



# *The* **Rhodoholic**



Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

Volume 25:8 November 2014

## **President's Message**

I have just returned home to a garden that is in bad need of my attention. There are rhododendrons to plant, rhododendrons to transplant and cuttings to take. There are plants to clip, trim and clean-up. There are weeds to gain control over and many, many leaves to mulch and spread on the beds. It can be a little overwhelming but in spite of it all, and as much as I enjoy our travels, I am convinced, the best part is returning home.

It appears that most of the plants and shrubs survived the minimal watering schedule they were forced to endure throughout the extreme heat and drought this summer. I was able to rescue a few cuttings from a big old Moonstone that has decided it is tired of struggling through years of these not so compatible summers. So, I will hope for a little beginners luck and start again.



Fall Near Bright Angel Park - Peter Lewis photo

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

**November 5 Meeting:  
2014 California/Oregon Bus  
Tour Presentation**

**December 3 Christmas  
Party**

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The Celebration of Life for Leslie Drew was well attended this past Saturday at the Quamichan Inn. Ken and Madeleine Webb were present on behalf of the Victoria Rhododendron Society and a number of members attended from our Club where Leslie was an associate member for 26 years. A snapshot of Leslie's past was prepared for a digital presentation and her family and friends shared many stories. It was a fitting farewell for a valued member of our club.

A few changes took place at the helm during the Western Conference in Everett Washington. The protem ARS President is Bob McIntyre and Ken Webb has stepped into his position as Western VP. In spring announcements will take place regarding vacancies and further changes.



**Japanese Maples (*Acer palmatum*) in the gardens of Villa Melzi D'eril in Bellagio, Italy**

We "fall back" Sunday morning early and that's our cue to begin talking about our winter activities. There is an announcement in this copy of the newsletter regarding our Christmas Party. You will have plenty of time to sort through all of your photos to come up with the winner for our annual Ho, Ho, Ho, Photo Contest. Once again the entertainment will be you, the members. The story telling contest is on and there are great gifts to be won.



**Bird's eye view from the Tower at Sissinghurst Castle**

Registration will begin mid-November for the 70th Annual International Rhododendron Convention in Sidney, B.C. May 6-10, 2015. See the convention details at [www.2015rhodo.ca](http://www.2015rhodo.ca) and the notice in this newsletter.

Thank you to our executive for taking care of business while I was away. I have attached a few photos of gardens visited in Italy and UK. The top photo is a collection of Japanese Maples (*Acer palmatum*) in the gardens of Villa Melzi D'eril in



**Villa Carlotta on Lake Como, Italy**



Bellagio, Italy. The second is a bird's eye view from the Tower at Sissinghurst Castle and the third photo is a view of the gardens at the entrance at Villa Carlotta on Lake Como, Italy.

Sharon, Bill and I will be presenting on the CVRS California/Oregon Bus Tour at the November 5 meeting. Look forward to seeing everyone there. Bring a friend along.

Sandra Stevenson



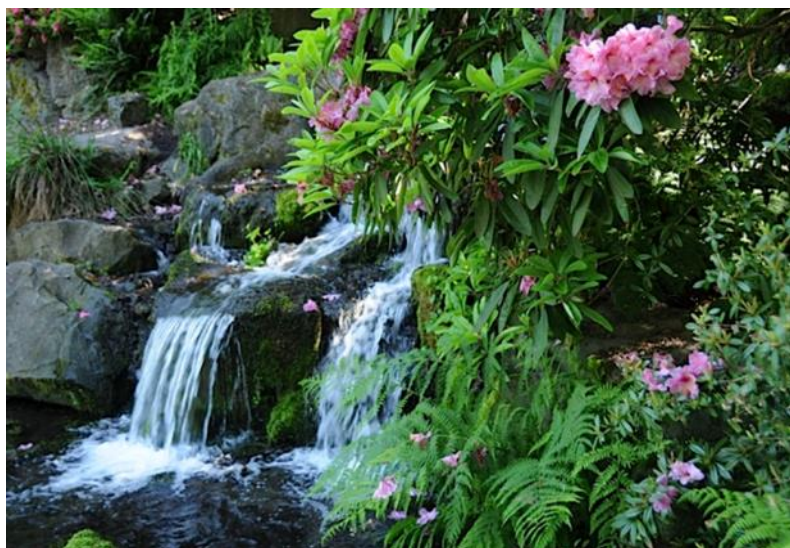
## November Presentation

**Wednesday, November 5 @ 7:30 pm**

### Special Rhodo Gardens in California and Oregon

#### The 2014 CVRS Bus Tour

The 2014 CVRS Bus Tour to California and Oregon was attended by 52 of our members and other rhodoholics and gardeners from various BC chapters. The visual presentation by Sharon Tillie and Sandra Stevenson with Tour Guide Bill Dumont at Wednesday's Meeting is a well –pictured travelogue of that 6 day tour of 9 public and private gardens visited on the CVRS tour.



Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden- Portland Or.



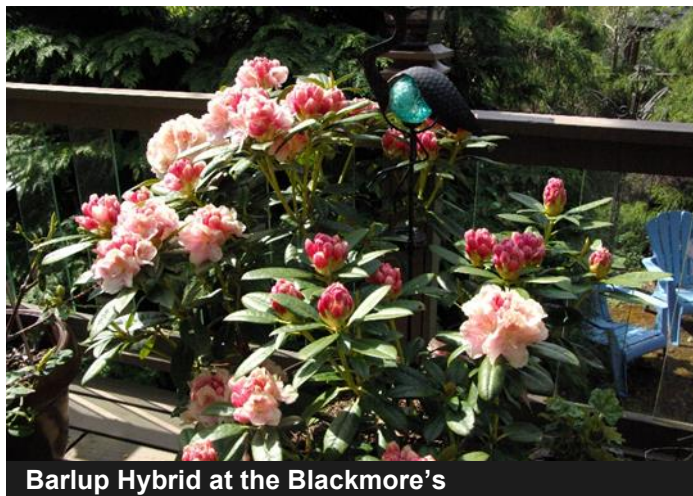
The 2014 Tour Group at Pulgas Water Temple-Woodside Ca.



# Rhodos in Pots

How often have you had no time to take a plant out of its pot and plant it in the ground? Why not leave it in a pot, perhaps a decorative one, for a few years to brighten the patio or balcony. Or use it to fill in an empty space in the garden, or to see if the plant is happy in a certain spot.

In his book "Rhododendrons" by John Street, many useful ideas are suggested, and I will quote some of them.



"Rhodos grow surprisingly well in containers, which can be used to good effect in a number of ways... The container can be plunged in the ground, giving the rhodo the appearance of a normal growing plant, but the container will protect the roots from any

damaging infusion of lime (Mr. Street gardened in Britain). Rhodos in containers can also be brought into the house, where they can make an effective display, whether forced into flower early or allowed to flower normally.

Almost any container will do, but it is wise to avoid those made of cement or concrete, particularly if they are porous. Lime is again the reason, for if the roots were to penetrate the material, the plants might suffer. Because Rhodos are surface-rooting, it is better to choose containers that are short and fat rather than tall and thin; this allows room for the roots to spread and for the application of a mulch to feed them.



Good drainage is important. Container grown plants from garden centres should be repotted, placing concave crocks over the holes in the pots." Mr. Street recommended a well-mixed layer of coarse peat or leaf mold, loam, rotted cow manure and perlite. Leave enough space for watering at the top of the container.

Watering is the most important part of growing Rhodos in containers. During the growing and flowering period they need plenty of water (not to be waterlogged). Once the year's growth is made, they need much less water but must never be allowed to become dried out. They need to make next year's flower buds at this time, and if given too much water will make new leaf growth by growing through the flower bud. This new, soft growth will be vulnerable to an early autumn frost.

"Rhodos may be forced into flower easily and even the protection of a cold greenhouse will bring them on a good two weeks ahead of their normal time. They should not be brought in under glass until they have suffered a slight frost in the open. They will then react more readily to the kinder conditions, and a little heat and regular sprays with warm water will make them flower even earlier." Shade will not be necessary until the sun becomes stronger in the spring.

Noni Godfrey

Reprinted from North Island Rhodo Club newsletter September 2007. Photos courtesy of David Annis.



R. schlippenbachii

## Honouring Our Veterans

The recent killing of two Canadian soldiers was a tragic reminder of the very special people that serve to keep Canada safe in a troubled world. Don't forget to honour our veterans on November 11.

This month's poppy display at the Tower of London honours the 100th anniversary of the First World War. The moat around the Tower was swathed in 880,000 ceramic poppies representing the number of WW1 British soldiers that lost their lives. They are continuing to add poppies to the display, with the last to be laid on Nov. 11 Remembrance Day. They will then dismantle the display and the poppies are for sale for 25 pounds each—they are already sold out! Canada lost more than 65,000 soldiers in the Great War. In total more than 16 million people died in the war, almost a third killed by the Spanish Flu. More than 20 million were also wounded. In the Second World War more than 60 million died, almost 2.5% of the world's population. Lest we forget!





# Mixing it Up in the Urban Garden 2015

Fresh Ideas & expertise for new and seasoned gardeners

**Adapting to Change ~ Working with Nature**

Changing Patterns, Trends & Strategies

Keynote Speaker: Martin Galloway

"The Secret World of Gardens" TV Host

Community Gardens – Jim Harris

Sex in the Garden – Lyndon Penner

Permaculture – Jessica Bloom

Native Plants – Louise Goulet

**Plus**

Local Vendors & Resources

Silent Auction, Delicious Food



**Saturday, January 31, 2015**

8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Mary Winspear Centre, Sidney B.C.

**COST** Until Oct. 31 – \$60

Nov. 1 on – \$75

Great value – includes lunch,  
breaks and free parking

**Register early. We always sell out!**

**Information & Registration**

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

(Victoria Chapter)



Victoria Master Gardener Association

## Coming Events

**January 31, 2015**

**Victoria Master Gardener Association Conference**

Mary Winspear Centre, Sydney

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

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

**May 2, 2015**

**Cowichan Valley Garden Fair**

Cowichan Exhibition 10 am – 2 pm

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

**May 6-10, 2015**

**ARS Convention**

Mary Winspear Centre, Sydney

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

**May 14-25, 2015**

**CVRS SW Great Britain Garden Tour**

Nov. 1 deadline for registrations

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

**Azaleodendrons** are a group of hybrids between deciduous or evergreen azaleas and hybrid rhodos and we are featuring a few of these unique plants in this month's newsletter. They are generally fully hardy, semi-evergreen 3 to 8 feet tall flowering in late spring and into early summer. No more than 100 are registered.

**Azaleodendron Fragens**



## CVRS Volunteers for the 2015 ARS Convention

The international rhododendron conference in May 2015 will bring together between 500 and 1,000 rhodoholics in Sidney. All the branches of ARS on the island are helping with different tasks and we have volunteered to be responsible for the plant sale. About ten nurseries from Canada and the United States have agreed to provide about 250 plants each for the sale. Some will bring species, some hybrids and some companion plants. All plan to bring the most interesting plants in their nurseries.

As CVRS is responsible for running the plant sale, we will need volunteers who will take one or more two hour shifts to help customers, staff the holding area and be cashiers.

As some people will be driving down from Duncan, the first shifts in the morning will be taken by volunteers from the Victoria Rhododendron Society. Particular help will be required on the afternoon of the day before the convention starts in order to receive and set out the plants. In addition, the end of the convention will require additional help to facilitate the loading of the plants and the handling of any that are not sold. On the morning of the last day, Sunday, there will be a public sale of any plants that remain unsold.



**Champagne Lace-the official rhodo of the 2015 Convention**

Please consider volunteering for one or two sessions during the week. I will distribute a signup sheet for volunteers who can help at the sale.

This convention will have famous speakers from around the world plus a large number of very interesting garden tours. I recommend that you attend and, during the convention, be available to staff the plant sale for a short period.

Registration for the convention can be completed on-line now at [www.2015rhodo.ca](http://www.2015rhodo.ca).

If anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at a meeting or at 250-597-4470 or [efford@shaw.ca](mailto:efford@shaw.ca).

Ian E. Efford, Sale Co-ordinator

## No mushy peas here!

For those coming on the UK Garden Tour next May we had Sandra our president recently sample some typical English Pub Fare in London in October and reported it was excellent.



**Bangers and Mash**



**Fish and Chips**



2015 ARS CONVENTION

Sidney, BC, Canada

May 6 – 10, 2015



'Champagne Lace', the official convention rhododendron is a magnificent hybrid donated by Jim Barlup.

## 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.



## Keynote Speakers

Our world-class line-up of speakers:

Jim Barlup, Washington State

Marc Colombel, France

Kennt Cox, Scotland

Harold Greer, Oregon

Guan Kaiyun, China

Lionel de Rothschild, England

Hartwig Schepker, Germany



Check website, [www.2015rhodo.ca](http://www.2015rhodo.ca) for updates.

### Garden Tours

Large selection of the finest rhododendron gardens in the Greater Victoria area.

### Accommodation

Get list of approved accommodations at website.

### Things to Do

Website has links to the vast array of activities in the Greater Victoria area.



# Determination a Key Asset of Victoria Hybridizer Lloyd Gilmore

Lloyd Gilmore was our speaker at the October meeting and focussed on his two decades of rhodo hybridizing experience in a well prepared PowerPoint presentation.



Secke Clouds x Jeda x pachysanthum seedling



pachysanthum X pachysanthum— from seed exchange

Attendees were given a unique view of the thoughts and strategies that Lloyd uses to create new and interesting hybrids with prize leaves, impressive trusses, strong flowering, scent and overall excellent plants.

His knowledge and understanding of the minutiae involved in creating that perfect rhodo were impressive along with lots of great photos showing the unique progeny of breeding two hybrids to create a series of special traits in the new plants. His struggles with unexpected results were outlined as well as his successes.



Crosses made in 2014:  
Many Moons X macabeanum  
Many Moons X Jeda  
Many Moons X Marie Starks  
Many Moons X Dexter's Spice

Those at the meeting had their rhodo appetites whetted by some of the more spectacular foliage being bred into new hybrids like Everred, and crosses and sports from Goldflimmer and the resulting Superflimmer.

Lots of questions were generated and Lloyd gave straight answers to many complex issues, especially related to heritable traits.



**Superflimmer-A Sport of Goldflimmer**



**Everred**

Lloyd is a professional surveyor in real life and looks forward to his pending retirement so he can really get down into hybridizing full time. Let's all hope he will continue his excellent work and produce that perfect rhodo!

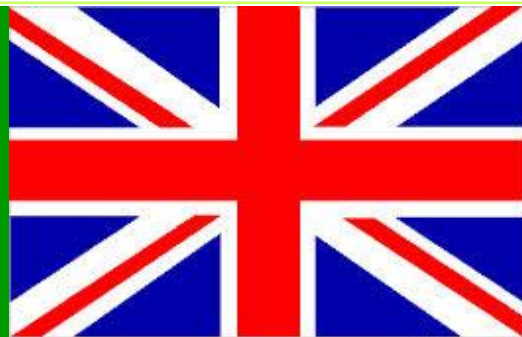


**Lofthouse Legacy - Butter Brickle x Viennese Waltz**



# CVRS Southwest England Garden Tour

May 14—25, 2015



© Encarnated Learning.com

## FINAL CALL

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 world class gardens and historic sites in Southwest England. 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 stop is the famous Royal Chelsea Garden Show.

***To reserve a seat on this tour you must send a cheque for \$650 to Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society, 995 Hutchinson Road, Cobble Hill, BC V0R 1L4 by November 15. Seats are available only a first come first served basis based on date of receipt of deposit. The deposit is 100% refundable if the tour does not proceed. The balance is payable by April 1, 2015. Please provide your full name, address, phone, email address (mandatory), any plans for early arrival or late return, single or double accommodation, any dietary restrictions, whether you are already an RHS member, your affiliation, i.e. CVRS or other garden club, organisation.***

The total cost is in the range of about \$3000 (not including air fares which are your responsibility) for double room and will be confirmed by December 2014. Single accommodation is available for about \$700 extra.

The tour is now confirmed and signed up participants are booking their flights to the UK. We still have a few seats on this private tour for CVRS and ARS members and members of Garden Clubs that are registered with the BC Council of Garden Clubs.

Participants should be in good physical condition as there is a fair amount of garden and site walking on this tour but no vigorous hikes. You should also arrange to purchase emergency medical/hospital insurance for the UK. Participants must have a valid passport.

Final hotel selection is underway currently 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](mailto:wedumont@hotmail.com)  
250 743 9882

**Don't wait-this tour will sell out quickly!**

*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.*

# Mad about honey? This stuff could kill you but it'll be a happy ending!!

On her recent trip to the UK our president Sandra Found this short article in the October 14 edition of the Daily Mail in Emsworth, UK. I added some more info. Bill.

Many of us with a sweet tooth will admit to being crazy about honey. But who knew that you could actually be driven mad by the stuff?

Visit the remote mountainside towns in Turkey's Black Sea region during springtime and you may witness beekeepers hauling their hives upslope, until they reach vast fields of cream and magenta rhododendron flowers. Here, they unleash their bees, which pollinate the blossoms and make a kind of honey from them so potent, it's been used as a weapon of war.

In this region, deli bal – also known as 'mad honey' -

has hallucinogenic properties. The dark red, bitter honey contains an ingredient from rhododendron nectar called grayanotoxin, which, even in tiny quantities, can bring on lightheadedness, blurred vision and impaired speech. The rhodo species involved are ponticum and luteum.

In extreme cases, it has been known to kill, after causing low blood pressure and an irregular heartbeat. In the 1700s, the special honey was traded across Europe to be infused in drinks that could give a bigger high than alcohol. In 67 BC, Roman soldiers invading the region ate chunks of mad honeycomb scattered by those loyal to King Mithridates, leaving them intoxicated and easy to kill.

Despite the dangers, locals still use 'mad honey' as a medicine to treat hypertension and stomach diseases and even boost sexual performance.



*Turkey's hallucinogenic 'Mad Honey' is produced when bees pollinate rhododendron flowers in the remote mountainside towns of the Black Sea region.*



## This Year's CVRS Program

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| November 5   | 2014 CVRS Tour of California/Oregon Gardens- presentation Sandra/Sharon/ Bill  |
| December 3   | Wednesday 6 pm<br>Christmas Party St. John's Church  |
| January 2015 | No meeting   |
| February 4   | Education Event – members question day and expert panel  |
| March 4      | Royal Horticultural Society<br>UK Wisley Garden – Margaret Cadwaladr – a teaser for the UK bus tour participants and everyone else.                      |
| April 1      | Rhododendron Pests and Diseases –Dr. Linda Gilkeson  |
| April 16     | Joint meeting Juan De Fuca ARS Chapter – 1 pm Port Angeles -overnight trip- Travel by MV Coho departing Victoria at 9 am. Returning next morning 8:20 am |
| May 2        | Cowichan Valley Garden Fair and Plant Sale 10 am to 2 pm Cowichan Exhibition   |
| May 5        | Tuesday - May meeting 7:30 pm–from France - Marc Columbel-author and Rhodo expert – ticket entry   |



**Azaleodendron Hardijzer's Beauty**



**Azaleodendron Smithii Aureum**

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| May 6-10   | 2015 ARS Convention<br>Sydney BC                                     |
| May 14- 25 | CVRS 2015 Bus Tour –SW<br>Great Britain Rhodo<br>Gardens             |
| June 20    | Summer Picnic and Wrap<br>Up 11:30 am to 2:30 pm –<br>Members Garden |

All regular meetings are held on the First Wednesday of the Month at St. John's church hall in Duncan unless shown otherwise above. The executive meets the last Wednesday of the Month.

# Rhodo Christmas Party

Wednesday December 3 - 6 pm at St. John's Church



Our ever popular Christmas party will be held on Wednesday December 3 at 6 pm. Included will be the following favourites:

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



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





**Azaleodendron Glory of Littleworth**



**Azaleodendron Georg Arends**



**Azaleodendron Martha Isaacson**

## **Rhodoholic Articles and Pictures**

We are very grateful for short articles and pictures of interest to our members for this newsletter. Send items to Bill Dumont [wedumont@hotmail.com](mailto:wedumont@hotmail.com).

The deadline is always the third Wednesday of the month.

## Please Pay Your Annual Dues Now!

The November meeting will be the last opportunity until June 2015 to renew your membership to CVRS. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please send a cheque for \$38.00 to: Marie Jacques, 1340 Lovers Lane, Cobble Hill, BC V0R 1L6 before the meeting date: November 5th. Doing so will ensure that your ARS magazine subscription will continue without pause. Thank you everyone!



## 2014-2015 Executive

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

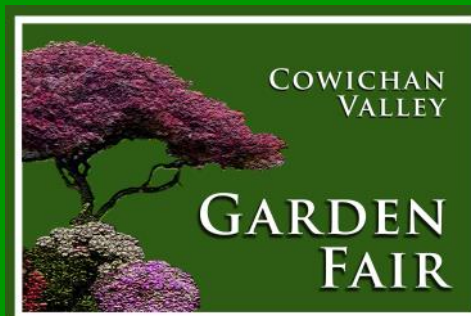
## Convenors

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

## Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

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

<http://cowichan.rhodos.ca>



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

Saturday May 2, 2015

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