



NEWSLETTER

Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

Volume 25:3 March 2014

President's Message

Happy Spring.

Every year I am anxious to begin welcoming Spring into the garden. The last of the snow and winter storms pass and the snowdrops, ranunculus and crocus fade. The helleborus, cyclamen and daffodils bring a smile. A few weeks back it seemed I was on top of my garden clean-up and then the sun came out and it warmed up. All of a sudden I am a month behind. It happens this way every year and it is always a shock to me. The busy season begins, both in our gardens and also with the club.

We continue to organize for the Cowichan Valley Garden Fair. This is our largest fund raiser of the year and we will require the help of all members on May 3. If you have not signed up for a job, the sign-up sheet will be at the April 2 general meeting. Please take a moment to find a job you are suited to. It is a fun day, high energy and who knows you may even do a little shopping or win a plant or two. While you are working in the garden this month remember to pot up a few of those plants you are dividing for the member's table at the fair. We are hoping to encourage each member to provide 10 to 15 plants. If you require pots or soil please let one of the members of the executive know.

Upcoming Events

March 29: Vegetable Gardening – Ceres Landscaping

March 30: Seedy Sunday, Duncan BC

April 2: Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society Monthly meeting

April 19: Cairnsmore Plant Sale

April 19: Victoria Chrysanthemum Society Annual Cutting Sale

April 25 and 26: Rhododendron Species Foundation 50th Anniversary Celebration

See page 9—11 for more details.



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President's Message cont ...

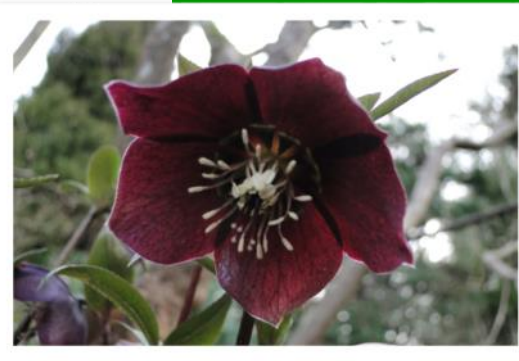
It is time to put names forward for nominations for the Executive for the 2014/2015 season. As you know we have been operating with a number of spaces vacant for the past year. It is critical for the ongoing operation of the club that we have members willing to volunteer to sit on the executive. If we are able to fill all of the positions it makes for less time required and less work for everyone involved. Consider putting your name forward and participate to ensure we continue to have a strong club with all of the benefits it offers in sharing our interest in this genus Rhododendron.

This is also the season to consider having an open garden for members to visit. It gives you the opportunity to share your hard earned labor of love. Whether your garden is large or small, complete (if there is such a thing) or work in progress, it gives us an opportunity to explore new ideas, learn about plant material we are not familiar with, and most important come together with like-minded friends. Contact our open garden coordinator, Al Murray, to set up a time and date.

I am looking forward to seeing a sample of what's in bloom in member's gardens, hearing about garden books members are reading and reviewing successes members have had with propagating over the winter. We have an opportunity to review some of this at the meeting and also have our coffee meeting on April 22 where we will have more time to indulge in Rhodie rumors.

Paul Wurz will be presenting "Upgrading Your Rhodo Collection "on April 2 at 7:30 pm. See everyone at the meeting. Bring a friend along.

Sandra Stevenson



CVRS Monthly Meeting - Wednesday April 2, 2014 St. John's Church - Duncan—7:30 pm

Paul Wurz, owner of Hidden Acres Rhododendrons in Campbell River and President of the North Island Rhodo society will be talking about new and different rhododendron hybrids, including some not yet on the market. He will touch on topics such as scented rhodos, good yellows, proven performers and the Greer's 5-5-5 classifications. Paul will also be discussing hybridizers including Brockenbrough, Fujioka, Lofthouse and Barlup, and teasing us with examples of some of their newer hybrids. Bring a friend-this is an impressive presentation not to be missed!. Paul's website is www.hiddenacresrhodos.com and has some beautiful examples of his plants and rhodo collection. His garden is also worth a visit in May!!

Also don't miss our regular plant raffle, sign ups for the CV Garden Fair in early May and meet your gardening friends in a great venue. See you next week.



Fire Rim

Greer's Gardens Ready for Cowichan Valley Rhodo Orders

Greers Gardens have the cache of Rhodo Kingdom in many rhodoholics minds as everyone is aware of the famous Greer's Guidebook to Rhododendrons. Bill Dumont visited Harold Greer at his garden and nursery in Eugene Oregon last week as part of the dry run for the upcoming 5 day CVRS Bus tour to California and Oregon in the second week of May starting in San Francisco.

Harold had some severe frost and snow damage to his rhodos and greenhouses from the tough winter but is ready to take orders from Bus tour participants when the tour arrives at his nursery on May 10. All purchases will be shipped together with a phyto certificate to clear the border and be available for pickup in Cobble Hill is late May. However, it is not necessary to wait to visit Greer nursery nor do you have to be there to order your unique and special rhodos from Greers. Go to the website www.greergardens.com for access to his amazing collection of rare and unique plants and ordering information. You can put your order in NOW and we will arrange pickup and shipping when the Bus tour order is shipped. Just note that on the order form when you make your order. Shipping and inspection will add about 25% to the list price in Greer's catalog. Harold is offering a special 25% discount off his retail prices for CVRS orders so take advantage of this generous offer and get your order in now.

So don't wait and put your orders in now whether you are coming on the tour or not to ensure the order gets in the group shipment in late May. Harold stocks hundreds of species and unique plants not just Rhododendrons. If you prefer you can phone your order in for credit card charges to 1 800 548 0111 or 1 541 686 8266. You can email your order to orders@greergardens.com.

Longtime Member, Mary Gale, Awarded the CVRS Silver Bowl



At the CVRS meeting on Wednesday, February 5th, a special presentation was made. This was for the Silver Bowl, which is normally presented at the Christmas party, but due to various circumstances, the recipient was not at that event so it was presented this evening. I was asked to present the bowl to a long time member of the club, who I was amazed to learn, had not received this honour before now.

Mary Gale has been with the CVRS from the beginning. She has been our 'Sunshine' contact for as many years as I can remember. If there was anyone needing a card or a call to cheer them up, she was there to send it out.

At the plant sales, Mary was the one person that cheerfully volunteered first to work on the cashier desk. She was there with her paper and pen (and no calculator) to total up the orders and collect the money.

A couple of years ago I asked if the club could use her garden for the June picnic. She was reticent at first saying that her garden was not entirely great these days as she could not spend as much time in it as she wished. She did allow us to use the garden and we found that it was the perfect spot to hold a picnic. The plants were lush, they all had rain drops on the leaves from

the previous evening's rain, and the view was stunning sloping down to Mill Bay. The rain held off while we were there and the club had a great picnic.

So the CVRS is proud to present Mary Gale with the Silver Bowl in recognition of the efforts and support that she has given the club over the many years.

Congratulations and Thank You!

David Annis



Amber Sun

The Famous Jim Barlup Rhododendron Hybrids

At the March CVRS meeting Lois Blackmore from the Victoria Rhododendron Society gave an impressive presentation on the hybrids of Jim Barlup.



In her opening commentary, Lois talked about becoming interested in rhododendrons when her husband Roy brought home a copy of Whitney Gardens catalogue in 2003.. She was first introduced to world famous Washington State hybridizer Jim Barlup in 2009 at the conference in Everett, WA. Lois and her husband Roy have since become very close friends with Jim and his wife Judy, and when Jim's medical condition prevented him from travelling to give his presentation, Lois stepped in and presented on his behalf.

As Lois explained, Jim Barlup has been hybridizing rhododendrons on his half acre property in Bellevue, Washington for the past 37 years. He now has 173 registered hybrids to his credit - 124 of which Lois and Roy have on their property in Langford. If the opportunity arises make sure you go and see the Blackmore property. For his



work in hybridization, Jim was honoured with the ARS Gold medal in 2004.

Jim's naming of his hybrids are always interesting: Always April, Amber Honey, Amber Peach, Amber Sun, Amber Touch, Amber Waves, Apollo's Touch, April's Morn, Blue Tango, Bridal Dreams, Burgundy Mist, Cade's Cove, Calico Candy, Carol's Candy, Cassie, etc., etc.

During her PowerPoint presentation, "A Journey of Love", we saw colourful examples of Jim's many hybrids. Along with 'Champagne Lace', the official flower of the 2015 ARS Conference hosted by District 1 in Sidney, there were also the notable hybrids 'Lois Blackmore', 'Judy's Choice' and 'Peggie Roberts'. Although it is a bit challenging to differentiate between several hybrids due to their similarities, each has a unique trait. The many exquisite photographs were a delight to the senses and make one dream of owning a few someday. Thanks to Lois and Roy for taking the time out to make the presentation to the CVRS. Note that Greer's Nursery has some hybrids available as does Dinter's Nursery and Hidden Acres. Some of the growers will have Barlup hybrids available at the Cowichan Valley Garden Fair in early May. This month we are featuring a number of Barlup hybrids in this newsletter. Enjoy!!

**Jim Barlup
Rhododendron
Hybrids**



Always April



Amber Honey



Apollo's Touch



Blue Tango



Jim Barlup at work in his greenhouse in Washington



Amber Waves



Windy River

COWICHAN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW & PLANT SALE
 Saturday May 10, 2014 10 AM - 2 PM
 Duncan United Church 246 Ingram Street Duncan BC
 'A TASTE for DESIGN'

A special presentation by JEFF DE JONG 'Gardening 101' Host for C-FAX 1070
www.cowichanvalleygardenclub.com

 **HAVERILL CREEK**  



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

Giant Plant Sale and Garden Equipment

Saturday May 3 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 16 nurseries on island and mainland
- More than 3000 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

Help us find Gold Sponsors for the Garden Fair. Please Sign Up for helping at the Garden Fair- signup sheets at Wednesday's meeting. If you can we would also like each member to donate 10 plants for the Club's Plant Table for Sale. Thanks.

www.CowichanValleyGardenFair.com



twitter.com/**CowGardenFair**



www.facebook.com/CowichanValleyGardenFair



Bridal Dreams



April Morn

Upcoming Events 2014

March 29: Vegetable Gardening – Ceres Landscaping

- 10 am at Dinter's Nursery

March 30: Seedy Sunday, Duncan BC

- 10 –2pm
- Si'emLeLem Gymnasium (5574 River Rd, Duncan)
- www.cowichangreencommunity.org/events

April 2: Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society Monthly meeting

- Wednesday 7:30 pm St. John's Church Hall Duncan
- Paul Wurz- owner of Hidden Acres Rhododendrons in Campbell River and President of the North Island Rhodo society will be talking about and showing new and different rhododendron hybrids, including some not yet on the market. He will touch on topics such as scented rhodos, good yellows, proven performers and the Greer's 5-5-5 classifications. Don't miss this event!!



April 5: Abkhazi Garden Community Open House

- 11am to 4 pm
- See notice on page 14 of this newsletter

April 5: View Royal Garden Club Spring Show

- 1 to 3 pm
- Shoreline School, 2750 Shoreline Drive, Victoria

April 8: Victoria Flower Arrangers Guild Workshop

- 7-9:30 pm 813 Darwin Ave, Victoria
- www.victoriaflowerarrangers.ca

April 19: Cairnsmore Plant Sale

- 10 am to 1 pm
- 400 Plants and other garden goodies to support the Cairnsmore Home gardens. Come early!

April 19: Victoria Chrysanthemum Society Annual Cutting Sale

- 10a.m. to Noon
- St. Mathias Church Hall, 600 Richmond Ave. (at Richardson), Victoria, BC



Burgundy Mist

April 25 and 26: Rhododendron Species Foundation 50th Anniversary Celebration

- Federal Way, Washington

April 26: Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society Show and Sale

- 10 am to 2 pm
- Parksville Arena

April 26: Victoria Rhododendron Society Show and Sale

April 26-27: Milner Gardens Spring Plant Sale

- www.milnergardens.org

May 2: Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Spring Show

- 1 to 9 pm and also May 3 - 9 am to 3 pm.
- Cadboro Bay United Church – 2625 Arbutus Road, Victoria
- Plant and seed sales, spectacular show of rock and alpine plants
- www.virags.ca

May 3: Cowichan Valley Garden Fair and Plant Sale

- 10 am to 2 pm
- Cowichan Exhibition. Rhodos and many other plants- free entry and coffee
- www.CowichanValleyGardenFair.com

Plant Sale and Open Garden

- 10 am to 12 noon. Evelyn Weesjes – 10629 Derrick Road, West Saanich
- Excellent selection of rhodos, ferns, shrubs and perennials.

May 4: Finnerty Gardens – University of Victoria - Plant Sale

- 11am to 2 pm
- Good selection of rhodos and perennials.
- www.uvic.ca/finnerty

May 7 - 12: Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society California Bus Tour

- Day's Inn San Bruno San Francisco
- 5:30 pm Welcome Wine and Cheese Reception

May 7: Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society Monthly Meeting

- 7:30 pm – St. John's Hall – Duncan
- Glen Jamieson, Nanaimo Rhodo Society member and editor of the ARS Journal will present on the History of Rhododendrons.

May 10: Cowichan Valley Garden Club Annual Spring Flower Show and Plant Sale.

- 10am to 2 pm - Duncan United Church 246 Ingram Street.
- Lots of great plant goodies-come early for best selection!
- www.CowichanValleyGardenClub.com

May 10 and 11: MARS Garden Tour

May 16-18: ARS Annual Convention

- Cleveland, Ohio

June 21: Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society Annual Picnic

June 21 and 22: Quadra Island Quilt and Garden Tour

- 10am to 4 pm. Tickets \$15 good for both days
- Buy at Tourist Booth uphill from ferry terminal.

July 4 and 5: BC Iris Society – Japanese Iris Convention – Chateau Victoria

- www.bcirissociety.com

September 26-28: ARS Western Regional Conference

- Everett, Washington
- www.ars.org

October 20-24: International Rhododendron Conference

- Dunedin, New Zealand. This is their Spring conference.
- www.rhododendron.org.nz

Dinters Classes for Gardeners

- presented by their staff or visiting experts. The seminars last about one hour and there is no charge or registration required.
- For more details, visit www.dinternursery.ca/seminars.htm

Glendale Gardens and Woodlands Upcoming Workshops:

- see <http://www.hcp.ca> for full details and costs of all Glendale events.

Marigold Nurseries Seasonal Workshops and Events:

- see <http://marigoldnurseries.com/seasonal-hints/seasonal-workshops-events> for details



Vancouver Sun Great Spring Bulb and Plant Packs

Steve Whysall, the Sun's Garden Reporter has put together a great selection of colourful flower bulbs and plants from Botanus at reasonable prices. go to www.VancouverSun.com/spring to put your order in.





SAVE THE DATES

Friday July 4 to Saturday July 5, 2014

Japanese Iris Convention

'Discover Victoria's Secrets'

Hosted by the BC IRIS SOCIETY

Principal Venue: Chateau Victoria

Host Gardens: Royal Roads and Finnerty
at University of Victoria

Guided Bus Tours: to Host Gardens;
lunch venue and private garden tour

Meet the Hybridizers

Auction: Access to one of a kind
Japanese iris

Training Sessions: How to select the
best Japanese iris training in the garden

Registration information is posted on the
BCIS website: bc-iris-org

We hope you come and join us!

Japanese Iris Convention Committee



Volunteer Gardeners' Plant Sale at Cairnsmore Place

On Saturday, April 19 from 10:00 to 1:00 the Volunteer Gardeners at Cairnsmore Place will be holding their annual plant sale. There will be over 400 plants ready for planting. You will also find birdhouses and pot trivets made by members of the group.

The group is made up of 18 volunteers who work half a day a week from Spring to Fall. There is no VIHA budget for this work, so money is raised through donations and the plant sale.

The Mill Bay Garden Club, the Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society and the Cowichan Valley Hospital Auxiliary have made generous donations in the past. Last year the Duncan Christian Seniors' Home Society funded the total redesign of the island at the entrance and the Thorarinson family funded the addition of a fountain.

Money raised pays for fertilizer, mulching, new plants and new projects. Over the past two years a drip watering system was installed in all the beds and a large three-bin compost station was built.

This work can only be done with the support of the Cowichan Valley's gardening community. Thank you.

Friends of Abkhazi Garden



Abkhazi Garden Community Open House

Saturday, April 5, 2014 11 am - 4 pm
at 1964 Fairfield Road - Free Admission



Dennis Robinson photo

VISIT THE GARDEN THAT LOVE BUILT, CREATED BY A REAL LIFE PRINCE AND PRINCESS

Stop by to tour the garden, learn about the legacy of the Prince and Princess Abkhazi, enjoy a cream tea, find out about upcoming events, and meet some of the people behind this amazing heritage site.

www.abkhaziteahouse.com
778-265-6466

For more information about the Friends of Abkhazi Garden
go to their website at
www.friendsofabkhazi.ca

2013-2014 Executive

- President: Sandra Stevenson
(pinchofherbs@shaw.ca 250-748-5570)
- Past President: Ian Efford
(efford@shaw.ca 250-597-4470)
- Secretary: Vacant
- Treasurer: Bill Dumont
(250-743-9882)
- Membership: Marie Jacques
- Newsletter Editor: Bill Dumont

Members at Large

- Bernie Dinter, Joe Hudak, Elaine Kitchen,
Christopher Justice

Convenors

- Sunshine: Mary Gale
- Tea: The Team
- Raffle: Hilda Gerrits
- Club Liaison: Alan Campbell
- Library: Joyce Rodger
- Programme 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

For our **Spring Garden Tours** we are looking for members and others willing to open their gardens. It's fun to share and show off your local jewels.

Please contact Alan and Liz Murray
if you can help!

mistyview@shaw.ca



Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

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

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