



Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

Volume 29:3 April 2018

newsletter

President's Message

On Sunday, April 22nd, the Greig Species Garden at Milner Gardens will open at 1:00 PM. Eventually it will be home to 250 *Rhododendron* species representing many different sections of the Genus. While not fully complete, it is the firm first step to a very special garden, and the result of tireless hard work of volunteers.

Why is a species garden important? Many *Rhododendron* species are under great pressure of extinction due to development, farming, or the need for firewood. The survival of many threatened species has been due to cultivated gardens thousands of miles from their



Rhododendron calophytum

Guest Speaker: Bill McMillan
Spectacular Must-See
Gardens of Victoria
Wed, Apr 4 @ 7:30pm
(More details on page 2)

In This Issue:

Letter from the Editor 3

Beloved (Agapetes) 4

Volunteers Required 5

Greig Rhodo Garden 6

Gardens of France 9

Rhodo Language 12

Why is there no Rhodo
Society of Canada? 14

Gardens to Visit 17

Rhododendron calophytum
19

Special Garden Tour 20

Calendar of Events 22

2017-18 Executive 24

home. While not all plants in this garden are threatened, it is still an important collection and addition to our knowledge of *Rhododendrons*.

One of the important aspects of maintaining a collection such as this is accurate labeling and identification of the collection. A history of the origin of a particular plant will look into the plant's "Provenance", asking not only the general information such as geographic origin, but the specifics: Where was the seed collected? Who grew it on? All of this information is of use to botanists studying a certain genus or species, and may be used in terms of understanding disease resistance, and for finding members of a species that can tolerate colder conditions. In that case, knowing the altitude at which

the plant was collected would give some indication as to its cold tolerance.

So we on Vancouver Island are lucky to have such a resource so close to us. When we look at the blooms of these plants, it is not just the beauty of the flower, but also the value of that plant over the centuries, the work of the plant hunters who discovered them and brought them into cultivation, and the potential for scientific work and discoveries. Plants from China and the Far East, denizens of the wild Himalayas, the alpine *Rhododendrons* of Europe, and our own native rhododendrons are all available to us in one beautiful garden.

Barrie Agar, President

GUEST SPEAKER – APRIL 4, 2018

SPECTACULAR 'MUST-SEE' GARDENS of VICTORIA

BILL MCMILLAN

Bill McMillan is a Geologist by training, but was always enthusiastic about plants he encountered during his work in the field, and decided to focus on rhododendrons when he retired.

He has been curator of the Horticultural Centre of the Pacific Rhododendron and Hosta Garden since about 2000. His interests expanded into rock and alpine plants after two trips to China, with Steve Hootman of the Rhododendron Species Foundation, to look at alpine plants with a focus on rhododendrons.

Bill was in charge of the Victoria Rhododendron Society Show and Sale for five years, Registrar of the American Rhododendron Society convention in Victoria in 2006, and Co-chair of Garden Tours for the ARS Convention in Victoria in 2016. Bill is also a past President of the Victoria Rhododendron Society.

Furthermore, Bill is a propagator and grows rhododendrons from seeds and cuttings.

Bill has given presentations on basic rhododendron culture to many garden clubs, Master Gardeners' classes, and the HCP College students. Modestly, Bill describes himself as an enthusiast, rather than an expert.

His talk on Wednesday, April 4th, features highlights of five gardens in Victoria that are 'must sees' - Finnerty Gardens at University of Victoria, the Gardens at Horticultural Centre of the Pacific, Royal Roads Gardens, Abkhazi Garden, and the little-known Playfair Park Garden.



Letter *from the Editor*



That there are many passionate gardeners on Vancouver Island is at no time more evident than at local seed and plant sales. Judging from the yawns and the take out coffee mugs, local club sales and specialty garden sales bring more than just early birds out to line up well before doors swing open.

And the atmosphere is jovial and friendly! The front-page photo of the smiling faces in of The Citizen this week is evidence of that noteworthy spirit. To make these days so successful, organizers are innovative and clearly hardworking as they plan and setup for their events. One popular innovation at the Spring Heather Sale was the starter kit that organizers had assembled for gardeners who might be new to growing heathers.

At the Cobble Hill Seedy Saturday, a large and very well organized event, Bill Dumont ensured

that the CVRS was represented and that the upcoming April 28th Annual Cowichan Valley Garden Fair was promoted.

And who more appropriate to have “womaned” that table but our own very special original founding member, Mary Gale? Yes, she volunteered to do this for us! What energy this lovely woman from “Never-Never Land” exudes! Okay, why “Never Never Land”? Well, according to Mary, she is not worthy of the Profile space in our newsletter. Every time, monthly, in fact, when I approach her she shoos me away with, **“Never, it’s never going to happen---go away!”** Well one day, this has to change, but for now, **“Thank you Mary!”**

We all have an opportunity to share in these uplifting events. If you have not yet signed up to volunteer in some capacity on Friday evening, April 27th or at the CVRS Cowichan Valley Garden Fair, Saturday, April 28th, please consider doing so. My own experience has been that although I am tucked away in the Accounting Booth at the fair, the spirit of camaraderie, friendship, and appreciation that flows freely through the huge Mellor Hall, fills that crowded small space as well.

Come and absorb some of that spirit and experience why volunteers are happy people!

See you soon,

Verna Buhler



Beloved

Agapetes means “beloved”.

Agapetes is a semi-climbing shrub genus native to the Himalayas, grown as an ornamental for its attractive pendulous branches of tubular flowers blooming over a long period. It is mostly grown in climates from cool temperate to sub-tropical.

Scientific name: *Agapetes*

Higher classification: Ericaceae

Rank: Genus

Description by: **Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden**

A rhododendron relative with small rounded, glossy and deep green leaves arranged along long arching stems. Deep yellow, urn-shaped flowers hang in clusters from late winter through mid-spring. Requires excellent drainage and makes a great display in a moss-lined hanging basket. A fantastic plant with an incredibly long season of bloom – the calyces may be outlined in bright red.

In Ian Efford's Greenhouse Garden



Agapetes x Vaccinium currently blooming beautifully in Ian Efford's greenhouse

Photo: Ian Efford



Agapetes smithiana currently blooming enthusiastically in Ian Efford's greenhouse

Photo: Ian Efford



Agapetes although purchased from RSBG at the same time as Ian's *Agapetes*, is not blooming merrily in Verna's greenhouse. Could it be a beautiful red? No, apparently it is going to be white.

Photo: Verna Buhler



COWICHAN VALLEY GARDEN FAIR

APRIL 28, 2018

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

As the Garden Fair approaches, we are making another call for volunteers. The photo shows how popular and busy this event is each year, so many hands help!

If you are new to the club, this event is a great way to meet people and have fun!

At the moment we are particularly looking for people to assist with the cashiers. If you are not sure as to where your talents lie, we also have a category called "floaters". We can always find a job for someone, whether it is keeping the cash line moving, retrieving carts and wagons, answering questions, or perhaps a job we haven't thought of yet, but you would be the ideal candidate to fill it.

We welcome all! **Please sign up at the next meeting, Wednesday, April 4th.**

YOUR EXTRA PLANT DIVISIONS ARE ALSO MOST WELCOME!

Thank you for bringing these to the Fairgrounds as early as you can. Volunteers will be setting up on Friday evening as well, if you would prefer to avoid the Saturday rush.

Official Opening of the Greig Rhododendron Species Garden

Sunday, April 22nd



Vancouver Island University's Milner Gardens & Woodland along with the five District 1 Island Chapters of the American Rhododendron Society will be officially opening the new Greig Rhododendron Species Garden at Milner Gardens & Woodland on Sunday, April 22nd at 1:00 pm.

This new addition to Milner Gardens & Woodland has been many years in the making and we are looking forward to welcoming our members and guests into this new space.

The Greig Rhododendron Species Garden is a long-term project that will take years to fully complete. However it is already a place of beauty and interest that deserves to be thoroughly enjoyed, starting this spring.



Opportunity to be a supporter

Through the planning and construction, the support of both donors and volunteers has made the Greig Rhododendron Species Garden possible. Even though the gardens will soon be opened for all to enjoy, there is nevertheless more work to be done to build the collection of species Rhododendrons to its full complement of 250 specimens. Companion plants and benches need to be added, and an interpretive system of onsite signage and web based information is planned.

There is, thus, still time to be a supporter of the Greig Rhododendron Species Garden and to help see it grow to its full potential. Contributions of \$100 or more will be recognized at the Welcome & Interpretive Centre's display panel, as well as a dedicated thank-you web page acknowledging the contributions of those who have helped develop the species garden.

Please click on the following link to make a donation in support of the Greig Rhododendron Species Garden today. Simply identify Milner Gardens in the drop down list under Designation, and write Greig Rhododendron Species Garden in the comment section: <https://giving.viu.ca/>

Donor benches within the garden are available with funds going to support the project. Please contact the Milner Gardens & Woodland Executive Director for more information about this type of contribution: Geoff.ball@viu.ca or 250-752-8573 x222.

History of the Greig Rhododendron Species Garden

Initial discussions of a Rhododendron Species Garden at Milner Gardens & Woodland began back in 1998. Although far too early in the evolution of Milner Gardens to begin such a project, the idea carried on. In 2014, with support and guidance from the five District 1 Island Chapters of the American Rhododendron Society, the planning process began in earnest.



The goal of the proposed garden would be to highlight the tremendous diversity found within the genus-*Rhododendron*, including some of the unique and rare species that are threatened in the wild, and representative species from key regions where they are found naturally, and in some cases, are endangered. As most of the historic rhododendrons at Milner Gardens & Woodland are hybrids, the species garden would also highlight many of the parent species of these historic rhododendrons.



After the initial planning phase, Jim Cadwaladr, founding director of Milner Gardens & Woodland and retired landscape architect, volunteered to create landscape designs for the new garden. With the landscape plans in place, the next step was to clear the existing second growth trees. As a result of this clearing, a layer of history was uncovered, showing that First Nations Peoples had used the site many centuries before. To properly assess this discovery, construction was temporarily halted until an archaeological inventory of the area was completed.

After the site assessment was completed, construction began again. Throughout 2017, Milner Gardens and Rhododendron Society volunteers, students, and staff worked hard to prepare the space to properly house the intended collection of species Rhododendrons. The first section of fence was built and 600 yards of specially mixed soil was spread.

In June 2017 the first rhododendrons were planted and lovingly tended by volunteers through a very hot and dry summer. The next influx began early in the fall, initially with volunteers applying a thick layer of mulch, followed by the delivery of 14 large specimens that were carefully transported by crane truck, thanks to Windsor Plywood.

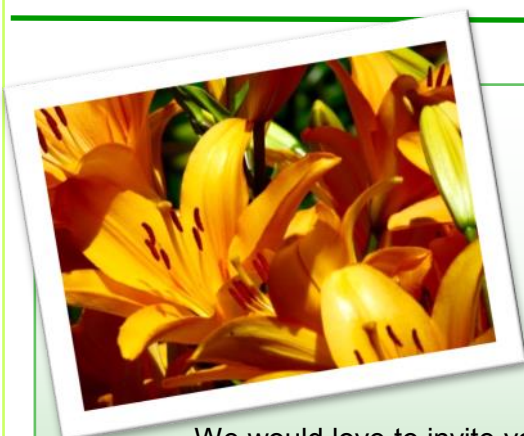
The work through the early part of this year has carried on at a rapid pace with the completion of the fence, more mulching, stonework, and planting of specimen trees.

The Greig Rhododendron Species Garden was named after the Greig family, in recognition of Mary and Ted Greig's significant contribution to horticulture, as well as their role in the development of the original heritage rhododendron collection at Milner Garden.

We look forward to the continued development and growth of the Greig Rhododendron Species Garden. It is a wonderful example of what can be achieved when we work together to build something special for today and for future generations.

CAR-POOLING OPPORTUNITY

To travel to the Greig Rhododendron Species Garden Official Opening with fellow members, please discuss and sign up for a shared ride at the CVRS Meeting, Wednesday, April 4, 2018.



Point Roberts Garden Tour XV

July 15, 2018; 10am to 4pm

The Point Roberts (WA) Garden Club holds its acclaimed garden tour every other year. This year is number XV!

We would love to invite you and your members to visit the eight unique properties on this year's tour. This self-guided tour of eight wonderful gardens includes a map and a stop for afternoon tea with music.

Cost: \$20 per person

Note: Enhanced Driver's License or Passport is required to cross the border. More info: info@pointrobortsgardenclub.org

Jennifer Urquhart, Point Roberts Garden Club

GARDENS OF FRANCE PART III of AN EUROPEAN ADVENTURE

Photos and Text by Sandra Stevenson



Sericourt Gardens

Sericourt Gardens, is a four-hectare garden near the city of Arras, in Northern France. The garden was developed by a Landscape Architect and Nurseryman, Yves Gosse de Gorre, in the mid eighties. He was unable to obtain plants he desired for his garden designs, hence the inspiration for his own nursery. This world class garden grew out of the excess in plants from his nursery.



In keeping with the local history, the common theme of the First World War links many of the gardens. In the Warrior Garden, armies of *Chamaecyparis* blend the boundaries of the formal garden with the forest. After being greeted by a row of corrugated metal soldiers the poppy lined pathways direct guests towards the sculpted masks inspired by the Easter Island warrior masks.





After moving through a few more garden rooms and around a corner, we find ourselves navigating huge craters caused by bombs during WWI. These permanent changes to the landscape have been incorporated into the garden design.

As we leave the warrior themed gardens we notice oil paintings situated among the plantings. The concept of paintings displayed in the gardens adds a new level of complexity to the art. It is difficult to determine the actual painted image from the constantly changing shadows cast by the plants and nature framing the works of art. The contrast in plantings and design continued to provide a surprise around every corner.

From experimenting with light and shade in the garden rooms to providing seats tempting one to sit for cocktails, the majestic cathedral of roses ready to burst into bloom provided a sense of royalty.



The topiary garden gave definition to the many varieties of crisply sculpted Buxus, while displaying the numerous shades of green was a feast for the eyes.

The designer of this award-winning garden has created an environment to stir emotion and create surprises to delight at every turn.



The Hortillonnages of Amiens

The Somme River surrounds Amiens and floods several canals over a 300-hectare area within and around the city. Hence the city of Amiens is known as “Venice of the North”.

The Hortillonnages are market gardens on plots of this very fertile land separated by the canals. It is believed they date back to before the Romans. The name Hortillon was given to its gardeners by the soldiers of Caesar. Until early last century the fruits and vegetables from these Hortillonnages, or market gardens, fed the town of Amiens. This fertile land continues to produce three harvests a year though very few active market gardens remain.



On Saturdays, produce can be purchased at the “Floating Market” in the city center. The Hortillons are selling from their boats known as Cornets. These flat-bottomed boats are specially designed to be gentle on the delicate banks and the bottom of the canals.

Many of the properties along these more than 65 km of private canals are now cottages owned by residents of the city.

Glimpses of the market and private cottage gardens can be enjoyed while touring down these narrow canals in a cornet.

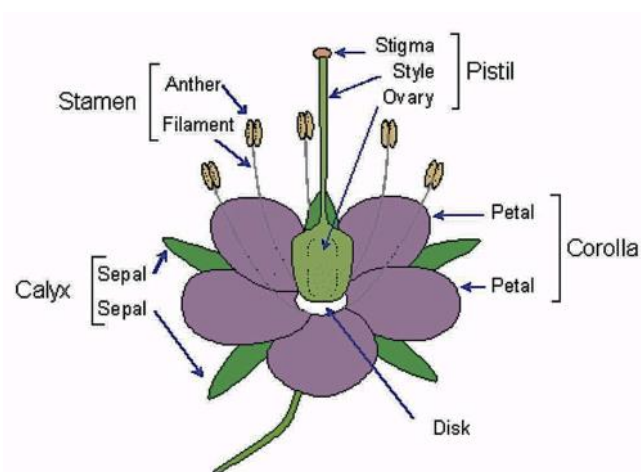


Rhododendron Language - Mini Lessons

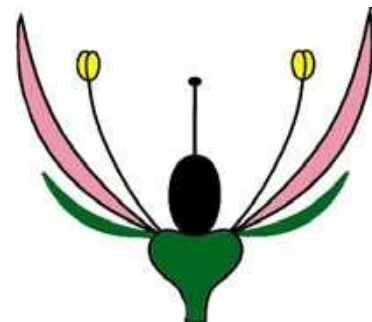
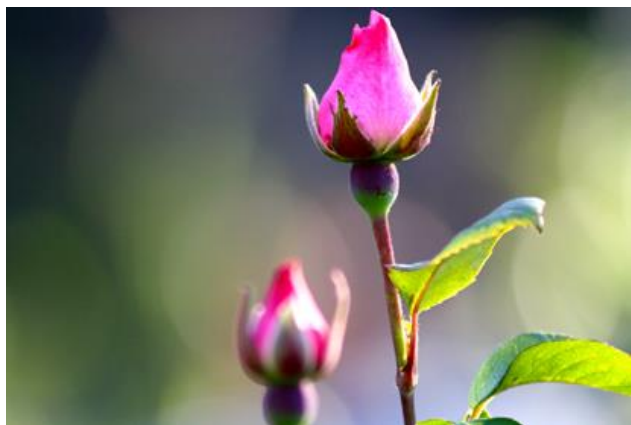
Corolla vs Calyx vs Corona

Glen Jamieson

Petals (red) are modified leaves that surround the reproductive parts of flowers. They are often brightly coloured or unusually shaped to attract pollinators.



Together, all of the petals of a flower are called a **corolla**. Petals are usually accompanied by another set of special leaves called **sepals** (green) that collectively form the **calyx** and lie just beneath the corolla.



The calyx and the corolla together make up the **perianth**.

When the petals and sepals of a flower are difficult to distinguish, they are collectively called **tepals**. Examples of plants in which the term tepal is appropriate include genera such as *Magnolia* and *Tulipa*.



Some genera such as *Rosa* and *Phaseolus* (beans) have well-distinguished sepals and petals.

Tepals also apply when it is possible to distinguish an outer whorl of sepals from an inner whorl of petals; the sepals and petals have a similar appearance to one another, as in *Lilium*.

Petals can differ dramatically in different species. The petal whorl or corolla may be either radially or bilaterally symmetrical.



In many plants of the Aster family such as the sunflower, the circumference of the flower head is composed of ray florets. Each ray floret is anatomically an individual flower with a single large petal. Florets in the centre of the disc typically have no, or very reduced, petals.

Petals of different species of plants vary greatly in colour, or colour pattern, both in visible light and in



Rhododendron 'Apricot Fantasy'

ultraviolet. Such patterns often function as guides to pollinators, and are variously known as nectar guides, pollen guides, and floral guides.

When the perianth is in two whorls, it is described as being “**hose in hose**”. A good example of this is the hybrid ‘Apricot Fantasy’, an especially attractive plant that many of us have in our gardens.

While the calyx may be green, it may also be brightly coloured, and is then described as **petaloid**. Both the corolla and petals may have a role in attracting pollinators, but this may be augmented by more specialized structures like the **corona**.

Corona

An additional structure in some plants (e.g. *Narcissus*, *Passiflora* (passion flower), some *Hippeastrum*, Liliaceae) is the corona, a ring or set of appendages arising from the corolla, or the outer edge of the stamens. It is often positioned where the corolla lobes arise from the corolla tube. There is an outer ring composed of six tepals (undifferentiated sepals and petals), and a central disc to conical shaped corona.



The **pappus** of Asteraceae, considered to be a modified calyx, is also called a corona if it is shaped like a crown.



The Asteraceae pappus may be composed of bristles (sometimes feathery), awns, scales, or may be absent.

In some species, the pappus is too small to see without magnification. In some species, such as Dandelion (*Taraxacum* spp.) or *Eupatorium*, feathery bristles of the pappus function as a "parachute" which enables the seed to be carried by the wind.

- The main role of sepals is to keep the parts of the flower safe before it opens.
- After flowering, most plants have no more use for the calyx, which then withers or becomes vestigial.
- Some plants retain a thorny calyx, either dried or live, as protection for the fruit or seeds. Examples include some of the Solanaceae (Nightshade family; potato, tomato, and for example, the Tomatillo, *Physalis philadelphica*).

Why is there no Rhododendron Society of Canada?

By Alan Campbell

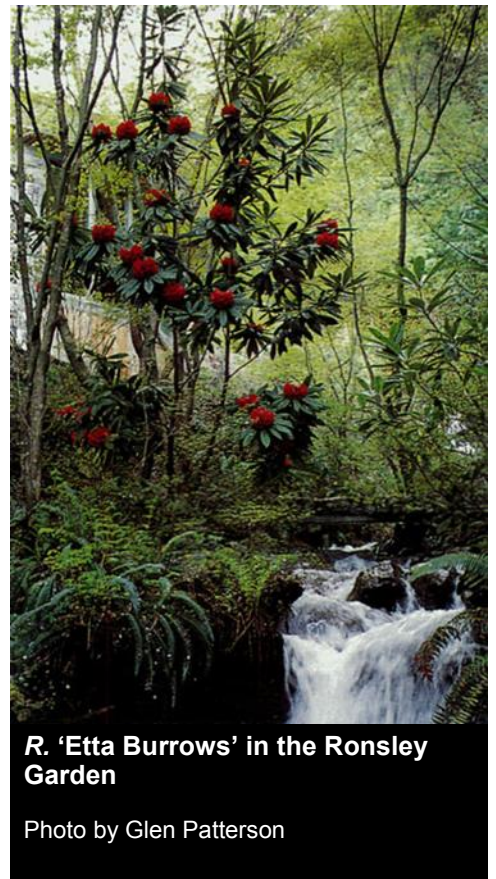
Every once and awhile I hear the question: "Why is there no Canadian Rhododendron Society?" Well, I heard the question again at the District 1 meeting last week.

I wrote an article some years ago, [in response to] the announcement that was placed into J.A.R.S. at the time.

It may be of interest to our members at this time.

RHODODENDRON SOCIETY OF CANADA:

As a result of negotiations over an extended period of time, the Rhododendron Society of Canada (RSC) will become affiliated with the ARS as District 12, effective Jan. 1, 1992. The RSC will retain its name and may continue all of its activities and services, as long as they are consistent with the bylaws of both societies and the laws of Canada and the United States. The RSC will appoint a District Director to serve until the regular election process can be implemented next year. The RSC currently has three regions, the Atlantic, Niagara and Toronto Regions,



R. 'Etta Burrows' in the Ronsley Garden

Photo by Glen Patterson

which will become ARS chapters. Representing the RSC at the ARS National Board meeting were Sophia Maitland, current RSC President, and Charles Sale, past RSC President. The ARS warmly welcomes the RSC and happily anticipates the mutual benefits that will accrue as a result of the affiliation!

Journal of the American Rhododendron Society
Volume 46, Number 1
Winter 1992

During the long hot days of this past July, the most pleasant parts of the day, to me, were early morning before the sun would smile cruelly down on our cowering 'big leaves' or in the evening as the heat slowly, almost visibly, dissipated, allowing the garden to exhale with desiccated relief. During one such evening as I sat enjoying a dram of one of Scotland's finest exports and thumbing through my archive of ARS journals, I came upon the above article. The composition is factual and, to a point, informative, but fails to answer the question, which has been asked of me on several occasions: Why is there no Canadian Rhododendron Society?

With only slight hesitation, I placed my single malt to one side and addressed myself to my favourite appliance, my personal 'Oracle of Delphi', Mr. Gate's vehicle of success, my computer.

Leslie Hancock, a one time M.L.A., and owner of Woodland Nurseries in Mississauga, Ontario, along with ninety-one similarly minded people, founded the Rhododendron Society of Canada in 1971. Accounts of Mr. Hancock describe him to have been "quite to the left in his politics, . . ." and, ". . . a small man with a large personality", an inspiring man, who at the age of 85 was still sowing rhododendron seed. Leslie and his wife Dorothy had three children, all who eventually became landscape architects and when Leslie died at the age of 86, it was his daughter Marjorie who took over the nursery.

During the conception of the Rhododendron Society of Canada there took place some considerable discussion on whether or not to join the American Rhododendron Society or to form a separate organization. Leslie Hancock was quite adamant about the formation of a 'stand alone' society.

The center of the RSC was, naturally, Toronto, with the first two Conferences taking place in that city. Membership increased rapidly, producing the need to begin a second Chapter in Ontario, 'The Niagara Region'. Interest permeated eastward with a Conference eventually being held in Montreal with the formation of that city's Chapter. The Montreal Conference was attended by Captain Richard Steele and John Weagle, two rhododendron enthusiasts



Margaret Charlton and Charlie Sale in North Vancouver

Photo by GLENN BAGLO,
VANCOUVER SUN 01.25.2013

from Halifax. 'The Word' was spreading to the Maritimes and the Atlantic Chapter was born.

Membership in the RSC was high but a problem was developing. Expenses were rising, but the rank and file balked at an increase-in-dues suggestion. The fine journal produced by the society realized an ever-increasing difficulty in persuading members to contribute material. A finale meeting in Montreal was attended by four members, and viewed as a "complete washout". Even though membership was high, the almost nonexistent participation "...made us give up because the cause looked futile."

A great percentage of the RSC members were also members of the ARS and "affiliation" became a "buzz word". A vote was put to the membership and a large majority approved the suggestion of a merger with the American Rhododendron Society. Talks began in 1988 at the ARS Convention in

Williamsburg, Virginia. Harold Greer, ARS President at the time that the talks began, was a leading proponent in making the ARS an international organization and encouraged the blending of the two societies. Austin Kennel, who also served as an ARS President at the time of the merger, was similarly minded. It was soon clear that the ARS functioned as a beneficial umbrella organization and the RSC Chapters perceived no ill effect by the move.

The demise of the Rhododendron Society of Canada may be laid at the feet of apathy and non-participation, the bane of many fine organizations and the ever-present danger to those societies struggling to succeed.

I would like to end my little history lesson by offering my thanks to Clive Justice, Joe Ronsley, and Charlie Sale for their time, comments, and recollections.

Editor's Note:

A quick search on Bill Gate's wonder machine reveals that as of 2016 The Rhododendron Society of Canada has an address located at #903 100 Lakeshore Road East, in Oakville ON, L6J 6M9; telephone (905) 849-7167. However it has no website and no contact person. It has a Charitable Organization Business Number: 889979571RR0001. It has no full-time staff, nor any email contact listed.

The good thing is that the RSC is doing well financially: Revenues for 2016 were \$1; Expenditures for 2016 were \$250; Assets for 2016 were \$1,558; Liabilities for 2016 were \$0.

Is the code of "finders-keepers" applicable in this case?



Members representing the various Vancouver Island ARS Chapters met in Horseshoe Bay for the Annual District 1 Meeting, and enjoyed a sunny afternoon near the Ferry terminal in Horseshoe Bay. Missing are Brenda and Allen who were wandering about, sightseeing. Thank you Alan and Diane for representing the Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society at the District 1 (British Columbia) Rhododendron Meeting.

GARDENS to VISIT in APRIL and MAY!

Each year Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society Members open their gardens for their fellow members to visit. It is such a pleasure to wander comfortably through gardens and chat about plants with enthusiasts who share the passion.

This year, visit these Gardens:

Allan and Liz Murray

1951 Doran Rd, Cobble Hill

Tuesday, April 17, starting at 5 p.m.

Park at the top of the driveway and you can make your way down through the garden. If you have difficulties walking, bring the car down the drive.



Maple Bay Manor

1437 Maple Bay Rd.

Thursday, May 3, showing 5:30 - 8 p.m.

Lynn Clarke has been renovating the Stone property. The garden, with many Rhododendron and mature trees is becoming a place of beauty again. Come and see all of her improvements.

Ali Morris

751 Satellite Drive, Cobble Hill

Sunday, May 20, open 1 – 4 p.m.

More details will be provided in the May newsletter



George Morgen and Verna Buhler

3908 Cowichan Lake Road, Duncan

Saturday, May 26, open 1 – 5 p.m.

More information will follow in the May newsletter



Cowichan Valley Garden Club Annual Plant Sale

April 21 at 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

(or until the plants sell out)

St. John's Church Hall, 486 Jubilee St. Duncan.

Admission is free.

Rossalynn Woodgate Email: rwoodgate@shaw.ca

***Rhododendron calophytum* blooms for Ali Morris this spring**

Photos by Ali Morris

Blooming now, in March, and for the first time in its life, in Ali Morris's garden, is the stunning species, *Rhododendron calophytum*.

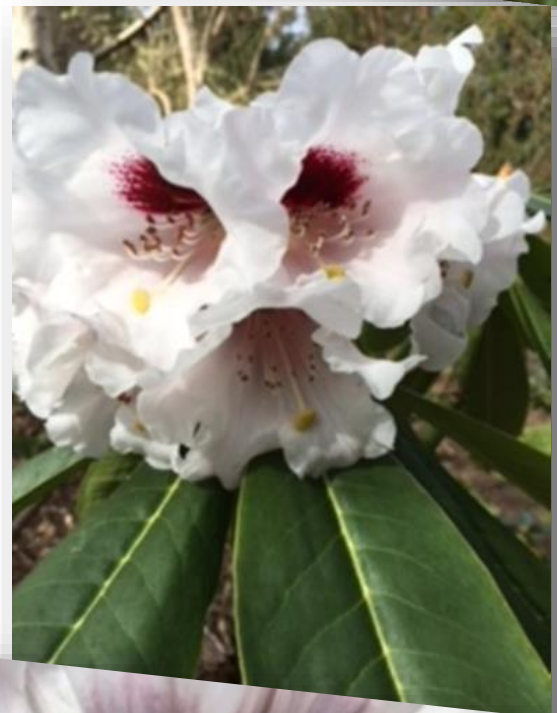
This spectacular elepidote rhododendron grows to be a large shrub or tree, and can be expected to be about 5 feet tall in 10 years. Its leaves are oblong-lanceolate, and up to 12 inches in length.

Rhododendron calophytum blooms early in the spring, on trusses with 15 to 30 flowers that are predominantly white or pink with a deep red basal blotch and spotting. This flower does not require fragrance when its other features, such as its near translucence when viewed from above, and the disc shaped stigma on the pistil are so fascinating.

The geographical origin of this species is China (Sichuan, NE Yunnan, Guizhou). Its cold Hardiness is -21°C (-5°F), although this may vary depending on weather and growing conditions.

Most importantly, for the quiz, on April 4th, remember that it belongs in the Sub Genus *Hymenanthus*; the Section *Ponticum*; and the Sub Section *Fortunea*

Verna Buhler





SPECIAL GARDEN TOUR for CVRS Members - Saturday, May 5

SIGN UP. . .

. . .for a Road Trip to Visit Victoria Rhododendron
Society Members' Gardens!!

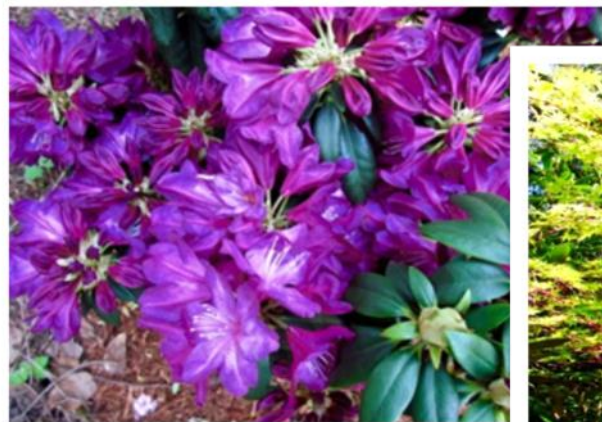
Bring a packed lunch for a picnic in the garden.

The Blackmore Garden:

Lois and Roy have built their home and large Rhododendron Garden high up on Triangle Mountain. The mature rhododendrons were planted in the garden many years ago and the planting has never stopped.

This mountain garden boasts a large number of potted plants arranged throughout the garden and on the large wrap around patios. In these pots are many of Lois's favourite hybrids, developed by Jim Barlup.

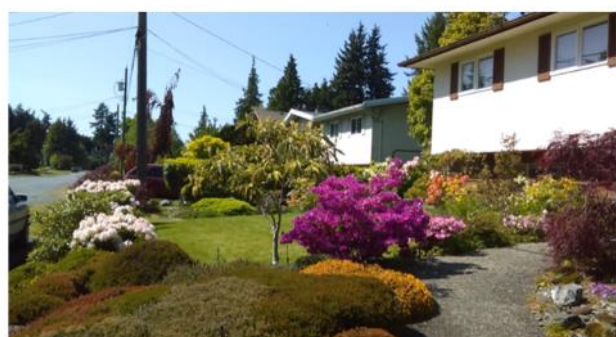
We will be eating our lunch in this lovely garden.



The Massa Garden:

This very large Rhododendron Garden is built on a Sooke hillside near Glintz Lake. Rhododendrons are planted to the contours of the land. Many of the plantings are mature rhododendrons, but many more have been planted recently.

Joanna and her late husband Moe had a wonderful vision for this property and you won't want to miss it in full splendor!



The McMillan Garden:

Bill and Theresa live on a corner lot in Colwood. Bill is, coincidentally, our April guest speaker.

They share their expertise with The Horticulture of the Pacific and, as you may have noted as you read about our guest speaker this month, many others.



An amazing array of rhododendrons are grown on this property. Whether you enjoy seeing species or hybrids, you will delight in their garden.

Furthermore, you will be awakened to the possibilities on your own small piece of paradise.

SIGN UP EARLY with our Garden Tour

Coordinators, Al and Liz Murray, to ensure that

they have time to coordinate the best Day Trip possible! Call them at (250) 743-9190, or email at mistyview@shaw.ca

Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 6 & 7

Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden Annual Symposium

Best Western Plus, Federal Way

WA and Rhododendron Species Garden

April 11

MARS Monthly Meeting Speaker: Carmen

Varcoe, Former Chair of Finnerty Gardens Society in Victoria, BC

Saturday, April 14; 9-2pm

Mill Bay 'Plantaholics' Plant Sale: Support programs for women at home, Somenos Transition House, and abroad, Malawi (Girls on the Move)

Saturday, April 14; 1-3 pm

View Royal Garden Club, Spring Garden Show, Victoria

Tuesday, April 17, starting at 5 p.m.

Al and Liz Murray Private Garden Tour (for CVRS Members Only)

Thursday, April 19: 2pm

CVRS Book Club Meeting, Duncan

Saturday, April 21

MARS Rhododendron Show and Sale, Parksville

Saturday, April 21; 10:00 am to 1:00 pm (or until plants sell out)

Cowichan Valley Garden Club Annual Plant Sale, Duncan

Saturday, April 28; 10-2pm

Cowichan Valley Garden Fair Mellor Hall, Cowichan Exhibition Park

Thursday, May 3; 5:30 - 8 pm

Maple Bay Manor Private Garden Tour (CVRS Members Only)

Saturday May 5

CVRS Victoria Gardens Road Trip (See the notice in this newsletter for more details)

May 9

MARS Monthly Meeting Speaker: Nancy Moore – Shade Gardens

May 12 & 13

MARS Mother's Day Weekend Garden Tour

Sunday, May 20; 1-4pm

Ali Morris Private Garden Tour, Cobble Hill (CVRS Members Only)

Saturday, May 26; 1-5pm

George Morgen/Verna Buhler Private Garden Tour (Members Only)

May 20 - 27

ARS 2018 Convention Bremen, Germany

July 15, 2018; 10am to 4pm

Point Roberts Garden Tour XV, Point Roberts

February 2, 2019

Mixing It Up "Beauty & the Beast"

CVRS BOOK CLUB MEETING

Thursday, April 19, 2018 2pm

at the CVRS Library

3908 Cowichan Lake Road



Please open the gate and drive right in. The gate is there only to keep dogs in and deer out --- never our friends! Coffee and snacks are provided.

View Royal Garden Club Spring Garden Show

April 14, 2017; 1-3pm at Wheeley Hall at Equimalt United Church,
500 Admirals Rd (enter off Lyall St.)

\$5 Admission includes refreshments and door prizes,
plant and bake sale

Accredited BC Judges

Non-members welcome to exhibit

Tel: 250-658-9495 or 250-727-0076

ViewRoyalGardenClub@WordPress.com





Victoria Master
Gardener Association

Mixing It Up in the Urban Garden 2019

"Beauty & the Beast"

Join us for a day full of fresh ideas, inspiration & fun
Expert Speakers • Local Vendors • MarketPlace • Delicious Food

Saturday, February 2, 2019 • Sidney, B.C.
Stay up-to-date at mixingitup.org



Bookmark the Date: Mixing It Up "Beauty & the Beast" February 2, 2019

Gardens are among the most beautiful and healthy places on the planet. They can be beastly things too, with bugs to identify and thugs to control! Next February you can explore both of these garden realities at Mixing It Up in the Urban Garden: Beauty & the Beast. All the more enticing: you can do this in the warmth of the Mary Winspear Centre.

A quick outline of the day:

- Presentations from 9am to 4pm
- Vendors and MarketPlace open at 8am
- 4 presentations, and time for questions
- Delicious food

It's easy to stay informed:

- [Subscribe](#) to the Mixing It Up 2019 newsletter
- [Join](#) the party at our Facebook event page, where we'll be posting information about Speakers, Sponsors and Vendors
- Check in at mixingitup.org

You'll want to be ready when registration opens -- we always sell out quickly! I'm looking forward to keeping you up-to-date, and to spending the day with you,

Coleen Rogers
Mixing It Up Promotion



Victoria Master Gardener Association
We Grow Gardeners
victoriamastergardeners.org

2017-18 Executive

President: Barrie Agar
barrie.agar@shaw.ca (250) 748-2308

Vice President: Judeen Hendricksen

Past President: Carrie Nelson

Secretary: Verna Buhler
Vlbuhler@shaw.ca 250-748-8889

Treasurer: Elaine Kitchen
y1880@yahoo.ca 250-746-6419

Membership Chair: David Annis

Directors at Large:
Diane Allen, Alan Campbell, Ron Martin, Ali Morris

Convenors

Sunshine: Mary Gale

Tea: Judeen Hendricksen

Raffle: Hilda Gerrits

Club Liaison: Alan Campbell

Library: Verna Buhler

Membership Recruitment: Peter Lewis

Program Committee Co-ordinator: Alan Campbell

History: Ian Efford

Garden Tours/Trips: Al Murray

CV Garden Fair: The Team

Facility Liaison: Roy Elvins

Christmas Party: The Team

TEA SERVICE DUTIES for April 4:
Judeen Hendrickson Team

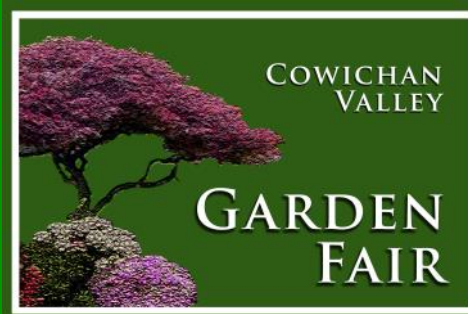
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Mary-Lynn Boxem (mlboxem77@gmail.com)



Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

A Chapter of the American
Rhododendron Society
P.O. Box 904
Duncan, British Columbia
V9L 3Y2

<http://cowichanrhodos.ca>



April 28; 10 am - 2 pm
<http://cowichanvalleygardenfair.com>



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CowichanValleyGardenFair](https://www.facebook.com/CowichanValleyGardenFair)