lots of these little pests sucking the sap...mostly from the underside of the leaves, but occasionally on the upper side too. You may also notice shiny little dots of black excrement on the underside of the leaves.

You must look sharply for the adult lace bugs because at a mere 3.0 – 4.0 mm (0.11 – 0.16 in) in length, they are pretty darn small. A magnifying hand lens certainly helps, if you have one handy.

Identifying features for the Pieris lace bug are a slightly flattened black body and mostly transparent wings held neatly folded over and extending just past the abdomen. Very hard to see without a magnifying lens, or a macro lens



on your camera, is the black cross on its wings and the delicate black veining. The antennae are decently long for such a tiny creature and it has six pale legs...like any self-respecting true bug...albeit a nasty pest.

As of this writing in November 2018, you can still find at least a few adult lace bugs on the Pieris shrubs...if you have this pest in your garden. There is some conflicting information about whether the adults survive the winter temperatures, or not. So far, I have not found any firm details of what temperature lows the adult and nymph lace bugs can tolerate. My guess is this would be dependent on where you live...not only latitudinal, but also with respect to micro-climate. What is generally known is: the eggs can, and do, overwinter.

So now would be a very good time to get down on your knees and systematically search the underside of the lower leaves on your Pieris shrubs. This is the part of the shrub where the females lay their eggs. What has not been stated is if this is the part of the shrub where all generations of eggs are laid through the rest of the season. They could possibly be found in other parts of your shrub, unfortunately. Especially as their numbers increase through the summer.

Look along the main vein on the underside of the leaves for the overwintering egg deposits. This is where the female typically lays her eggs...although not always. Specifically look for a raised, light brown lump. This is where the female has pierced through the lower epidermal layer of the leaf to deposit her eggs and then covered them with a secretion she manufactures.

The overwintered eggs will start to hatch sometime from mid-April through into May...depending on spring temperatures. The newly emerging nymphs are almost clear, so are even harder to spot than their parents. They will remain clustered together in their little group until after the second or third moult. At that point, each one will head off to a new feeding spot on their birth leaf. The nymphs gradually darken in colour as they grow through a total of five instar stages, or moults...each instar lasting less than a week. They also develop tiny black spines along the edge of their abdomen. At the end of about a month, the nymphs have transformed into full-sized adults.



I have not been able to determine exactly how long the egg gestation period lasts during the warm seasons. However, if I were to hazard a guess based on a reproduction period spanning five generations, the non-winter egg stage likely lasts no more than two weeks. Probably more in the range of seven to ten days.

Oh, and just to give you some idea on how a Pieris lace bug infestation can get away from the gardener...each female lay five to seven eggs per day. In her lifetime, she will lay a total of about 300 eggs...times five generations in a season. This almost rivals an aphid infestation, so all gardeners should really be concerned about this pest.

How to fight back? Many learned references I consulted have recommended using insecticides or pesticides. Naturally, if the gardener wishes to use these sprays, he/she should check the by-laws in their city or town. Other experts have advised using a jet stream of just water and still others recommended using an insecticidal soap.

My leaning would be to treat the shrub with horticultural oil over the winter months. The reason is: less possibility of harming any beneficial insects which may be feeding on the Pieris lace bugs. And there are a few beneficial insect species who will come to the gardener's rescue. The list includes lady bugs, green lacewings, earwigs, spiders and probably a few others.

Spray treatment must be thorough on both upper and lower sides of the leaves and a repeat dosing is recommended in order to ensure all egg clusters have been covered in oil to effectively smother/kill them. However, if your shrub is too badly infested, you may want to consider removing the shrub and burning it.

In summary, Pieris lace bugs are largely species-specific in just infesting *Pieris* spp. but they have been known to infest certain rhododendrons as well...although there is a native North American rhododendron lace bug (*Stephanitis rhododendri*).

There is also a separate lace bug which attacks azalea plants, called *Stephanitis pyrioides*. Both the latter and *S. takeyai* (Pieris lace bug) were originally native to Japan but have become quite well-established in numerous parts of North America.

If you discover any whitish-tan coloured adult lace bugs with no black cross on their wings, you have found either rhododendron or azalea lace bugs, unfortunately. Yellow mottled leaves on either of these plant species indicates the presence of their respective pest.

For more information about all three of these lace bugs, plus more photos, visit my website: duchessofdirt.ca.

LIBRARY REPORT



Duchess of Dirt: The Record Years,

by Leslie A. Cox

Printed in Canada by Island Blue Book Printing

(NIRS Library #40-42)

A soft cover compilation of garden columns published in the Comox Valley Record newspaper, and other Black Press newspapers in BC, since March 2004.

Leslie, an avid gardener, nature and animal lover is constantly learning something new each day and has been sharing these insights with us for many years. Most of these experiences and escapades have found their way into her columns and in the blogs on her website: duchessofdirt.ca

Leslie's book "The Record Years" is divided into sections covering Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter, and the ever popular "Recipe" section. Several proverbs and quotes are used throughout the book to liven up the articles and to make one think about gardening and life around gardening in general. Some of my favourites are "Be happy with what you have and you will have plenty to be happy about" an old Irish Proverb.

And, of course, Margaret Atwood's famous expression "In spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt."

Pruning, diseases, insects, birds, non-native invasive plants, unusual and rare plants, vegetables, soil preparation, seed saving, composting, winter disasters, gardening with children; are just a few of the topics covered in this informative book.

Three appendices have been added in table format at the end of the book. They cover some very useful information on soil and air temperature for sowing seeds, seed life cycle, viability and pollination methods, as well as crop isolation distances for seed saving.

Leslie says..."she would be ever so pleased if you found even one or two useful bits of gardening information in any of her articles....or if they, by chance, provided a chuckle or two that brightened your day."

Thank you Leslie for compiling these articles into a book format for all to enjoy!

BOOK REVIEW (Submitted by Noni Godfrey)

ARS BRONZE MEDAL

Presentation to Garth Wedemire North Island Rhododendron Society

December 2019

It was with great pleasure that President Maureen Denny presented the American Rhododendron Society Bronze Medal to Garth Wedemire on December 10th, 2019. 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.



Garth has a long history with the ARS. He has been an active member in his home chapters and across the District, receiving 2 Bronze Medals, the District 1 Award of Exceptional Contribution, and the ARS Silver Medal for his contributions. Prior to moving to our area, Garth was our guest speaker on several occasions and in 2011 became an Associate Member of NIRS. It was always a pleasure when he and wife, Sue Grant, attended a meeting or outing, and we were delighted when they moved to the Valley in 2014 transferring their membership to the NIRS.

Garth and Sue barely had their boxes unpacked when Garth agreed to stand for election and was NIRS Director-at-Large from 2014 to 2016. He continues to assist with our NIRS Website and Facebook page offering technical help, as well as suggesting changes and improvements, and providing assistance with the audio/video equipment for our meetings.

Garth participates actively in our work parties at the Comox Valley Rhododendron Garden and has helped identify several previously unknown plants at the garden and at various locations around the Valley. Garth and Sue are friendly, welcoming, fun, and personable. They participate fully in our activities, and their contributions have been much appreciated. They have been regular volunteers at our Garden Tours and Rhodo Sales, and Garth has recently become one of our Sale Vendors. They lead a game that is now a tradition at our Christmas festivities, and our well-loved annual Trivia Game is an adaptation of the one Garth developed while a member of the Fraser South Chapter.

As a leader in our Propagation Group, Garth has given hands-on demonstrations of propagation and pruning techniques, donated interesting plants, and shared web-based information with the group. Garth and Sue have graciously hosted many of our meetings at their home. He takes part in the Propagation work parties and has made excellent recommendations regarding plant selections for our projects.

Garth has travelled extensively and is generally interested in all things 'science'. The members of NIRS have been able to benefit from these interests through his many excellent presentations to our club. His photos and use of the latest in technology make these presentations top-notch. With many contacts in the plant world Garth has worked on our Program Committee helping put together a great roster of guest speakers.

As a member of the NIRS, Garth has been incredibly generous with his time, knowledge and expertise. We thank Garth for his many contributions to the club and congratulate him 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 Garth Wedemire for the Bronze Medal Award
for his many years of service and continued dedication to the Society."

CHRISTMAS HAMPER 2019 *Diane Van Oostdam*

Every year the NIRS sponsors a family at Christmas through "Sharing the Christmas Spirit" program sponsored by the Salvation Army and Royal LePage. This year we had a family of five: parents and one boy, age 16 and 2 girls age 14 and 17. Thanks to the member's generosity we collected \$270 cash, plus a \$75 cheque from the club. We also received additional food donations from club members to fill the hamper. Thank you to everyone who donated. Maureen and I went shopping for the remainder of the food items on the suggested list. It's a big job but we had fun! From the funds collected we were able to purchase a \$30 WINNERS gift certificate for each of the children, and a package of socks for the Dad. We also gave the parents a \$40 Walmart gift card. Plus \$40 is given to the organization to cover the cost of perishable food, such as turkey, vegetables, etc..... See the picture of some of the items we bought and collected!!



Thank you for your support! Diane

CHRISTMAS PARTY 2019

By Dave Godfrey



Our chapter's annual Christmas party held at the church hall on Tuesday, December 10th, was a lot of fun and another great success. We had 48 members and guests attend and there were many delicious dishes provided for our dinner, along with a lot of fun games to be played before and after. It was especially nice to see some of our newer members attend this year to enjoy the party.

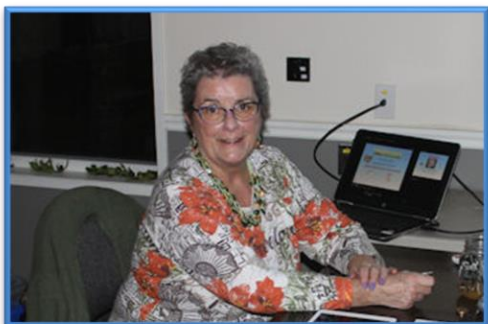
Once again, the executive committee arrived early to setup and decorated the hall with festive tablecloths, beautiful centerpieces and Christmas music. Members started to arrive around 5 pm and immediately began socializing with others, as they attempted to guess the number of Jellybeans and Smarties in the jars. **Noni Godfrey** had the usual sheets of scrambled names for members to try to figure out and **Nadine Boudreau** prepared the delicious apple cider. This year, **Judy Walker** graciously donated 26 litres of apple juice for the cider.



Before we began the dinner at 6 PM, **President Maureen Denny** took the opportunity to surprise **Garth Wedemire** by presenting him with our club's Bronze medal award. (See separate article in this newsletter.) With the formalities out of the way, it was time for dinner. The delicious meal was topped off with so many dessert choices that everybody was well fed.



The evening would not be complete without another entertaining and challenging game of 'Trivia' provided by **Dave & Noni Godfrey**. The game was interspersed with several fun rounds of 'Heads or Tails' organized by **Garth Wedemire** and **Sue Grant**. Congratulations to winners **Antje Guertler, Dorothy Law, Carolyn Chester, Noni Godfrey, Joanne Williams**; each receiving an average of \$35.



Noni keeping the games running smoothly

When the Trivia game ended and the totals were tallied, it was the “*Rhodo Rockets*” team that were declared winners with 31 points out of a possible 54 total points. Each member of the winning team received a small Rhododendron provided by our Propagation group.

The winner of the ‘Candies with Kisses’ jar was ***Lois Clyde*** guessing 325 (one more than the number in the jar.) ***Nadine Boudreau*** won the second jar with a guess of 520 (536 in jar.)

A draw was then made for the door prize wreath crafted and donated by ***Lois Clyde***. Congratulations to ***Summer Joy*** for winning the wreath. Draws continued for the beautiful centrepieces and gift certificates, until each member (or couple) received a prize. Congratulations to all our winners!



One last draw was made for the wrapped present and ***Summer Joy*** is the lucky keeper of ‘Miss Piggy’. The NIRS tradition for the past 20 plus years requires that the winner prominently display her in their garden throughout the year. This year’s guardian, ***Diane Van Oostdam***, provided Miss Piggy with a suntan! With Summer and Jim offering their garden for the Mother’s Day Tour this coming year, no doubt ‘Miss Piggy’ will be in her glory for all to see.

In closing, the executive committee would like to thank all those who attended and enjoyed another fun Christmas party.

Thank you to all, and to all a good night!

(Photos of the party are posted in our website’s ‘Photo’ gallery - nirsrhodos.ca)

