



# *The* **Rhodoholic**



Cowichan Valley  
Rhododendron Society



Volume 25:9 December 2014

## **President's Message**

We have experienced a month of unseasonably warm temperatures, unseasonably cold temperatures, a windstorm that wreaked havoc in our neighborhood and now, just to round out the month, a few inches of snow. I continue to clean up the garden damage from the windstorm. You can see from the photo insert (on the next page) I would be complaining louder if this 100' fir laying in my front garden was any taller. Today's nice blanket of snow is just in time to get us into the festive spirit.

I know winter has not truly set upon us as of yet. Keep in mind we will have an opportunity to catch our breath for a few months when it does and then we will be winding up for a very busy spring season. We will have copies of the 2015 ARS Convention (May 6-10) registration forms for everyone at



**Pink Prelude- Fujioka**

### ***Coming Events:***

**December 3:  
Christmas Party**

**January 31, 2015:  
Victoria Master Gardener  
Association Conference**

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the December meeting. Alternatively, members can register at [www.2015rhodo.ca](http://www.2015rhodo.ca). This International Convention will be very popular and we recommend early registration to ensure you don't miss out. Many members have signed up to volunteer at the convention and we thank you. If you missed the sign-up sheet at the last meeting please let Ian Eford know and we will add your name to the list. We will require as many members as possible to help out.

The Cowichan Valley Garden Fair website at [www.cowichanvalleygardenfair.com](http://www.cowichanvalleygardenfair.com) for information on the May 2 plant sale is up and running. Please visit for vendor registration information and posters. Plans are completed for the joint April 16 meeting

with the Juan De Fuca Chapter and will require sign-up for accommodation and transportation purposes. Bill continues to work on the UK Bus Tour details for the May trip. Please contact him if you have any questions regarding the tour.

Many of you have probably been pouring through your photos this weekend in preparation for the photo contest at the Christmas Party. Don't forget your four quarters for voting on your favorites. And when you are finished deciding on your photos you will be busily jotting down your notes for the story telling contest. All of the details along with the pot luck, gift and food bank information are included in this newsletter. Our Education Event will take place at our February meeting and we are requesting you bring your questions to the December party/meeting. This will help the experts when preparing for the meeting.

I would like to give a big shout out to the Santa in this photo. When our newsletter editor is not working on completing the numerous tasks he takes on for our club he generously gives his time to many other volunteer activities in our community. Well done!

Now is a great time to utilize our club's library. We have a number of good books available to members. You may be able to carve out a little more reading time over the next few, so called, quiet months for gardeners. Is there such a thing?

See everyone at the Christmas Party at 6 pm on Wednesday evening.

Wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas and Good Health and Happiness for 2015.

There is no CVRS Meeting in early January-next meeting after this Wednesday will be February 4, 2015.

Sandra Stevenson





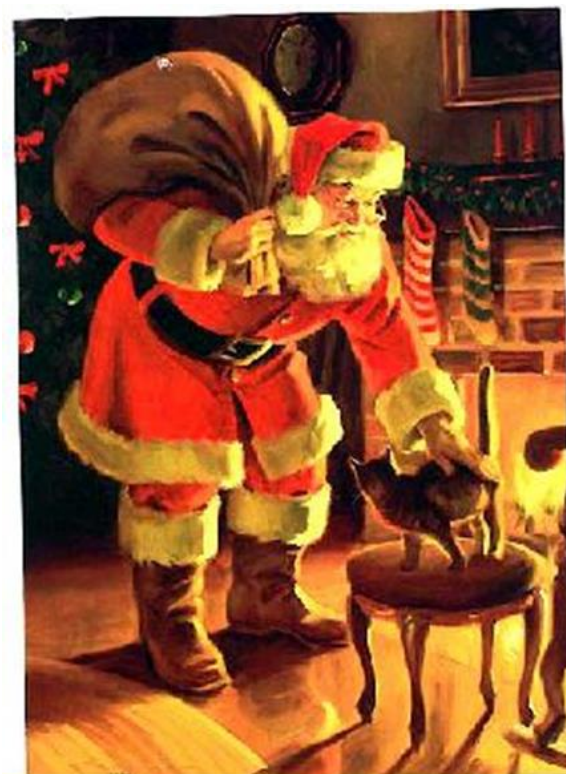
# Rhodo Christmas Party

Wednesday December 3rd @ 6 pm

St. John's Church

Our ever popular Christmas party will be held on Wednesday December 3 at 6 pm. Guests and spouses are most welcome. We have a great program to guarantee fun and good friendship and food to celebrate the season.

- **The Rhodo Photo Contest** – bring one or two of your best rhodo photos – 8 x 10 inch format in colour plus at least 4 quarters to vote for the best choice. Here's your chance to show off your photographic skills!
- **The Great Story Contest** - excellent prizes for the best 2 to 4 minute stories using the following words at least once:
  - Rhododendron
  - Christmas
  - Vice-Squad
  - Committee
  - Scandal
- **Gift Draw Table Items** - Bring an unwrapped \$20 or less value gift for the draw table – a long arm's length of draw tickets will be sold for \$5- all proceeds to the Salvation Army Christmas Fund and Local Food Bank
- **Food Hamper** - Bring dry goods item for the food bank hamper
- **Foodie Favourites** - Bring a savoury finger food dish (hot or cold) or something sweet for the pot luck table
- **Rhodo Questions** - Give us your best Rhodo question for the expert panel to respond at our February 2015 meeting.
- **Libations** - The Club will provide wine and soft drinks.



Always welcome are volunteers to help dress up the hall for our gala due – please be there by 5 pm if you can help with setup. Complements of the Season to All!!



# Hidcote Manor - One of the UK's Great Gardens

The spring 2015 CVRS UK Garden tour will visit Hidcote Manor Garden-here's a sneak peak.

Hidcote is an Arts and Crafts garden in the north Cotswolds, a stone's throw from Stratford-upon-Avon. Created by the talented American horticulturist, Major Lawrence Johnston its colourful and intricately designed outdoor 'rooms' are always full of surprises.



**Avenue to Main Gate**

Johnston and his mother, settled in Britain about 1900, and Lawrence immediately became a British citizen and fought in the British army during the Boer war. In 1907 Johnston's mother, Mrs. Gertrude Winthrop (she had re-married), purchased the Hidcote Manor Estate. It was situated in a part of Britain with strong connections to the then-burgeoning Arts and Crafts movement and an Anglicized American artistic expatriate community centred nearby at Broadway, Worcestershire.

Johnston soon became interested in turning the fields around the house into a garden. By 1910 he had begun to lay out the key features of the garden, and by the 1920s he had twelve full-time gardeners working for him.

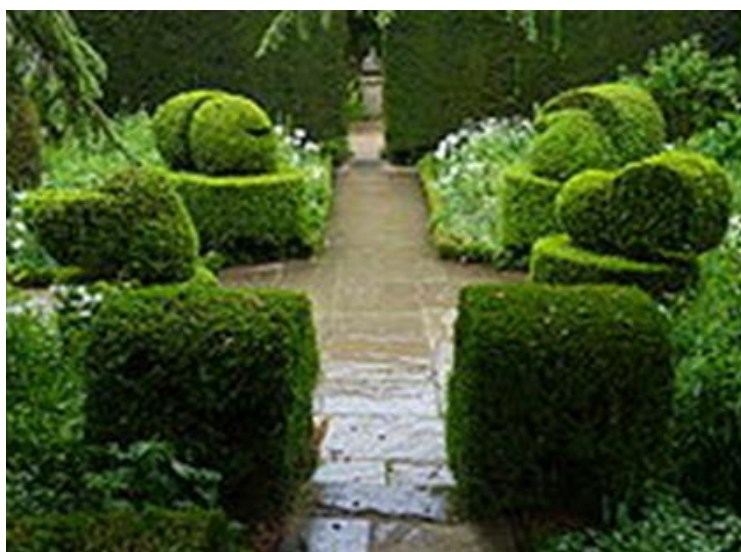
After World War II Johnston spent most of his time at Jardin Serre de la Madone, his garden in the south of France; and in 1947 he entrusted Hidcote to the National Trust.

The style of the garden has been widely imitated. In 2007 a temporary garden designed by Chris Beardshaw that drew inspiration from Johnson's Hidcote was constructed at the Chelsea Flower Show in London.

Explore the maze of narrow paved pathways and discover secret gardens, magnificent vistas and plants that burst with colour. Many of the plants found growing in the garden were collected from Johnston's many plant hunting trips to faraway places. It's the perfect place if you're in need of gardening inspiration.

Find a quiet spot and sit on one of the ornate benches and watch green woodpeckers search for their lunch or listen to the calls from the buzzards circling overhead. Time it right and you might catch a glimpse of the elusive hummingbird moth.

Meander through the intricate gardens and into the Wilderness. This secluded stretch of tall trees is just right for a picnic. Take a glimpse beyond the



**White Garden**

boundary and see the garden blend effortlessly into the countryside beyond.

Lawrence Johnston was influenced in creating his garden at Hidcote by the work of Alfred Parsons and Gertrude Jekyll, who were designing gardens of hardy plants contained within sequences of outdoor "rooms". The theme was in the air: Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicolson's Sissinghurst Castle Garden was laid out as a sequence of such spaces, without, it seems, direct connection with the reclusive and shy Major Johnston. Hidcote's outdoor "rooms" have various characters and themes, achieved by the use of box hedges, hornbeam and yew, and stone walls. These rooms, such as the 'White Garden' and 'Fuchsia Garden' are linked, some by vistas, and furnished with topiaries. Some have ponds and fountains, and all are planted with flowers in bedding schemes. They surround the 17th century manor house, and there are a number of outhouses and a kitchen garden.

Johnston's care in selecting the best plants is reflected in the narrow-leaved lavender, *Lavandula angustifolia* 'Hidcote', in the Penstemon 'Hidcote Pink' and in the hybrid *Hypericum* 'Hidcote Gold', acclaimed as the finest hardy St John's Wort.



**Hidcote Bird Topiary**

## **Financial Statements to October 31, 2014**

<b>CURRENT ACCOUNT</b>	<b>4,345.83</b>
<b>TOUR ACCOUNT</b>	<b>28,527.30</b>
<b>BURSARY ACCOUNT</b>	<b>1,865.66</b>
<b>TERM DEPOSIT No. 11 – Nov. 2016 – 2.25%</b>	<b>12,947.11</b>
<b>SHARES</b>	<b><u>5.00</u></b>
<b>TOTAL Deposits-ISCO –October 31, 2014</b>	<b>47,690.90</b>

**W. Dumont Treasurer**



**Bro Isole - Le Duigou**



# What Global Warming!

According to our Prime Minister, global warming does not exist and the increase in unusual weather events that we are experiencing around the world are part of the natural fluctuations. This view confuses a lot of individuals, particularly scientists who make their decisions on facts rather than faith.

This last year has been one of confusion in the local climate. We had a very warm winter last year and a long rather mild spring. This was followed by a very long warm summer with virtually no rain. Even my efforts at rain dances, done at night so as not to frighten the neighbours, did not produce a drop. I lost about ten of my rhododendrons through drought despite hand watering as much as the municipality allowed. Dragging that hose around nearly an acre in the early morning or evening may well have reduced my weight and strengthened my body but it did not provide sufficient water for some of my favourites.

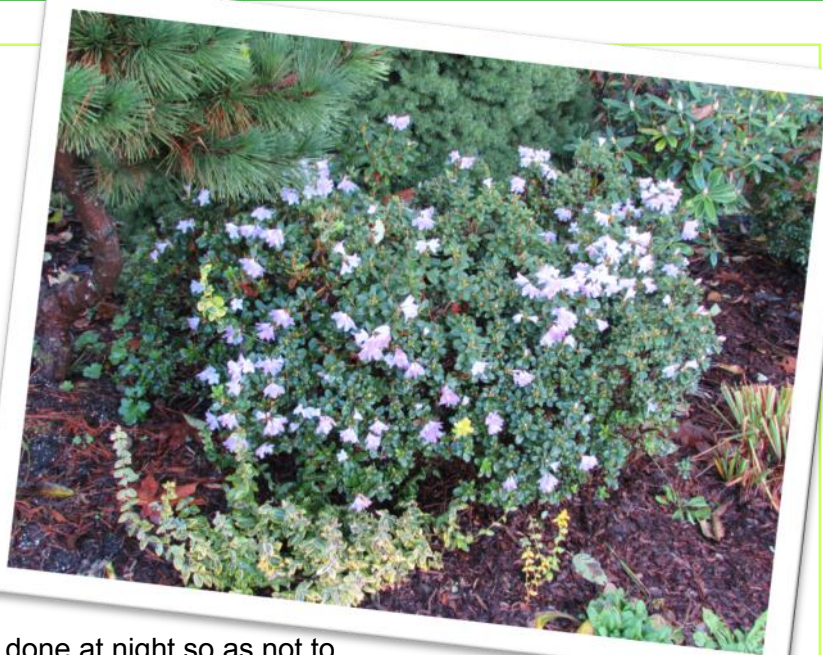
So we come to autumn and rain at last! What do we find but exceptionally warm weather. Finally, many of the rhododendrons have admitted that they are really confused. R. 'Dave Dougan', named after one of our earliest members and a Silver Medal winner, gave up waiting and decided to flower. This was followed by R. 'Capistrano', a nice yellow, which struggled to flower but never quite managed to open fully. In the case of R. 'Dave Dougan' about half the buds did not open so that we will see some colour in the spring. In the case of R. 'Capistrano', all buds tried to open and we will lose next year's bloom completely.

Finally, I visited my daughter in Port Alberni. She is the one who pleads with me not to take her any more plants as it just gives her more gardening work to do! What do I find but an unnamed rhododendron covered in flowers. A close look at the plant shows that there are still

a lot of buds unopened. "Winter" is not over, however, and with this "lack of global warming", we may well see the others opened before spring arrives.

The unpredictability of nature always adds to the fun of gardening and it appears as if we should be prepared for a great deal more as this period of "non-global warming" continues, or the government changes.

Ian E. Efford, A retired scientist





**Treuscoat – Le Duigou**

## Recent Additions to Rhododendron Hybrids

This month we are featuring recent new rhododendron hybrids from Frank Fujioka and Liliane Le Duigou. Enjoy!

## Coming Events

**January 31, 2015**

**Victoria Master Gardener Association Conference**

Mary Winspear Centre, Sydney

**Mixing it Up in the Urban Garden 2015**

[www.mgabc.org/content/15-mixing-it-biennial-conference](http://www.mgabc.org/content/15-mixing-it-biennial-conference)

**February 4, 2015**

**CVRS Monthly Meeting-Members Question Night-Expert Panel**

St. John's Church, Duncan- 163 First St. 7:30 pm

[www.cowichan.rhodos.ca](http://www.cowichan.rhodos.ca)

**February 7, 2015**

**Seedy Saturday – Sow the Seeds**

Qualicum Beach Civic Centre - 10 am – 3:30 pm

[www.qbseedysaturday.com](http://www.qbseedysaturday.com)

**February 22, 2015**

**Victoria Horticultural Society Hardy Plant Group Lecture**

Salvation Army Citadel – 4030 Douglas Street, Victoria - 2:30 pm

**Plant Marriages-Exceptional Combinations of Foliage and Flower – Dan Hinkley**

[www.vichortsociety.org](http://www.vichortsociety.org)



**Paotrig Skaer - Le Duigou**



**March 4, 2015**  
**CVRS Monthly Meeting – RHS Wisley Garden-**  
**Margaret Cadwaladr**  
St. John's Church, Duncan- 163 First St. 7:30 pm  
[www.cowichan.rhodos.ca](http://www.cowichan.rhodos.ca)

**March 30, 2015**  
**Alpine Gardeners of Central Vancouver Island**  
Qualicum Beach Civic Centre 1 pm  
**Where to find Alpine Jewels in the Olympic Mountains-David Sellars**  
<https://alpinegardenersofcvi.wordpress.com/?s=Gardeners+of+Central+Vancouver+Island>

**May 5, 2015 – TUESDAY**  
**CVRS Monthly Meeting – Marc Columbel –from France – Rhodo Expert**  
St. John's Church, Duncan- 163 First St. 7:30 pm  
[www.cowichan.rhodos.ca](http://www.cowichan.rhodos.ca)

**May 6-10, 2015**  
**ARS Convention**  
Mary Winspear Centre, Sydney  
[www.2015rhodo.ca](http://www.2015rhodo.ca)



### Kreiz Breizh – Le Duigou

**April 1, 2015**  
**CVRS Monthly Meeting – Rhododendron Pests and Diseases – Dr. Linda Gilkeson**  
St. John's Church, Duncan- 163 First St. 7:30 pm  
[www.cowichan.rhodos.ca](http://www.cowichan.rhodos.ca)

**April 16-17, 2015**  
**Joint Meeting with CVRS and Juan De Fuca Chapters of the ARS**  
Port Angeles via MV Coho Ferry – 10 am April 16  
**Olympic National Park, Garden and Nursery Tours**  
See details in this newsletter

**May 2, 2015**  
**Cowichan Valley Garden Fair**  
Cowichan Exhibition 10 am – 2 pm  
[www.CowichanValleyGardenFair.com](http://www.CowichanValleyGardenFair.com)

**May 14-25, 2015**  
**CVRS SW Great Britain Garden Tour**  
Nov. 1 deadline for registrations  
[www.cowichanrhodos.com](http://www.cowichanrhodos.com)

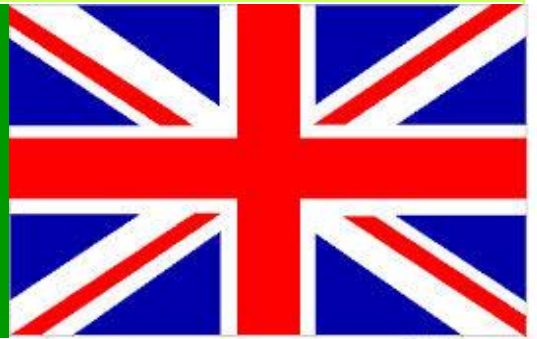
**June 20, 2015**  
**CVRS Summer Picnic and Awards/Wrap Up**  
11:30 am to 2:30 pm

**WELCOME NEW CVRS MEMBERS and UK tour Participants** - We are very pleased to welcome many new members this month along with all those going on the 2015 UK Garden Tour in May. Enjoy the Rhodoholic!



# CVRS Southwest England Garden Tour

May 14—25, 2015



## Final Call—Only 3 Seats Left!

Folks-this is it!! The English garden tour of a lifetime in the spring of 2015. In conjunction with Anderson Tours UK we are heading for Britain in the spring of 2015. Our 11 day tour includes 11 world class gardens and several historic sites in Southwest England on a deluxe coach. Starting at the Kew Botanic Garden on day 1 after your arrival from Canada we have a welcome event at the Holiday Inn M4 Heathrow hotel the first night. Many of our stops are United Nations World Heritage Sites. Local guides and garden specialists will assist where available and provide unique insights into British culture, the attractions and their gardens. Our final

garden stop is the famous Royal Chelsea Garden Show. On our last day we tour downtown London.

The total cost is in the range of about \$3000 (not including air fares which are your responsibility) per person for double room. Single accommodation is available for about \$700 extra.

We still have three seats on this private tour for CVRS and ARS members and members of Garden Clubs that are registered with the BC Council of Garden Clubs.

Participants should be in good physical condition as there is a fair amount of garden and site walking on this tour but no vigorous hikes. Final 4 and 5 star hotel selection is now completed and our final hotel for the last three days of this tour is the Novotel Heathrow, very close to Heathrow airport.

***To confirm a seat on this tour you must send a cheque for \$650 to Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society c/o 995 Hutchinson Road, Cobble Hill, BC V0R 1L4 by December 31. The balance is payable by March 15, 2015. Please provide your full name, address, phone, email address (mandatory), any plans for early arrival or late return, single or double accommodation, any dietary restrictions, whether you are already an RHS member, your affiliation, i.e. CVRS or other garden club, organisation.***

Contact Bill Dumont:  
[wedumont@hotmail.com](mailto:wedumont@hotmail.com)  
250 743 9882

*The CVRS is not liable for unexpected costs or expenses arising out of situations on this tour beyond our control or Acts of God. Our liability is limited to the return of the balance of tour payments that have not been paid on behalf of participants if the tour does not fully proceed due to unforeseen or unexpected events or circumstances.*



Can you Identify these rhodos from a Cowichan Garden? Please send your answers to Verna Buhler - [Vlbuhler@shaw.ca](mailto:Vlbuhler@shaw.ca) Thanks for your help!





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# Trelissick

## A tranquil varied garden in a fabulous setting, with a superb collection of tender and exotic plants

One of the gardens on the 2015 CVRS Spring Tour of the UK is Trelissick near Truro in Cornwall. We will be taking a ferry on the River Fal to get to this very special place.

On its own peninsula with ever-changing views of the estuary of the River Fal, Trelissick has one of the most amazing natural settings in the UK. There are more than 12 hectares (30 acres) of elevated garden to explore, with twisting paths that lead you through significant collections of hydrangeas, rhododendrons, camellias, ginger lilies and year-round exciting woodland plants.



Trelissick House

As well as the garden, the 121-hectare (300-acre) estate, with its countryside, woodlands and coast, makes for breath taking walks.

The garden has been in the ownership of the National Trust since 1955 when it was donated by Ida Copeland following the death of her son Geoffrey. A stained glass memorial bearing the Copeland Crest remains to this effect in Feock parish church.



The Main Lawn

Many of the species that flourish in the mild Cornish air, including the rhododendrons and azaleas which are now such a feature of the garden, were planted by the Copelands including hydrangeas, camellias and flowering cherries, and exotics such as the ginkgo and various species of palm. They also ensured that the blossoms they nurtured had a wider, if unknowing audience. Mr. Ronald Copeland was chairman and later managing director of his family's business, the Spode china factory, and flowers grown at Trelissick were used as models for those painted on ware produced at the works.



The Victoria Horticultural Society HARDY PLANT GROUP presents the 2015 Elizabeth England Lecture

# Dan Hinkley

- Plantsman
- Plant collector
- Author
- nurseryman
- creator of Heronswood Nursery
- owner of Windcliff Nursery
- Lecturer



## Plant Marriages: Exceptional Combinations of Foliage and Flower

Sunday, February 22nd, 2015  
2:30 PM

Salvation Army Citadel  
4030 Douglas Street  
(north off McKenzie Avenue)

Tickets \$20. Available at VHS and Hardy meetings, *Dig This* stores and at the door.



Breizh Izel - Le Duigou



Sklerijenn - Le Duigou

## Joint Meeting

# Cowichan Valley and Juan De Fuca Chapters



April 16/17, 2015 in Port Angeles

*We are proposing to meet jointly with the Juan De Fuca ARS Chapter in Port Angeles next April. Please let Sandra know if you will be joining us for this interesting overnight*

### Thursday, April 16:

- 10: 30 am Depart Victoria on MV Coho - walk on - lunch enroute
- 12 noon Arrive Port Angeles, check in to Red Lion Hotel near ferry
- 1 – 3 pm Joint Meeting with Juan De Fuca Chapter – PA Library  
Guest Speakers: Sue Milliken & Kelly Dodson of Far Reaches Farm in Port Angeles - this entertaining couple will share their passion for plants and plant hunting trips with Steve Hootman to the Himalayas
- 3:30 pm Depart by Bus to Hurricane Ridge in Olympic National Park and stop at the Park Visitor Centre
- 5:30 pm Return to Red Lion Hot - Supper at the Crab House or other loc.

### Friday, April 17:

- 7 am Breakfast at Crab House, check out of hotel. Luggage onto bus
- 7:45 am Depart by charter bus for Far Reaches Farm Nursery and Whitney Gardens and Nursery in Brinnon Washington\*
- 1 pm Return to Port Angeles - lunch near ferry terminal
- 2 pm Depart on MV Coho for return to Victoria
- 3:30 pm Arrive Victoria

\*Includes plant buying opportunities with later shipping of purchases with phyto certificate.

### Approx. Costs:

Walk on to Coho Ferry in Victoria - about \$40 return (US\$35) per person - self pay

Special box lunch on ferry - \$12.00

Hotel- special rate at Red Lion Hotel Port Angeles – single or double no view including breakfast Can \$125 - with view Can \$150

Bus Costs – to Hurricane Ridge on Thursday and to Brinnon Gardens on Friday– about Can \$50

Supper April 16 and Lunch April 17- self pay





# Seedy Saturday

## 'SOW THE SEEDS!'

Qualicum Beach Civic Centre

Admission by Donation [www.qbseedysaturday.com](http://www.qbseedysaturday.com)



Bring your seeds  
for the seed swap  
in the Lions' Room

QBSS 2015

Vendors

Seed Swap

QB Farmers'  
Market

Shoots With Roots

Master Gardeners

Seedy Café

Saturday February 7, 2015

10:00 - 3:30

10:30 Diane Sharp

GROWING YOUR GROCERIES

12:00 Kate Green

SEEDS GROW MORE THAN FOOD

1:30 GARDENING PANEL:

Kathy Claxton

Candace Coghill

Kim Hammond



**Special Gifts for first 100 Customers  
Don't miss it!!**

## **Giant Plant Sale and Garden Equipment**

**Saturday May 2, 2015 10 am – 2 pm**  
**Cowichan Exhibition Grounds Duncan**

***Free Coffee and Donuts for first 200 customers***

- Free admission-lots of free parking
- Doors open at 10 am sharp, come early for best selection!
- High quality plants from 14 nurseries on island and mainland
- More than 2000 rhododendrons for sale
- Rare, hard to find rhodos available
- Many Companion and other beautiful plants for sale
- Truss (flower) display of local rhodos in bloom
- Variety of unique vendors and garden suppliers
- Planting, growing, maintenance advice from experts
- Many excellent buys on quality plants
- We'll help load your plants
- Cash/cheque only please – ATM on site

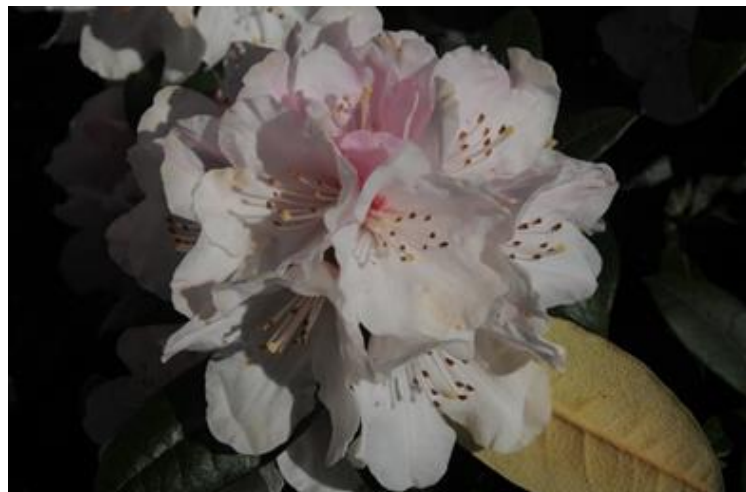
[www.CowichanValleyGardenFair.com](http://www.CowichanValleyGardenFair.com)



twitter.com/**CowGardenFair**



www.facebook.com/**CowichanValleyGardenFair**



**Silver Dust - Fujioka**



**70<sup>th</sup> Annual ARS  
International  
Convention  
May 6-10, 2015  
Sidney BC**



**Champagne Lace—Official Convention Rhodo**

**[www.2015rhodo.ca](http://www.2015rhodo.ca)**

***Register NOW on-line!***

- World Famous rhodo experts from Germany, England, China, Scotland, France and USA
- Tours of 28 local private and public gardens
- Stimulating Speakers and Presentations
- Excellent selection of rhodos and plants for sale
- Renew old friendships and make new ones!

*Volunteers wanted for the plant  
sale or other tasks.*

*For more info go to  
[www.2015rhodo.ca](http://www.2015rhodo.ca)*



**Cinq Jours de Bonheur – Le Duigou**



**Plarc'hig Skaer – Le Duigou**

## 2015 Garden Fair—May 2, 2015 at the Cowichan Exhibition

Please pot up 10 or more of your excess plants for the club's plant sale table. We are looking for Gold Sponsors for the Garden Fair. These major sponsors are key to the Fair's success. For \$250 each Gold Sponsors get a prime location in the hall, advertising on our website and in our advertising. Please promote the sale with your other garden friends. Full information available at [www.CowichanValleyGardenFair.com](http://www.CowichanValleyGardenFair.com)



### 2014-2015 Executive

- President: Sandra Stevenson  
([pinchofherbs@shaw.ca](mailto:pinchofherbs@shaw.ca) 250-748-5570)
- Past President: Ian Efford  
([efford@shaw.ca](mailto:efford@shaw.ca) 250-597-4470)
- Secretary: Verna Buhler  
([Vlbuhler@shaw.ca](mailto:Vlbuhler@shaw.ca) 250-748-8889)
- Treasurer: Bill Dumont  
([wedumont@hotmail.com](mailto:wedumont@hotmail.com) 250-743-9882)
- Membership: Marie Jacques  
([randamjax@shaw.ca](mailto:randamjax@shaw.ca) 250-743-5021)
- Newsletter Editor: Bill Dumont
- **Members at Large:** Joe Hudak, Elaine Kitchen, Siggie Kemmler, Alan Campbell

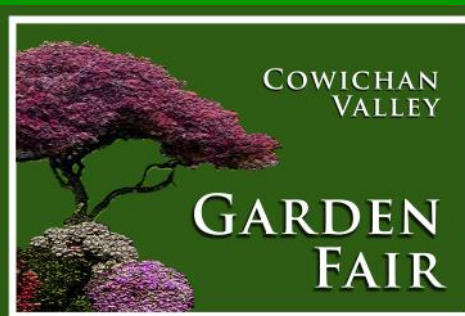
### Convenors

- Sunshine: Mary Gale
- Tea: The Team
- Raffle: Hilda Gerrits
- Club Liaison: Alan Campbell
- Library: Joyce Rodger
- Program Co-ordinator: Alan Campbell, Sandra Stevenson
- History: Ian Efford
- Garden Tours: Alan Murray
- CV Garden Fair: The Team
- Facility Liaison: Roy Elvins
- Christmas Party: The Team
- Bus Tour: Bill Dumont
- Species Garden Reps: Siggie Kemmler, Alan Campbell

### Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

A Chapter of the American  
Rhododendron Society  
P.O. Box 904  
Duncan, British Columbia  
V9L 3Y3

<http://cowichan.rhodos.ca>



[www.cowichanvalleygardenfair.com](http://www.cowichanvalleygardenfair.com)

Saturday May 2, 2015

Newsletter design/format  
& website edits by

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