



Newsletter

Volume 24:5 November 2013

President's Message

Since our November meeting I have started plans on cleaning up a wet area of the garden. I will be able to incorporate some of the concepts our speaker, Paul de Greef, highlighted in his talk. As a postscript, he has recommended a number of titles to add to our information regarding water management in our gardens:

- Design for Water – Heather Kinkade-Levario, New Society Publishers, Gabriola Island, 2007
- Rain Gardens – Nigel Dunnet, Timberpress, 2007
- New Waterscapes – Herbert Dreiseitl, Birkhauser, 2005



I am wrapping the garden in a blanket of leaves for winter and this is the cue to begin planning for our Christmas party. We will be having our gathering at our regular hall (St. John's Church) during our regular December meeting date. This is one of the two meetings a year we build in more time for socializing and getting to know one another. We begin a little earlier at 6 pm to ensure we have time to chat and enjoy some tasty finger foods. In addition to our opportunity to "brag about our garden" photo contest, we have added a storytelling component to the entertainment. This is your opportunity to be heard. Just three to five minutes and wow us with a story: fact or fiction, serious or not, happy or sad. People, animals, plants, books, travel, the topics really are endless and the rules very simple. Include these four words: Beauty, Rhododendron, Lass and Christmas. Details for the Christmas Party are in this newsletter. I look forward to seeing all of you there on Wednesday December 4.

Just a reminder that we don't meet in January and our next regular meeting will be held the first Wednesday in February. We will be having our in-house Q and A event. Please forward questions, concerns or discussion points you would like to see addressed at the meeting and we will work this into our planning.

Sandra Stevenson

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Coming Events

December 4 @ 6 pm
Christmas Party

February 5
In House Event - Rhodo Q&A with experts

March 5
Lois Blackmore – "A Journey of Love" the registered hybrids of Jim Barlup

Membership

Marie Jacques reported that 39 CVRS members were registered for 2014 with the ARS and fees sent on their behalf. This is the same as for 2013.

Financial Report

Bill Dumont reported on the Society's financial position as of October 31, 2013:

Total Deposits – ISCU –September 30, 2013		21,546.66
CURRENT ACCOUNT	Opening	7011.46
	Closing Balance	7324.20
BURSARY ACCOUNT		4.46
TERM DEPOSITS	No. 12 –April 2014 – 1.2 %	1838.60
	No. 11 – Nov. 2016 – 2.25%	12687.03
SHARES		<u>5.00</u>
TOTAL Deposits-ISCU–October 31, 2013		\$21,859.29

CVRS Christmas Party

The tradition of the CVRS Christmas party is a pleasant seasonal social get-together for some friendship and fun with your fellow rhodoholics. It's a great event that all can enjoy. Please join us.

December 4, 2013

6 pm @ St. John's Church Hall

- Bring along a sweet or savory dish (finger foods preferred)
- An item for the food bank
- A gift (under \$20) and money for tickets for the gift draw (\$5 for an arm's length of tickets – a long arm)
- Photos for the contest along with 4 25 cent pieces
- A 3 to 5 minute short story using the words Christmas, Lass, Rhododendron, Beauty



Ho Ho Ho Rhodo Photo Contest:



The rules are simple, dig through those thousands of colored Rhododendron photos that you have on your computer and pick the two best ones. Print them yourself or send them to your favorite photo processing place like Peacocks, London Drugs or Walmart to be printed in 8 x 10 in or 9 x 12 in format.

Next bring them to the Christmas party along with 4 (yes, four) quarters and you might just end the evening much wealthier than when you arrived!! The only rule is that there must be a rhodo somewhere in the photo; if you know its name so much the better but not necessary and oh yes, it does not have to be in bloom. So you can even go out and

shoot a few photos now.

Put your name on the back of the photographs to ensure they do not get left behind.



Parksville Sunset



Story Telling Contest:

Tell us a short story and win a nice prize.

The story must have these four words in it: **Christmas, Lass, Rhododendron and Beauty.** It can be anywhere from two to five minutes long. We have excellent prizes for the winners.

Bronze Medal Winners

At the Society's 25th Anniversary Picnic held in June this year the CVRS announced two of its members were awarded the ARS Bronze Medal.

David Annis

It is with great pleasure that the Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Chapter presents David Annis with the Bronze Medal, the highest medal a chapter can bestow. He is celebrating two anniversaries with us this year. Along with our Chapter's 25th Anniversary David has been a member for the past 20 year. He began volunteering in the Library in the early 1990's, moving on to be responsible for Membership and becoming treasurer in the late 1990's. He served as President in 2009 and 2010. As well as serving in these formal roles he participates with organizing and executing our plant sales, Christmas party, fills in as tea convener, volunteers and lends a hand in all activities and events organized by the club. Dave has been generous with his time and sharing of his knowledge and expertise in all aspects of the club over the past 20 years.



Bill Dumont

It is with great pleasure that we present the Bronze Medal to Bill Dumont for his outstanding contributions to the Cowichan Valley Chapter. Bill has been a member since 2005. He has held numerous positions on the executive and is currently wearing the hat of the Treasurer. Under his guidance, the financial state of the society will be the best since the 2000 conference. Bill has been instrumental in developing and coordinating our successful annual Garden Fair. He is responsible for organizing the greatest Rhododendron bus tours. We have travelled to fabulous gardens, both public and private on Vancouver Island, the Mainland and Washington State. Bill is an excellent cook. He caters and serves the tour members picnic lunches that are worthy of awards in their own right. He volunteers tirelessly for the club. He and his wife have shared their home and garden for club picnics and garden tours. Bill has given generously of his time and expertise and contributed to enriching our club in so many ways.



Summer Picnic

Our summer picnic was held at Siggie and Maria Kemmler's garden this year and celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the CVRS. Along with the potluck lunch of delicious items the Efford's generously prepared homemade strawberry shortcake and whipped cream for the celebratory dessert. In addition to CVRS members we had others join the due from the District and other Island chapters.



2015 Convention – Sydney

In preparation for our District 1, 2015 Convention, we are able to get several articles in the Journal to advertise to the world that we are holding it in Sidney, BC. Glen should be able to print any articles about gardens or garden articles with tourist attractions in our area. To all you writers out there, this is your chance to get published in a worldwide publication. This is the 70th anniversary of the ARS and we want to make it extra special. The ARS Board has just voted to increase the color pages in the Journal from 16 up to 36, so there should be lots of room for beautiful color pictures with your articles. Anything that promotes our beautiful District 1 will be considered. Articles should be submitted ASAP over the next few months so that Glen can work them in over the next few journals. We should be able to get articles in the summer 2014 issue and fall 2014 too. So pick some of your favourite places and write a small article with pictures and submit it to Glen at ars.editor@gmail.com

Ken Webb Director, District 1



R. Niveum



Fire Rim



Jingle Bells



Christmas Cheer

ARSSStore.org - The new ARS Online Store

Every purchase benefits the ARS

ARS Online Store



ARSSStore.org

Where every purchase benefits the
American Rhododendron Society

At the October 4, 2013 American Rhododendron Society Board of Directors meeting, the Board authorized the creation of an online ARS site that would not be selling items but would link to other providers. The online store was authorized to develop a relationship with Amazon as an affiliate store. The online store was also authorized to use the ARS logo and name to sell “ARS” merchandise. Product providers accessed through the ARS online store at ARSSStore.org pay referral fees directly to the ARS on sales made from ARSSStore.org referrals. These fees from sales referrals go 100% directly to the ARS. ARSSStore.org has no expenses, only earnings.

The store has three divisions:

- **ARS Logo Merchandise:** featuring knit, woven and denim shirts, caps, visors, and computer briefcases.
- **Amazon Merchandise:** featuring Rhododendron & Azalea Books, Garden Books, Garden Tools, and any other item sold on Amazon.
- **Participating Merchants:** featuring other merchants who agree to give referral fees to the ARS for each purchase when you mention ARSSStore.org.

To access each division, just go to ARSSStore.org and from there select what interests you. If you don't see an item, just use the Amazon search feature. Amazon sells just about everything. You get the same low Amazon prices from the ARS store, but by using it the ARS gets a fee for

referring you. As long as you go to Amazon from ARSSStore.org before making a purchase, the ARS gets a referral fee.

ARSSStore.org has the Main Store, a Canadian Store and a European Store. Canadians and Europeans can use the Main Store which uses Amazon.com, but the shipping can be expensive. The Canadian Store uses Amazon.ca, a Canadian affiliate, which carries many of the same things. If Amazon.ca has the item, the shipping within Canada will probably cost less. The European Store uses Amazon stores in the UK, Germany, France, Spain and Italy which can offer lower cost shipping within Europe. Do not go to the other Amazon stores directly from Amazon.com. If you do, your purchase will not qualify for a referral fee. Go to ARSSStore.org first and use links from there.

You may wonder if people who are not members of the ARS may use ARSSStore.org. Yes, most certainly! The objective of creating the ARS Store website is to raise money for the ARS. The more money we raise, the better it is for the ARS. Invite all of your friends to use it. Invite your favorite nurseries to add links to ARSSStore.org.

The referral rate starts at 4%. If a total of 7 or more items are purchased from Amazon in a month, the rate is 6% or more. Typically it will be between 6% and 6.5%. It is 17% on ARS Logo Merchandise.

At ARSSStore.org, every purchase you make results in a contribution to the ARS at no additional cost either to you or to the ARS.

News From RHS

RSF 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

April 25 - 26, 2014

Everyone Welcome! Bring your friends!

Speakers

David Chamberlain, Harold Greer, Steve Hootman, Douglas Justice

Featuring

Garden & Nursery Tours
Hilltop Artists Glass Art Exhibit

Reception & Banquet

at the beautiful Weyerhaeuser Corporate Headquarters

Many major events will take place in 2014. But the one the world will be watching most intensely will be the **50th Anniversary Celebration of the Rhododendron Species Foundation!** This is not an event that any Rhododendron enthusiast will want to miss. Nor, in fact, should any serious gardener or horticulturist.

Save the dates of April 25 and 26, 2014, though you will probably want to arrive the evening of April 24th, both to be present at the welcoming reception that evening, and to be on time when events begin the following morning. We have made excellent arrangements with the **Hampton Inn and Suites**, where the hospitality will be most gracious.

The program will include talks by **David Chamberlain**, Research Associate at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, and co-author of the most recent authoritative classification of the genus *Rhododendron*; **Harold Greer**, proprietor of the famous nursery, Greer Gardens in Oregon, and **Douglas Justice**, Associate Director and Curator of the University of British Columbia Botanic Garden, Vancouver. And of course **Steve Hootman**, Executive Director of the RSBG, and one of the most intrepid and knowledgeable plant explorers of the 21st century.

There will also be an emphasis on informal time and tours in the RSBG and its facilities at the height of the rhododendron species flowering season, meeting casually with staff and other delegates in what has become over the last several years an internationally renowned botanical garden, arguably containing the most comprehensive collection of natural rhododendron species in the world.

Plan to join us on this important occasion in this special place during the spectacular spring season.

2013 Garden Fair

This was the third year the CVRS held its Garden Fair and Plant sale at the Cowichan Exhibition Hall north of Duncan. The majority of club members helped with setup, operations and cleanup of the 4 hour plant buying event. Island Tractors and Highway Rentals were this year's gold sponsors for the Fair.

Mary Gale again worked the checkout counter for plant buyers-a task she has done diligently for decades. About 900 people attended and purchased 890 plants from a record 16 growers and plant sellers from the lower mainland and island. Over 30 growers, non-profit groups and commercial entities rented booths this year.



Gross plant sales were \$11,433 and net income to the club from the event was \$1576 of which \$483 was from the prize raffle. The Murrays created a beautiful truss show for the public with contributions from many members. Bill Dumont's *Rimfire* truss won the People's Choice award. Perennial Ridge nursery owner Rose Rogan was again the most successful plant seller with sales of more than \$1800.

The 2014 Garden Fair will be held on Saturday May 3, 2014 from 10 am to 2 pm.



Dinter's Display is Always Very Attractive



Rimfire: People's Choice Award



Ready for Customers at 9:50 am



Volunteers Ian & Roy



Don Loewen seeks special rhodo from Paul Wurz

2013 Bus Tour

A long time tradition in the CVRS has been an annual bus tour to visit various rhodo and public gardens on Vancouver Island and the lower mainland. In 2013 it was decided to head further south to north west Washington State and expand an overnight tour to 2 nights.

We have usually recruited participants from many other clubs and organisations on the south island and Salt Spring Island. We had 15 people from the Victoria area this year and 22 of our members join the tour of 51 including the driver, Bren McCullough who provided his beautiful Mercedes Benz highway coach.

The tour this year left Duncan early Thursday morning and headed to the impressive Towner Crest garden in Saanich followed by boarding the Washington State Ferry in Sydney heading to Anacortes and Whidbey Island where we visited the Dickerson's impressive garden at Coupeville. We spent the evening at the Coachman's Inn in Oak Harbour with a pleasant meal and libations at nearby Zorba's restaurant. In spite of having the largest tour group we ever hosted the tour went like clockwork and we saw some amazing gardens, sights and yes, many rhododendrons.



Towner Crest Glory



The next morning we headed south to Rhododendron Lane where we marvelled at Frank Fujioka's mature garden and breeding centre. It is hard to describe the enormity of work that Frank has done in breeding fantastic rhodos in his lifetime. We then visited the famous 50 acre Meerkerk garden in full bloom and took the ferry to Port Townsend and had a great buffet lunch at the beautiful Clearwater Casino in Suquamish Washington. That afternoon we toured the 150 acre Bloedel Family reserve and garden on Bainbridge Island in Puget Sound. After a short ferry ride we arrived in downtown Seattle at the Sheraton Hotel and enjoyed the evening in this interesting city.



Saturday morning we headed for the famous Kubota Gardens in south Seattle, a unique urban refuge covering more than 20 acres. His 80 years of gardening effort and 400 tons of stone created a wonderful series of different gardens holding thousands of rare and exquisitely placed plants.

Our last formal tour stop was the Rhododendron

Species Foundation in Federal Way where a plant sale was in full blossom as were hundreds of rhodos on the 25 acres of botanical splendour. The foundation has one of the largest collections of rhododendron species and azaleas. The bonus here is the world class bonsai collection tastefully staged in a unique demonstration.



Root Garden at RSF Federal Way



Frank Fujioka's Test Garden on Rhody Lane Washington



Kubota Gardens-South Seattle



Dickerson's Garden- Coupeville



Wondrous plants at RSF



Bloedel Reserve Bainbridge Island

A tired but appreciative group arrived just before midnight Saturday to in Duncan after stops at Bellis Faire mall, the duty free store in Blaine and the Tsawassen Ferry to Swartz Bay. The overall trip cost about \$19,500 and raised considerable funds (\$6073) for the Club due to the high participation and strong Canadian \$.

2013 Vancouver Island Garden Trail

Tourism Vancouver Island has developed a Garden Trail program and brochure covering 16 of the Island's best private and public gardens-a little information gem for residents and visitors to enjoy these special places. Locations, entry hours and fees, highlights and other info are included for the following:

Butchart Gardens
Ann's Academy
Cowichan Lavender
Crystal Grove Gardens

Victoria Butterfly Garden
Abkhazi Garden
Hazelwood Herb Farm
Tofino Botanical Garden

HCP Gardens
Hatley Park
Milner Gardens
Kitty Coleman Garden

Finnerty Garden St.
Sooke Harbour House
Rollin Art Centre
Victorian Manor



Milner Gardens

For more info go to www.VancouverIslandGardenTrail.com

Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society
MEETINGS & EVENTS

*7:30 pm at St John's Anglican Church
163 First St, Duncan, BC V9L 1R1
(1ST And Jubilee)*

December 4 @ 6 pm
Christmas Party

February 5
In House Event - Rhodo Q&A with experts

March 5
Lois Blackmore – “A Journey of Love” the registered hybrids of Jim Barlup

April 2
Paul Wurz – Hidden Acres Rhodos, Campbell River

May 3
Cowichan Valley Garden Fair
Cowichan Exhibition-Mellor Hall

May 7
TBA

June
Picnic



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

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: Vacant

Programme Co-ordinator: Alan Campbell/Sandra Stevenson

Newsletter Editor: The Team

History: Ian Efford

Garden Tours: Alan Murray

CV Garden Fair: The Team

Facility Liaison: Roy Elvins

Christmas Party: The Team

Bus Tour: Bill Dumont