

# Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

## Newsletter

Volume 30:3 April 2019

### President's Message

Spring! And with a vengeance!

It is hard to believe that last week we were wearing scarves and mittens, and now many of us are seriously considering shorts. Flowers have appeared almost instantly and crocuses are sharing the stage with daffodils, the anemones materialized overnight, and even the tulips are racing to the sky. Everything is happening at once, and blooms that ordinarily wouldn't be seen dead with the others, or perhaps the only way we *would* ordinarily see them together, are happily blooming side by side. I fear it will be a highly compressed season.



Springtime in Al and Liz Muray's garden, April 2018  
Photo: Verna Buhler

Garth Wedemire Presentation:  
"Wales Journey"  
Wed, Apr 3 @ 7:30pm  
(More details on page 2)

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Vancouver Island recently played host to Ole Jonny Larsen and his wife Kari from Norway, the Leader of the Scandinavian Rhododendron Society. It was a wonderful visit; his talks were very informative, and we discovered how much there is in common amongst gardening and rhododendron enthusiasts. Many thanks to Don and Louise Loewen for showing him around their garden, Diane Allen for putting on a wonderful lunch, and Al and Liz Murray for hosting the Larsens. I think they went away with a good impression of the Cowichan Valley and Vancouver Island despite barely a rhododendron in flower.

It remains to be seen how much damage there actually was due to our frigid February. Some plants show the damage immediately and with great drama, turning brown and bronze before

blackening and immediately dropping everything – that would be our Mediterranean type plants. Others fool us into thinking all is well by their cheerful manner, green leaves, and appearance of rude good health until they attempt to flower, or it warms up, and they suddenly discover they can't support the pretense any longer and keel over. This is possibly more annoying because they have kept our hopes buoyed with false promises only to let us down at the last moment. However displaying a bit of faithlessness of my own, I confess I often mourn but briefly before gazing at the empty spot and immediately planning its successor.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Barrie Agar, President

## Guest Speaker: Garth Wedemire

### ***“Wales Tour 2018”***

**Wednesday, April 3, 2019 at 7:30 pm**

**Garth** Wedemire first joined the Vancouver Rhododendron Society in 1975, and remains a member to this day. He was also one of the founding members of the Fraser Valley Rhododendron Chapter. Garth is the recipient of two Bronze medals – one from the Vancouver Chapter and one from the Fraser Valley Chapter. He received a Silver Medal from the American Rhododendron Society in 2013. His love of the genus rhododendron is manifested in his plant-hunting travels to Nepal and China and his visits to many gardens throughout Canada, the U.S., New Zealand, and Great Britain. He is an avid photographer and chronicler of species rhododendrons as well as being a Board member of the Rhododendron Species Foundation.



Garth lives with his wife Sue in Comox. He is always ready to set a new cutting, to create a new garden bed, to mentor anyone interested in growing rhododendrons or a myriad of other plants, and to read any book on plants and plant-hunters. As a life-long learner, Garth is keen to learn from others; as a life-long teacher, he always sharing his practical know-how with anyone interested.



# Gardens of Wales



The National Botanic Garden of Wales is helping to grow the gardeners of the future with two new apprenticeships in botanical horticulture.

Photo courtesy of botanicgarden.wales

**Clyne Gardens** is a woodland and bog garden, well run by the City Council. Clyne Gardens contains varied National Collections of plants set in beautiful parkland, with features such as a Japanese bridge, Admiral's Tower and the magnificent Clyne Castle. There are panoramic views of Swansea Bay.



Clyne Gardens is a woodland and bog garden

Photo courtesy of gardenvisits.com



***Rhododendron ambiguum***

Photo: Garth Wedemire,  
April, 2006 Agassi B.C.

# Letter *from the Editor*



Hi Friends,

We will get together soon: we'll volunteer, work hard and have a great deal of fun at the Garden Fair; we may visit each others' gardens; perhaps, if we get organized, we will participate in a Garden Tour or two!

A wake up moment occurred for me when the Expert Panel, in a knowledgeable team assessment of a sample of a branch of a struggling plant from Dorothy's garden, decided that the plant might be suffering from *Phytophthora*. *The plant looked similar to one or two of mine!* I realized that I might be glibly ignoring *Phytophthora*, whatever it is, and in doing that could be putting my garden at risk. **Thanks to Ian you will find an informative section on this important concern in this issue.**

April and May are busy gardening months. There are many plant sales and garden tours to attend. And, of course, **the red apron event!!** We need so many of you **to volunteer on Friday and Saturday, April 26 and 27<sup>th</sup>!** And importantly, **those plant divisions you have generously been setting aside---thank you!**

Next month, look for interesting snapshots of the Ole Jonny Larsen Presentations and Tour, a visit to a garden in Sweden, valuable tips from Glen Jamieson for planting your recently purchased plants, along with important practices to avoid root girdling that causes rhododendrons and trees to suffer instead of thrive.

Please send photos of what is happening in your gardens for the next newsletter. Hopefully, your garden is showing its resilience to winter conditions. Please share those triumphs with your fellow club members!

See you soon!

Verna Buhler



***Rhododendron* 'Maureen' in Al and Liz Murray's garden**  
Photo: Verna Buhler

*This highly informative article was published earlier in the January 2009 CVRS newsletter. Ian Wright wrote the article specifically for the newsletter when Ian Efford arranged his speaking tour of BC.*

*Ian Efford also contacted Kelly Hrywkiw for permission to print her recently published article on *Phytophthora*, which follows Ian Wright's article.*

*"I found the article interesting because it shows that the problem is far wider than the earlier articles suggest. There are other species out there and more will be coming in as plants are imported, especially from the tropics." Ian*

## ***Phytophthora ramorum & kernoviae***

### **(Sudden Oak Death)**

### **A Global Problem**

**Ian Wright <sup>1</sup>, Garden Adviser, The National Trust <sup>2</sup> in Devon & Cornwall**

*Phytophthora ramorum* was first discovered along the west coast of the USA in the 1990's (originally drought was blamed for large scale tree mortality) where a close relation of our own UK, *Phytophthora ramorum*, had and is still devastating the American Tan Oak population along with many other species.

The disease was first noted in the UK in 2003, it was initially picked up mainly on *Viburnums* and *Rhododendrons* then while testing for *Phytophthora ramorum* in Cornwall a new more aggressive pathogen was identified. (Subsequently named as *Phytophthora kernoviae*).

The initial worry was, and indeed still is, the risk of spread and consequent damage to our native plant communities and woodlands. Recent outbreaks of the diseases on a UK heathland native species, *Vaccinium myrtillus* (UK Bilberry), has highlighted the concern. However the main damage at present is being caused to historic plant collections.

### **What is *Phytophthora ramorum***

*Phytophthora* is a fungus-like disease pathogen; it belongs to a group of organisms known as *oomycetes*. *Oomycetes* were thought until recently to be fungi as they spore and have hyphae. DNA analysis in the 1990's indicated that they were more closely related to the algae groups (diatoms and brown algae in particular). They have been placed in a separate taxonomic kingdom part of the algae community '**Chromista**', as opposed to a fungi kingdom member. Therefore *Phytophthora ramorum* is 'fungal like'.

*Phytophthora ramorum* spores are aerial dispersed within water particles. Although both *P. ramorum* and *P. kernoviae* are primary pathogens, another effect of a high inoculum levels is the loss of beneficial microrhizal fungi, and/or increase of other infections such as Honey Fungus may well be more damaging on weakened plants. A main

<sup>1</sup> and <sup>2</sup> – see page 11



sporulating host occurs in both the UK and USA in large numbers, *Rhododendron ponticum* and Californian Bay Laurel respectively. Reducing the main host and its huge bio mass could help reduce risk of increased outbreaks.

### The Main Hosts in the UK

- *Rhododendron sp*
- *Viburnum sp*
- *Magnolia sp*
- *Michelia sp*
- *Osmanthus sp*
- *Camellia sp*
- *Kalmia sp*
- *Pieris sp*

## Typical Symptoms

### Phytophthora ramorum on Rhododendron

Wilt and other fungal like symptoms on the lower areas of the plant, where the atmosphere is moist with less air movement.



## The Impact of Infection

### The impact in ornamental gardens

The two Phytophthora's, *ramorum* and *kernoviae* are both introduced pathogens to the UK from an as yet unexplored ecosystem. (Expeditions to China and Assam as yet have not yielded any positive results to where these pathogens reside naturally) Both pathogens are increasingly having a major impact on UK gardens particularly in but not confined to the wetter west of the country. A large number of gardens have had outbreaks within the National Trust. All predictions are: if unchecked the pathogens will increase within gardens (all UK gardens within 20 years) and susceptible woodland or native plant communities spreading to all parts of the UK with similar climatic conditions conducive for the disease. We should not forget the first cases within National Trust gardens were as recent as 2003 maybe an indication of the aggressive nature of the disease. The susceptibility list of species continues to grow therefore making it likely some gardens will lose their historic character. Unwanted views, loss of green screens, loss of shelter and microclimate loss are all outcomes of infection.







Unwanted views: loss of green screens

Loss of shelter: microclimate loss



Restricted Planting: what to plant as no susceptible species can be planted within 4 metres for 3 years

Containment notices from the British Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs state that no susceptible species can be planted within a 4 metre radius of an infected plant for 3 years.

Within the National Trust there are over 500 confirmed outbreaks within 17 gardens in 6 regions. The actual figure may be considerably higher. A number of gardens are losing their Rhododendron collections (Rhododendron's being highly susceptible) at an alarmingly fast rate, along with many other woody species. UK wide mapping of risk areas using temperature, rainfall, susceptible species clearly show large parts of the western UK

and some parts of the midlands and southern England in high risk situations. But the movement of plants within the nursery trade is one of the main known causes of spread.

## Phytophthora ramorum in Europe

[Sixteen] 16 countries in the EU have reported the disease. Considerable research work is underway in Germany and Belgium. An outbreak on Rhododendron has been identified outside of the Nursery industry in Holland.

## UK Forestry

*Quercus robur* is less likely to be infected but tests prove it can be colonized, but it did not produce lesions. Beech, Oak and *Acer* logs have been laid in high infection areas of the UK and it was found Beech will infect easily and within 10 weeks; less so *Quercus*, with no *Acer* infection using this method. It is generally thought thin barked trees in contact with infected *Rhododendron* are more likely to become infected. Bark infection cannot produce zoospores but can produce the survival spores known as *chlamydospores*. Unlike the USA the UK has not had significant losses of mature trees--- yet!

## Disease pathways

One main source of long distance disease spread is from the 'pathways' created by moving nursery stock. Until 2004, notable finds of the disease in the nursery industry had gone undetected. The present situation is:

### *Phytophthora ramorum*

- 828 (714 sites)
- 551 Eradicated
- 277 Ongoing

### *Phytophthora kernoviae*

- 58
- 4 Eradicated
- 54 Ongoing

Although painful financially the disease is easier to contain within a nursery situation.

## Causes of action to [lessen] risk!

**'One main path for long distance disease spread is through the movement of contaminated plant material'**

- Set up a Quarantine area for incoming plants

- Get to know the source nursery
- Monitor any incoming plants health for at least a month
- Limit access, designate separate tools, restrict water run off, and exclude animals and birds
- Plan ahead when buying to plant

**'Another main pathway for long distance disease spread is via soil carried on footwear, vehicles, machinery or animals'**

At infected sites:

- Wash and disinfect, boots, etc
- Advise garden staff to leave work footwear at the garden when leaving the site if possible
- Liaise with people that go 'off track' such as shooting parties, advising of the risk posed of spreading spores
- Restrict animal and people access away from any infected areas. Dogs on short leads, people to paths etc.

**'Good hygiene is a key way to effective disease control'**

- Clean all tools at the end of an operation or moving from area to area
- Wash, then disinfect
- Make all staff, volunteers and contractors aware of their responsibility of hygiene on site
- Restrict run off after washing tools
- Separate tools for clean and infected areas.

**'Care when watering can reduce the risk of introducing disease'**

- Recycled water or rainwater taken from infected sites can pose a risk.
- Ensure plants are not standing in water.
- Use overhead irrigation in a controlled measured way
- Check hose pipes for leaks regularly



**'In most cases, incoming plants will be the likely cause of a new outbreak outside of known disease hotspots'**

Know the major host and reduce its mass. In the case of the UK *Rhododendron ponticum*:

- Create a Quarantine area
- Stay vigilant, review your garden hygiene operations and keep up to date with new guidance
- Identify and record your most important plants then propagate / safeguard rare plants. Review and improve plant husbandry as necessary
- Adequate resources for stringent inspection of plants coming into the country

## Micropropagation

- Micro prop, provides one answer to protecting valuable ageing specimens
- Older, less vigorous specimens are notoriously difficult to 'prop' using traditional methods
- Micro-prop ensures a clean / vigorous product that can be grown on at unaffected sites.



***Rhododendron macabea***  
AM 1937 FCC 1938

Flowered at Trengwainton for the first time in the UK. Material from Kingdon Ward expedition to Assam in 1927. Propagated material from Trengwainton plants 2007 flora bud response.



## Good News!

Before and after shots of Arlington Court to demonstrate that a *Phytophthora ramorum* outbreak is not the end of the world!



## Some final thoughts!

Other factors to consider before major clearance

- Bats: Frequently navigate between large mature plantings, to and from feeding grounds.
- Habitat / Nesting Birds, etc: Disturbance and change to local environmental conditions. Archaeology: Removal may disturb valuable archaeological remains.

Fungicide: Agrifos/pentrebark may be a future answer to protecting our more valuable specimens, but a treatment program will need to be implemented which may last indefinitely.

## The need to protect our heritage

The National Trust will also be lobbying the UK government agencies for:

- Adequate funding to continue research into the distribution, management and genetic makeup of the two plant diseases.
- Increased funding for the clearance of infected and non-infected *Rhododendron ponticum* (major host and invasive species) throughout the UK.
- The formation of an Industry Working Party for Botanic and Heritage Gardens to discuss *Phytophthora* and other issues.

It's thought that around 90% of Fungi are yet to be discovered.

(One estimate is that we only have discovered 10% of fungi worldwide)

About 100 *Phytophthora*'s are known, up to about 500 are believed not known, and of these 20-30 may be significant aggressors!



Further information is available on the following sites:

Defra: Plant Health

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/planth/pramorun.htm>

Forestry Commission

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/WCAS-4Z5JLL>

More info on the EU Habitats directive:

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/england-protectedspecies#5>

California Oak Mortality, Task Force

<http://nature.berkeley.edu/comtf/>



## THE NATIONAL TRUST

A charity formed in 1895 to preserve places of historic significance and natural beauty forever for everyone

The National Trust manages over 220 historic gardens in the UK

The largest collection under one ownership in the world!

The gardens range from the 14th century to the 20th century - 700 years of plant collecting and breeding.

The National Trust manages some internationally renowned gardens such as Hidcote, Bodnant, Stourhead, Powis and Sheffield Park.

300 Historic Houses

704 Miles of Coastline

3.5 Million members

13 Million visits to Houses and gardens annually

4,000 Staff

39,000 Volunteers

## Ian Wright

Head Gardeners Cottage,  
Trenwainton, Madron,  
Penzance TR20 8RZ, UK

[ian.wright@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:ian.wright@nationaltrust.org.uk)

### June 2006-to Date

Regional Garden Support and Adviser- The National Trust (Devon & Cornwall) Chairman of Cornwall Phytophthora Working Group.

National lead on Phytophthora ramorum for The National Trust

### June 2000 – 2006

Head Gardener - The National Trust, Trenwainton Garden, Cornwall

### 1987 – June 2000

Head Gardener – The National Trust, The Wyne, Hampshire.

### 1983 - 1987

Full time Gardener, Tresco Abbey Garden, Isles of Scilly

### 1981- 1983

Royal Horticultural Society Garden, Wisley

# The Battle of Trees and Phytophthora

By Kelly Hrywkiw

"This article first appeared UBC's Faculty of Forestry's Branchlines [Vol 29 No 4, Winter 2018]."

In the picture to the right, dark veins are growing out of an infection point of an otherwise healthy leaf of big leaf maple. This is the early stage of infection by *Phytophthora*, a plant pathogen. In those dark veins and surrounding tissue, a battle is taking place. The *Phytophthora* pathogen first attempts to colonize host tissue by secreting hundreds of different molecules to evade host defenses; later, it will feed on the nutrients released once the host cells are dead.



Photo: Berni van der Meer

Luckily, the trees have ways to resist such attacks. They can create cellular environments that are unfavourable for the pathogen, detect and inactivate pathogen molecules before they can act, and trigger localized cell death to prevent pathogen spread. The process is multifaceted, dynamic, and involves the interaction between genes in the host and the pathogen.

As part of the BioSurveillance of Alien Forest Enemies (BioSAFE) project, Kelly Hrywkiw (a PhD candidate working with Dr. Richard Hamelin in the department of Forest and Conservation Sciences) is unraveling these mechanisms in trees, so that new tools can be developed to prevent and mitigate the impact of invasive pathogens.

*Phytophthora* (from the Greek: plant destroyer) is a group of microscopic organisms known as oomycetes – commonly referred to as water moulds. They are considered to be among the deadliest of

plant pathogens and have caused devastating repercussions worldwide, with a predicted global impact upwards of \$6B annually. On the surface, they resemble filamentous fungi, but they are more closely related to diatoms and seaweeds. This complicates their control, as they lack many traditional fungicide targets. *Phytophthora* can attack not only almost every agricultural crop but also hundreds of woody shrub and tree species found in forests. One big worry is that new *Phytophthora* species seem to be appearing at an accelerating rate due to an increase in plant trade globalization. In particular, the nursery trade of ornamental plants has been instrumental in the spread of many harmful and previously unknown *Phytophthora* species. Better detection and identification of these *Phytophthora* is part of the solution to prevent and contain these introductions.



One challenge is to predict which Phytophthora has the potential to create large-scale tree mortality. Sudden oak death is caused by *Phytophthora ramorum*, an aggressive pathogen that attacks over 130 different plant species and can invade both foliar and woody tissues – resulting in a large-scale reduction of forest biodiversity. By contrast, its close relative *Phytophthora foliorum* only causes minor foliar lesions on rhododendron. Clearly, forest Phytophthora do not share one standard mode of attack or pathogenicity profile. By understanding the underlying mechanisms that cause these differences we hope to have the ability to predict which species are detrimental, a pre-requisite to understanding which Phytophthora we should focus on for management.

Another big question is: which trees and shrubs are susceptible to Phytophthora? In the forests of California and Oregon, *Phytophthora ramorum* has substantial negative impacts on live oak, tanoak, California bay laurel, and rhododendron. However, some species such as red alder, commonly found near infected tanoak trees, remain entirely

unharmd. By identifying the molecular drivers of host susceptibility and resistance this information can be used to create more resistant cultivars.

By studying the infection of 10 BC tree species with 8 Phytophthora species, Kelly is beginning to shed light on these questions. As part of the BioSAFE project, genomics is used to identify which genes are expressed (“turned on”) when a Phytophthora attacks a tree, and in parallel, which tree genes are expressed in response to a pathogenic Phytophthora attack. Kelly anticipates that the identification of these genes will help predict the outcome of the battle of trees and Phytophthora. This information will be used to develop new biosurveillance tools to identify potentially harmful forest Phytophthora, and create more resilient tree species – helping protect our forests so that they may continue to grow and flourish.

For further information, contact Kelly Hrywkiw at [khrywkiw@gmail.com](mailto:khrywkiw@gmail.com) or Dr. Richard Hamelin at [richard.hamelin@ubc.ca](mailto:richard.hamelin@ubc.ca).



**Rhododendron 'Wild Ginger'** New from the master hybridizer, Jim Barlup of Bellevue, Washington. Large full trusses of light orange peach, against medium green foliage. It grows 3 ft. x 4 ft. wide in 10 years.



**Rhododendron 'Conroy'** Flower tubular-campanulate, deeply-lobed, 1½" across, waxy, orange tinged with rose. Held in loose trusses of about 6 pendent flowers.

## What does *Phytophthora* look like?

Photos courtesy of Missouri Botanical Gardens



Wilting of rhododendron (*Rhododendron*) due to *Phytophthora* root



*Phytophthora* root rot causing dead shoot on azalea (*Rhododendron*) rot



Red-brown discoloration in a rhododendron (*Rhododendron*) infected with *phytophthora*

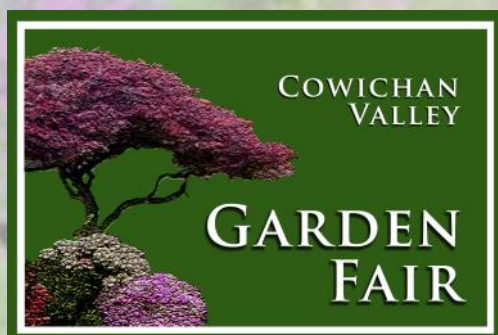


*Phytophthora* root rot on rhododendron (*Rhododendron*), upper leaf surface



*Phytophthora* root rot on rhododendron (*Rhododendron*), underside of leaf





# The Cowichan Valley's Largest Garden Fair

Saturday April 27, 2019  
10 am – 2 pm

**Cowichan Exhibition Grounds**  
**7380 Trans Canada Hwy, Duncan**

- Free admission-lots of free parking
- Come early for best selection!
- High quality plants from local BC nurseries at excellent prices
- More than 2000 rhododendrons for sale
- Rare, hard to find rhodos available
- Many Companion and other beautiful plants for sale
- Truss (flower) display of local rhodos in bloom
- Variety of unique vendors and garden suppliers
- Take advantage of expert advice on planting & maintaining your plants.
- We have carts for your convenience and we'll help load your plants.

**[www.CowichanValleyGardenFair.com](http://www.CowichanValleyGardenFair.com)**





## CVRS MEMBER PLANT SALES for the CVRS Garden Fair

A small reminder, and very special request

Please kindly and generously pot up your seedlings and divisions as you garden this spring.

Ideally your plants will have opportunity to settle in and establish new growth well before the Plant Fair in April.

Thank you so very much!!



Photos: Courtesy of Elisabeth Zoffman

## PARTICIPATE IN THE TRUSS COMPETITION



Become a truss competitor and become a truss competition winner!!





## Garden Fair Volunteers are Happy People!

As you know, the Garden Fair, which is our major fundraiser for operating the Society, relies on you for making it one of the best Garden Fairs on the Island. We still have some spaces for people to help. It is only a few hours but makes such a difference!

### Sport a Red Apron and a Happy Face!

**Putting up signs and banners:** We will have the “stick-in” signs at our April Meeting, for people to take home and post in areas near their homes. Attractive décor!

**CVRS Plant Table - Saturday 8 - 2:** One more person is needed to assist in receiving and pricing plants for this table. Spot the specials early!

**Truss Show Setup - Saturday 8:30 am:** Help Al and Liz receive and label trusses. Obviously, one the best jobs at the fair and who wouldn't want to do that?

**Cashiers 9:45 am - 2:00 pm:** Cashiers and tag collectors are needed. Count tags and totals for the cashiers. Basic counting and adding skills are the only requirements. It would be appreciated if cashiers would be willing to use their cell phones with squares.

**Free-spirited floaters:** If none of the above suit, it is always helpful to have unassigned floaters available to pick up any slack or give tiring people a quick break. Just a few short periods of assistance are always appreciated.

**Bits of clean-up at the end:** Just give a hand or help supervise. We have hired a setup and takedown crew, but there are many little jobs to complete before we all go home pleased and satisfied, . . .and tired.

**If you can lend a hand, please let us know at the meeting or contact me: [barrie.agar@shaw.ca](mailto:barrie.agar@shaw.ca)**





# **Cairnsmore Volunteer Gardeners**

## **ANNUAL PLANT SALE**

**Saturday, April 20, 2019**

**9 – 12 am**

**250 Cairnsmore Street**

**Duncan, B.C.**

**More than 500 plants for sale**

**Peonies - special focus this year**

**Wood crafted items: arbours, faerie doors, and other fun selections fabricated by members of the team**

**Master Gardeners** will be available to answer your questions.



**All funds are used for plants, soil, fertilizer, equipment, and repairs.**

This Island Health long-term care facility is home to 100 residents. Unlike most other facilities on Vancouver Island, provision has never been made for the garden at the care center, so volunteers do all the work, and raise the necessary funds through an annual plant sale.

**Thank you for your support**

# PLANTS TO LOOK FOR AT THE GARDEN FAIR

## Rhododendron 'Bodega Crystal Pink'

(*Rhododendron cilpinense* x *mucronulatum*  
'Cornell Pink')

Ali Morris mentioned that her *Rhododendron* 'Bodega Pink' had begun to bloom in early March! The snow was still on the ground around it. What a lovely encouragement a plant like this can be when all seems dreary.



## Rhododendron 'Rubicon'

By Don Wallace

*Drawn from the Eureka Rhododendron  
Chapter newsletter. Reprinted by permission*

I always say, "If you are going to buy only one rhododendron, buy *Rhododendron* 'Rubicon'. The main reason that I say this is because 'Rubicon' probably has the very best foliage of any rhododendron, but will also, quite often, bloom over an extended period of time, giving you color for March, April and even May.



Hybridized by R.C. Gorden of New Zealand, the cross is *Rhododendron* 'Noyo Chief' x *Rhododendron* 'Kilimanjaro'. This hybrid has inherited the glossy foliage from *Rhododendron* 'Noyo Chief', yet is a much smaller growing plant. Over time, 'Rubicon' will become 4 ft. tall x 6 ft. wide, with no stems showing. I have seen this plant used as a specimen for an entrance way as well as a foundation plant that will not overgrow the windows. *Rhododendron* 'Rubicon' can grow in full sun in Humboldt County, or in a shady area as well, always having lovely dark-green shiny foliage.





# 25th Annual Cowichan Family Life Garden Tour

Charity Fundraiser

Sunday, Mother's Day,  
May 12, 2019; 10am to 4:30pm

Tickets: \$25

A self-guided tour of 7 beautiful gardens

## Ticket Outlets

### **Duncan**

- Buckerfield's Supply Store
- Volume One Bookstore
- Jim's Pools and Spa
- Cowichan Family Life Assoc.

### **South Cowichan**

- Third Edition Gifts, Mill Bay
- Dinter Nursery Ltd

### **North Cowichan**

- Russell Farms Market & Garden Centre
- Sandpiper Garden & Glass

### **Nanaimo**

- Green Thumb
- Little Tree Garden Centre

### **Victoria**

- Elk Lake Garden Centre
- Dig This—Oak Bay
- Dig This—Broadmead



## "Chat in the Garden"

Master Gardeners at every garden to answer your gardening questions.

## Garden Tea

With musicians and artists  
Catering by VIU Culinary Arts Program

Presented by CFLA which continues to provide Cowichan Valley access to affordable or free counseling.

250-748-8281

<http://cowichanfamilylife.org>

Counselling Office:

#28—127 Ingram Street

Duncan, BC V9L 1N8



# Calendar of Upcoming Events



## CVRS MONTHLY MEETING SPEAKER LIST

**Wednesday, April 3, 2019**

Garth Wedemire and Sean Rafferty's Wales Journey

**Wednesday, May 1, 2019**

Barrie Agar, Ireland

## CVRS BOOK CLUB MEETING

**Thursday, April 18, 2019**

**4 pm at the CVRS Library; 3908 Cowichan Lake Road**

Please open the gate and drive right in. The gate is there only to keep dogs in and deer out --- never our friends! Coffee and snacks are provided.

**April 5 – 6, 2019**

The Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Garden Society Annual Spring Flower Show (Cadboro Bay United Church, Victoria [www.virags.com](http://www.virags.com))

**Thursday, April 11, 2019**

Margot Moser "*Native Plants*" Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Meeting

**Saturday April 13, 9 am to 2 pm**

Mill Bay Plantaholics Sale  
2836 Oceanside Lane, Mill Bay  
Proceeds from the sale will be divided between the Malawi Girls on the Move program & Somenos Transition House.

**Saturday April 20, 9 am – 12 pm**

Cairnsmore Volunteer Gardener Annual Plant Sale

**Sunday, April 28th – 10 to 1 pm**

NIRS Annual Rhodo Show & Sale: at KFN Hall on Comox Road.

**Thursday, May 9, 2019**

Graham Sakaki – Research and Community Engagement Coordinator for the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute (MABRRI). "*Mt Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve and Milner Phenology Project*" (Nanaimo Rhododendron Society)

**Sunday, May 12th – 10 am to 4 pm**

NIRS Annual Mother's Day Garden Tour: Six beautiful gardens to visit in the Courtenay area.

**The Vancouver Island  
Rock and Alpine Garden Society**

**ANNUAL SPRING FLOWER SHOW**

Friday, April 5; 1pm to 8pm

Saturday, April 6; 9am to 3pm

Public sale of member donated plants;  
11 am Saturday



Come to see rock and alpine, succulent, woodland and wetland plants. There will be plant and seed sale, door prizes, a silent auction, tea and more!

Cadbora Bay United Church  
2625 Arbutus Road, Victoria

Admission by Donation  
Visit our website [www.virags.com](http://www.virags.com)

**Useful Links:**

Cowichan Rhododendron Society:  
[cowichanrhodos.ca/](http://cowichanrhodos.ca/)

Victoria Rhododendron Society:  
[victoriarhodo.ca/index.html](http://victoriarhodo.ca/index.html)

Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society:  
[marsrhodos.ca/](http://marsrhodos.ca/)

North Island Rhododendron Society:  
[nirsrhodos.ca/ws/](http://nirsrhodos.ca/ws/)

The American Rhododendron Society:  
[rhododendron.org/](http://rhododendron.org/)

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society:  
[nanaimorhodos.ca](http://nanaimorhodos.ca)

Nanoose Bay Garden Club:  
[nanoosegardenclub.ca/](http://nanoosegardenclub.ca/)

Linda Gilkeson's website:  
[lindagilkeson.ca/](http://lindagilkeson.ca/)

Vancouver Island Rock and Garden Society:  
[virags.com](http://virags.com)

Linda Chalker-Scott  
<https://puyallup.wsu.edu/lcs/>



***Rhododendron 'Picobello'***

(Hachmann's Kabarett x Schneespiegel)



## 2018-19 Executive

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

Vice President: Ali Morris

Past President:

Secretary: Verna Buhler  
[Vlbuhler@shaw.ca](mailto:Vlbuhler@shaw.ca) 250-748-8889

Treasurer: Elaine Kitchen  
[y1880@yahoo.ca](mailto:y1880@yahoo.ca) 250-746-6419

Membership Chair: David Annis

Directors at Large:  
Diane Allen, Alan Campbell, Ron Martin,  
Elizabeth Zoffman

## Convenors

Sunshine: Mary Gale

Tea: Judeen Hendricksen

Raffle: Hilda Gerrits

Club Liaison: Alan Campbell

Library: Verna Buhler

Membership Recruitment: Peter Lewis

Program Committee Co-ordinator: Alan Campbell

History: Ian Efford

Garden Tours/Trips: Al Murray

CV Garden Fair: The Team

Facility Liaison: Roy Elvins

Christmas Party: The Team



## Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

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

<http://cowichanrhodos.ca>



April 27, 2019; 10 am - 2 pm

<http://cowichanvalleygardenfair.com>



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

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