



NEWSLETTER

Volume 20: 5

Editor: Ian E. Efford

May 2009

President's Message

Spring may have been late this year but it is certainly unfolding now. Albeit we do get surprises in the weather every now and then with either a good frost or some questionable 'stuff' coming out of the sky!

Putting the weather aside, we can see some beautiful trusses out there in our gardens without looking too hard. I am particularly pleased to see my 'Sir Charles Lemon' blooming for the first time since it was put in the ground 15 years ago. You probably also have some treasures that are getting you excited for this upcoming bloom season.

May is Plant Sale month. Many of you have tasks to do for the big day. Thank you in advance for your efforts. Peter Lewis has put together some exciting things as we can see from his enthusiastic reports over the past few meetings.

Garden tours are being scheduled and you will be receiving notice of these events as we get into May. It is always interesting to see what other members around us have done and are doing. As the evenings get longer it is great to travel around the valley after dinner time and view these hidden gems.

Enjoy your gardens! For us 'rhodoholics' this is truly a wonderful season.

David Annis

What is Coming Up?

May 2nd Saturday
CVRS Plant Sale

May 6th Wednesday 7.30pm
Wanda McAvoy speaking on Fraser Days in Ucluelet May 23, 2009.

Garden Tours - see elsewhere in newsletter.

George Fraser Day/Heritage Fair

Wanda McAvoy, a longtime resident of the West Coast, is head gardener for the District of Ucluelet. She studied horticulture/agriculture technology and sciences in a post-secondary 2yr. diploma program in Ontario with major studies in plant pathology/biology, botany, greenhouse propagating.

Wanda became interested in rhododendrons after visiting 'Misty Gardens' in Ucluelet, owned and operated by the late Bob Sinclair, himself a rhododendron propagator. In 2000, Wanda joined the George Fraser Project committee, which promotes the legacy of this world renowned rhododendron pioneer who spent the last 50 years of his life hybridizing and propagating rhododendrons on his acreage in Ucluelet. As chair of the committee, Wanda will give a presentation on Mr. Fraser's life and

The Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

A Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society

PO Box 904, Duncan, British Columbia V9L 3Y3 <http://cowichan.rhodos.ca>

work, along with the promotion of the George Fraser Day/Heritage Fair which is held annual at the end of May.

Cowichan Valley Garden Club Annual Spring Flower Show and Plant Sale

Saturday June 6, 2009 – 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
St. Peter's Anglican Church Hall
5800 Church Road (off Maple Bay Road),
Duncan, BC.

Admission: Adults/Seniors: \$2.00, Children:
\$1.00 Admission to Afternoon Tea:
Adults/Seniors: \$2.00, Children: \$2.00
Flower Show

Entries from the public welcome. To enter
please email Maureen Deptuck at

moeanddon@shaw.ca

Mill Bay Garden Club

62nd

Annual Flower and Garden Show

Saturday June 13, 2009 – 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Grounds open at 9:00 a.m., Flower Show open
after judging approx. 10:00 a.m.

Cobble Hill Hall, 2550 Watson Avenue, Cobble
Hill, BC.

Admission: Adults/Seniors: \$2.00

Fabulous Plant Sales, Silent Auction, Master
Gardeners, Garden Accessories Vendors,
Gardening Seminars, Strawberry Tea, Pancake
Breakfast, Over 50 exciting flower show classes

Flower Show Entries from the public welcome.

Flower Show entry forms available at
Buckerfields, Laughing Llama, Thrifty Foods
and Dinters Nursery.

Any additional information, please email
Brenda Dumont at me@brendadumont.com or
call to 250 743 1638.

Picnic

Do not forget the picnic at Brenda and Bill
Dumont's place on the 20th June.

2008-9 Directors

President:	David Annis
Vice President:	Alan Campbell
2 nd Vice President:	Janet Gardner
Treasurer:	Judeen Henrickson
Secretary:	
at Executive Meetings	Janet Gardner
at General Meetings	(vacant)
Members at Large:	Sharon Tillie
	Jeremy Evans
	Marie Therese Evans
	(Vacant)

2008-9 Conveners

Librarian:	Leslie Bundon
Newsletter:	Ian E. Efford
Garden Tours:	Sharon Tillie
Spring Sale:	(vacant)
Club Liaison:	Ingeborg Woodsworth
Raffle:	Judeen Henrickson and Hilda Gerrits
Membership:	Sandra Stevenson
Speakers:	Alan Campbell
Tea Coordinator:	Cynthia Gracia
[for 3 meetings only]	
Ways and Mean:	(vacant)
Website:	(vacant)
Social:	(vacant)
Historian	Mona Kaiser
Propagation	Alan Campbell
Sunshine	Mary Gale

GARDEN TOURS

Sharon Tillie has arranged the following garden tours for your enjoyment. Some of these tours are those of the Cowichan Valley Garden Club to which we are invited.

May 2, 11.00 am-4.00 pm

Painter Garden

Shirley Painter has invited gardeners to her garden at 669 Kerr Road at Genoa Bay on Saturday May 2 from 11:00 to 4:00. She will be in the garden so park and go in. This opening will include a tour of our heritage home with the 41 ft sailboat hull in the front room. The garden is a seaside garden with hundreds of bulbs and a unique way of gardening. She calls it "Fill Up All The Spaces". There are some rhodos and azaleas but I do not specialize in any one plant. If you would like to take her something small from your garden she will appreciate the gesture. You are welcome to bring a camera as the hummingbirds are back in force as well as many other birds. Come and enjoy your time.

4th May Monday 6pm

Beaveridge Garden-former Stone Garden

Darcy and Kathy Beaveridge consider themselves to be 'looking after' Peter and Pat Stone's garden; it is formidable to take on the stewardship of a garden but the Beaveridges are doing a wonderful job of it. Walking on to the 15 acre property you can tell that the garden and the 104 year old house are enjoying their new owners and their two young sons. It is reported that there are upwards of 1000 Rhodos as well as a spectacular view of Quamichan Lake with lovely spring plantings.

The Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society Garden tour is scheduled for Monday May 4th at 6:00 PM. There is parking at 1437 Maple Bay Road for at least 12 vehicles but people who wish to leave early may wish to park on Maple Bay Road.

14th May, 6.30pm

Sandy and Al Campbell's Garden

Not much parking up by the house - maybe 2 or 3 cars - the rest will have to park on the roadside and walk up. Those who have trouble walking could drive up but then those same people may have trouble, getting around the garden. As for direction; we are at 1995 East Shawnigan Lake Road, 2.5 miles south of the Shawnigan village, past the Bahia school and the Easter Seal Camp. We'll have ribbons or balloons marking the driveway.

17th May, Sunday 1.30pm

The Rhododendron Memorial Park

This garden is on Pt. Ideal Road in Lake Cowichan - meet on Sunday, May 17th, 2009, at 1:30pm across the road is the Old Locomotive and train and there is parking right next to it. The Tourist Info Office block house is right at the corner there as well.

This garden tour is to be followed immediately by a visit to Mayo Creek Gardens where tea and cookies will be provided. Both sites are wheelchair accessible, washroom facilities available.

Mayo Creek Gardens

From Duncan, BC, drive west along Highway 18, turning left [if you are coming from Cowichan Lake you turn right] on the Skutz Falls Road, with an immediate hard left onto Cowichan Lake Road. Turn right onto Mayo Road and then left onto McLean Road. Mayo Creek Gardens is located at 6596 McLean Road. Watch for the MAYO CREEK GARDENS log sign on the right.

28th May, 6.30pm

Doris Anderson's Garden

Take Maple Bay Rd. to McKenzie, first right on Donnay Drive to the fourth house on right [1365]

There is a gate left side of house. There are deep steps with hand rail or a gentle path. Located on the right side of house is a steep slope which is slippery if wet. Parking on drive or in road.

That same evening, you can then move on to visit the Gardner's Garden, which is quite close by.

The Garden of Janet and David Gardner

1228 Margaret Place, Duncan 250-748-1867, Directions to our garden are from Hwy 1 in Duncan. Turn off of Hwy 1 onto Trunk Rd, carry on to Tzouhalem Rd. to the traffic circle. Follow the circle and take the second exit onto Maple Bay Rd. then drive about 7 minutes to the Lakeview sub-division where you will turn right on McKenzie Ave., then turn left on Margaret Place. We are at the end of the keyhole crescent on the right.

Please enter the garden through the gate at the side of the house alongside the public foot path. Tea and coffee will be served. If anyone cannot come at the evening time you are welcome to come in the afternoon anytime after 1 p.m.

Parking is limited so car pooling is recommended. Anyone needing to park close please feel free to park in our drive way. Come and enjoy our tranquil garden. The back garden is shady in the evening so don't forget to bring a light jacket.

16th June, 6.00-8.00pm

Silver Sage Nursery

An eclectic garden is set atop a limestone rock wall in a grove of evergreens. The primarily perennial garden incorporates edibles throughout. The rockery is the highlight. The greenhouse and nursery area will be open for viewing as well.

Carrie and Richard Nelson 1720 Baldy Mt. Rd. Shawnigan Lake 250-743-3679 A map is avail. at www.siversagenusery.com or: ...travelling south from Duncan:

* turn right on Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd

* left on Sylvester

* right on Baldy Mt. Rd.

The driveway entrance is at the crest of a hill so for those who can walk the distance should park well back from the crest. For those who are less ambulatory, you can drive up to the house &/or park in the nursery area. Refreshments will be provided.

Note: Sharon seeks two volunteers to bring cookies to the tours at the Campbell's and Ingeborg's. 250-748-8254

Liz and Al Murray's Garden

This month, members were invited to view the magnolias in the Murray's magnificent garden. Appropriately, it came right after Don Martyn's talk on "Magnolias in the Rhododendron Garden". Although the season is late this year, there were still some rhododendrons flowering. The following photos will remind you of some of these beautiful trees and the overall view of the garden.



Note: Not all of the pictures were taken during this year's tour of the Murray's garden.



From the Editor

This is the last edition of the newsletter until the end of August. Unfortunately, it does not contain any articles because none was submitted!

On Saturday, we have the [plant sale](#) and you are encouraged both to come and, more importantly, bring some friends as the income from the plant sale is one our major sources of funds for the year.

At the sale, there should be a list of [recommended plants](#) for this area that has been available at earlier sales. I should note that there are some additions to this list. In the Journal for Winter 2009 [Volume 63: 1], four more plants are recommended for the Northwestern Region. These are:

Fantastica
R. augustinii
R. occidentale
Balsaminiflorum

In addition, the “Great Plant Picks” list for this year include the following rhododendrons and evergreen azaleas.

Blue Danube
Girard’s Crimson
Girard’s Fuchsia
Glacier
Hardy Gardinea
Herbert
Hino-crimson
Hinode-giri.

With these names in hand and the plants from 11 nurseries to choose from, you should be able to spend all your hard earned money and more!

Sandra Stevenson has brought to my attention that the recent article on Allan Murray’s [fertilizer](#) by Siggie Kemmler in the ARS Journal is complimented by an earlier article [p 107: Vol. 62 Number 2 Spring 2008] by Terry Richmond of Port Alberni. This article should

be re-read as a follow-up to Siggie’s article on fertilizer information. You should then have sufficient information to help you fertilize your rhododendrons this year.

Spend as much time in the garden as possible this summer and autumn. It will help you forget the economy and you may find that all is well by the time gardening is closing down as winter approaches!

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