



The **Rhodoholic**



Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

Volume 26:2 March 2015

President's Message

Thanks again to our expert panel for providing such an informative session at our February meeting. One hour passes very quickly and I apologize to members who submitted questions that we did not get to. We may want to consider a new format that would allow for more flexibility with our time for our education session in future. Please forward suggestions to me.

It is not too late to sign-up for the Juan de Fuca joint meeting April 16 and 17. An exciting itinerary is planned for the overnight trip. Bill has negotiated some good rates and further info is in this newsletter along with payment due dates. Currently 20 people have indicated they are coming.



Warlock

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

CVRS Monthly Meeting
RHS Wisley Garden
Guest Speaker, Margaret
Cadwaladr
St. John's Church @ 7:30 pm

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The 2015 Convention committee is working hard at firming up all of the final details for the upcoming ARS 70th International Convention taking place in Sidney. I encourage you to register at the website (www.2015rhodo.ca) and take advantage of the early bird rate. Another advantage to registering early is having more flexibility with the bus tours. One of the bus tours is full already.

We have a little time left to complete our wish lists in preparation for the upcoming spring plant sales. When you are out dividing or transplanting your overgrown plants, making room in your garden for your new treasures, pot some up for the Garden Fair member's plant table on May 2. We will be setting up a member's table for second hand garden books as

well. If you are thinking about downsizing your library or have garden books you no longer want donate them for sale at the Garden Fair.

Margaret Cadwaladr will be our speaker on the RHS Wisley Gardens, at the March 4 meeting. For those of us not able to participate in the UK bus tour, this will provide an opportunity for virtual travel and to learn about this world class garden. There are just two seats left on our once in a lifetime UK tour. The details follow in the newsletter.

Look forward to seeing everyone on Wednesday. Bring an interesting item out of the garden and don't forget to invite a friend along.

Sandra Stevenson

March Meeting Special Guest Speaker

Don't miss this treat of visiting the Royal Horticulture Society Wisley Garden in the UK

This Wednesday March 4 at 7:30 we are pleased to have our guest speaker, Margaret Cadwaladr, from the mainland with a colourful presentation on her visit to RHS Wisley garden at Surrey in the UK. This is one of the gardens the CVRS 2015 UK garden tour will be visiting and "globally recognized as undoubtedly one of the great gardens of the world."

This month we are featuring in the Rhodoholic
Rhododendrons that start with W.

Enjoy!



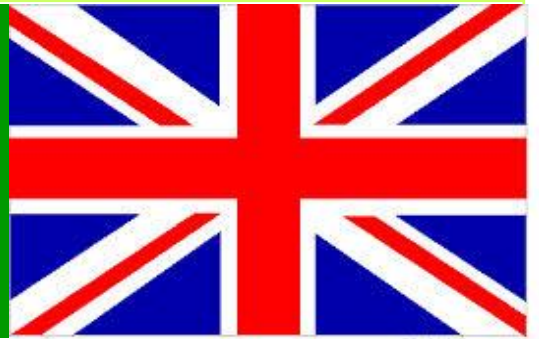
White Blue Peter



Watermelon Fizz

CVRS Southwest England Garden Tour

May 14—25, 2015



Final Call—Only 2 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 \$3250 (not including air fares which are your responsibility) per person for double room. Single accommodation is available for \$800 extra. This all inclusive price includes most of the in country costs except lunches.

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.

Contact Bill Dumont:
wedumont@hotmail.com
250 743 9882

To confirm a seat on this tour you must send a cheque for \$3250 to Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society c/o 995 Hutchinson Road, Cobble Hill, BC V0R 1L4 by March 15. 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, organization.

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.

Rosemoor

Rosemoor is one of the gardens we will be visiting on the CVRS UK tour this spring.



Some of the highlights of this Royal Horticulture Society garden include:

- the Rose Garden, with about 2000 roses
- the Arboretum
- the Herb, Fruit and Vegetable Gardens
- the Alpine House

Rosemoor became home to Lady Anne Palmer and her mother following the death of her father, Robert Horace Walpole, the fifth and last Earl of Orford, in 1931. At that time the garden was, as she describes it, 'dull and labour intensive, typically Victorian with a great use of annuals in beds around the house.' The Stone Garden,

designed by Lady Anne's mother, was the first area of hard landscaping.

After the Second World War, Lady Anne returned to live permanently at Rosemoor with her husband Eric Palmer and young son. During the war the house had been used by the Red Cross as a temporary refuge from the bombing for people from London's Docklands and East End. The Palmers regained possession of the land and, with a herd of 50 Ayrshire cows, ran the estate as a dairy farm for a number of years. With the combined pressures of a young family and a career in local government allowing little



time for dairy farming, the herd was sold and the farm reverted to pastureland rented out to local farmers for grazing. These grass lets continued until the estate was generously given to the RHS in 1988, and since they have been transformed into the acclaimed ornamental gardens and Bicentenary Arboretum.

Lady Anne's interest in gardening began in 1959, when she caught measles from her children and, while recuperating in Spain, met the noted plantsman Collingwood 'Cherry' Ingram. He opened her eyes to the beauty of the Spanish maquis and this became the first of many expeditions around Spain and England to see plants. Ingram also invited her to visit his garden in Kent and to take some cuttings and young plants back with her to start a garden of her own. She did just that and so started the plantsman's paradise we know today at Rosemoor. Lady Anne travelled widely to form her collection, including South America, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, the USA and Japan, and such wide travels have led to great diversity among the 4,000 plants represented in Lady Anne's Garden.

CVRS Members Invited to Rhodo Talk in Victoria – March 9

Bob Zimmerman, of Chimacum Woods Rhododendron Nursery in Port Ludlow, Washington will be the March 9th speaker at the Victoria Rhododendron Society meeting. His presentation is "The Siren Sound of the Species" and he's promised to put in some specific recommendations for growing species in our area. The meeting is at The Garth Homer Society, 813 Darwin St, Victoria, 7:30 pm. Bob will not be bringing plants with him this trip, but he is willing to take orders and bring them through customs when he returns to Victoria for the ARS Convention in May. We would be very pleased to have members of the Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Chapter join us for the evening.

Norma Senn, President ARS Victoria



Whistle Punk



White Opal

Rhododendrons in Traditional Chinese Medicine

(Edited from an original Article in the Rhododendron Species 2015 Yearbook by Elaine Sedlack)

During my time at the University of California Botanical Garden at Berkeley I became interested in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), especially rhododendrons as they are often poisonous. Chinese flora includes more than 36,000 different kinds of plants and approximately 5,000 have been determined to have medicinal properties, and about 500 are used in TCM including a number of rhododendrons. Mostly it is foliage and flowers that are used in TCM.



R. molle

Rhododendron dauricum, R. mucronulatum and R. molle are the species mostly commonly used in TCM and are part of the official Chinese pharmacopeia. The first two are used for treating respiratory maladies with both containing flavonoids while mucronulatum also has phenolic compounds. R. molle (a close relative of R. luteum) is used as an analgesic and sedative and contains phenolic glycosides and diterpenoids.

Seventy percent of over the counter medicine in North American have plant origins. Of course just because they are from nature doesn't mean they are all safe and some can be devastating such as the so-called Mad Honey produced by bees using the Rhododendron luteum flowers. This famous honey was used in battle to cause hallucination in the opposing army in Turkey.



R. mucronulatum

Several other rhodos are used in Chinese folk medicine, mainly for respiratory ailments. *R. micranthum* is prescribed as an antitussive and to regulate menstruation. *R. racemosum* leaves are used for bronchitis and a close relative, *R. spinuliferum* is used for coughing and asthma.

R. arboreum is used for treating diarrhea and dysentery, high altitude sickness, headache (young leaves are laid on the forehead), nasal bleeding, fever and stomach ache.

The toxicity of several species has been exploited more directly for use as fish poisons. There are references to topical applications for skin diseases using *R. edgeworthii* and for dry skin, dermatitis, wounds, skin sores pointing to antibacterial properties in *R. goenlandicum* and *r. tomentosum*.



R. arboreum

Cobble Hill Seedy Saturday

March 14, 2015

10am - 3pm

**Cobble Hill Hall
in the Heart of the Cobble Hill Village**

**For more information contact
Cobblehillseedysaturday@gmail.com**

**This is a community seed exchange,
which also features heritage seed vendors, locally grown plants,
gardening information and so much more!**

Free Admission

2015 ARS CONVENTION

SIDNEY, BC, CANADA

MAY 6 – 10, 2015

Fabulous Rhododendron Garden Tours

Location: Mary Winspear Centre

Come join us at the convenient
Mary Winspear Community
Centre, 2243 Beacon Ave. in
spectacular Sidney-by-the-Sea, BC,
Canada.



Convention Sponsors:



Check www.2015rhodo.ca for Registration Forms,
Schedule and Garden Tours.

**International
Keynote Speakers**

Jim Barlup, Washington State

Marc Colombel, France

Kenneth Cox, Scotland

Harold Greer, Oregon

Guan Kaiyun, China

Lionel de Rothschild, England

Hartwig Schepker, Germany



'Champagne Lace', the official convention
rhododendron is a magnificent hybrid



The Lost Gardens of Heligan- A Cornish Jewel

One of the gardens to be visited on the CVRS UK tour this spring is Heligan in Cornwall.

Heligan, seat of the Tremayne family for more than 400 years, is one of the most mysterious estates in England. At the end of the nineteenth century its thousand acres were at their zenith, but only a few years' later bramble and ivy were already drawing a green veil over this "Sleeping Beauty". After decades of neglect, the devastating hurricane of 1990 should have consigned the Lost Gardens of Heligan to a footnote in history. Instead, events conspired and a restoration began that year and the gardens opened officially to the public at Easter in 1992.



The rediscovery of a tiny room, buried under fallen masonry in the corner of one of the walled gardens, was to unlock the secret of their demise. A motto etched into the limestone walls in barely legible pencil still reads "Don't come here to sleep or slumber" with the names of those who worked there signed under the date – August 1914. There began a magnificent obsession to bring these once glorious gardens back to life in every sense and to tell, for the first time, not tales of lords and ladies but of those "ordinary" people who had made these gardens great, before departing for the Great War.

The award-winning garden restoration is already internationally acclaimed; but the lease now extends into well over 300 acres of the Wider Estate, leaving the project far from complete. Heligan is to remain a living and working example of the best of past practice.

The garden has an incredible array of specialty areas such as the Pineapple pit, the Banana house, the Vinery, the Melon house, the Citrus house, the Peach house, the Italian garden, the Pets graveyard, the Vegetable garden, Flora's green and many more elements along with a very impressive collection of rhododendrons, magnolias and camellias.

The Alpine Gardeners of Central Vancouver Island

present

David Sellars



To speak on

Picos de Europa:

The Alpine Garden of the Cantabrian Mountains & Where to find alpine flowers in the Olympic Mountains

Monday, March 30th, 2015, 1-3 p.m.

(doors open 12:30),

QUALICUM BEACH CIVIC CENTRE,

747 JONES, Q.B.

\$5 at door includes entry in prize draw & coffee/tea

The speaker will have plants for sale.



Picos de Europa: At the end of May 2014 David and Wendy Sellars joined the Saxifrage Society field trip to the Picos de Europa in Northern Spain. While the primary focus of the trip was to identify endemic Saxifrages, the amazing floral diversity of the area was an added attraction. The presentation will feature alpine and meadow plants of the Picos including many that can be grown on the west coast. Photos will include *Fritillaria pyrenaica*, *Lilium pyrenaicum*, three *Narcissus* species, the endemic *Erysimum duriaei* and spectacular orchids (*Orchis ustulata* pictured above left).

Olympic Mountains: The presentation will focus on routes in the Olympics to locate endemic alpins and other special plants.

David Sellars is an award winning photographer and writer and regular contributor to several alpine journals. He is also an avid mountain hiker and President of the Alpine Garden Club of B.C.

Info? Valerie: 250-594-4423 or Melanson.valerie@gmail.com



Helleborganza

February 13—March 31, 2015
Everybody Welcome!

*We would like to invite your club to our
Hellebore festival, 'Helleborganza'*

This event features our incredible selection of Hellebores and this year we will have over 225 varieties! Most of them can be found on our Hellebore page:

<http://www.thimblefarms.com/hellebore.html>



Wanna Bee

Coming Events-2015

February 13-March 31, 2015

HELLEBORGANZA

Thimble Farms Nursery – Saltspring Island

www.thimblefarms.com/hellebore

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

March 9, 2015

Victoria Rhododendron Society – Bob

Zimmerman, Chimacum Nursery

"The Siren Sound of the Species"

The Garth Homer Society, 813 Darwin St,

Victoria 7:30 pm

www.victoriarhodo.ca

March 11, 2015

Mt. Arrowsmith Rhodo Society Speaker –

Doug Justice

Biodiversity in the Garden

Qualicum Beach Civic Centre 7:30 pm

www.mars.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/?](https://alpinegardenersofcvi.wordpress.com/?s=Gardeners+of+Central+Vancouver+Island)

[s=Gardeners+of+Central+Vancouver+Island](https://alpinegardenersofcvi.wordpress.com/?s=Gardeners+of+Central+Vancouver+Island)

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

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, Presentation and
Nursery Tours***

See details in this newsletter

May 2, 2015

Cowichan Valley Garden Fair

Cowichan Exhibition 10 am – 2 pm

www.CowichanValleyGardenFair.com

Please donate plants for the CVRS plant table

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

May 6-10, 2015

ARS Convention

Mary Winspear Centre, Sydney

www.2015rhodo.ca

May 14-25, 2015

CVRS SW Great Britain Garden Tour

March 25 deadline for registrations – **Last Call for 2
seats!**

www.cowichanrhodos.com

June 20, 2015

CVRS Summer Picnic and Awards/Wrap Up

Efford's Estate – 2307 Locksyde Drive, Duncan

11:30 am to 2:30 pm



Wee Bee

Joint Meeting

Cowichan Valley and Juan De Fuca Chapters



April 16/17, 2015 in Port Angeles

We are meeting jointly with the Juan De Fuca ARS Chapter in Port Angeles next month for an exciting overnight trip. We now have 20 people indicating they are coming. Let Bill know if you are coming-

Thursday, April 16:

- 10:00 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 – Port Angeles 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
- 6:00 pm Return to Red Lion Hotel - Supper at the Michael's Steak House

Friday, April 17:

- 7 am Breakfast at hotel, 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.

Costs:

Participants pay their own ferry fares US\$35 pp return fare and Hotel Room/breakfast at the Red Lion Inn-Port Angeles- Standard Room no view w/ 2 Queen Beds: US \$109.30 with brkfst, Premium Water-view w/ 2 Queen Beds: US \$131.38 and lunch on April 17.

Payable to CVRS - Box lunch on Ferry -Can \$13, Bus to Hurricane Ridge and Nurseries –Can \$50, Supper at Michael's Can\$37. – total \$100.00



**Please pay Can \$100 per person by March 25 to CVRS, 995
Hutchinson Road, Cobble Hill, BC V0R1L4**





**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



twitter.com/**CowGardenFair**



www.facebook.com/**CowichanValleyGardenFair**



Whidbey Island



Watermelon Fizz



What a Dane

What Kind of Member are You?

Are you an active member
The kind that would be missed?
Or are you just content
Your name is on the list!

Do you attend the meetings
And mingle with the flock?
Or do you stay at home
And criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part
To help the work along?
Or are you satisfied to be
The kind that just belongs?

Do you ever voluntarily
Help with the guiding stick?
Or leave the work to just a few
And talk about the clique?

Come out to meetings often
And help with hand and heart,
Don't be JUST a member
But take an active part!

Think this over, member
You know right from wrong.

Now I ask you:
Are you an active member?
Or do you just belong?

Author Unknown

Silver Bowl Winner Announced at December Meeting

*Our Silver Bowl is awarded annually to a member who has made a significant contributions. This year long- time member **Sharon Tillie** is the recipient in recognition of her past and ongoing support for our club.*

Since first granted in 1990 the award has been given 23 times to a total of 31 people who have made special contributions to the betterment of the CVRS. The table shows the list of past winners. The Silver Bowl is unique to our ARS chapter.

Sharon has held numerous executive and support positions. She assists with organizing and volunteers with all club activities. She has created a photo record of our activities on many occasions and been generous in supplying the club with her artful, naturalist greeting cards. She is always a willing volunteer and assists with all tasks when needed such as leading the US tour group that went down on the bus to San Francisco. These contributions include administrative, behind the scenes or front line volunteering, offering her garden to host garden tours and club picnics. We thank you Sharon and very much appreciate your participation and ongoing contributions to our club.

1990	Fred Collins
1991	Dave Dougan
1992	Leslie Drew
1993	Margaret deWeese
1994	Stan Groves
1995	Peter Kearns
1996	Sandra Evelyn
1997	Allan and Liz Murray
1998	Etta, Greg and Ruth Cook
1999	Daphne Jackson
2000	Ian and Doris Anderson
2001	Anne Springford
2002	Ken Flett
2003	Roger and Anne Slaby
2004	Janet and David Gardener
2005	Alan and Sandy Campbell
2006	Joyce Gammie
2007	Ingeborg Woodworth
2009	Siggi and Maria Kemmler
2011	David Annis
2012	Ian E. Efford
2013	Mary Gale
2014	Sharon Tillie



The Tomato Garden



An old gentleman lived alone in New Jersey. He wanted to plant his annual tomato garden, but it was very difficult work, as the ground was hard.

His only son, Vincent, who used to help him, was in prison.

The old man wrote a letter to his son and described his predicament:



Dear Vincent,
I am feeling pretty sad because it looks like I won't be able to plant my tomato garden this year.

I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot.

I know if you were here my troubles would be over.

I know you would be happy to dig the plot for me, like the old days.

Love, Papa

A few days later he received a letter from his son.

Dear Papa,
Don't dig up that garden. That's where the bodies are buried.
Love, Vinnie

At 4 a.m. the next morning, FBI agents and local police arrived and dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. They apologized to the old man and left.

That same day the old man received another letter from his son.

Dear Papa,
Go ahead and plant the tomatoes now. That's the best I could do under the circumstances.

Love you, Vinnie



Wickiup

2014-2015 Executive

- President:
Sandra Stevenson
(pinchofherbs@shaw.ca
250-748-5570)
- Past President: Ian Efford
(efford@shaw.ca
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- Secretary: Verna Buhler
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- Newsletter Editor:
Bill Dumont
- **Directors at Large:**
Joe Hudak, Elaine Kitchen,
Siggi Kemmler,
Alan Campbell

Convenors

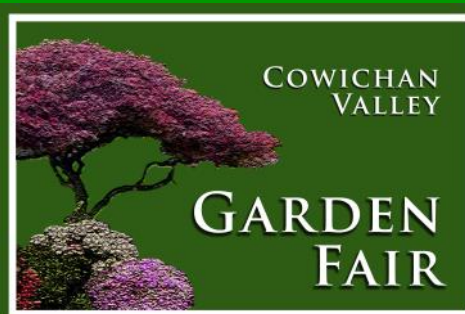
- Sunshine: Mary Gale
- Tea: The Team
- Raffle: Hilda Gerrits
- Club Liaison:
Alan Campbell
- Library: Joyce Rodger
- Program Co-ordinator:
Alan Campbell,
Sandra Stevenson
- History: Ian Efford
- Garden Tours: Alan Murray
- CV Garden Fair: The Team
- Facility Liaison: Roy Elvins
- Christmas Party: The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

Saturday May 2, 2015

Newsletter design/format
& website edits by
Mary-Lynn Boxem
(mboxem@shaw.ca)

Meeting Tea Service

The following are the Team Leaders organising the monthly tea service at St. John's hall for our meetings.

March 4 Joyce Rodger Phone list - members 44-57

April 1 David Annis Phone list – members 1-15

May 5 Judeen Hendricksen Phone List – members 16-29

Team Leaders should bring a pint of milk/cream for tea/coffee, notify team members to bring goodies, setup and cleanup. Info sheets for all the tasks are in the kitchen. There should be at least 3 people assigned to help with the tea service. Thanks to everyone who helps. Let the next team leader know if any supplies are needed and you will be reimbursed for costs.