



# *The* **Rhodoholic**



Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

Volume 25:6 September 2014

## **President's Message**

I was going to try and accomplish the "The Art of doing Nothing" this summer. No, it did not pan out. Between attempting to keep my client's gardens alive and my garden well hydrated amidst very strict watering restrictions, along with a few other projects the time has whizzed by and here we are winding up for the 2014/2015 season.

Many of my rhododendrons are attempting to bloom for the second time this year. I am sure they are very stressed with the ongoing heat. As pretty as it is, I know it is robbing me of next spring's show. I may have to add to my collection in spring when attending the ARS 2015 Convention, May 6 to 10. As you know the Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society is responsible for the plant sale at the event. Ian Efford has been working very hard for us and has coordinated, as well as been in communication with the nurseries who will be supplying plants. The 2015 Convention planning committee will be



**Medusa—second flush of blooms this year**

### **Coming Events:**

September 3 Meeting  
The Evolution of the Rhododendron, ARS Journal Editor and Scientist, Dr. Glen Jamieson

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meeting monthly this year. In the New Year they will be putting out a request for a commitment from members to volunteer and assist with many of the events, as well as staff the daily plant sale. As with our other spring events it will be all hands on deck. Many other activities are being worked on for the upcoming season. Bill Dumont is putting the final touches on the UK Bus Tour and the information has gone out to members. He will be accepting bookings and deposits promptly. Don't delay as this will be a very popular trip. The 2015 Cowichan Valley Garden Fair, May 2, will be going into its fifth year running. Last season members provided numerous plants and the member's plant table was a great success. Once again we should think about potting- up for the club when dividing our perennials this fall. We look forward to member's suggestions

to add to this much anticipated event. Our Speaker's Program has been scheduled for the season and is in this newsletter. The presentations cover numerous educational and entertaining topics related to our interest in this great genus Rhododendron.

Dr. Glen Jamieson from Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society (MARS) will be starting us off on our 2014/15 season this Wednesday. His presentation will help us better understand "**The Evolution of the Rhododendron**".

Look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting. Don't forget to bring a friend along.

Sandra Stevenson, President

## September Meeting—The Evolution of the Rhododendron

### Don't miss this special presentation!

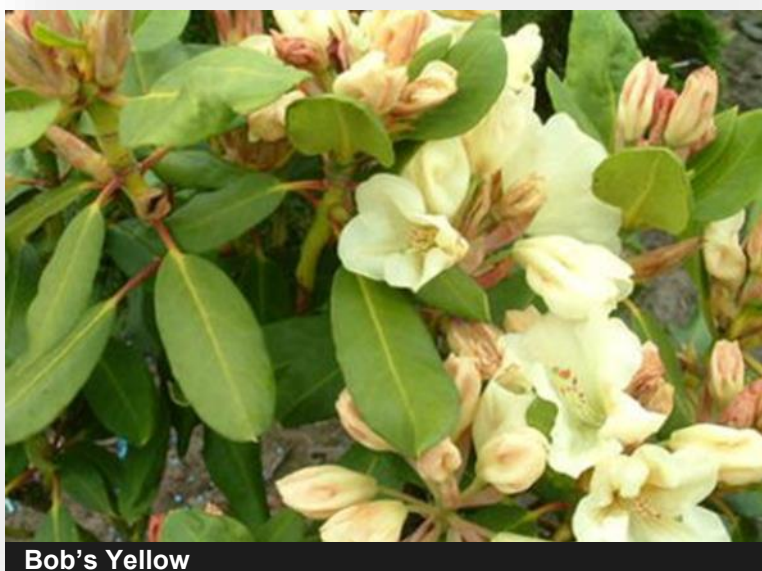
Our September speaker is **Dr. Glen Jamieson** from the Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society (MARS) and current Editor of the Journal of the American Rhododendron Society (JARS). Dr. Jamieson has been a research scientist with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and continues to have a keen interest in biology, and in gardening! He is successfully growing tender vireyas, as well as more hardy rhododendrons. He is an active member in our District and across the ARS. Dr. Jamieson will speak with us about how rhododendron species may have developed across a widely separated geographical area – some in North

America, others in Europe, but more particularly in south-east Asia.

What were and are the factors that have influenced the development and distribution of the rhododendron that we know today? Using published material, Dr. Jamieson will share a hypothesis to explain rhododendron speciation and help us better understand 'The Evolution of the Rhododendron'!

### Bob Rhodes Rhodos

This issue features the hybrids produced by Dr. Bob Rhodes of Gabriola Island who recently passed away.



Bob's Yellow



# CVRS Summer Picnic a Big Success!!

The CVRS held its annual end of season picnic on a beautiful June 21 Equinox day at Sharon Tillie's excellent garden. A total of 40 members and guests attended the potluck due and enjoyed the excellent food, company and great weather. We also welcomed several new members to the Club. To add to the event Sharon arranged for a huge barred owl that swooped over Sharon's house right down on top of the startled crowd and then rested in the adjacent alder forest for a second look.

Sharon's garden was in tip top shape for the event so much so that other members were pleased it was her garden venue and hard work and not theirs for the party! After enjoying a wide selection of main courses and other goodies the ever popular plant draw was held with many great plants supplied by Siggie, the Campbell's and a couple from the University of Victoria. A total of \$94 was raised for the club.

The new CVRS executive for 2014/15 was introduced and are listed on page 20 of this newsletter. Ian Efford was awarded the ARS Bronze medal for his many years of contributions to the CVRS including his excellent research and publishing of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary History of the CVRS. The formal citation of Ian's award is found in this newsletter.



Earl Murray aka Cathy Harper



A bit of business was conducted and that was focussed on the unanimous approval of two formal motions to support the establishment of the Milner Rhododendron Species Garden with a club donation of \$5000 towards its initial establishment.

The Murray's were recognized for their organisation of this year's truss show at the plant sale and the People's Choice Award for the Earl Murray (no relation!) truss from their garden.



**Barred Owl in  
Alder Tree**







## Coming Events

**September 26-28, 2014**

**ARS Western Regional Conference**

Holiday Inn - Everett, Washington

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

**September 24, 2014**

**Japanese Iris Sale order deadline**

Large selection of Japanese iris available

[Tedebaker41@gmail.com](mailto:Tedebaker41@gmail.com)

**September 27-28, 2014**

**Salmon Mushroom Festival**

Lake Cowichan Centennial Hall 10 am – 4 pm

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

**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)

### Missing Garden Fair Signs

We are still missing 12 of the 2 x 2 road signs from this year's Garden Fair. If you have them please call Bill Dumont at 250 743 9882 for a pickup.

# ARS Bronze Medal to Ian Efford

It is with great pleasure the Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society bestows its highest award, the ARS Bronze Medal to Ian Efford for his ten years of service to this chapter.

Ian has served as president, vice president, member at large, newsletter editor and program coordinator. He has been a regular contributor to the newsletter. He has been coordinator and volunteer for the club plant sale, annual donation of plants to the community, the propagation group and numerous other events the club has been involved in. He has provided the club with a historical document, recording our first 25 years and continues to work on projects to enhance the advancement and knowledge of the Rhododendron gardens on the Island, including this issue.



Through his presentations and collaboration with other community organizations he continues to assist the club with achieving our goal of encouraging interest in and disseminating information on the genus Rhododendron.

In appreciation of Ian's ongoing work and generous support we honour him with the Bronze Medal.



**Canadian Beauty—A Lofthouse hybrid**



**Haida Gold**





## CVRS Southwest England Garden Tour



**May 14—25, 2015**

Folks-this is it!! The English garden tour of a lifetime in the spring of 2015. Building on a series of successful Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society tours including last year's 5 day California and Oregon redwood forest and garden trip we are heading for the UK in 2015. You are welcome to join our group of dedicated British Columbia garden enthusiasts on this exciting trip, have fun, make new friends and create great memories.

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 our 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.

We begin in Heathrow and travel through Devon and Cornwall in SW England right down to the sub-tropical Land's End visiting a series rhododendron and other amazing gardens including the RHS Wisley followed by the intriguing Stonehenge site. We visit Coletton Fishacre, RHS Rosemoor, King Arthur's Tintagel Castle, Lanhydrock, the lost Gardens of Helligan, Caerhay's Castle and Treliwick. A day is spent near Land's End at Trengwainton and the historic St. Michael's Mount followed by a fun evening attending the unique Minack Theatre right on the coast.

After a night in Penzance we head northeast to the wonderful Hidcote Manor gardens which some describe as the world's finest, and enjoy the afternoon in the quaint Chipping Campden village and stay at a wonderful hotel in Cheltenham. Next day we visit Blenheim Castle and Gardens and then to Oxford to admire their gardens and sightseeing and shopping in this medieval and picturesque English town. Just google these gardens/sites to get a taste of what this special tour includes!

On day 10 we are back in the London area and visit the Royal Chelsea Garden Show one of the most famous exhibitions in the world where landscape specialists create wondrous gardens showcasing the latest in floral and garden designs. That evening we will have our farewell dinner. Our final day is spent sightseeing in central London with a late return to our hotel so you can attend one of the entertaining west end London shows. The detailed itinerary and show lists will be provided after the dry run.

It is your responsibility to get to Heathrow, England from Canada no later than midday on May 14. We can arrange for you to stay at the Heathrow hotel a few days in advance if that suits your plans or you can extend your stay after the garden tour.

Final pricing will be confirmed following a dry run of the tour and will be based on any changes in currency between Canadian \$ and British Pounds. The total cost is in the range of about \$3000 (not including air

***The tour cost includes guided, deluxe coach transportation, double accommodation in 3 to 4 star hotels, all breakfasts and suppers except day 11, welcome reception and farewell dinner, garden and historic site entry fees, a one year membership in the Royal Horticultural Society, bus refreshments, garden guides where available, the Minack theatre performance, gratuities and coveted Chelsea Garden Show tickets.***

fares which are your responsibility) for double room and will be confirmed by December 2014. Single accommodation is available for about \$700 extra.

We could do a group booking for the flight to London Heathrow at some discount if there is interest. The flight would likely leave Vancouver on the evening of May 13 and arrive the morning of May 14 with return on May 25. Let me know if you want to pursue a group booking when you make your trip deposit. Otherwise you can use points or purchase your flights from Air Canada, British Airways, Virgin Airways, Lufthansa etc. Current prices of a return ticket Victoria to London are \$1000 per person for those dates.

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.

We require a minimum number of participants (there are 48 seats available) to proceed with the tour. **DO NOT book** your flights until the tour is confirmed as a go by late November 2014.

For more info contact  
wedumont@hotmail.com  
250 743 9882. Don't wait-this tour will sell out quickly.

***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 1. 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 15, 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 interest in a group airfare to and from England, your affiliation, ie. CVRS or other garden club, organisation.***

*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.*

## Dues are Due Now

The annual CVRS and ARS dues of \$38 are due as of November 5 at the latest. Please make sure you pay your annual dues at the September and October meetings. It's a good investment for you and the Club and thanks for continuing to support your Rhododendron Society.



Bob's Blue



## Korean Wild Rhodos Make Impressive Mountain Landscape



In this beautiful landscape by DaeWook Kim, we see fields of Royal Azaleas on Mt. Hwangmaesan in South Korea during the Hapcheon Hwangmaesan Royal Azalea Festival which runs from May 3 – 16 each year.

The 1,108 metre-high Mt. Hwangmaesan encompasses the three peaks of Habong, Jungbong and Sangbong. Since the reflection of the mountain is also mirrored on the water of Hapcheon Lake, the mountain is also called 'Sujungmae' (literally meaning 'ume (Japanese apricot) blossom under water'). In spring, azalea and rhododendron blossoms take over

the entire mountain; in summer, you can enjoy the refreshing valley area; in the fall, the sound of birds singing is everywhere; and in winter, harsh winds swirl around the snow-capped Dongnipbong Peak. The area is a popular destination for hiking and enjoying the stunning landscape.

## Dead does not always mean dead!

This long summer without rain and with very high temperatures has meant that a number of us have lost rhododendrons. Lack of water for long periods can come from neglect or from a blocked irrigation system in a particular bed. I have lost five plants where they were shielded from the sprinkler by the unfortunate location of a tree or bush.

Some of them were expendable but one or two were my favorites. After digging up the dead plants, I decided to experiment with two in my "hospital". I cut the dead branches off and then put the roots into a bowl with shallow water. I kept the water shallow so that oxygen could pass through the relatively large surface area and prevent stagnation. I kept the plants for some weeks, adding a small amount of water regularly to compensate for evaporation loss.

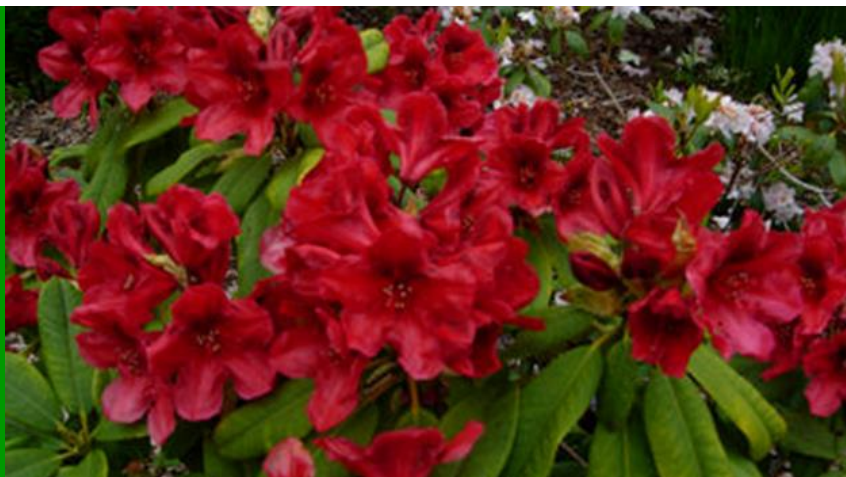
Success! The two photos show the plant in a bowl and a close up of small leaves erupting from the main stem of a *Rhododendron schlippenbackii*. I will now keep this plant in a pot for some months before putting it back into the ground in a damper spot.

Ian E. Efford



# This Year's CVRS Program

Your executive have been working hard to lay out a great program starting this fall for the next year. We have plans for some new meetings and one external meeting next April. If you have any comments on our plans please contact Sandra.



Captain Bob #2

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>September 3</b>  | The Evolution of Rhododendrons - ARS Journal Editor and Scientist, Dr. Glen Jamieson   |
| <b>October 1</b>    | Propagating Rhododendrons- Lloyd Gilmore, Victoria Rhodo Society   |
| <b>November 5</b>   | 2014 CVRS Tour of California/Oregon Gardens- presentation Sandra/Sharon/Bill   |
| <b>December 6</b>   | Saturday 1 pm Christmas Party  |
| <b>January 2015</b> | No meeting   |
| <b>February 4</b>   | Education Event – members day  |
| <b>March 4</b>      | Royal Horticultural Society UK Wisley Garden – Margaret Cadwaladr – a teaser for the UK bus tour participants and everyone else.                         |
| <b>April 1</b>      | Rhododendron Pests and Diseases –Dr. Linda Gilkeson  |
| <b>April 16</b>     | 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 |
| <b>May 2</b>        | Cowichan Valley Garden Fair 10 am to 2 pm  |
| <b>May 5</b>        | Tuesday - May meeting 7:30 pm–from France - Marc Columbel-author and Rhodo expert – ticketed entry   |
| <b>May 6-10</b>     | 2015 ARS Convention Sydney BC  |
| <b>May 14 - 25</b>  | CVRS 2015 Bus Tour – SW Great Britain Rhodo Gardens  |
| <b>June 20</b>      | Summer Picnic and Wrap Up 11:30 am to 2:30 pm – Members Garden   |

All regular meetings are held on the First Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm at St. John's church hall in Duncan unless shown otherwise above. The executive meets at 7 pm the last Wednesday of the Month.



# Water Restrictions in the Cowichan Valley

## What can we learn from our Australian friends?

Last month our local government came out with fairly severe watering restrictions because of the lack of snow cover in the mountains last winter and the very low rainfall this spring and early summer. The restriction seems reasonable although raising the weir at the outflow to Lake Cowichan would be an ideal parallel action. Unfortunately, the weir height is controlled by the Provincial Government and so we should not hold our breath.

Climate change trends suggests that gardeners must be prepared for restrictions on water use during future summers and these restrictions might be far more severe than this week's action.

Members of The Australian Rhododendron Society Victoria Branch live in a similar climate to ours except that the total rainfall is considerably lower than ours and the summer temperatures are very high, sometimes reaching well over 40C. Some rhododendrons still survive despite these conditions but gardeners in the Melbourne area pay a lot more attention to water use and storage than we do and we could benefit from their experience.

Glenn Maskell has written an article in their most recent newsletter and I have summarized his advice with some editing to remove material not of local interest.

A rhododendron garden with a limited water supply must:

- Plant appropriate species and making sure they are hardened to take the dryer summer periods.
- Build up soil moisture through slowing runoff where ever possible.
- Group plants with higher water needs.

- Accept some loss and damage.
- Mulch, Mulch, Mulch!

Planting – There are many wonderful plants that we can grow. Success is about doing the simple things well and not selecting the most exotic plants if their normal habitat is outside our environmental range. We should also be careful not to add to our maintenance load. This can be achieved if we:

- Choose plants balancing conservation and aesthetics with the need for maintenance.
- Make sure the plant suits the site so that its growing needs are satisfied.
- Use water and fertilisers sparingly so as not to over encourage growth.
- Spacing, allowing plants to grow to their potential.
- If you use sprays, plant so that you can spray without affecting nearby plants or grow those resistant to herbicides.
- Choose plants that are pest resistant or gathered together for ease of control of that pest.



Brianna

## In the Future

Automate the watering system to reduce use by targeting specific plants. When combined with mulching this has the advantage of greatly reducing weed growth between our plants.

## Expanded water storage

This last point is very important and one that is largely ignored at the moment in the Cowichan Valley. One of the features of most Australian houses is the presence of water tanks which collect rain water for storage. In many cases, there are also underground tanks which store grey water, separated from the sewage system within the house. This is used to water the gardens and during some months may be the only water available for the garden.

We recently had a visiting speaker describe simple culvert water storage tanks that can be added alongside a house at relatively low cost and effort. If any member has followed up on this idea and installed such a system, an article for the newsletter would benefit all of us. In our library, and in that of the Cowichan Valley Garden Club, we have a number of books which deal with planning gardens for reduced water supply.

The future looks dry, be prepared!

Ian E. Efford



### Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society Financial Statements to July 31, 2014

<b>Total Deposits – ISCU –June 30, 2014</b>	22072.59
<b>CURRENT ACCOUNT    Opening Balance</b>	7255.14
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Bank Fee	2.00
June newsletter	295.00
<b>Revenue</b>	
Interest	.59
<b>Closing Balance</b>	6958.73
<b>BURSARY ACCOUNT + Interest    (.08)</b>	1865.42
<b>TERM DEPOSIT No. 11 – Nov. 2016 – 2.25%</b>	12947.11
<b>SHARES</b>	5.00
<b>TOTAL Deposits-ISCU – July 31, 2014</b>	21776.26

W. Dumont Treasurer



**If you go down to the Irish Rhododendron woods today you are in for a big surprise .... be very careful!!**



**The thick rhododendron forest is on steep ground overlooking Bay Lough in the Knockmealdowns Mountains**

A couple in their 50s had to be rescued from a dense rhododendron forest after they became trapped in a "treacherous area" on an Irish mountainside.

The five-hour rescue operation took place in the Knockmealdowns Mountains, which straddle the border between County Waterford and County Tipperary in the UK.

The couple, who are experienced hill walkers, got into difficulty on steep ground overlooking Bay Lough on Sunday.

One of the rescuers said the plants were "like an impenetrable jungle".

### **'Horrendous'**

Jimmy Barry from the South Eastern Mountain Rescue Association said the rhododendron forest was so thick and deep that people could not hear each other.

"It was horrendous - I have been a member of mountain rescue for 15 years and it was probably one of the most dangerous exercises or rescues I've been on," Mr Barry told BBC Radio Ulster.



The couple, who are experienced hill walkers, were led to safety following a five-hour multi-agency operation

The couple had lost their way on a hillside that sloped down to a lake.

### 'Couldn't move'

The rescuers located them quickly and managed to get into a position no more than 400 metres away, but did not anticipate how difficult it would be to reach the couple through the dense vegetation.



"We sent the first party of five in - I was in that party - and within 50 metres, we couldn't move. It was like a jungle and it was horrendous, because everything dies underneath rhododendron," Mr Barry said.

"And it was messy, we had to crawl through it, carry our gear and then try and locate the people as well."

He said he had never seen his rescue team struggle so much among rhododendrons, and it took them two hours to walk about 350 metres.

"We kept going," he told the programme. "Two hours later we finally reached the two people inside the middle of the rhododendron forest, and then the fun began, because we had to decide how we were going to get out of it."

"We were 100 metres from the edge of the lake, so we decided to literally drop down through the forest," he added. The South Eastern Mountain Rescue Association said it was one of its most dangerous operations in many years

The plant's dense foliage tends to block out sunlight and kill off surrounding vegetation.

Mr Barry said this meant the rhododendron forest had produced very difficult terrain on the mountainside.



### '50 ft drop'

"It's regarded as a weed. It's not a native plant to Ireland or any part of the British Isles and they've just gone wild," he said.

"It looks beautiful, but underneath it nothing of our native plants grows, and it's just horrible in there.



## RHODODENDRON FACTS

- Rhododendrons are found primarily in the northern hemisphere
- They were brought to the British Isles in the late 18th Century
- Some types are now considered a pest, because they out-compete many native plants
- Their leaves contain toxins some animals find inedible
- Rhododendron ponticum grows a leaf canopy so dense it blocks out sunlight

It has been shown to reduce the number of earthworms, birds and plants and an area's ability to regenerate

"Dangerous, because where it was growing on the side of the lake, it's very steep ground, so we were literally walking on rhododendron.

"We could look down through the rhododendron and see 10ft drops, 20ft drops and at the end we were looking at a 50ft drop, but we had to go down through it to get out."

The couple and their rescuers eventually reached the lake where they were picked up by a boat and taken to safety.

Mr Barry said the couple were not hurt but were "tired and very, very relieved".

He added that his team was "exhausted" following the rescue.



The multi-agency operation also involved Cahir River Rescue and the police.

### 'Risky and arduous'

On their Facebook page, South Eastern Mountain Rescue Association said they were able to make visual contact with the stranded couple and then "guided rescuers in by radio to the location in very dense rhododendron forest".

"To avoid a risky and arduous trek back up the slopes of Knockshanahullion, Cahir River Rescue responded to help complete the last leg of the journey, transporting the two along with mountain rescue personnel across Bay Lough to safety," the Facebook post added.

The association described the operation as a "good result".

BBC News Europe

## Billet Partners Wanted

From time to time the CVRS has visitors and guest speakers that require local accommodation. If you are willing to become a partner in our billeting program please let Sandra know. This is also a chance to meet interesting and informed rhodo people.

Thanks.

## Dipelta - Anyone got One?

Does anyone grow any of the species of Dipelta? I am looking for a tree from which I can take cuttings or seed. All suggestions welcome.

Ian [efford@shaw.ca]

## Rhodo Companion Tree *Liriodendron tulipifera* Blooms in Chemainus

Ian Efford reported that his son Brian took the following photos of his Tulip Tree flowering in Chemainus which is a good shade tree for large rhododendron gardens.



Crest x Lacteam



Norma Hodge



# Communities in Bloom Donations Thriving in Chemainus

Each year the CVRS makes a donation of rhododendrons to a worthy project to share the beauty of this unique plant and enhance community gardens. Last year the CVRS contributed rhodos to the Chemainus Community in Bloom program. The 20 plants were established around the old MB locomotive at the south entrance of Chemainus just past the roundabout at Henry Road. They were planted last July along with the other plants and the new grass.

I was concerned about the timing but the Municipality had a sprinkler system installed and had the timer set to water 5 times a day. The grass came up thick and green and the rhodos survived even with 30 days of no rain last August. This year most of them bloomed sparingly but that is to be expected with newly planted stock. They are well mulched so the roots will put on good growth this year. There were a few in bloom this May so any members visiting the area may wish to check them out.

Joe Hudak



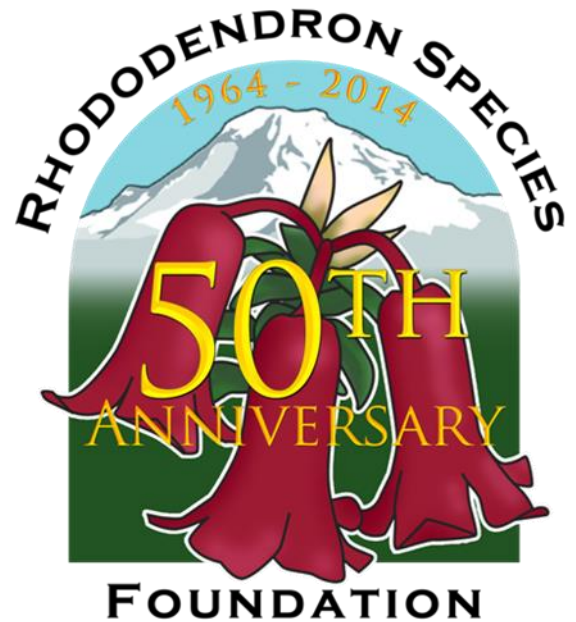
## Special Propagation Offer from the Webbs

Ken and Marilyn Webb have made a very generous offer to propagate that special or rare rhodo that you may have been unable to find. For a donation to the CVRS the Webb's will propagate any rhodo requested that they can find and produce a healthy plant for your use at a very reasonable cost.

Please contact Sandra ([pinchofherbs@shaw.ca](mailto:pinchofherbs@shaw.ca)) if you want to utilize this service.

# RSF News Update re: Federal Way

With the surprising news of the pending relocation of the headquarters of the Weyerhaeuser Company from their Federal Way corporate campus to their new site in Seattle in 2016, many people are expressing concern over the fate of two of the Pacific Northwest's finest public gardens - the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden and the Pacific Bonsai Collection. Both of these independently funded, 501c3, non-profit organizations currently lease land on the Weyerhaeuser campus and both are Puget Sound institutions, each featuring a world-class collection and beautiful display gardens. The Pacific Bonsai Collection just transitioned to 501c3 status at the start of 2014.



The good news is that these two organizations and their display gardens are NOT moving, will not be moving, and have no reason to move. They are both completely independent of the Weyerhaeuser Company and so will still be located in the exact same place where you have enjoyed them for so many years, in Federal Way at the intersection of Highway 18 and I-5. The hours are the same, the gardens are the same, nothing has changed and they are open for business! Please stop for a visit Tuesday through Sunday, 10am to 4pm.

## The Rhodes Cross of these two plants produced Nathaniel



Purple Splendour



*R. degonianum* ssp *Yakushimanum*



## New Rhodo Diseases and Pests Book

A new comprehensive book on rhodo and azalea diseases and pests is now available for sale on the ARS store. The CVRS is also buying a copy for our library but if you want your own please order through the ARS Store - [ARSSStore.org](http://ARSSStore.org)



Camflo

## New Ecole Mt. Prevost Community Garden Almost Done

One of our CVRS members Mona Kaiser and her team of volunteers have been very busy creating a beautiful new garden at the Mt. Prevost school and are seeking contributions of funds and plants to finish the almost completed project. Here is a photo of the Ruby Horse Chestnut tree being placed that will be the highlight of our project's 'Friendship Square.' The square will feature four benches and all the inscribed paver bricks that we are gathering through our 'Buy a Brick' campaign. Brick orders are starting to come in, as are tree and bench donations: 4 benches & 6 trees so far! Thank you all so much!!



But if you're wanting to leave your 'Mark on our Park' please do so soon! With less than a few weeks of construction left, now's the time! We're still looking for 1/2 dozen benches, 20 trees, and as many inscribed bricks as folks would like to see underfoot. Tree and bench donations will have a commemoration plaque and will receive a charitable donations tax receipt.

Yours sincerely,

Mona & the Project Ecole Mt. Prevost Community and Team

[Mona.Kaiser@shaw.ca](mailto:Mona.Kaiser@shaw.ca) 250 715 1814

The following sponsorships are available:

- 4"x8" engraved brick - \$50
- 8"x8" engraved brick - \$100
- Large Tree with plaque \$500
- 6 foot bench with plaque \$1200

## 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.



## 2014-2015 Executive

- President: Sandra Stevenson  
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- Past President: Ian Efford  
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- Secretary: Verna Buhler
- Treasurer: Bill Dumont  
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- Membership: Marie Jacques
- 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  
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