

# THE RHODOTELLER



*Rhododendron 'Star Trek' photo by Naomi Chester*

## Meetings & Events

- May 2 Executive Meeting
- May 9 AGM at McNabb's garden at 7:30 pm  
(treats reminder: Helen Stefiuk, Maureen Denny,  
Lyn Sakiyama, Joanne Williams, Antje Guertler)
- May 11 Work Party at CVRG 10 am
- May 14 NIRS Mother's Day Garden Tour

*Thank you to everyone who submitted articles and current photos from their gardens.*



### PROCLAMATION

#### ***Rhododendron Month***

*WHEREAS* Rhododendrons enhance the beauty of our City in the spring; and

*WHEREAS* the City's partnership with the North Island Rhododendron Society at the Comox Valley Rhododendron Garden provides additional beauty for our citizens and visitors; and

*WHEREAS* the official plant of the City of Courtenay is the "Courtenay Lady" Rhododendron; and

*NOW THEREFORE* I, Bob Wells, Mayor of the City of Courtenay, do hereby proclaim May, 2023, as **RHODOENDRON MONTH** in the City of Courtenay.

Mayor Bob Wells

## Photos from Apr 30 plant sale & truss show



*Thanks to coordinator Nadine Boudreau and all the volunteers, it was a highly successful event.*



*From this ... to this near the end.*



*Photos by Kathy Haigh*

## President's View

by Dave Godfrey

Even though the calendar indicated spring over a month ago, the weather and temperatures have been anything but spring-like. Finally, we are into a stretch of sunny warm weather this week! Everyone says their plants and rhodos are about three weeks behind. Hopefully they will catch up and start showing their splendour soon. Otherwise, we will have a smaller than usual showing of trusses at our plant sale.

Once again, Nadine Boudreau and her team have done a terrific job of preparing for the sale. The sunny weather helps bring people out and we hope this is the case again this year.

Carolyn Chester and Noni Godfrey have also been busy getting garden sitters lined up and tickets prepared for the return of our Mother's Day Garden Tour. This year the gardens are located in the North Courtenay to Black Creek area. It is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tour and will be a welcome back after the three-year hiatus due to Covid. Thank you again to all our members who are helping with our two major fundraisers.

Thank you is also extended to Robert Argall for opening his garden on April 22<sup>nd</sup> for members to visit. There were 20 members and guests that took the opportunity to tour Robert's beautiful acreage with all the spring bulbs, camellias and magnolias putting on a colourful display. Thank you, Robert.



If there are other members who wish to invite fellow members to tour their garden, please let us know the time and date, so we can extend the invitation to the club.

"May is Rhododendron Month" and Mayor Bob Wells for the City of Courtenay has declared it as such. It is also the month for our Annual General Meeting. The AGM will be held in the garden of Adrienne & Robert McNabb in Royston. At this meeting, a financial report for our March year-end will be given, as well as reports from various committees. In addition, we must hold an

election for terms expiring on June 30<sup>th</sup>. This year the positions of Secretary, Treasurer and two Directors (Antje Guertler & Aubrey Ferris) will be open for nominations. If you, or any other member you know, wish to be a part of the executive, please notify Nomination Chair Judi Murakami of your intentions. Nominations from the floor will also be open at the meeting. This is an opportunity to learn more about your club. So please plan to attend on May 9<sup>th</sup>.



That's all I have for this month. Enjoy your gardening and remember to take a break to admire your work!

*Tulip Tree in Courtenay Marine Park, centre of CVRGC. Reminder to vote for your choice of 'Tree of the Year.'*  
Photo by Diane Van Oostdam



*R. pseudochrysanthum*  
photo by Valerie Ferris



*Helleborus  
and  
Trillium  
photos by  
Antje Guertler*



## Native Plant References

By Jill Gould

At last month's (April) meeting, Dorothee Keiser was asked for names of books that members could read, about use of native plants in our gardens. These are a few books I have which I have found helpful.

**Plants of Coastal British Columbia** (Pojar & McKinnon): This is an excellent handbook, with a picture for each plant, along with brief descriptions of the plant. It has the advantage of being a small-size handbook so you can take it along if you are exploring. It is also readily available in bookshops. Recommended by D. Keiser.

**Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest** (Lewis Clark): This is my bible, but it's a big volume. Very comprehensive, and nearly all entries have colour photos. I find it an excellent reference. An older publication, it may not still be available retail, but can be found second-hand.

**Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest** (A. Kruckeberg): You may be able to find this. The author writes excellent comprehensive descriptions, but not all plants have photos. Black and white photos and line drawings.

**Native Plants in the Coastal Garden** (April Pettinger): Forward by Des Kennedy. This is a guide to use and planting of native plants, complete with propagation and seed collecting information. Good descriptions, no photos but has line drawings. A smaller and less-expensive choice.



*Magnolia 'Starlight' photo by Valerie Ferris (above)*

*Magnolia stellata photo by Antje Guertler*

## CVRG

By Maureen Denny

Spring is finally here and it is the time of year all Rhodo lovers have been waiting for! Our beautiful Comox Valley Rhododendron Garden will soon be in full bloom. May is officially Rhododendron Month in the City of Courtenay, and Rhodo 'Courtenay Lady', hybridized by the late Harry Wright, is Courtenay's official flower.

A few months ago our wooden sign was removed and taken to a sign shop in Courtenay to be fully restored. This project is now complete and the refurbished sign will be reinstalled by Courtenay Parks. Thanks to The City of Courtenay for looking after this for our Club.



Thanks to all the many volunteers who attended last month's work party (eleven if I can remember). We spread mulch and then shared coffee and goodies at the picnic table. The next work party will be Thursday, May 11th at 10 am.



*R. lutescens* photos by Lois Clyde



## Plant of the Month

by Ron Sutton

### Rhododendron rivulare

This beautiful plant is a species Tsutsusi (evergreen) azalea.

It is found in China South-Central, China Southeast, to Myanmar.

The foliage is made up of colourful, shiny, silvery new leaves with red hairs.

The branch stems are also covered in hairs.

In late June it produces open trusses of approximately ten light purple, flowers with a darker throat.

My plant was purchased from the RSBG, so I will use the information they provided. It is listed as hardy to 0°F/ -18°C, and will tolerate a fair amount of sun. It is estimated to grow to four feet in 10 years. My plant seen in the photo taken in June 2022 is in a pot, until I find the ideal place for it.

Very little information about this rhododendron is found anywhere, not in my dedicated species books, or online. The Red Book of Rhododendrons doesn't mention it either. If the name is mentioned anywhere, it is under *R. calostrotum*. Here is a link to the RSBG page for it [Rhododendron rivulare CGG#14120 279sd2010 – Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden.](#)



## Membership

By Dan Ryan

At our April meeting 44 members and 4 guests were in attendance, including 1 renewal.

We welcomed Lori and Pat Parfenow as new members, bringing our membership to 75, including 7 associates.



Clockwise:  
*Tulipa 'Zombie' closed, Tulipa 'Zombie' opening, Tulipa 'Zombie' open, Pulmonaria, Trillium.*  
All photos by Diana Scott



## Greig Species Garden 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary By Dave Godfrey

Milner Gardens and Woodland extended an invitation to all ARS members of Vancouver Island to attend a special gathering to commemorate the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Greig Species Garden on Tuesday, April 11, 2023. Milner's Director Geoff Ball thanked all those who attended and gave special thanks to all the support from the Vancouver Island ARS chapters.

There were approximately 60 members and guests in attendance on a cool but sunny afternoon. It was nice to see twelve members of the North Island chapter attend to enjoy a walk around the gardens and to see the area where phase two (big leaf bed) will be established in the coming year.

The afternoon also provided an opportunity to witness the awarding of the District 1 Silver Medal to Anthony 'Tony' Ansdell. Tony had been the District Director for about 10 years, the District Treasurer, as well as a founding committee member of the Greig Species Garden. His many years of service to ARS District 1 was recognized by all chapters with this very deserving award.



*R. 'Bowbells' & R. augustinii*  
photos by Judy Walker



# Board of Directors & Committee Chairs 2022/2023

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**Secretary**

Carolyn Chester 250-619-5864

**Vice-President**

Naomi Chester 778-992-2999

**Treasurer**

Noni Godfrey 250-335-0717

**Director: Ways & Means**

Aubrey Ferris 250-941-8888

**Director: Membership**

Dan Ryan 250-331-0157

**Director: Revenue Table**

Judith Walker 250-339-1146

**Director: Social Committee**

Antje Guertler 250-338-2306

**Propagation:**

Antje Guertler 250-338-2306

**Programme Co-ordinators**

Dave Godfrey & Judith Walker

**Co-ordinator CVRG**

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Kathy Haigh 250-702-4311



*PJM Elite & 'Christmas Cheer' photos by Lois Clyde*



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