



# Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society Newsletter

A Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society  
PO Box 904 Duncan BC, V9L 3Y2

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month, 7:30 pm @ the Mckinnon building Providence Farm 1843 Tzouhalem Rd.

## 2005 Directors

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stonefold@shaw.ca

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mayocreekgardens@shaw.ca

**Secretary:** Lesley Drew 748 6152  
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**Treasurer:** Siggie Kemmler 746 8751  
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**Sunshine Club:** Ann Springford 746 7303

**Refreshments:** Etta Cook 748 8293  
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**Newsletter:** Judy Gloster 746 5643  
e-mail jg10@telus.net

**Welcome Back everyone:** This new season is going to be a great one, starting with the Providence Farm Fall Fair. This is a very good event and popular with the public.

Jackie Walker will be on hand at the wednesday meetings to collect membership dues -they must be in by November.

I am happy to tell you that Bill Dale is out of Hospital after a lengthy stay of thirteen weeks. He suffered a subdural haematoma when he slipped and hit his head on the ice last January.

## Speaker for September meeting:

**Christine North:** from the UK. Christine has a most impressive background. After a career in nursing for 19 yrs she left to start her own business "Mere Gardens", took a course in Garden Design and business management, then changed the name of her business to "Gardens of Distinction" working in all areas of horticulture.

She is a full member of the British Association of Landscape Industries.

In 1992 designed and built the Metropolitan Police Exhibit at Chelsea Flower Show. July 1994 was awarded a silver medal at Hampton Court for the Prince's Youth Business Trust Garden.

Christine's short course lecture series on various venues continues now in Canada including Malaspina University College

## Coming Events:

**Providence Farm Fall Garden Fair:**

September Sat. 24th from 10am -7pm and

Sun. 25th from 10am - 4pm

**Tea & Goodies:** Maria /Siggie Kemmler, Ruth Kerr

## Sept Directors' Meeting:

Will be held - Sept. 21st 7:30 pm at the home of Leslie Drew  
4491 Creighton tele.#748 6152



## Welcome Back Everyone

I do hope that your gardens are showing firm resolve in the face of the hot dry weather we have had to endure over the last six weeks or so. The month of June and the first half of July gave me false hopes of a summer of perfect rhodo weather. Our garden is rather thirsty and progressively so as this weather persists.

I would like to make mention of the number favourable comments made to me by many of the delegates who attended the annual ARS Convention and also by committee members of the Convention host Chapter, Victoria. Members of the Cowichan Valley Chapter did themselves proud. The four gardens opened to tours and the members that volunteered their time in various ways added greatly to the Convention's many successes. To Dave and Lurana Dougan, Al and Liz Murray, Ruth and Etta Cook, thank you for opening your gardens and allowing the ARS delegates from around the world to enter and enjoy. We all know the work involved to make a garden presentable. To all those people who acted as garden greeters and/or tour bus guides, your presence made the garden tours a more personable experience. A heart felt thanks to you as well. Wilson Graham, the emcee for the Convention banquet, has been described as "a hit", "a master", and "a savior" for his wit which held the 600+ diners enthralled. Wilson, a tip of the glass to you. Marty Anderson, the editor of the internet's 'Rhododendron and Azalea News', again searched me out to compliment our Chapter's newsletter and the work that Judy Gloster puts into it for our enjoyment. Regrettably, Judy informs me that she will have to vacate the Editor's chair at the end of this calendar year. So to those budding newsletter editors out there, we will need you come January.

We enjoyed presentations from a wide variety of very knowledgeable speakers last year. From our own Ingeborg Woodsworth, to Glen Jamieson, Garth Wedemire, Ron Knight, and Steve Hootman, to our last speakers from Tasmania, Joy Stones and Ted Cutlin. I should note here that Ted and Joy were so overwhelmed by the friendliness of the people of Vancouver Island that they refused to accept our offered 'speakers honorarium' of \$125.00 saying that having the opportunity to speak to us of their home and garden was payment enough. Our 'program chair' advises me that another year of captivating speakers is in the works but quickly adds that this will be her last year as 'program chair' and looks forward to another taking the position. Someone please consider the position or the meetings could become rather dull.

Siggi tells me that on the 'commercial' side of things, our annual plant sale in May raised funds comparable to those raised in other years. This accomplishment was only made possible by those members who continue to

exhibit a volunteering spirit. Some could only give 2 hours of their time while others committed four, eight, or even twelve hours. Of course sale Chairman, Ian Efford, ably assisted by the experience of Marie Jacques, contributed countless hours between them to see to the sale's success. The Chapter owes Ian and Marie a great dept of thanks. To all the members who came out to set up, carry plants, sell tickets, act as cashiers, carry plants again, then clean up, thank you all. Ruth Cook, who's computer skills categorized and simplified the monetary numbers between the cashiers, the banker, and the growers, a grateful thank you to you once again.

The 'truss show', outstanding this year. David Annis, assisted by Joyce Gammie, again took on the set up of our annual truss show. Collecting together the trusses as they were brought in Friday evening and Saturday morning, displaying them to their best advantage, and arranging trusses in a rainbow of colour, a time consuming task but, I feel, essential to the success of the day. David and Joyce, again, thank you. Without the support of you, the members who brought in trusses, the show would have been a lack luster affair.

Disappointingly, I did hear some whispers of criticism from the 'odd' member but I expect that these members, to maintain any modicum of credibility, will readily step forward next year to chair a position and exhibit their 'better ideas' for the benefit of the membership and the Society.

Saturday, June 4th, saw us all once again in the garden of Doris and Ian Anderson who graciously offered their garden as the venue of our annual June picnic. Once again Daphne Jackson and Joan Clarke volunteered, as they have many times, to act as conveners for the occasion. To Doris, Ian, Joan and Daphne, thank you for again stepping forward to make our picnic happen.

The functioning of our society rests with the commitment of the members who volunteer to take on the tasks that are presented monthly and yearly. The Summer picnic, the Christmas party, the truss show and sale, the monthly meetings, can only happen when members step forward to make them happen. Try something new this year, take on a position. Involvement makes a healthy organization. Acting as a spectator can only stunt our growth. Get involved. Thank you.



## The Spring Plant Sale

The Society's 2005 plant sale took place at Providence Farm on the 5<sup>th</sup> May. Total income to the Society, after expenses, was \$ xxxx. Four factors made this year's sale less successful than previous sales.

*will have this amount next month*

- In previous years the event had taken place at a more central location, the Exhibition Grounds.
- This year, an important funeral at St Anne's Church during the sale took place, limiting access to the Farm for about one hour;
- unlike previous years, the sale was arranged on the same day as the Nanaimo Society sale, this meant that one of our main sellers did not attend;
- the annual run up Tzouhalem began at 10am just outside the building in which the sale was taking place.

The first three factors probably played a role in reducing sales this year. Evidence of this is that the Chamber of Commerce had a number of visitors who could not find the sale site. On the other hand, the run up Tzouhalem contributed to sales as, after the race, some of the runners made significant purchases.

Once the public becomes familiarized with the shift in location for the sale, the Farm should prove to be a good site. The actual rooms were good and had the advantage of being secure overnight and also well-lit and stocked with tables. An added advantage was that the Farm's staff arranged the tables as part of the service.

One or two of the sellers stated that they felt that the location and arrangement were good. Others expressed views that they would have liked to be outside or to have more space.

In the case of the non-sale display area, all the buyers did not flow through that area and it would have been better if this area was more integrated with the sale area.

The raffle did not do well this year. It is possible that the location or display of the raffle reduced its attractiveness to buyers.

I would like to thank the volunteers who did an excellent job and covered all the bases throughout the event. This Society can only succeed in such endeavours because of such individual contributions of the members

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- the Farm seems to be a good location but, if we are to have additional sellers, then we must decide whether to also use space outside or in the barbecue area.
- an effort should be made to direct more people past the information and raffle tables and truss display.
- better publicity would increase attendance. A more coordinated effort should be made to get the posters to all garden clubs in the area. Such publicity should include the Chamber of Commerce being informed.
- a listing of all media outlets in the region would be a foundation for more extensive publicity next year

In 2006 the plant sale will be at Providence Farm on the 6<sup>th</sup> May - make a note in your new calendar! We hope that the total income next year will be far greater as we can now build on one year's experience at this new site.

Ian E. Efford  
Sale Co-ordinator

## President Al's notes

ARS recognition: For those members who were unable to attend the June picnic, a news update. It was with great pleasure that the CVRS was able to recognize the work done by a number of its members. Our Chapter has, on a yearly basis, presented our silver Bowl to worthy club members but has sorely neglected, for the past 9 or 10 years to recognize, through the auspices of the ARS, those members who give outstanding service. So many members have given of themselves over the intervening ten years but alas we are limited to the number we can honour in one year. This year saw the ARS Award of Merit go to Ann Springford for her many years of service to the club. The highest award that a chapter can bestow is the ARS Bronze Medal. Two Bronze Medals were given at the June picnic. The first medal was presented to Ian and Doris Anderson, for their many years of service (I believe Ian was on the executive in one position or another for 14 years). It was with great satisfaction that the second Bronze Medal was presented to Daphne Jackson. A charter member of the Society who has stood on the executive in various roles as well as taking on most any task asked of her. Congratulation to all.

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Heather Dickman of the Victoria Chapter will be traveling down to Newport Oregon to attend the ARS Fall Conference ( Sept. 9,10, and 11th). Heather is looking for another woman who may be attending or would like to attend, to share expenses. gas expenses (Heather will drive) and perhaps share a hotel room. Heathers tele# 250 478 9725 e mail [mdickman@telus.net](mailto:mdickman@telus.net).

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Wanted Plant pots if you happen to have a number of black pots cluttering up your garden shed, I will be happy to take them off your hands.

I'm specifically looking for 1/2 gal. "scotch pots" 1 gal. and 2 gal. Thanks

Alan Campbell

## How does your garden grow?

Use the newsletter to inform the membership on how you became a gardener. What brought you to the genus rhododendron? How has your garden progressed? What is your vision? Write up a short article and share your experiences with the membership, or better yet prepare a short (5 - 10 min.) presentation for an upcoming meeting. your choice.

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## Membership dues

It's that time again. All dues must be paid by the November meeting at the latest. To hopefully increase the incentive to pay dues early there will be a plant raffle at the Sept. and Oct. meetings involving those members who have paid their dues at that particular meeting.

There will be a 2 gal. species plant to be raffled off. One will be a *R. dicroanthum*, the other will be a *R. pachysanthum*, both are choice plants.

Alan Campbell

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## Fall Garden Fair:

Providence Farm will have its Garden Fair on  
September 24th 10am to 7pm and

Sun. 25th 10am to 4pm

This annual event will feature demonstrations and seminars, plant sales, food vendors and artist displays etc. Providence Farm has offered our society a free table so that we can promote new membership and also have a members' rhododendron sale. So mark the date on your calendar as a reminder to attend and maybe volunteer an hr. or so sharing the manning of the Society information desk. No special knowledge required, just a pleasant persuasive personality! Anyone interested in helping, contact Ian Efford tele # 526 1453 e-mail [efford@shaw.ca](mailto:efford@shaw.ca) or at the Sept meeting.

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## Helping Providence Farm:

Recently Ingeborg Woodsworth demonstrated rooting rhododendron cuttings to Anne Fulton, the greenhouse manager at Providence farm, and other staff members along with a class in the horticultural therapy programme. This activity by the society was initiated because of a request from the farm for help in obtaining rhodos. Their objective is to upgrade the landscaping, especially their long driveway. They would also be interested in obtaining any spare plants or rooted cuttings that our membership might like to donate. Bring them to the next meeting or if necessary, arrangements can be made to pick them up. I am sure that a lot of members have older plants with branches that have rooted or spare rooted cuttings - if so, making a gift to the farm would be a worthwhile cause.

Ian Efford

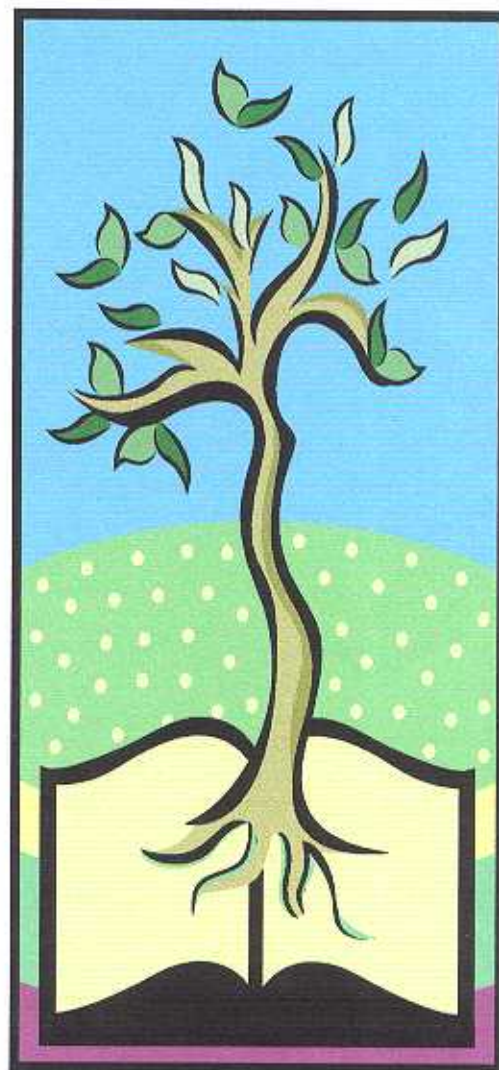
## Library Notes by Ingeborg Woodsworth

What a hot summer this has been. What else can you do in the middle of the day's heat but read a good book! I know a number of you have availed yourselves of our club's wonderful library books and have enjoyed them. Please don't forget to bring them back to our meeting - this Wednesday Sept 7th at Providence Farm.

I have "updated" and improved the listing that I made last year of all the club's books. Now you will be able to find a specific book a lot faster. All books are listed in specific categories i.e. Garden Reference and Guides, Perennials, Companion Plants, Rhododendrons and Azaleas, Climbers and Vines, etc. The "four page listing" will be on display at every meeting, but I could e-mail you this list as an attachment to peruse at home at your leisure.

Yes we have a couple of great new books - "The Jade Garden" by Peter Wharton, Brent Hine and Douglas Justice in association with the University of B.C. This book offers a tantalizing sampling of esoteric plants that are scientifically interesting and of exceptional beauty. The description of the selected plants shares propagation, cultivation, hardiness, and lots more in a practical way. You will find it most useful.

The second newest acquisition is the "Encyclopedia of Water Garden Plants" by Greg and Sue Speichert with a Foreword by Ann Lovejoy. A wonderful reference source and problem solver in the Water Garden Plant realm, again with detailed instructions and pictures on propagation and many other details.





***Rounding the Rim – Plants from the Pacific Rim***

31<sup>st</sup> Western Winter Study Weekend

March 3 to 5, 2006

The Mary Winspear Centre

2243 Beacon Avenue

Sidney-by-the-Sea, B.C.

(20 minutes north of Victoria,  
minutes from the Swartz Bay ferry &  
Victoria International Airport )

Hosted by VIRAGS

Vancouver Island Rock & Alpine Garden Society

[www.islandnet.com/~voltaire](http://www.islandnet.com/~voltaire)

Registrar

Claire Hughes

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Speakers and the Program

**TIM BALL**

Dr. Timothy Ball has an extensive background in climatology, especially the impact of climate change on human history and the human condition. Following his retirement as a professor at the University of Winnipeg in 1996 he has spent his time as an environmental consultant, public speaker, and author.

Topic: "Climates of the Pacific Rim"

**JOE CARTMAN**

Joe Cartman lives in Christchurch, New Zealand and holds the position of Nursery Manager for the Christchurch City Council's two nurseries. He is the author of "Growing New Zealand Alpines" and his photographs are regularly featured in the New Zealand Alpine Garden Society Bulletin. Many will recognise his name from *Clematis x cartmanii* 'Joe'.

Topic: "Daisies, Harebells, Buttercups and Friends – New Zealand's Alpine Treasures"

"Tangling with New Zealand's Shrubs"

**BRENT HINE**



Brent Hine is the curator of the E.H. Lohbrunner Alpine Garden, University of British Columbia's Botanical Garden where he grows many plants from the Pacific rim. He is also coauthor of the recently published book "The Jade Garden".

Topic: "All Over the Map: Cultivating Rim plants at the edge of the Pacific Northwest"

DAN HINKLEY

Dan Hinkley is a horticulturalist and plant hunter par excellence. He is cofounder of Heronswood Nursery in Kingston, Washington and is the author of two books and numerous articles, lectures extensively throughout the world and is the recipient of many awards. He is featured in Bobby J. Ward's new book "The Plant Hunter's Garden – the New Explorers and their Discoveries"

Topic: "Denizen's of Shade from Japan and Korea"

"Heading South: Garden Worthy Plants from Chile, Guatemala and Costa Rica"

ANDY MACKINNON

Andy Mackinnon is Manager of Ecosystems and Habitat Planning for the British Columbia Ministry of Sustainable Resources Management. As well he is co editor and contributor of "Plants of Coastal British Columbia – including Washington and Alaska". Along with his family he spent January to May, 2004 in Patagonia working with Argentinean and Chilean botanists on a guide to plants of southern Patagonia. The book is due for publication in March 2006.

Topic: "Plant Treasures of Patagonia"

SHARRON MILSTEIN

Sharron Milstein has been making photographs since she was eleven years old. Originally from the prairies and many other places she has studied with some of Canada's top photographers such as Freeman Patterson and Courtney Milne. She now lives and works on Hornby Island. Most recently her images were included in "Gardening in the Northwest" published by Sunset books in 2003.

Topic: sound/slide presentation following the Saturday night banquet

PAIGE WOODWARD

**Paige Woodward and Pat Woodward are the owners of Pacific Rim Native Plant Nursery located on Chilliwack Mountain in south-western British Columbia, where BC natives remain their focus.**

**Topic: "Pacific Northwest Treasures: 50 knockout native plants and how to grow them"**

### **Workshops**

1. **'From Fishbox to Flowerpot: lightweight troughs'**  
**John Sheridan & Jacqueline Bradbury**  
**Learn how to make lightweight, portable troughs that look like their heavier counterparts.**
2. **'New Zealand Clematis'**  
**Joe Cartman**  
**More and more New Zealand Clematis are being grown in our gardens. This is an opportunity to learn about them from a New Zealand clematis specialist.**
3. **'Alpines in Pots - How, Why, What, When & When not!'**  
**Roger Barlow**  
**A talk & demonstration about how to grow alpines both for sale & as stock/display plants & the pros/cons of growing in pots vs. in the ground – Good practical stuff from one of our favourite nurserymen..**
4. **'Crevice Gardens'**  
**Zdenek Zvolanek, Paul Spriggs**  
**Learn about Czech crevice gardens, their construction, planting and care from a world renowned expert.**
5. **'The Essentials of Cross Pollination and Propagation of species Peonies'**  
**Joe Harvey**  
**There is something very endearing about species peonies...learn about them from an expert.**

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