



# Newsletter

Volume 23:9 Editor: Ian Efford December 2012

## *President's Message*

Mary Jacques informs me that our membership tally is now in for the year and we have lost a few members and gained a couple with the final result that we are down two from last year. Naturally, we will welcome any new members wishing to join, just invite them to a meeting. The programme is almost complete for the rest of the year and some interesting talks have been arranged by Alan Campbell. As always, visitors are welcome to any specific talk as this is one way of encouraging membership.

There are a number of rhododendrons conferences and conventions during the next three years. Some have already been mentioned in the newsletter and others will be advertised in subsequent editions. This year, in particular, there is an interesting conference on rhododendron conservation in the wild to be held at the Edinburgh Botanic Garden. This garden is well worth visiting for this conference or just to see the garden considered one of the best in the world. You can occupy yourself for a few hours without becoming bored. Other conferences will take place in New Zealand, at the Dunedin Botanic Garden, in Seattle and, of course, in Victoria in 2015 when we will be able to attend the ARS Annual Conference right on our own doorstep. Try to go to one of these as you will find it both interesting, enjoyable and a great place to meet new friends.

Members of the propagation group visited Finnerty Garden at the University of Victoria last month and collected quite a few cuttings of named plants. Hopefully, we will see some of these reach planting size in the next couple of years and appear in our monthly raffle.



As you know, new members receive a plant when they join. If, for any reason, you did not receive one, just let me know and this will be rectified.

Have a great Christmas and New Year.

*Ian E. Efford*

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## Coming Events

December 5  
The Christmas Dinner

January 9  
Ian E. Efford "Exploring New Zealand Gardens"

February 6  
Bernie Dinter "Colour in the Garden Year 'Round"

**The Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society**

A Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society

P.O. Box 904, Duncan, British Columbia, V9L 3Y3 <http://cowichan.rhodos.ca>



Royal  
Botanic Garden  
Edinburgh



# *‘The Red List of Rhododendrons’ Where Do We Go From Here?*

## *Establishing Priorities and an Action Plan*

**2013 Rhododendron Species Conservation Conference**  
**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2013**

**Venue: Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, Scotland**

*Jointly hosted by: Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, Rhododendron Species Conservation Group & Botanic Gardens Conservation International*

### **Introduction:**

Join us to participate in an International Rhododendron Species Conservation Conference to be held at the Royal Botanic Garden in the City of Edinburgh, Scotland in the Spring of 2013. If you have an abiding interest in rhododendrons and are passionate about ensuring that these beautiful plants are saved for future generations to enjoy, then this is an event for you. A quarter of the world's rhododendrons are threatened by extinction and some of these are reduced to a handful of plants in the wild. It would be a tragedy if these were lost.

Jointly hosted by the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (REBG), the Rhododendron Species Conservation Group (RSCG), and Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), *The Red List of Rhododendrons: Where Do We Go From Here? Establishing Priorities and an Action Plan* will cover the current position with species that are threatened in both the wild and in conservation, through a wide ranging programme of lectures, garden and glasshouse visits, together with the opportunity of meeting with like-minded delegates and socialising at an optional Conference Dinner.

Speakers from China, India, Indonesia and Britain will enlighten you with a programme of lectures that will put clearly into perspective that out of a global total of 1157 taxa evaluated, 317 rhododendrons *in-situ* ('in the wild') have been identified as being in danger of extinction. Urgent

attention is needed for the 76 species considered to be 'Endangered' or 'Critically Endangered'.

It is equally important that the rhododendrons most at risk are represented in well-managed *ex-situ* ('in cultivation') collections as an insurance policy for the future. Speakers from North America, Hawai'i, New Zealand, Europe and Britain will give an assessment of the status of the Rhododendron collections, together with the current way of approach to conservation, being taken forward by Botanic Gardens, Public Gardens, Nurseries, Private Gardens and Societies.

### **Conference Venue:**

The Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh enjoys a world-wide reputation as the 'home' for research, herbarium records and display collections of the genus *Rhododendron* for the past 100 years. It's Main Lecture Theatre and facilities can accommodate 100 delegates and speakers, and will provide a unique opportunity to meet with key personalities in the field of rhododendrons and vireyas. Facilities will be available for the display of horticultural, scientific and technical posters at the venue, by prior arrangement with the Conference Manager.

The Conference Hosts and Planning Group are grateful to the following organisations for their generosity and support:

***The Sibbald Trust***  
***RHS. Rhododendron Camellia & Magnolia Group***

In common with all major events of this type this Conference is a 'work in progress', and the arrangements are subject to change without notice

## **Conference Programme:**

**Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2013:**

**Venue: Main Lecture Theatre**

**Welcome & Introduction:**

Prof. Stephen Blackmore, C.B.E., Regius Keeper, R.B.G.E.

**Conference Session I:**

Theme: *Setting the Scene:*

Moderator: Dr. David Rae, Director of Horticulture, R.B.G.E.

The major contributors to '*The Red List of Rhododendrons*' will explain the key aspects encompassed in the publication and also provide a wider view of the issues involved. Sara Oldfield will open the session with an introduction to the concerns that need to be addressed in the field of Rhododendron conservation. Dr. David Chamberlain will provide an overview of the situation relating to temperate species and suggest specific areas that need to be considered. Dr. George Argent will explain the impacts that raise concern in regard to Vireyas and suggest aspects that need to be considered.

**Conference Session II:**

Theme: *Establishing a Sense of Direction and Purpose:*

Moderator: Sir Peter Hutchison, Hon. Vice-President, R.S.C.G.

David Knott, Curator of Living Collections at Inverleith Garden, will provide an insight to the R.B.G.E.'s perspective on Rhododendron conservation and how these concerns are being addressed. The opportunity will be taken to visit the RBGE plantings and discuss in a practical way some of the issues related to plants that are threatened, vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered. Dr. David Chamberlain will lead the session in Inverleith Garden, and Dr George Argent will lead the session in the Vireya House.

A resume of Day One will be given by Sir Peter Hutchison.

**Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2013**

**Evening Dinner at the R.B.G., Edinburgh**

**Venue: Main Conference Room**

## **Conference Programme:**

**Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> April:**

**Venue: Main Lecture Theatre**

**Conference Session III:**

Theme: *A Perspective from the Wild on Rhododendron Conservation:*

Moderator: Sara Oldfield, Secretary General, B.G.C.I., Surrey.

Speakers from China, India and Indonesia will provide an insight on the 'in-situ' position on conservation of rhododendrons and vireyas. Dr. Gao Lianming will outline the Chinese perspective on Rhododendron conservation. Dr. Ashiho Mao will give an insight into his work in the Arunachal Pradesh Province of India, and Dr. Wiguna Rahman will provide a perspective of Vireya conservation activities in Indonesia.

**Conference Session IV:**

Theme: *An Ex-situ Perspective of Rhododendron Conservation:*

Moderator: Ian W.J. Sinclair, President, R.S.C.G.

By way of contrast, this session will provide an *ex-situ* perspective and speakers from North America, Hawaii, Europe and Britain will cover the conservation work being taken forward in Botanic Gardens, Public Gardens, Private Gardens, Nurseries, and organisations with an interest in conservation. Steve Hootman will provide an insight into conservation activities in the U.S., Sherla Bertlemann will give an overview of the Vireya conservation work in Hawai'i and on the West Coast, Dr. Marion MacKay will discuss the conservation work being undertaken in New Zealand, Hartwig Schepker will explain the conservations activities taking place in Europe and the work being carried out at Bremen, and Peter & Kenneth Cox will provide their own perspective of conservation activities in the U.K. Ian Sinclair will outline the projects currently being taken forward by the R.S.C.G. A Speakers Panel and questions from the floor will conclude this session.

## Conference Session V:

Theme: *The Way Forward*:

Moderator: John M. Hammond, Hon. Secretary R.S.C.G.

Based on the discussions over the past two days, in the final session of the Conference a Speakers Panel, comprised of Sara Oldfield, Dr. David Chamberlain, Dr. George Argent, Dr. Hartwig Schepker and Dr. Gao Lianming will outline the priority issues that need to be addressed and suggest a plan of action to take these objectives forward.

## Concluding Overview:

A resume of the Conference will be presented by Sir Peter Hutchison.

## Speakers and Moderators:

### Dr. George Argent

Is a Research Associate at the Royal Botanic Garden, in Edinburgh, and has led numerous expeditions as a tropical taxonomist. He is recognised as the world's leading authority on *Vireya* rhododendrons and his publications include the *Rhododendrons of Subgenus Vireya*.

### Sherla Bertlemann (awaiting confirmation)

Is a key driving force in the Hawai'i Group, is currently its President, and her efforts have led to the establishment of their *Vireya* Garden. With her partner she runs a very successful *Rhododendron* and Orchid nursery and is tireless in her efforts to promote *Vireyas*.

### Dr. David F. Chamberlain

Is a Research Associate at the Royal Botanic Garden, in Edinburgh, Dr. David Chamberlain is world-renowned as a *Rhododendron* taxonomist, co-author of the Edinburgh revision of the Genus *Rhododendron* and has made many field trips to China in search of wild rhododendrons.

### Kenneth N.E. Cox

Is a Third-Generation nurseryman and author of many books and articles on rhododendrons and plant-hunting. Kenneth Cox is Manager of Glendoick Gardens, has made a dozen plant-hunting expeditions to Tibet, India & N. Vietnam, and is an intrepid visitor to British gardens.

### Peter A. Cox

Is a Second-Generation nurseryman, highly-respected *Rhododendron* author and plant-hunter from Glendoick Gardens, and is internationally renowned. The entertaining plant-hunting memoirs of Peter Cox and Sir Peter Hutchison, *Seeds of Adventure*, was published in 2008.

### John Hammond

Is Conference Manager and Hon. Secretary of the R.S.C.G., currently President of the S.R.S., and Past Director at Large on the A.R.S. Board. John Hammond has organised several major conferences, led garden tours, and written many historical articles on people, places and plants.

### Steve Hootman

Is the Director of the *Rhododendron* Species Botanical Garden at Federal Way, Washington, U.S.A. Steve Hootman has led and been a member of numerous plant-hunting expeditions, including the first western ascent of Saramati on the Indian/Burma border.

### Sir Peter Hutchison

Sir Peter Hutchison and Peter Cox are perhaps the most enduring plant-hunting partnership ever, having made over 20 expeditions from 1962 to the present day. Sir Peter is a former Chairman of Trustees of the R.B.G.E., and is co-founder of Baravalla Garden in Kintyre.

### David Knott

Is Curator of R.B.G.E. Living Collections and has responsibility for the plants in the gardens at the Inverleith Gardens of the R.G.B.E. He was Curator at Dawyck Botanic Gardens for many years and has been on many plant hunting expeditions, including Nepal and Japan.

### Dr. Gao Lianming

Is an Associate Research Fellow at Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences, where in 2012 he became Group Leader on plant DNA bar-coding and speciation. He has carried out surveys of rhododendrons in Yunnan, Sichuan, Tibet and South East China.

### Dr. Ashiho Mao

Has undertaken plant exploration tours to Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh from 1997 onwards. He moved to Botanical Survey of India in 2008, transferring to Arunachal Regional Centre to study Ericaceae, i/c rhododendrons.

### Dr. Marion MacKay (awaiting confirmation)

Is Senior Lecturer in Environmental Management at Massey University in New Zealand, specialising in exotic woody plant biodiversity and is currently leading a research team on genus *Rhododendron* diversity and *ex-situ* conservation, in both temperate and *vireya* species.

### Sara Oldfield

Is Secretary General at Botanic Gardens Conservation International in Richmond and Chair of the IUCN/SSC Global Tree Specialist Group. She has been involved with plant conservation and research at an International level for over 30 years, including a period at R.B.G., Kew.



**Dr. Wiguna Rahman**

Is a scientist at Cibodas Botanic Garden, Sindanglaya-Cianjur, West Java, Indonesia, and has made several plant exploration tours to look for Vireyas. He has researched the propagation and cultivation of Vireyas and attended the Red List Workshop in Singapore in 2008.

**Dr. Hartwig Schepker**

Is Scientific Director of the Rhododendronpark Company in Bremen, Northern Germany, Dr Hartwig Schepker is also responsible for the municipal Botanical Garden and Germany's first Green Science Centre, Botanica. He has been plant-hunting in Borneo, S.E. Asia and India.

**Ian W.J. Sinclair**

Is an ex-Garden Supervisor at Benmore Botanic Garden and now runs a horticultural consultancy. He has been on plant-hunting expeditions since 1981 and is active in rhododendrons at many levels, including being President of the Rhododendron Species Conservation Group.

Whilst all reasonable efforts will be made to ensure that the above Conference runs to plan, changes can and do occur, particularly where a programme involves multiple speakers from the U.K. & Overseas. The hosts are not responsible for changes caused by circumstances beyond their control, however, we will endeavour to make alternative organisational arrangements, including replacement speakers, where it is reasonably practical to do so.

## Tannock Glen: Garden of the Dunedin Rhododendron Group

*John Henderson, President, Dunedin Rhododendron Group, New Zealand*

In 1973 some 3 acres of mostly clear pasture was 'leased' from the local Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for the purpose of collection and presentation of rhododendron species in particular, plus locally-bred hybrids in an attractive setting. Initial founding trustees were Ralph Markby, Bruce Campbell and Chas. McLaughlin. They were of the view that these objectives were not being adequately addressed by the Dunedin Botanic Gardens at that time, hence the need for a separate Group garden, which is named in honour of David Tannock who was the founding director of the Dunedin Botanic Gardens in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Propagation of the rarer species has also been carried out.

The sloping site is on very wet clay soils and was very exposed to wind from the south-west. Planting of shelter and soil drainage were thus early requirements and a nursery area was established. Volunteer labour has always been the main source of workers with only occasional help from polytech students and miscreants sentenced to some hours of labour, (known as 'periodic detention'). With the construction of paths and bridges and the development of many planted beds, the garden became a popular site to visit. By the mid 1990's there were up to 900 visitors to the garden during what was celebrated as "Rhododendron Week" in Dunedin.





The garden is an attractive mix of mostly deciduous trees (including Oaks, Magnolias, Dawn Redwood and Davidia) with many associated plants (Enkianthus, Camellia, Astelia and Pseudopanax) helping to set off the rhododendrons. To date there have been over 150 rhododendron species and 120 hybrids planted. The garden will be one of those visited by the New Zealand International Rhododendron Conference to be held in Dunedin from 20 – 24 October 2014.





# A Prisoner In My Own Compost Bin

*John Noakes, secretary of the Alpine Gardener Society's Chiltern Local Group, recalls an embarrassing episode at the bottom of his garden.*

I would guess that 25 per cent of our homemade compost derives from household vegetable waste. We like to pride ourselves on our contribution to a better environment. Every time I empty the bucket from under the sink I feel virtuous. Even alpine gardeners like to make compost. However, I become less virtuous and less pleased when a bin full of mature compost has to be emptied. Work is involved! Even before this stage we are told that the compost should be regularly turned over. This advice is often given by smart TV gardeners who I strongly feel have never been near a compost bin. It's mucky work.

Several years ago I constructed two bins, but both of them are beginning to disintegrate, eventually to self-compost or end up on the frontroom fire. Two new bins need to be produced. More work! I may leave them for one more year, but by then I will be another year older and feebler. The real work starts when both bins are full, which happens once a year. One has been maturing with no further material added for a year while the other has been topped up regularly. The matured bin now has to be emptied.

It's wonderful to discover how all the compost ingredients have rotted down to a friable mix that can be spread around the garden as a soil-improving mulch. This derives from a combination of grass cuttings, weeds and vegetable waste, to which is added a volume of shredded confidential and sensitive documents such as bank statements. All this material generates a lot of heat, as did some of the shredded documents in their past life, too. One disadvantage is that the heat is not sufficient to kill off all the weed seeds, which later germinate prolifically in an unwelcome manner when the material is spread around.

Fortuitously the emptying operation uncovered a long-lost kitchen knife half way down the pile. It brought back memories of chopping off the roots and green leaves of leeks on a cold winter's day. Then I spotted a gleaming piece of steel – a very special trowel which I treasured and thought I had lost for ever. It had been replaced at some cost. Can I now use two trowels at once?

Emptying the compost bin resulted in an unexpected problem. As the pile inside diminished I had to climb into the bin to dig out the remainder. As I neared the bottom I could still toss the material into a wheelbarrow but realised that I couldn't get out myself. I was stuck!

How ignominious to be marooned in a compost heap at the end of one's garden. Would help arrive? Where was my wife? Would anyone bring me a cup of coffee? I resorted to idle daydreaming and looking at small plastic labels with 'Jaffa from Page 4 Israel' printed on them, which had survived in the heap without degrading. So had the vacuum cleaner bags which I thought would have rotted down. I tried to calculate how many tea bags had been deposited in the bin to be spread around the garden. On average we have about six cups of tea per day between us. This adds up to more than 2,000 tea bags over the course of a year. What effect would this have on the plants? Maybe there is a research project to be done here. We seem to be all right with this indulgence, so presumably it doesn't worry the plants.

Suddenly I was woken from this daydreaming when I spotted some movement at my feet. It was a family of voles. Even if I didn't like it here, they did. They had been cosy, with a good supply of worms, but now their home had been destroyed. I scooped them up and popped them over the side so they could seek out new accommodation before the owls found them.

Would anyone scoop me out? Have paramedics or the fire brigade ever been asked to extract a geriatric from a compost bin? If so another bin, the loony bin, might be the destination. I do have rather long legs but was never good at hurdling. Then I decided that I just couldn't be found like this. It would be too humiliating and the talk of the village. So with one supreme heave I managed to get one leg over the edge of the bin. A second heave propelled me out, straight into the half-full wheelbarrow.

I landed on my back on a cushion of well-rotted compost and lay there for several minutes, staring up at the sky. This was just as humiliating as being stuck in the bin. It was as though I had decided to have a crazy mid-morning nap. Just then a red kite, with chestnut wings

and forked tail, flew whistling above me. Perhaps he had spotted the voles. Clearly I was not yet dead and of no interest to him and he wheeled away. Fortunately I found it easier to escape from the wheelbarrow than the bin itself, rolling off on to the ground.

I distributed the compost around the garden and cleaned up the bread knife and the trowel. Finally I put the lid back on the bin – and the lid on my embarrassing escapade.

( This article was first published in September, 2012, in The Alpine Gardener, the journal of the Alpine Garden Society in Worcestershire, United Kingdom and re-printed in the Victoria Rhododendron Society newsletter.)

## A Further Comment on Composting

Reading the above article by John Noakes made me think about the issue of compost boxes and the ease with which one can construct them for free and empty them. If you need a new compost box, simply visit the back of factories and workshops in the area and seek a pile of pallets. These will either be available free or the company will have paid a deposit on them. Rona has both free ones and ones where they have paid a deposit. Find four identical free ones and take them home. They will stand in a square and require the minimum nailing to hold them in place - 8 four inch nails should be sufficient.



Rather than be trapped inside your compost box when emptying it, just knock off one side, if necessary put a tarp on the ground, and rake out the content. If you have a second box already being filled, take out all the twigs that have not rotted and throw them in to the new one in order to increase its population of bacteria, fungi and invertebrates that are breaking the organic material down into excellent mulch. When empty, re-nail the side and it will last another two or three years.

*Ian E. Efford*



# Groom Early for Bigger and Better Flower Trusses

It's fall and most of our rhododendrons that will be blooming for the flower show have set their buds. It's not enough to just wait for spring and the week of the show to go out and find flower trusses that may be winners. Now is the time to start looking for buds that could open into winning trusses and grooming these buds and leaves to make bigger and better flower trusses. We are always striving for creating that perfect truss and leaves combination that will win 'Best of Show' or at least a blue ribbon. Here is how to do that.

First thing to do is to protect your plants, flower buds and leaves from the pests that want to eat them up. In my yard the biggest enemy of winning trusses is slugs. First they chew on the new leaves as they emerge, then the new fully open leaves and then they like to chew on the flowers as they open. There is nothing worse than having a winning truss, then come out to pick it for the show and find that it has been eaten on by a big banana slug. There are a number of things you can do to control slugs, but I find that physically removing them from my yard works best for me. The second big enemy is the black vine weevils. They like to chew up the edges of the leaves. Weevil serrated leaves don't score well with the judges. There are a number of biological, physical and chemical controls you can use to combat weevils.

Check out the JARS article: "***Practical Black Vine Weevil Management***", on the ARS website: <http://www.rhododendron.org/v57n4p219.htm>. Use of beneficial nematodes works well for me. There are other minor pests and diseases that can cause problems, most all of which can be controlled by a periodic spraying of horticultural oil.

The second thing to do is get those leaves greened up to where they are supposed to be. Don't fertilize too much in the fall, or you could turn those buds into a late spurt of growth resulting in no flowers and possibly new young leaves that could be damaged by frost. I like to apply 'Ironite' now to green up the leaves and fight chlorosis caused by a lack of iron or soil that is not acidic enough. You could also try a light foliage feeding with a quick acting fertilizer such as Miracle Grow.

Rhododendrons need acid soil conditions to be able to uptake and make use of the iron in the soil. If you have chlorosis in your leaves that is not fixed by the addition of iron and soil acidifiers, then you may have a bigger problem with that plant.

Chlorosis may also be shock-induced by damage to the roots from root rot, severe cutting of roots, root weevils or even root death due to over fertilization. Below is an example of a rhododendron suffering with chlorosis.



The third and probably most important thing to do is to find those potential winning buds and groom them now for the biggest and best trusses. When I was a kid, one of my summer hobbies was raising giant pumpkins. The way I did that, was to create a planting mound well away from other plants, so it has nothing else to compete with. I would mix in lots of organic mater and fertilizer, then plant several seeds in the mound. When the seeds sprouted and started to grow, I'd pick out the biggest and best plant, save it and eliminate all the others. Then I allowed it to grow and start to set pumpkins. There would be 4 or 5 runners with several pumpkins each starting to grow. I would pick the biggest best looking pumpkin on a runner and eliminate all the other pumpkin starts. Now all the energy the plant produces is going into its one remaining fruit. I would even cut off the runner just past the pumpkin and cut off all the ends of all the other runners, so that all the energy flowing down the runner was ending in the one and only pumpkin and not trying to grow more runners. The plant has no choice but to put all its reproductive energy into its one remaining fruit. This would result in a larger than normal pumpkin.

I now like to apply this same principle to growing rhododendron trusses for show entries. First I find potential upright truss buds with good leaves. I then eliminate any extra buds. Some stems may sport several flower buds (we call them 'Hammer Heads') and multiple leaf buds. I take off all the extra flower buds, leaving the central terminal bud and I take off all the leaf buds and minor excess, damaged or deformed leaves. See the before and after photos below.



Then I remove any additional branches on the same stem that don't have flower buds that I want to keep, forcing all the energy to this branch into the last remaining stem and flower. See Below.





Then I watch it grow through the winter and spring. If any additional leaf buds develop along the way I remove them, especially if they arise at the base of the terminal bud. These leaf buds will often push an otherwise upright terminal bud over to the side. This may result in a flower truss that is not perfectly upright and what would have been a trophy winner is now something less. Below is an example of a leaf bud under the flower bud that is starting to push the bud over to the side, along with one bad leaf that when removed makes the whole truss look much better. Now is the time to remove things like this and not wait until you pick the truss for the show.



*Dennis McKiver is a director of the Noyo Chapter of ARS which is based in Fort Bragg, California and covers the Mendocino coastal area of northern California. The climate is much like our own west coast and ideally suited for rhododendrons. Travelling down the coast road to California allows one to pass right through the county and visit the Mendocino Coast Botanical Garden.*

### **2015 ARS Convention in Victoria: Champagne Lace**

Preparations are already underway for the convention in Victoria which will probably take place at the Sydney Conference Centre rather than in downtown Victoria. The co-chairs of the convention will be Lois Blackmore and Ken Webb from the Victoria Rhododendron Society. One of the steps already achieved is that Lois Blackmore has been very successful in realizing the dreams of a rhododendron specifically for the 2015 Convention. 'Champagne Lace' has been donated by Jim Barlup to mark the 70th ARS anniversary. Erica Enterprises in Pitt Meadows now has the cuttings and will grow them on exclusively for the convention! Congratulations Lois, and thank you Jim!!!!



You're invited....

## Brian Minter

Wednesday, January 9, 2013

Qualicum Beach Civic Centre

Doors Open and Plant Sale: 7:00 pm

Presentation: 7:30 Sharp!!

Everyone Welcome!

\$5 for non-members

"Taking Your Garden to the Next Level"

Well-known nurseryman, plantsman and

speaker Brian Minter returns to Qualicum Beach.

His presentation in January is a whole new program.

Presented by the Mount Arrowsmith

Rhododendron Society



## 2012-2013

### Executive

Past President: David Annis

President: Ian Efford

([efford@shaw.ca](mailto:efford@shaw.ca) 250597-4470)

Vice President: Sandra Stevenson

([pinchofherbs@shaw.ca](mailto:pinchofherbs@shaw.ca) 250-748-557)

Secretary: Leslie Budson

Treasurer: Bill Dumont

Membership: Marie Jacques

### Members at Large

Bernie Dinter, Joe Hudak, Elaine Kitchen,  
Christopher Justice

### Convenors

Sunshine: Mary Gale

Tea: vacant

Raffle: Hilda Gerrits

Club Liason: Alan Campbell

Library: Dixie Mueller

Programme Co-ordinator: Alan Campbell

Website and Newsletter Desktop Publisher:

Contractor-Mary-Lynn Boxem

Newsletter Editor: Ian Efford

History: vacant

Garden Tours: Alan Murray

Plant Sale: the team

Facility Liason: Roy Elvins

Christmas Party: The team

Publicity: vacant

## From the Editor

The November issue of the newsletter could not be read by Apple computer users. Apparently the pictures were fine but the text was a blurred green mess. In fact, three of the 14 members who replied to my last request can read the newsletter with an Apple computer. The rest could not. My son-in-law, a computer software expert, was also able to read it on a Mac laptop.

I have tried to determine the problem but, so far, we do not have a solution. We will continue to work on it.

**It goes without saying that I need articles for the newsletter. Original or interesting ones found in other publications will be welcome!**

*Ian E. Efford*

## **Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society Programme 2012-2013**

**7:30 pm at St John's Anglican Church**

**163 First St, Duncan, BC V9L 1R1**

**(1<sup>St</sup> and Jubilee)**

September 5	By popular demand, the evening will be devoted to a panel answering members questions about any aspect of rhododendron cultivation, hybridization, etc
October 3	Carmen Varcoe will present a talk on Bhutan, which is located in the centre of the natural distribution of rhododendrons.
November 7	Garth Wedemire will present "Rhododendrons and Azaleas in North Carolina"
December 5	The Christmas Dinner
January 9	Ian E. Efford "Exploring New Zealand Gardens" - Note, this is a CV Garden Club meeting. All CVRS members are invited.
February 6	Bernie Dinter "Colour in the Garden Year 'Round"
March 6	Susan and Art Lightburn "China Part II"
April 3	TBA
May 1	Joan B. Gibb "Dominion Brook Park Rhododendron Garden"
May 4	Garden Fair
May 6	TBA
June 22	Summer Picnic