



The **Rhodoholic**



Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

Volume 27:6 September 2016

President's Message

Another long and hot summer is almost behind us, one of the driest on record. Every year is a challenge in terms of stretching available water, given Rhododendrons are not renowned for their drought tolerant qualities! Yet they still manage to pull through, demonstrating a plant tougher than it may first appear.

New varieties come onto the market all the time, and the latest trend is to emphasize foliage, extending the season of interest. At the Conference in Sidney last year this was mentioned by several of the speakers.

Also of possible interest to members is the Western Regional Conference being held September 29th to October 2nd in New-

CVRS Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, September 7

7:30pm St. John's Church

Bernie Dinter

Gardening: Its Changing Focus

More details on page 2

In This Issue:

Letter from the Editor 3

In Memory of Dixie Mueller 4

In Dixie's Garden 6

Irises: Ideal Companion Plants
for Rhododendrons 8

West Coast of Ireland: Part
Four 13

2016-17 Coming Events 19

2016-17 Executive 20



R. 'Koichiro Wada'

Selected by: Royal Horticultural Society, 1947

'Koichiro Wada' is a clone/selection/cultivated form of wild species: *R. degronianum* ssp *yakushimanum* Ht. 3 ft.

Number one choice of the UK's Royal Horticultural Society's **Top 100 Rhododendrons, 2016**

port Oregon. There is an impressive line up of speakers and it looks to be a very good conference. <http://www.2016wrrc.com/index.html>

The District 1 meeting at Milners on the 23rd was my first time meeting some of the members of the other chapters. They are a very dedicated group of people. There was a substantial amount of discussion on how to encourage people to access the Journal of the American Rhododendron Society on line. One advantage of reading the online

version is that it includes many more photos and images. If you haven't read the summer edition of the Journal, I encourage you to look on page 145 where there is an article written by our own Peter Lewis on water gardens and the effect of water in the garden.

I am looking forward to this coming season, and to seeing everyone at our September meeting.

Barrie Agar, President

Gardening – Its Changing Focus

Bernie Dinter

Bernie Dinter has been in the nursery business for over 40 years, starting with a degree in Plant Science from the UBC Department of Agriculture. It has now changed its name to 'Land and Food Systems' reflecting the changing perception of growing plants. Society's expectation of gardening is changing, with the new millennium generation being interested in gardening but from the perspective of growing food and sustaining the environment. Today's gardener is less knowledgeable, but expects a garden to supply food, to be bee and pollinator friendly, and to reflect held environmental values. These values must be reflected by the businesses they deal with. Add to these challenges, the decline of the independent garden centre and the presence of numerous box stores selling garden products. With the changing social values, the horticultural industry has to keep itself relevant.



Letter *from the Editor*



Welcome back! Our Fall 2016 CVRS Season begins!

This newsletter highlights a few upcoming events; perhaps reminding us that we had given thought to attending and had forgotten. These special events are approaching quickly and we must decide. Thank you to two of our faithful contributors, Sandra Stevenson and Ian Efford, for several special articles.

It was August 20th when I sat strapped into a small space on a thirty-passenger direct flight to Prince George to visit my mother-in-law and other in-laws. The last of our own summer guests had left, and I was immobilized enough to close my eyes and relax---relax just enough to realize that August was about to disappear. A list scrolled clearly under my mellowed eyelids. Napping mode disappeared and as panic set in, I considered what control I might have with a parachute in terms of returning immediately to what needed to be done in my yard within those next two weeks!

Yes, this CVRS Newsletter was on the "Produce" Items list. Others dealt with too much kitchen time: blueberries, raspberries, pears, peaches, plums, garlic, broccoli, beans, cucumbers, squash, potatoes, onions, flowers, wine grapes and table

grapes. More preferable tasks were watering, saving those remaining 'proudly-propagated' rhodo babies, pond filter management, plucking weeds with prickles and seed heads that needed to leave the garden yesterday! We are all familiar with the pressures of Task lists!

The most difficult of acknowledgements, however, was realizing that with the apparently all-consuming activities with guests and gardens, I had ignored those drowsy mental memos: "Just give Dixie a quick call in the morning; drop by with those blueberries". In the mornings, I promised myself that I would do that right after my step-daughter and grandsons left on August 11th. Sadly, that was when Dixie left as well, and instead on Wednesday, August 18th, we attended Dixie Mueller's celebration of life. So with sadness, a section of this first fall newsletter is dedicated to a truly remarkable woman, who some of you had known longer than others had, but we all recognize that any time with Dixie enriched our lives. Thank you to those who contributed with verbal or written expressions and with photographs.

Hoping to see you very soon,

Verna Buhler



Sharon Tillie and Carrie Nelson, Twiddle Dee and Twiddle Dum stimulated fun and laughter at the summer picnic in June (Photo by Kathy Koster)

In Memory Of Dixie Mueller

*With thanks to Keith Simmonds, Minister of United Church
(Adapted/paraphrased, with permission, by Verna Buhler)*

Some might say Dixie lived in spite of what happened to her. Others might say she lived in delight of what she saw around her. It seemed that Dixie sensed the divine in all she did, and conveyed that sense of the divine to others.

Dixie lived in Alabama and Georgia as a messenger of God's love during the heart of the Civil Rights Movement of the mid 1960s. Years later she would share stories of those times with her children. Stories that found ways to illuminate the racist culture that the families she lived with perpetuated. Good, Godly, God fearing families. It might have turned another away from a faith; not so with Dixie, as she had what she termed as "her own" faith.

Moving to Provost, Utah with her husband Dave, she learned to love the mountains, gained a teacher's degree, and enjoyed the society of church and the beauty of the natural world around her. Moving again, this time to Victoria, she found love not only in the natural surroundings of the island, but in the lives of the two children she offered nurture to, Brooke and Brandon.

When her relationship with Dave came to an end, she looked for a way to combine her joy in teaching with her need to earn a living and decided on a career as a speech pathologist. Running into an endless series of roadblocks in BC, she pulled up stakes, moved to Washington State, and completed her Master's Degree in two years. A tribute to her dedication, perseverance and intelligence. When she told the story, she delighted in having found a way around an intransigent system that would not be moved. She saw a need, sought a path, took the steps, accomplished the goal and got on with it. She didn't spend a lot of time raging at a wall that would not be moved.

Meeting Art was like a joining of kindred souls. Dixie and Art enjoyed one another's company, enjoyed taking in the natural beauty of the Cowichan Valley and on Barnston Island before it. They would journey together to the Similkameen country, spending weeks at their cabin. Dixie was the gardener, Art the builder. Dixie nurtured plants to life and beauty; Art created paintings, tables, buildings, and whatever the occasion demanded.

Met with adversity in life, Dixie found ways to adapt. When Art's oncoming dementia made living on Barnston Island too difficult, she began the search for the place Brooke would find on Used Victoria, a house on a pond, filled with gardens and dragonflies, ready for rhododendrons and lilies and all manner of plants.

This was a special place to spend time with her son Brandon, her daughter Brooke, granddaughter Rebecca and great grandson Lucas. A place to entertain and take pleasure in Art's children and her stepfamily: Caren and her partner, Terry, and their children, Heather, Elizabeth and Dustin; Dan and his partner Holly



and their daughter Jacqueline. It was a beautiful and safe space for Art to rest for his remaining time and, for Dixie, as well, in her own time, to lie down and to say goodbye. A place that held her up and nurtured her in love when first Art and then her son Brandon died within a few months of each other this past year.

Her celebration of life communicated the beauty that shone from Dixie. It offered a sense of her strength and her love, and a hint of the blessing she brought to a sometimes difficult and often perplexing world. Through her choices, she emanated love for family, friends, and the natural world. Dixie had chosen music special to her heart; it was important, Dixie wrote, that consideration be given to

the artists, as well as the art. She would not have the John Williams version of the "Fantasy Suite for a Gentleman" but rather the classical guitar version by Joaquin Rodrigo, his gift to Andres Segovia. "Hallelujah" must be the Leonard Cohen version, and "Jerusalem", could only really be sung by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. She chose the hymns of comfort "All Through the Night" and of faith, "He is Risen" as well. She was speaking of both the pain and the blessing of this life and encouraging others to see, store up, and treasure the comfort and assurance realized in the love that forms the heart of creation.

Dixie arrived in the Cowichan Valley in the summer of 2010, and immediately joined CVNS. She soon became Social Chairman, looking after the food and coffee for evening meetings. She also joined DIVAs (breast cancer survivors), became very active in the Rhododendron Society, and regularly attended the United Church in Duncan.

Dixie's husband, Art, was suffering from lung cancer and dementia and as his illness progressed, she spent more time at home with him, enhancing their beautiful property on Lake Cowichan Road. Last September a crowd of Dixie's family, friends and neighbours spent a memorable afternoon in their garden, in perfect weather, to celebrate her 70th birthday.

On October 2015, Art died, and Dixie found cancer was taking its toll on her energy. This Spring, despite her declining health, she took a tour Up-Island with the Rhododendron Society, enlivening the trip with her extensive knowledge of all plants, particularly rhododendrons. In May 2016, she attended the BC Nature Conference in Comox, and later she went with family members for a final holiday in Cypress Hills Park on the Alberta/Saskatchewan border.

Dixie died August 11th in her home.

She will be missed by many who admired her courage in facing her illness and were impressed by her enthusiasm and wide knowledge of nature.

Dorothy K. Marshall, Cowichan Valley Naturalists Society

In Dixie's Garden

Verna Buhler

The CVRS Bus Tour of Island Gardens in May had been an opportunity to “bond” (Kathy’s term) with the other fun women in our van. Dixie was fascinated by every garden we visited and paused often to quietly and completely sense her surroundings. She added a genuine warmth and gentleness to the atmosphere in our van.



We had voted to extend our return trip selecting a scenic route home, and to share our own private gardens at each of our drop-off points. It was at the first garden, at Esther’s, that Dixie shared with us her difficult loss---that of her son Brandon, unexpectedly, just the week before. We were already aware of Dixie’s own vulnerable health, that she had lost her husband Arthur only months before and that she was deeply concerned about the wellbeing of her daughter, Brooke. Certainly, this seemed more than anyone could bear. But Dixie amazed us with her personal strength as she reassured us that the trip had been, as she had dearly hoped, a step in the healing process. *Dixie reassured us.*

This was a special quality of Dixie’s. She reassured and calmed others. She held a larger perspective, one of reflection and knowing---a simple and quiet peace.

It was after Dixie had made her courageous effort to attend the summer picnic at our home that I began enjoying her company in her yard. On these occasions, we toured her gardens discovering her many rhododendrons and clematis tucked in the midst of the wild and natural landscape of tall grasses. She pointed out special features of these rhododendrons, those she had chosen and named after members of her family, and those that she deemed worthy of propagation. We planted a few special young plants still in pots that she had ordered and

she knew needed root space if they were to flourish, did some weeding, tottered on her dock searching for fascinating water creatures, and sat chatting in her gazebo with some blueberries, ice-cream, and iced tea. One day, while waiting for her just inside her front entrance, I noticed beside me on a low table, a heavy oversized book; it was worn, dog-eared and open to a near thousand-page halfway point. It wasn’t a spiritual volume as I expected, but a dictionary with fine print. “Yes, a dictionary,” Dixie explained simply. “That’s my thing. I just love words. Words are wonderful!”

During the week before my summer guests arrived, Dixie and I were able to get together to plant one of her rhododendrons. She had not felt well enough the day before and the following day she was going for surgery to insert a new tube for the upcoming chemotherapy treatments, which she had decided to pursue in light of all the sadness that had happened so recently to her family. It was an extremely hot day, but Dixie was astonishingly focused. As we worked, she was meticulous in her instructions and explanation as to why we were planting her rhododendron in a manner “contrary to the highly recommended mounding method”. Here we were digging deeper, adding at least three wheelbarrows full of very specific and well-mixed proportions of growing mediums, installing the large rhododendron, and then adding more of the special soil around it, but only to a level that created a broad shallow basin.

Into this we then poured several of her specially prepared pails of fish fertilizer and water. When the *Rhododendron 'Hawaii'* was settled, she turned to me with a soft, brilliant smile and said, "There, now that we have planted this rhododendron together, our souls are forever united in eternity." Her eyes were moist, shining, and absolutely convincing.

Dixie went in to shower and change as she was leaving shortly for her doctor's appointment that afternoon. She stepped out as I was returning the pails and tools to her shed on my way to my vehicle. She stood in the warm sunlight in a cobalt blue dress, her brilliant sea blue eyes sparkled, and her white hair a halo about her soft face. Dixie was simply stunning! She appeared strong, healthy and radiant. Halfway through a hearty farewell hug, I

withdrew quickly, realizing that I could be hurting her; she reassured me with her smile, "Yesterday, they would have heard my painful cry in Duncan, but today is a good day." Dixie, waving goodbye, in her blue and white radiance was to be my last moment with Dixie, and now a lasting memory.

Intelligent, naturally curious, and knowledgeable on a broad scale, Dixie was deeply reflective, meditative and wise. She inspired thought and questioning, and, for me, a puzzling over how she managed. Dixie taught me, in too brief period of time, about that mysterious inner strength of accepting, choosing to so richly interpret and live fully moment by moment alongside, and within, the events in her life that she could not change.



DIXIE MUELLER

Are there rhododendrons in Heaven?

If not, there will be now

For Dixie will be planting them

And showing the angels how

There must be lots and lots of cats

Of every size and shape

And a bouncy Springer Spaniel

To greet her at the gate

There'll be a shady, tree-ringed pool

Where wood ducks come to nest

And a pretty, white gazebo

Where Dixie takes her rest

Dorothy K. Marshall

Irises: Ideal Companion Plants for Rhododendrons

Ian Efford

“New companion plants to compliment rhododendrons” is the subject of at least a couple of ciders and two afternoons lazing under the trees.



Iris wattii (photo by Stan Stebs)

Mid-summer, and only one rhododendron, *R. dauricum*, has a few flowers remaining, and as the temperature creeps above 30C, it is too hot for outdoor gardening in the middle of the day. One of the coolest activities is to drink a glass of cider and to allow the mind to plan changes to the garden. Some rhododendrons must be moved because they are either in too much shade or in too much sun. Trimming back the shade trees will also make a difference, especially if some of the branches have grown to hinder the arc of the watering system. There is also the issue of companion plants. Which ones should be moved because they have outgrown their welcome or are just not “right” where they sit at this time? “New companion plants to compliment rhododendrons” is the subject of at least a couple of ciders and two afternoons lazing under the trees. There is quite a choice as was described in a talk to the club by Gordon McKay. It is essential, of course, to watch some of the ground cover choices as they can become invasive if left to their own devices.

In an earlier article in the newsletter, I suggested that some of the smaller flowering trees [eg. *Halesia*, *Styrax*] with fairly delicate leaves are an ideal contrast with the larger-leaved rhododendrons as they provide light shade when needed in the summer whilst not giving the heavy dark shade created by much of our local conifer forest trees.

Sonja Nelson, in her book *Rhododendrons in the Landscape* briefly mentions irises as ideal companion plants. She says, “No woodland garden should be without the spiked foliage of the genus *Iris*, its strong, vertical lines contrast with the often horizontal lines of rhododendron foliage”. As someone who grows two to three hundred irises from seed each year, I could not agree more, but to be successful it is necessary to consider just which irises one is going to plant as, like rhododendrons, they all have their individual habitat requirements. It must be remembered that, in principle, irises are sun-loving and prefer alkaline soils which contrast with rhododendrons that are normally considered shade-loving and preferring acidic soils. This has to be taken into consideration when planting the two complimentary genera together.

I can only recollect two gardens where irises have formed the dominant ground cover. In Dunedin Botanic Garden, one area of the large stands of mature rhododendron had a metre deep ground cover of the crested iris, *I. wattii*. This species is from Western China and India and may not always survive here but a related crested iris, *I. japonica* grows well in my garden. It is usually shorter, about half a metre in height, but over time it should spread and provide a colourful cover in a semi-shade situation. Two other North American crested irises do well in a moist, semi-shade situation and are grown by gardens on this island, but rarely as

ground cover. They are *I. cristata*, the common one, and the very much smaller *I. lacustris*. *Iris cristata* is from the Adirondack and *I. lacustris* from around the Great Lakes including the shores on the Canadian side. Given the right conditions, both will flower profusely although *I. lacustris* is very small and one has to be careful not to rake it up accidentally during the dormant period.

The other crested iris that should be grown by all gardeners and one that would do well in a semi-shade rhododendron garden is *Iris tectorum*, sometime called the Japanese Roof iris. The flower of this iris can be white, blue or purple and it almost always has a conspicuous white crest. It has complexity and beauty to rival some of the orchids and grows well in most parts of the continent.



Iris tectorum

The second garden where an iris was used as a ground cover was noted on an iris tour in North Carolina. Like most garden tours, we were running late and the last garden was reached in early evening on a very warm day. The whole garden was perfused with a strong smell of plums. The source was *Iris graminea* a relatively small Spurian iris that formed a complete ground cover under the bushes. It grows to about 30-40 cm. and is characterized by dark green thin leaves, although most Spurian irises have a grey tinge to their leaves. The flowers are dark blue-purple with a touch of white or yellow and appear among the leaves rather than standing above them as in most



Iris crocea

irises. The perfume from these flowers was overwhelming, so much so that I have no other recollection of the garden, or of any of the other irises there. This iris is easy to grow and highly recommended as a ground cover in a shady and moist location.

Most Spurian irises are tall and are excellent contrasting companion plants for large rhododendrons planted in the open. The species can be a metre high although a few may attain more than one and one-half metres. *Iris crocea* and *I. orientalis*, have very large flowers that are a brilliant golden yellow [*I. crocea*] or white and yellow [*I. orientalis*] and flower in July when most rhododendron flowering is over for the year.

These plants form very strong clumps of upright "sword" blades topped with the flowers. Apart from the species *I. crocea* and *orientalis*, there are a number of hybrids Spurians that have very bright colours ranging from red through bronze to blues and white and yellows. These plants are very tough and are ideal garden plants although they have to be divided every few years.



Spurian Iris hybrids

The most common irises grown in gardens are the bearded irises that originate in the dry summer climates that surround the Mediterranean. They can be used as companion plants when rhododendrons are grown in full sun, although one has to be careful as these irises prefer dry summer conditions and will rot if there is too much water. Some of the dwarf forms would be suitable as edging plants around a bed where they will flower before most rhododendrons.



A flowerbed with a *Davidia* as the feature tree, and young Spurian irises growing up amid rhododendrons; *R.* 'David Dougan' is white, 'E. Aglo' is pink, and in the background is *R. ambiguum*

This preference for the dry soils also applies to most of the bulbous irises which can be found naturally from the Atlantic coast all the way through to the India-Pakistan border. Lovely plants they are, but not ideal companion plants for a genus that prefers moist acid soils. There are exceptions; some of the English/Spanish/Dutch bulbous irises [*Xiphium*] can be put in patches in some beds as long as they are in full sun much of the growing season.

I am sure that some readers are asking "*What about the Siberian irises?*" For pure architectural structures, the Spurian irises cannot be touched. They are usually tall with sword-like grey leaves and topped by striking flowers. Siberians, on the other hand, tend to be shorter, most are about a metre high at flowering, the leaves are narrower, curved and softer and they have beautifully coloured flowers in a very wide range of colours from stark white, through yellows and blues. Some of the most recent hybrids are well into the reds. Like almost all irises, Siberians are not shade plants but they do fine along the edge of a bed in the semi-shade or out in the open sun. Their softer form compliments the form and colour of rhododendron plants and their flowering is later in the

season, after most rhododendrons and before the spurian irises. Much the same thing can be said about the Japanese irises that flower about the same time as the spurian irises. They do prefer wetter soil, however, so are better planted in a separate bed, possibly near to a rhododendron bed beside a small stream or pond. In this same site can be grown other water-loving irises such as the Louisianans. These have very large flowers although the plants tend to be "floppy". As their native habitat is the southern US, some people consider that they cannot be grown in Canada. This is untrue, as I have grown them successfully in Ottawa [where the winter temperature dropped as low as the -35C]; as long as there is a good snow cover they can survive.

Sonja Nelson recommended Pacific Coast irises [PCI] as companion plants that are tolerant of shade, but, although they will grow under these conditions, they are really edge of forest or open glade plants and their flowering is greatly improved with plenty of sun. Because they are short, usually no more than 30cm., they are ideal border plants around a rhododendron bed. This group of irises must have evolved quite recently which means that the various species are closely related

and cross-fertile. The result is that they generate hybrids with very diverse flower patterns and colours.

There are a few Siberian related species that are found in the same Asian forests as rhododendrons, usually in damp glades between the bushes: *I. clarkei*, *wilsonii*, *chrysographes*, *forrestii*, etc. These are all very beautiful plants but most are relatively short and do not offer the structural contrast with rhododendrons. I recommend them as garden plants but not in direct association with rhododendrons.

Most irises, except for those that are part of a desert

flora, are very easy to grow from seed and will give you flowering plants within three years. Seeds can be obtained very inexpensively from various iris societies such as the British Iris Society and the Species Iris Society of North America [SIGNA], the North American Rock Garden Society [NARGS] and other such groups. For plants, the only specialized iris nursery in B.C. is Ted Baker's Iris on Saltspring Island.

I hope that this overview is clear, if not, blame it on the hot weather and the Irish cider! If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at efford@shaw.ca or at (250) 597-4470.



***Azalea kiusianum* var *kiusianum*
'Komo-Kulshan'**

Selected by Greer Gardens, 1978 Evergreen

'Komo-Kulshan' is a clone/selection/cultivated form of wild species: *R. kiusianum* var *kiusianum*

RR. 'Kranenstar'

Hybridizer: Hubbers, 1992

Ht: 3 ft. Midseason

Elepidote

R. 'Lem's Cameo' x *R.* 'Deenah'



West Coast of Ireland

Part Four of *The Gardens of Ireland*

by Sandra Stevenson

In this final note from my 2015 excursion, I will share photos from three areas that we travelled to on the West Coast of Ireland.



I had the pleasure of meeting Margaret Cadwaladr who authored the book *In Veronica's Garden*. During a discussion about Milner Gardens and Woodland, she informed me Veronica Milner's former Estate was in Glin, Ireland, a village we were planning on travelling through in our upcoming trip. As an executive member of the Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society I had just signed paperwork to commit our club to supporting the new Rhododendron Species Garden project at Milner Gardens and Woodland. It seemed fitting to put Glin Castle and Estate on my radar and plan for a walk in the garden since we were going to be staying in the area.

The garden was closed to the public as the Knight, Veronica's son, Desmond Fitzgerald had passed away and the 380-acre estate was for sale. With much persistence we located a few people who gave us permission to walk the Kitchen Garden and the Estate Grounds. All were in immaculate form and presented as if we were a tour of hundreds of

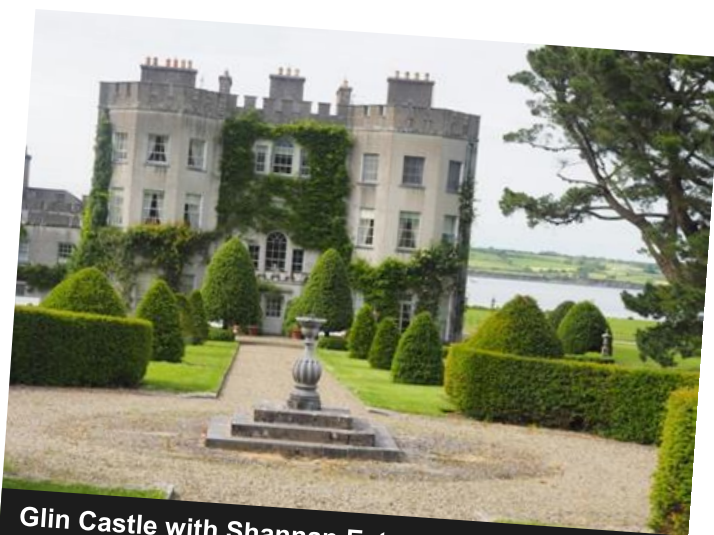
gardeners viewing this historic sight. Tom Wall, the head gardener, has worked on the grounds for 48 years and provided us with an orientation of the property and entertained us with many comical stories from the early years when Veronica Milner travelled regularly from her home in Qualicum, Vancouver Island to the family estate in Ireland. Many of these stories sounded reminiscent of the current television series of *Downton Abbey*.

This, the ancestral home and gardens of the Fitzgerald Clan for more than 700 years provides a glimpse of its rich history as a hunting and fishing playground, entertaining aristocrats of the time. The formal gardens guided us along walkways bordered by clipped yew trees, under canopies of ancient oak and chestnut trees. We were directed towards the Edwardian Walled Garden where we were shaded under Veronica's treasured myrtle trees draping the entrance. Here, this Kitchen Garden continues to provide the family members with a bountiful harvest on their summer visits. The flower gardens and perennial borders were a rainbow of colour. Beyond the formality of this picture perfect scene, the castle and vista of the Shannon Estuary, forest trails bordered by *rhododendrons*, *gunnera*, *fushia* and numerous trees and shrubbery display their beauty throughout this mature woodland.

Glin Castle



Treasured Myrtle trees canoping garden entry



Glin Castle with Shannan Estuary backdrop



Walled garden in bloom



Vegetable garden



Kitchen garden entrance



Mature woodland with *gunnera* bordering



The Burren National Park

Next, we had planned a guided walk through the Burren National Park in the County Clare. Burren is an Irish word “Boireann” meaning a rocky place. This is a barren moon-like landscape that exists of exposed limestone sediments as a result of a tropical sea that covered Ireland 350 million years ago. The nutrient rich rock provides an opportunity to see a diversity of colorful flowering plants living together within one ecosystem. Six hundred different species of plants have been recorded growing in the Burren. After meeting our guide, Tony Kirby, in the Village of Kilfenora at the Burren Centre, we were provided with an in-



The group hiking the Burren



Thyme growing

formative history of the rock formation. In this unusual habitat we had the opportunity to see acid loving plants growing next to plants that preferred a soil rich in lime. Arctic alpine plants grow side by side with Mediterranean plants. Shrubs of thyme can be seen growing beside northern ferns. Woodland plants grow in this open exposed area and many a rare plant grows in abundance in this land that appears to be entirely composed of rock.



Another view of the rock structure



Orchid



Bee Orchid



Distant view of barren rock structure



Deep crevices



Rich green plants of heather and sage growing together



R. konori var phaeocephalum

Vireya

First described: Sleumer & Argent

Kylemore Abbey and Victorian Walled Garden

Kylemore Abbey and Victorian Walled Garden is located in the County of Connemara on the Pollacapal Lake. As you drive the winding road the Abbey comes into view across the lake as if you have just stepped into a fairytale.

Kylemore Abbey is home to a community of nuns of the Benedictine Order who opened a world renowned boarding school for girls in 1923. Since this time they have restored the Abbey, Gothic Church and Garden to its former glory. The six acre formal Victorian Walled Garden is cultivated in an Irish bog. Restoration of this completely overgrown garden



there were those introduced to Ireland before 1901. In its day, the Walled Garden contained 21 glass-houses of which two have been restored. They housed exotics such as bananas, melons, grapes, figs and other fruits. On entering the garden gate on the high southeast corner, the term, “the birds eye view”, describes the view of this six-acre garden perfectly. The Kitchen Garden and Pleasure Gardens flow down the slopes and are divided by a natural mountain stream in the centre. The mountains and surrounding area were bare of trees 150 years ago when Mitchell Henry began developing the estate. He planted hundreds of thousands of exotic and native trees to protect the extensive gardens. Today mature forests of oak, ash, elm, beech, lime, Scotch pine, silver fir, sycamore and Spanish chestnut along with many species of conifers cover the 1000 acres surrounding the Walled Garden and reaching up into the backdrop of mountains.



Bird's eye view of Victorian Walled Garden

began in 1995. By 2000, it was open to the public and is run to strict heritage standards, winning the prestigious Europa Nostra Award in 2001. In keeping with the heritage, the plants and flowers planted



Head Gardener's Restored Cottage



Fern Garden



The Cathedral



2016-17 Coming Events

September 7, 2016

7:30 pm

September CVRS Meeting

Guest speaker - Bernie Dinter

September 18th, 2016

9am - noon

Abkhazi Garden Fall Plant Sale

September 30 – October 2, 2016

34th Western Regional Rhododendron Conference
Newport, Oregon USA

October 5, 2016

7:30 pm

October CVRS Meeting

Guest speaker – Paul Wurtz



Abkhazi Garden Fall Plant Sale

1964 Fairfield Road, Victoria, BC

Sunday, Sept. 18, 9:00 am to noon

A wide variety of plants and seeds for all seasons and growing conditions – some from the garden, some rarities will be available at incredible, need-to-make-room prices.

Bookmark This!



Victoria Master
Gardener Association

Mixing it Up in the Urban Garden 2017

"Our Gardens of the Future"

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

Saturday, January 28, 2017 • Sidney, B.C.

More information: www.mgabc.org (Victoria Chapter)



"For the Love of Rhododendrons...and Other Good Friends..."

Western Regional Rhododendron Conference

Friday, September 30th to October 2nd, 2016

Best Western Agate Beach Inn, Newport, Oregon

2016-17 Executive

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

Vice President: Judeen Hendricksen

Past President: Carrie Nelson

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

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

Membership Chair: Trudy Muir

Directors at Large:
Siggi Kemmler, Alan Campbell, Peter Lewis, Ron Martin

Convenors

Sunshine: Mary Gale

Tea: Judeen Hendricksen

Raffle: Hilda Gerrits

Club Liaison: Alan Campbell

Library: Joyce Rodger

Membership Recruitment: Peter Lewis

Program Co-ordinator: Peter Lewis, Sandra Stevenson

History: Ian Efford

Garden/Bus Tours: Peter Lewis

CV Garden Fair: The Team

Facility Liaison: Roy Elvins

Christmas Party: The Team

Bus Tours: Vacant

Species Garden Reps: Siggi Kemmler, Alan Campbell

Newsletter Editor: Verna Buhler

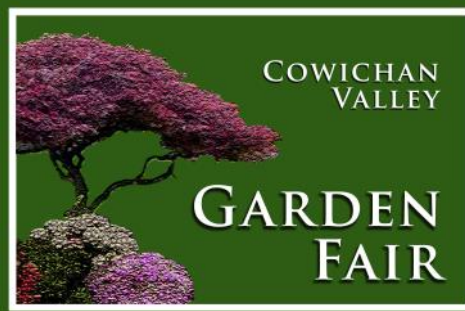
Newsletter design/format & website edits by
Mary-Lynn Boxem (mlboxem77@gmail.com)



Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

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

<http://cowichanrhodos.ca>



<http://cowichanvalleygardenfair.com>



twitter.com/CowGardenFair



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