



Newsletter

Volume 23:5 Editor: Ian Efford May 2012

President's Message

Dennis Bottemiller, who is in charge of propagation at the Rhododendron Species Botanic Garden just south of Seattle, is our speaker this Wednesday. His topic will be the botanic garden and the methods he uses to successfully propagate plants. CVRS is a member of RSBG and has supported this garden by purchasing two paving stones in the new Vireya conservatory. Two copies of the annual report are available in our library and are well worth reading as they describe such subjects as leading gardens of the world and the excitement of exploring for new rhododendrons.

Our Garden Fair this year will be bigger and better than ever with over 30 booths and more than a dozen nurseries. It is a volunteer effort and we need all the help we can find. If you are not already on the list, please talk to Bill at the next meeting. Come to the sale and make sure that you arrange for your friends, co-workers and neighbours to be there! **Bring trusses on the Friday afternoon or Saturday morning - the more we have the better the sale will go! We will need more wheel barrows or carts to move plants to the buyers' cars. Box stores use big carts because people buy more the larger the cart so let us follow their example by having wheel barrows or carts ready to move our customers' purchases.**

Can you offer your garden for the the pot-luck picnic? If someone will offer their garden, the society can make all the other arrangements.

The bus tour is to visit a number of interesting gardens on the 11-12 May. We still have six empty seats - please e-mail Bill or myself if you or your friends are interested in joining us. The bus can be boarded in Victoria, Duncan or Ladysmith.

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Coming Events

May 2 Dennis Bottemiller: "Variables in Propagation of Rhododendron Cuttings"	
May 5 2012 Cowichan Valley Garden Fair and Rhodo Sale – Cowex	
June 16 Summer Picnic	

Do not forget to sign up for the ARS conference in September - forms will be available at the meeting if you do not find them on line.

The last week has seen a large number of rhododendrons blooming and our enjoyment of these plants will now last for the next couple of months. If you visit and photograph particularly interesting gardens, write a short article about your experience for the newsletter. I am sure that the editor will welcome such submissions.

Ian E. Efford

From the Editor

This issue has an account of another garden - Beacon Hill in Victoria. For the last three years, I

have been publishing accounts of all of the public rhododendron gardens on Vancouver Island and the last of a total of 22. The remaining four are being written at this time and should be available for the autumn issues. I would also like to bring a summary of all the gardens together in booklet and on a website. We have a professional design and all that is required to complete the project is about \$6,000. I hope that this can be raised with four large and a number of small advertisements. If you have any contact with island-wide companies that might be interested, please let me know.

Finally, I must find an assistant editor if I am to continue as editor next year - *my final year!* I look forward to you contacting me and offering to help!

Ian E. Efford
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Beacon Hill Park

Beacon Hill Park has been the show-piece of the City of Victoria since 1858.

Victoria was settled in the middle of the 19th Century when Americans moving into the Oregon Territory after the treaty of 1846 began to trouble the Hudson's Bay Company operations at Fort Vancouver. James Douglas, sent north to find a secure site on British soil, chose Camosack, the "place of rushing water," to build his new fort. Douglas described the site as "The place itself appears a perfect 'Eden' in the midst of the dreary wilderness of the North...one might be pardoned for supposing it had dropped from the clouds into its present position." He said "at Camosack there is a range of plains nearly six miles square, containing a great extent of valuable tillage and pasture land equally well adapted for the plough or for feeding stock. It was this advantage...which led me to choose a site for the establishment of the place..." A crewman's diary records that "In walking from Ogden Point round to Fort Victoria, a distance of little more than a mile, we thought we had never seen a more beautiful country...It is a natural park; noble oaks and ferns are seen in the greatest luxuriance; thickets of the hazel and the willow, shrubberies of the poplar and the alder, are dotted about. One could hardly believe that this was not the work of art...."

We know now that the landscape they saw was not entirely the work of nature. It had been maintained for centuries by the local Lekwungen People. Today, we know them as the Esquimalt and Songhees First Nations.

The land that became Beacon Hill Park was set aside by Douglas in 1858 as "park reserve" under the Wakefield System used in British settlement.

One acre in eight was to be held for public use. Victoria was a settlement of 20,000 people. By the 1860s, the land was in heavy use. The newly formed Jockey Club had established a one-mile-long race track around the base of the hill (the track is now Circle Drive) and regular races drew large crowds. The Cricket Club was also holding regular matches on the grounds. In 1862, the City of Victoria was incorporated, including the park, but its authority was formally established in 1882 when the Province of British Columbia granted the 74- hectare park to the City of Victoria to be held in trust “to maintain and preserve the same for the use, recreation and enjoyment of the public.” Beacon Hill Park became the first park in BC to be under municipal authority.

The “park reserve” had been used as a kind of commons; cattle were grazed on the meadow, trees were cut for firewood, and deer and elk hunted for food. The beauty of the site was remarkable. An early diary reports “every slope and undulation was a lawn and natural garden, studded with wild plum, gooseberry, currant, strawberry and wild onion.” In the Victoria region, Lekwungen women and families harvested the edible bulbs of blue-flowered Camas and those of other species in May and June. They paddled canoes to the shores of Beacon Hill or nearby to set up temporary working camps near their Camas patches. Their practice of harvesting mature bulbs and replanting smaller ones, weeding out undesirable or toxic plants and burning in late summer or fall, is the reason Beacon Hill and the surrounding area was “a garden” in 1842. It wasn’t



“natural” as Douglas assumed, but was the direct result of the Lekwungen maintenance. These harvests and the Aboriginal maintenance of the park ended with settlement, and one of the first acts of the city on acquiring the park was to prohibit grazing, hunting, gambling, and cleaning carpets on the grass.

Beacon Hill Park was developed 120 years ago. Today, the park retains many of the key features and landscapes first planned and constructed in the

1880s. Victorians were proud of their park and ambitious. “The beautiful natural park of Beacon Hill has had very little attention for many years... [though it still offers a] grand and glorious view. It will prove a veritable gold mine to Victoria in the years to come when its great natural advantages are improved and

walks and flower beds, fountains and arbors will render it the loveliest pleasure ground in the world.” (*Colonist*, March 10, 1885, p. 2)

Some improvements were carried out including fencing around the race track, the creation of the first of the park’s water features, Fountain Lake (then called Alderman Lake), and the construction of a bandstand. The fencing is long gone but the lily-filled lake still forms a backdrop for flower and shrub beds. The Victorian Bandstand, though moved at some time to its new location near the bridge over Goodacre lake, has been restored and is now an award-winning heritage interpretive kiosk.

In 1889, newly elected Mayor John Grant, wrote in *The Mayor's Report*, "It is time, in my opinion, that a commencement should be made in beautifying Beacon Hill Park, which should be made even more attractive than nature has left it...a landscape gardener should be engaged to prepare a proper plan, so that what may be expended on it from time to time will be in the right direction." (*Victoria Daily Times*, January 24, 1889)

Many ideas were discussed for the future of the park and it was decided that a competition should be held. "Notice is hereby given that \$200 is offered for the best Landscape Design for the Embellishment of Beacon Hill Park, taking into consideration the present improvement. Said design to be endorsed 'Landscape,' and to be received not later than 10th April next, at 4 p.m., at the office of the undersigned. The Council reserve the right not to accept any design. By order, WELLINGTON J DOWLER, C.M.C. City Hall, March 16th, 1889." (*Colonist*, March 17, 1889, p 1)

The plan that was adopted was by John Blair, a Scotsman who had worked on parks in Chicago and Colorado before coming to Victoria in 1881. He was hired as Park Superintendent to carry out his plan for the development of Beacon Hill Park. He, in turn, hired George Fraser to be his foreman. Fraser was trained at Edinburgh Botanical Garden and became an expert and reknown hybridizer. After leaving Victoria, he established a nursery at Ucluelet specializing in Rhododendron hybrids he created from seed sent to him by plant explorers of the day. Fraser planted Rhododendrons near Fountain Lake in 1889 and a grove of r. 'Cynthia', now more than 100 years old, dominates the area when in bloom.

In 2010, a small collection of other Fraser hybrids, donated by Victoria grower and historian, Bill Dale, were planted in a raised, stone planter near the Cameron Bandshell in the centre of the park. They included Wardii seedling, Mrs. Jamie Fraser, Fiona Christie, John Blair, and Fraser's Pink.



Other rhododendrons in the park are concentrated in three plantings. The first is in the southwestern part of the park, near the Watering Can play feature. Another older grouping is at the north side of Goodacre Lake, near the rustic stone bridge. Those plants were said to be part of an early donation from the Berry Gardens in Oregon. Another grouping is to the northwest, located between Bridge Way and Douglas Street.

Other, newer plantings can be found throughout the ornamental areas of the park.

Work on the Blair plan for Beacon Hill began in June of 1889. The *Colonist* newspaper reported:

"When the board of aldermen gets through with the work of improvement at Beacon Hill Park, Victoria will have without any exception the finest public park on the continent. Just now the workmen are busy

excavating for a new lake, to cover about four acres, which will extend along the new road, from the city end of the park to the residence of Mr. Leich. This new lake will be studded with bower-covered islands, stocked with swans and other fancy water fowl, and provided with a gondola of regular Venetian style. The usual rustic seats and fountains will also be provided in abundance.... A stream carrying the water from "Alderman Lake" above will keep this water always fresh. The new road will shortly be opened, being a direct continuation of Churchway (Quadra Street). It is to be 80 feet wide, with a double row of trees and a plank walk on each side. The aviary which has been built on the sunny side of the deer park, is now ready for the reception of native birds...."(*Colonist*, June 22, 1889, p.4)



“Every day sees some new improvement at Beacon Hill Park. Every day something fresh is added to increase the attractions of Victoria’s most popular afternoon resort.... Just now rapid progress is being made with the new lake, which will be ready for the water in a few weeks. This lake, five acres in area, will be connected with Alderman Lake from which the water supply will be drawn, by a serpentine stream crossed by rustic bridges, and descending from the higher to the lower lake by a series of miniature water falls...a Venetian gondola will be placed on the water for the pleasure of the public.”(*Colonist*, July 21, 1889, p. 4)

“New carriage roads are being opened in the yet uncleared part of the park lying between the main drive and the C battery barracks and in this section it is intended to lay out an immense flower garden...the city aldermen have gone about the perfection of what nature has already done.....” (*Colonist*, July 21, 1889, p. 4)

The present look of the park is largely based on that early plan. The lake system on the west side of the park is much like Blair designed it, and his rustic stone bridge over Goodacre Lake remains an iconic landmark in Victoria. Many of the 2,000 shrubs and trees, imported from Pennsylvania, purchased for the park by a group of local businessmen, formed the foundation for the cultivated areas of the park. Horticultural and landscape features were improved and augmented during the 40 years of well-known horticulturalist, Herbert Warren’s time as superintendant of Victoria’s parks. The many ornamental cherries that light the park in spring were a particular passion of his.

In 2009, Beacon Hill Park received official designation as a Municipal Heritage Site. The heritage restoration of Beacon Hill Park’s original bandstand into an interpretive kiosk won an Award of Merit from the Hallmark Society in 2011.

Victoria’s Beacon Hill Park is bounded on the south

by the picturesque Strait of Juan de Fuca. Southgate Street is located at the north end of the park, and the southern ends of Cook and Douglas Streets form its east and west boundaries. The park is walkable from just about anywhere downtown and is situated between the James Bay and Fairfield neighbourhoods.

While the charter that created the park prohibits commercial activity, there is much to do and see. The cricket grounds are still in active use and lawn bowlers also have a clubhouse and pitch. There are tennis courts, a baseball field, putting green, and soccer pitch. The Sri Chinmoy jogging trail circles much of the park. The Cameron Bandshell hosts many outdoor events including music, film and theatre. The pathway that runs parallel to the ocean and Dallas Road extends to the east to Ross Bay and to the west to Ogden Point. The views from it to the mountains of the Olympic Mountains are spectacular.

For meals and services, on the park’s eastern side, a short walk north on Cook Street brings one to the Cook Street Village shopping area. From the northwest corner, a short walk west and north takes one to Victoria’s Inner Harbour and the historic downtown core.

George Fraser's Hybrid Rhododendrons from Bill Dale:

R. George Fraser (macrophyllum x maximum)
Original in Lima, Pennsylvania
Height: approx 15 feet (Parent 50 feet in diameter)
Colour: red (May)
Same cross as R. Albert Close

R. Albert Close (maximum x macrophyllum)
Original in Lima, Pennsylvania
Height: approx 15 feet (Parent 50 feet in diameter)
Colour: red (May)
Same cross as R. George Fraser

R. Minus var (minus x)

Height: approx. 4 feet

Colour: pink (May)

Leathery leaves

R. Fraser's Pink (parentage unknown - seedling hybridized by George Fraser)

Height: approx 15 feet (20 feet across)

Colour: pink (May)

R. Mrs. Jamie Fraser (arborium x macrophyllum)

Height: approx. 6 feet

Colour: burgandy-red (Fraser's darkest red)

R. Fraseri (canadensis x japonicum)

Azalea

Height: six feet

Colour: pink

R. Fiona Christie (parentage unknown - seedling found in Fraser's Garden)

Height: approx. 6 feet

Colour: red (May)

R. John Blair (arborescens x occidental)

Azaleadendron

Height: approx. six - seven feet

Colour: white with red stamens (June)



Hybrids of Haida Gold Gardens

Alan Campbell

Location, location, location! To any A.R.S. member fortunate enough to have attended a Chapter meeting offering Harry Wright as the evening speaker, his mantra concerning the cultivation of rhododendrons will be a familiar litany, and location is what epitomizes the excellence of Harry's and Gwen's piece of Eden, Haida Gold Gardens in the town of Courtenay within Vancouver Island's Comox Valley.

Harry Wright began hybridizing during the late 1980's. His desire was to produce plants that extended the bloom time of yellow flowering rhododendrons. His initial work produced the 'Courtenay Royals' or the 'Courtenay Five' as they have become collectively known. The first plant named was 'Courtenay King' and *R. auriculatum* hybrid which had actually been purchased by Harry as the true species. Though showing many characteristics of its seed parent once it bloomed its claimed birthright was disproven. 'Courtenay Queen' and 'Courtenay Princess' both come from a crossing of 'Haida Gold' x 'Golden Star'. Each plant is a good yellow and bloom a month apart, the 'Princess' in April followed by the 'Queen' opening in May with some slight fragrance. 'Courtenay Lady' ('Ladybird' group x 'Enchanted Evening') was next followed up with 'Courtenay Duke' ('Madame Guillemot' x 'Gomer Waterer'). The Courtenay moniker was used once more in the naming of 'Courtenay Gold' ('Haida Gold' x 'Crest'), striving again for a stronger yellow.

Mount Washington is a world renowned skiing destination which at a mile high is a prominent feature overlooking the town of Courtenay. To the South West looms another peak, Mount Albert Edward, a cherished goal for seasoned hikers and climbers. Lying between these two spectacular crags is Forbidden Plateau, a year round family playground for winter sports and summer camping leaving the shoulder seasons for questing naturalists into the sub-alpine.

A number of stories in legend and lore venture to explain how Forbidden Plateau came by its name but I'll recount the one that has more relevance to this article.

Much like the Highland Scottish Clans of old, the diverse tribes of the Coast Salish First Nations were well known to battle each other when not united against some foreign invader. The K'omoks tribe of the Comox Valley, as legend has it, were forewarned of an approaching raiding party of the Southern Qu'wut'sun (Cowichan) tribe. Armed with this foreknowledge the K'omoks sent their women and children up into the high country to be safely hidden. At the end of hostilities and safety had returned the men of the tribe climbed to the plateau to bring their families back home. In spite of a long and exhaustive search of the various meadows and along the many stream and lake shores no sign of the women and children could be found. They had disappeared! The search continued until the first snows winter began to fall and as the white silence settled on the plateau it began to turn pink. The men returned from the plateau forever calling it an evil and forbidden place.

It was Harry's interest in First Nation's lore which provided the name for his hybrid of 'Courtenay Queen' x *R. fortunei*. A compact plant that first bloomed as a six year old opening white, somewhat disappointed Harry passed it by only to come upon the plant again a week later and seeing it had turned a blushed pink, 'Forbidden Plateau' it became.

A fourth hybrid coming out of the 'Haida Gold x 'Golden Star' group has been given the name 'Paradise Meadows'. A so declared area at the north end of Forbidden Plateau as it ponders the rise up the slope of Mount Washington gave Harry the name. After eighteen years of evaluation the plant has grown to only three feet high by two and one half feet wide. 'Paradise Meadows' further differs from its sisters in that the yellow flowers are tinged

amber on the outside and bloom early May between 'Courtenay Princess' and 'Courtenay Queen'.

In the spring of 2011 Harry proposed to the members of the North Island Chapter a 'Name that rhodo' contest. Harry had concluded his evaluation of a new hybrid and was in need of a suitable name. The only provisions were that the name again commemorate a feature of the Comox Valley and also allude to the diminutive nature of the plant. Chapter member Adela Smith submitted the winning name and gratefully accepted as her reward a copy of the hybrid newly named 'Beaufort Gem' (R. argyrophyllum var. nankingense 'Chinese Silver' x 'Pygmy'). Beaufort being the name of the mountain range to the south west of the Comox Valley.

If one wishes, the Beaufort mountain range could be viewed as the thoracic region on the spine of Vancouver Island. Unfortunately such a view would place our Provincial Parliamentary seat in a rather delicate and unsavory position. I digress. Apologies!

Harry's dedicating the names of his hybrids to local geographical features took a back seat to adoration and respect when naming his next three plants. Taking pollen from his own 'Courtenay Queen' and placing it onto 'Ring of Fire' has produced an exceptional plant of fine bearing and colouration, as one would expect from such a crossing. Harry chose to name this lovely plant after his wife of 55 years, Gwendolyn Wright. The 'Haida Gold' x 'Golden Star' seedlings produced yet another selection now named 'Iona Cee', named for Iona Campagnola the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia from 2001 to 2007. 'Iona Cee' is similar to her sister seedlings but blooms a month later in mid-June. In the naming of the third plant {(R. fortunei x R. decorum) x R. diaprepes var. 'Gargantua'}, in honour of the Queen Mother, Harry needed to receive Royal permission. The name needed to reflect the royal personage as well as being unique to the genus rhododendron. 'Queen Empress' was mutually agreed upon. When King

George VI ascended the British throne his wife Elizabeth became Queen Consort along with numerous other titles from throughout the commonwealth, one of which was Queen Empress of India.

Being familiar with Haida Gold Gardens I am aware that there are more, as yet unnamed, hybrids still under evaluation growing in the test field outside the garden proper. Hopefully someone will continue these evaluations as sadly on November 3, 2011, Harry Wright heard the owl call his name. many rhododendron growers will now never have the good fortune to come to know the man who produced the garden plants we enjoy, the hybrids of Haida Gold Gardens.

Please allow me to pass the pen now to Harry and have him share a last little calyx of rhodo wisdom. "If you find a rhododendron becoming somewhat unruly within its allotted space, grab your secateurs and just give it a little attitude adjustment."

We thank Glen Jamieson, the editor of the ARS Journal for permission to reprint this article from the Journal.

Rhododendrons on a Western Shore

In a recent issue of the newsletter, I recommended this small booklet that was published by the Victoria Rhododendron Society. It consists of a series of chapters in which various authors discuss their views on growing rhododendrons on the island. I subsequently discovered that it is not in the CVRS library and I had borrowed it from the CV Garden Club one. As this booklet is an important historically, I am wondering if any of our members have a copy that they would be willing to donate to our own library. If so, please let Dixie Mueller or myself know.

Ian E. Efford

Visiting Ken Gibson

Ian Efford

Ken Gibson's garden in Tofino is famous for the large number of mature rhododendrons crowded into a relatively small garden. Most people see it during the height of blooming but, in doing so, miss some of the early bloomers. Shirley and I decided to go down early this year in March which involved a certain risk as Sutton Pass, the pass over to the west coast, can be rather exciting in spring. True to form, the snow depth was very high but the road itself was clear. Instead of snow we had to contend with a torrential downpour in each direction as we passed over the highest point in the pass. We were very lucky to find that the weather in Tofino was cloudy but dry while we toured Ken's garden and that of his late mother.

Both gardens had rhododendrons in full bloom but the *R. macrabeantum*, in particular, was magnificent as was his *R. sinogrande* Daphne's Legacy.



Ken and Peter Falk



Ken Gibson and R. macrabeantum



R. sinogrande Daphne's Legacy

Two other plants that attracted attention:



Princess Abkhazi



Promise of Spring

It should also be noted that rhododendrons were not the only plants in flower at this time. The ground, in Ken's mother's garden was densely covered in *Erythronium revolutum* that was originally collected in the wild near the top of Sutton Pass.

When we left, Ken was discussing the raising by hand of some of the larger rhodos in his garden as they were beginning to sink into the mulch with their weight. As we were in a hurry to get back across the pass before dark, I did not offer to help with this task!

Thanks Ken for showing us your magnificent garden.



Erythronium revolutum

Early Spring Bloomers

Bernie Dinter said “On March 20th, I visited the University of Victoria Finnerty Gardens. The most impressive show was *R. calophytum* at peak bloom.”



David Annis said “*R. Vellereum* is hardy to –5 degrees. It has been blooming in my garden for the last three weeks of March. Dark green narrow leaves up to 10 cm long. Underside of leaf has white and fuzzy indumentum, hence the name “vellereum” meaning fleecy. Bell-shaped rosy-pink flowers to about 3 cm. long”.



Snow Lady: From a cross of *R. leucaspis* and *R. ciliatum*. Grows to 30 inches (75 cm). Hardy to –5 degrees. Starting to bloom March 30th. White flowers. Soft, fuzzy, green leaves. Does best in shade where frost does not damage blossoms.

David Annis

The Propagation Group

Anyone interested in propagation of rhododendrons should attend Dennis Bottemiller's lecture at our regular meeting this next Wednesday [2nd May]. He is one of the world's leading propagators and roots around 40,000 cuttings a year at the Rhododendron Specie Botanic Garden.

It is proposed to change the organization of the propagation group to the following:

June - this will be an introductory meeting where the methods of propagation are outlined and we review the equipment or facilities required for getting started.

July - we will visit a large garden where permission has been granted for us to take deciduous and evergreen azalea cuttings.

October - Ken Webb will hold another whole day meeting where the details of propagation are discussed in depth and cutting will be taken from his garden and raised in his propagator. [See detail of this meeting below]

November - this will be another visit to a garden to take cuttings of the larger rhododendrons.

March - visits to the gardens of members will be arranged so that they can be advised on how the cuttings are developing and the steps taken to transfer them to pots.

It is suggested that, if you see particular plants that you wish to propagate, you make sure that they are tagged so that they can be found easily when you wish to take cuttings.

Propagation Workshop

The Victoria Propagating Group is going to hold another Propagating Workshop. This time it will be on October 13th, 2012. Again it will be at Madeleine & Ken's house – 5008 Old West Saanich Road, Saanich, B.C. This will be a hands on type of thing where everyone will be able to choose cuttings and actually stick them in our propagator. We will be working mostly outside and in the garden, so warm and dry clothes will be necessary. Talks and discussions will include most of the local propagators and hybridizers. The charge will be \$25 and will include a hot lunch and coffee breaks. We will start around 9:30

am to give people from the mainland and up island time to get here. We hope to finish with an early dinner at a local restaurant (not included) to give enough time for everyone to get home if they have to.

For registration and questions email Ken & Madeleine at kenwebb@live.ca or phone 250-744-1785.

Please register early because we do have limited space.

Victoria Propagating Group



Cowichan Valley
Rhododendron Society

2011-2012 Executive

Past President: David Annis

President: Ian Efford

(efford@shaw.ca 250597-4470)

Vice President: Sandra Stevenson

(pinchofherbs@shaw.ca 250-748-557)

Secretary: Leslie Bundon

Treasurer: Bill Dumont

Membership: Marie Jacques

Members at Large

Bernie Dinter, Joe Hudak, Elaine Kitchen,
Christopher Justice

Convenors

Sunshine: Mary Gale

Tea: not filled

Raffle: Hilda Gerrits

Club Liason: Alan Campbell

Library: Dixie Mueller

Programme Co-ordinator: Alan Campbell

Website and Newsletter Desktop Publisher: Contractor-
Mary-Lynn Boxem

Newsletter Editor: Ian Efford

History: Mona Kaiser (pending) and Liz Murray

Garden Tours: not filled

Plant Sale: the team

Facility Liason: Roy Elvins

Christmas Party: The team

Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

Programme for 2011-2012

7:30 pm at St John's Anglican Church

163 First St, Duncan, BC V9L 1R1

(1st and Jubilee)

September 7	Siggi Kemmler and Ken Webb "Rhododendron Nurseries in North Germany"
October 5	Bill McMillan "Selected English Gardens and Birds"
November 2	Gerry Gibbens "The Rhododendrons at VanDusen Gardens"
December 7	Christmas Party
February 1	Bill Terry "The Perfect Garden: Plant Hunting in Tibet" Co-Sponsored with the Cowichan Valley Garden Club
March 7	Geoff Ball "Milner Garden and its Rhododendrons"
March 20	District 1 Executive Meeting
April 4	Bill Bischoff "A Prize Winning Garden in the Making"
May 2	Dennis Bottemiller, Rhododendron Species Botanic Garden "Variables in Propagation of Rhododendron Cuttings"
May 5	Garden Fair and Rhododendron Sale
June 16	Summer Picnic