

# Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

Newsletter

Volume 34:9

December 2023

## Message from the President

Hi Folks,

We are approaching midwinter and the shortest day of the year. This day has been marked for millennia by civilizations who by our standards were woefully ignorant or illiterate, and yet they understood the movement of the stars and suns and had structures that with stunning accuracy marked this day.

Plants understand day length, or perhaps more accurately, night length. Flowers are not initiated until nights have a certain duration, which is a signal to start the process. *Asters*, *Chrysanthemums*, some *Salvias*, and that seasonal red flag, the *Poinsetta*, are well known examples of plants that require longer dark nights. *Poinsettias* go into seclusion at the equinox where night and day are of equal length. They require absolute darkness for those 12 hours, and show their displeasure by not colouring up as well if exposed to any light "bleeding".

Fortunately, most of our garden plants are not that particular, at least not on the surface. Most shrub make their flowers in the preceding year, where they are at the mercy of heat, . . .

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## CVRS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday,  
December 2, 2023

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-----Banner Photo-----

*Merry Christmas!  
May your Season be Merry  
and White - if not white,  
then bright!*

Photo: Glenda MacPhee

cold, and the vagaries of rain, all of which can affect flower production. Most Rhododendrons have made their flowers by now, and then all we can do now is to hope we have a mild enough winter to not freeze the nascent flowers, or so warm the plant feels it can safely put on a show.

In the meantime, I am going to light the fire, pull out the seed catalogues, and dream of warmer longer days ahead.

‘Tis the season for giving!



“Cheque has been delivered and matching funds are a go!”

*Barrie Agar*

*“The Bylaw Committee, Barrie Agar, Elisabeth Zoffmann, Alan Campbell, and I are currently tweaking the CVRS bylaws to make them readable, relevant and consistent with the B.C. Societies Act.*

*We have almost completed our first draft of the bylaws, now written in plain English to make them more approachable for the guidance for our Chapter. After receiving some comments from individual committee members, we met personally and reviewed the bylaws clause-by-clause. This productive exercise will continue at our next meeting on 19 December. Following our completion of the draft in the new year, we will send it to the membership for review. We will then circulate the tweaked draft before asking members in good standing to ratify the revised bylaws. If you have any questions or suggestions about the process, please submit them to me.*

*Dorothy Kennedy* [Bushby.garden@gmail.com](mailto:Bushby.garden@gmail.com)

# CVRS Membership Renewal

## Fees for 2023 – 2024:

- **Adult Membership: \$40** (includes family at the same address)
- **Associate Membership: \$10**

## Payment Methods:

- **E-transfer** (preferred method as it goes directly into the CVRS bank account)  
Email to: [cowichanvalleyrhododendron@gmail.com](mailto:cowichanvalleyrhododendron@gmail.com)
- **Exact payment** at Wednesday Monthly Meetings: Submit a cheque or exact cash to David Annis, CVRS Membership Chair.
- **Mail a cheque payable to CVRS:** Mail to **David Annis, 5974 Tower Place, Duncan, B.C. V9L 0E1**
- **Deliver Payment to David Annis's address:** Contact David before leaving payment to ensure he is at home.  
**Call: (250-710-4945 cell)**

## PLEASE NOTE:

*"Present CVRS bylaws state that membership dues (to be paid on September 1<sup>st</sup>) are given a 90-day grace period before an individual is no longer considered a member-in-good-standing. This is so that David Annis or the Treasurer, Elisabeth Zoffmann, can send the correct amount of money to the American Rhododendron Society.*

*Thank-you,"*

*Dorothy Kennedy*

## Carrie Nelson

Thank-you,  
for accepting the position of  
*Sunshine Girl*

Carrie has sent condolences to the families of Roy Elvin and Ingeborg Wordsworth.

She will also send a card of support to Shirley Efford, who is, unfortunately, beginning radiation treatment at this time.







# CVRS Christmas Party!!

December 2<sup>nd</sup>

St. John's Anglican Church 12-3:00

Potluck- bring your favourite contribution.  
We won't judge. The club will provide libations.

Pub Quiz!

While we may not have a pub, we have questions.

Word Scramble

How well do you know your Rhododendrons?

Rhododendron Photo Competition!

Bring your best Rhodo Picture for fabulous prizes!

Bring an unwrapped gift <\$20.00 for a draw.  
Start the Christmas giving early.

Last but not least: Food Bank contribution. Bring item or preferably money (goes further) for donation to the local food bank. We may be celebrating a time of plenty but many in the Valley go without. Let's help make a better Christmas for all.

~ Mary Pike

## Letter from the Editor



Dear Friends,

I have had the fortunate experience of spending more than two weeks with an incredible woman. Yes, this has been an experience of my heart and mind, as I struggled to find words adequate to write a tribute for Ingeborg Woodsworth. As Barrie said, “It is difficult to write about someone who did so much.” And admittedly, I was also avoiding the reality of accepting that she was gone; I had not visited her for four months – four months during which I knew she struggled with sadness and loss of enthusiasm for life. She was bed-ridden, had fallen earlier that year and broken her hip, and was afraid she would fall again due to her visual impairment.

Gradually, over previous years, she had lost her vision due to macular degeneration. She explained that now she could not see anything clearly. All was a distorted blur. Ever an agile forest and gardening enthusiast, it was extremely limiting and isolating for Ingeborg.

Before the COVID years, when her loss of vision impaired her ability to drive from Lake Cowichan to CVRS meetings in Duncan, I would drive to Mayo Creek Gardens to pick her up. After a few months, however, she would graciously email that morning, to say she was a bit under the weather and had chosen to remain at home that evening. From sitting beside her at meetings, I realized from a few quiet comments, that there was little new for her to learn and that the evenings were tiring. However, the near hour that we spent in the car together were special for me. One simple question would stimulate a story that led to tangent after tangent of detailed information, to the point where I had completely lost track of our original topic. Ingeborg, however, would provide the answer to the question just as we arrived at our destination, St Andrew’s Hall, or her home. “*And so there you are, my dear,*” she would say as we pulled to a stop. I came to understand that she had a photographic memory, and therefore no answer needed to be simple. Life was much bigger than that.

As I trudged through the forest trails with my dogs, feeling low because Ingeborg was on my mind and I didn't have words to do her justice, I noticed a few mushrooms beside the trail. Pausing to look more closely, I noticed many more fungi; in fact, everywhere I looked there were more. I had taken several of Ingeborg's Mushroom Workshops in the past and realized I was beginning to hear her voice.

"My dear," she said, "you really must open your eyes. Come back here and look at what you missed." A brilliant smile, and twinkles in her eyes occurred just as readily when she offered praise for spotting something she said many would have missed.

Over the last two weeks, I took many photos of what I was seeing and realized how very much I wanted to show these to Ingeborg. I heard her voice instructing me about what the photos needed to include if I wished for her to identify them. I began taking pictures I knew she could use.



Ingeborg would have been delighted with the photo of the little creature peering from under the mushroom cap on the previous page.

The walks in the forest with Ingeborg on my mind were restorative and calming. She had left much with me to tuck in my heart. I have no doubt that she touched many people during her life; I was fortunate to be one of them.

The more I researched, the more I realized what a unique woman Ingeborg Woodsworth really was. She was ahead of her time and the article I was attempting to write became difficult for another reason; namely, her character was now so grand.

I humbly acknowledge my inadequacy in honoring a woman who was so strong, capable, determined and overflowed with life.

I am honored to be the one writing a tribute for her.

Verna





Turkey tail mushrooms on a log on Mt Prevost Photo: Verna Buhler

Had I been walking the trails of Mt Prevost with *Ingeborg Woodsworth* and we had come across this exotic grouping of turkey tails, I would have learned that *Trametes versicolor* has amazing medicinal properties and has been used around the world for centuries to treat various conditions.

Ingeborg would have explained that its most impressive quality is its tremendous effect on the immune system. Turkey tail contains a multitude of antioxidants such as phenols and flavonoids; in fact, in a sample extract, 35 different phenolic compounds and flavonoid antioxidants quercetin and baicalein were identified. Would I have understood what she was saying? No, but I would have been impressed.

She would have gone on to tell me about the *polysaccharopeptides*, PSP and PSK, and how they help suppress inflammations. And then another, CVG, that been shown to suppress the growth of certain types of cancers. Furthermore, turkey tail contains prebiotics and may positively impact gut bacterial balance. Turkey tail mushroom may improve insulin resistance, help fight pathogenic bacteria, reduce inflammation, treat HPV, and boost exercise performance.

So, a simple question such as “Is it a good mushroom?” would have yielded a comprehensive response. Ingeborg could have gone on to explain why fungi are considered a separate kingdom from green plants. I would have been walking with a talking encyclopedia.

*Unfortunately, instead of wandering damp forest trails or a garden with Ingeborg, I was on the trails with my dogs, searching for words to adequately describe this very special woman, because Ingeborg Woodsworth left us on September 15, 2023.*

*Thank you to David Annis and Barrie Agar for sharing some memories of Ingeborg. This tribute to her will surely be inadequate because it draws mainly from my own relationship with her.*

*Verna Buhler*



# INGEBORG WOODSWORTH

----- 9-Dec-1933 - 15-Sept-2023 -----

*"Very much larger than life"*





# Ingeborg Woodsworth, Renowned Mycologist

Ingeborg was originally from Berlin, Germany. As a young woman, she travelled to the Cowichan Valley to study botany and mycology. She found that the vegetation was three times as much as what she had studied in central Europe and the British Isles.

Ingeborg was intrigued by the variety of different fungi that grow in the Cowichan Valley. She noted the plentiful “swampy and moist areas” that were “the perfect habitat for mushrooms.”

*“I decided it would be my dream to retire here, and so I moved to the Valley and since then I have been teaching courses on mushrooms at Vancouver Island University campuses in the Island.”*

It was even more spectacular than she knew at the time. Ingeborg was pleased to discover that there are approximately three times as many mushroom varieties in the Valley as in central Europe where she was from. *In fact, Ingeborg counted 73 different varieties that had been collected during one of the festivals.*



Ingeborg didn't simply dream; she made things happen. She found some property just off Mayo Road that had not been logged since 1910. It bordered a provincial forest, and with the help of her husband she petitioned the provincial government and the logging industry to leave Block 33 of forest intact. She received a verbal agreement that while she continued to use the large section of forested land for education purposes it would not be logged.

Medical professionals in the Cowichan Valley soon became aware of her wealth of knowledge about fungi. She hadn't even moved into her house when a doctor in Duncan called for her help with a patient poisoned by mushrooms. The doctor said that he had contacted St Paul's Hospital for advice and was told that Ingeborg lived in the Valley, so she was the expert they needed. (James Goldie, 2016, *Lake Cowichan Gazette*)

*“I managed to save a number of people and dogs over the years,”* Ingeborg acknowledged.

On January 17, 2018, Robert Barron, wrote the headline:

### **“Lake Cowichan Salmon Mushroom Festival Calls it Quits”**

Barron wrote that *“the festival attracted hundreds of people each year who came to celebrate the large variety of mushrooms that grow in the Cowichan Valley, and the many species of salmon that are also here.”*

The popular two-day festival had been an annual event for 18 years.

It was the **“creation of mycologist Ingeborg Woodsworth”**. She explained that it had grown to be a two-day event held each September in Centennial Hall in Lake Cowichan. The event included intricate displays of mushroom, speakers and tours, a full kitchen operation, and two floors of vendors. Its mission was to share and educate the public about Vancouver Island’s natural resources.

Ingeborg explained that she was now 84 years old, and the festival had grown too big for her to handle. She told Barron that, *“since this was [her] baby since day one, it was time to end it.”* She explained, however, that she planned to continue with her mushroom workshops because people depended on her for those.

***“I expect that I’ll be into mushrooms as long as I live.”***

Ingeborg would have been as pleased with the forest treasures this fall.

Foragers are thrilled with the varieties and abundance of mushrooms that they are finding in the forests this year. It is one of the best in years!

Photos below: Verna Buhler





# Ingeborg, Mayo Creek Gardens and the Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

Photos from a 1990's CVRS photo album



**MAYO CREEK GARDENS AND NURSERY**

Mayo Creek Gardens is a 3-season display garden and nursery near Lake Cowichan on Vancouver Island, B.C.

- A truly unique five-acre garden featuring a harmonious blend of indigenous Cowichan Valley plants and compatible horticultural favourites—a showcase of gardening with nature and wildlife
- Plant sales, specializing in rhododendrons, perennials, and native plants
- "Afternoon Tea" and light snacks served in the garden on sunny summer Sundays
- Workshops or group tours provided by special arrangement

**WE GUARANTEE YOU WILL LEAVE WITH NEW IDEAS AND INSPIRATION!**

**HOURS**  
Sundays (10 AM to 5 PM), June through September  
Other days by appointment—  
PHONE (250) 749-6291

**ADMISSION**  
\$4 per person (refunded with plant sales)

**CONTACT INFORMATION**  
PO Box 351, 6596 McLean Road,  
Lake Cowichan, BC V0R 2G0  
Phone/fax: (250) 749-6291  
E-mail: mayocreekgardens@shaw.ca

**WHERE IS MAYO CREEK GARDENS?**  
From Duncan, B.C., drive west along Highway 18, turning left on the Skute 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.

Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

**Strawberry Tea & Garden Tour**

**Date** Sunday May 25th  
**Time** 1:00 to 4:00 pm  
**Place** Mayo Creek Gardens & Nursery  
**Address** 6596 McLean Rd  
Lake Cowichan

The Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society invites you to a  
**Strawberry Tea & Garden Tour**  
at Mayo Creek Gardens  
Sunday May 25th to

Flower arrangements by  
Joyce Gammie

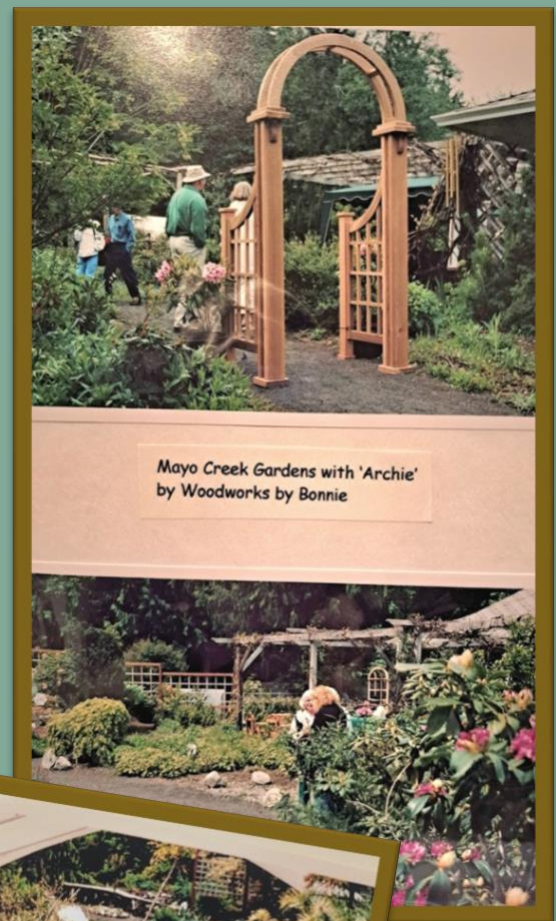
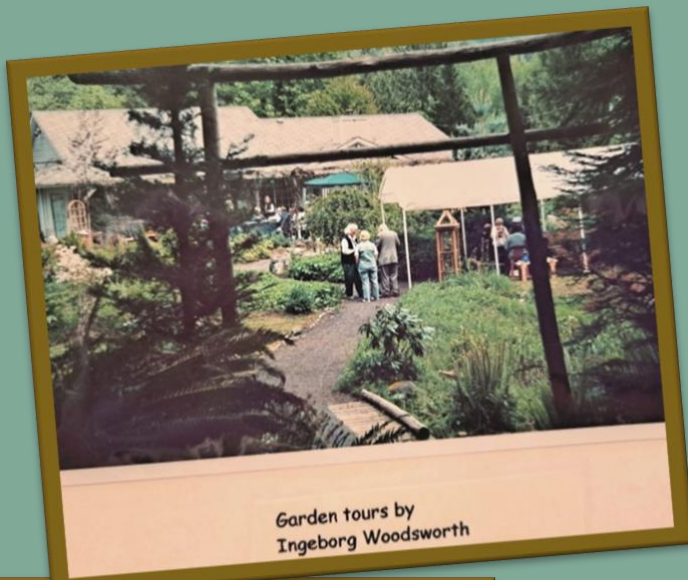


Ingeborg always did things on a grand scale. She had grand visions and believed that dreams could become realities. She had energy, enthusiasm, organizational and persuasive skills to move forward.

She created Mayo Creek Gardens and Nursery. As the pamphlet in the photo above indicates, it was a busy and successful garden and nursery. She seemed often ahead of her time:

**Mayo Creek Gardens and Nursery was a “truly unique five-acre garden featuring a harmonious blend of indigenous Cowichan Valley plants and compatible horticultural favourites—a showcase of gardening with nature and wildlife.”**

How many speakers have we heard in the past few years promoting this “fresh” perspective in gardening? Ingeborg did so at least twenty-five years ago.





**Mayo Creek Gardens and Nursery** was a 3-season display garden and nursery. Ingeborg offered tours, education, workshops, Sunday afternoon tea and goodies and a wedding venue.

She hosted Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society events, garden tours, summer picnics, and Strawberry Tea events complete with musicians providing live entertainment from her gazebo “stage”.

David Annis remembers that Ingeborg “*was big into Hachmann hybrids and sold lots at the Garden Fairs we had at the Exhibition Grounds that she grew in her nursery near Skutz Falls.*” He suggested including some photos of rhododendrons of her favourite hybridizer.

I first met Ingeborg at the Duncan Farm Market where she had a stall featuring rhododendrons from her nursery. I was at that time shy and hesitant, but because she was so engaging, I always remembered her and parts of our conversation.

“*Oh, my dear girl,*” she said her eyes sparkling.  
“*Once a teacher, always a teacher. I know that from personal experience.*” She went on to invite me to the Sunday afternoon tea that she was hosting the next day. I attended and she fussed over me. Interestingly, I won the draw that day for a “*very special rhododendron*”, ‘Kalinka’. Much later, I learned that it was a Hachmann hybrid.



***Rhododendron 'Kalinka'***  
Photo: Richie Steffen / Great Plant Picks



***Rhododendron 'Goldbukett'***  
Photo: Verna Bühler

As I researched Hans Hachmann hybrids this week, I realized that Ingeborg had highly influenced my early rhododendron purchases. I grow approximately a dozen Hachmann hybrids in my garden, and they are some of my favourite plants, among those, a *R. wardii* cross, *Rhododendron* ‘Goldbukett’. Ingeborg told me I would love it, and I do. I expect that most of my other purchases were from her.

## Ingeborg Woodsworth

Served on the CVRS Executive in a variety of roles  
She accepted the roles of Vice-President and the Newsletter Editor  
Ingeborg was the CVRS President from 2006 to 2007  
She was awarded the Silver Bowl in 2007  
The Bronze Medal in 2008

# Lake Cowichan Rhododendron Memorial Park

*"Ingeborg was a prime mover in getting the Lake Cowichan Rhododendron Memorial Park going,"* said David Annis, who accepted the position of CVRS President in 2008, the year following Ingeborg's term.

She was instrumental in gaining the ARS Endowment Grant and coordinating efforts with the Town of Lake Cowichan and Lake Cowichan Communities in Bloom. She arranged for the Town of Lake Cowichan to commit, in perpetuity, to the maintenance of the project.

Ingeborg Woodsworth wrote an article published in

## **JARS v62n3 – Cowichan Valley Chapter Helps Develop Public Gardens**

Following is an excerpt from the article:

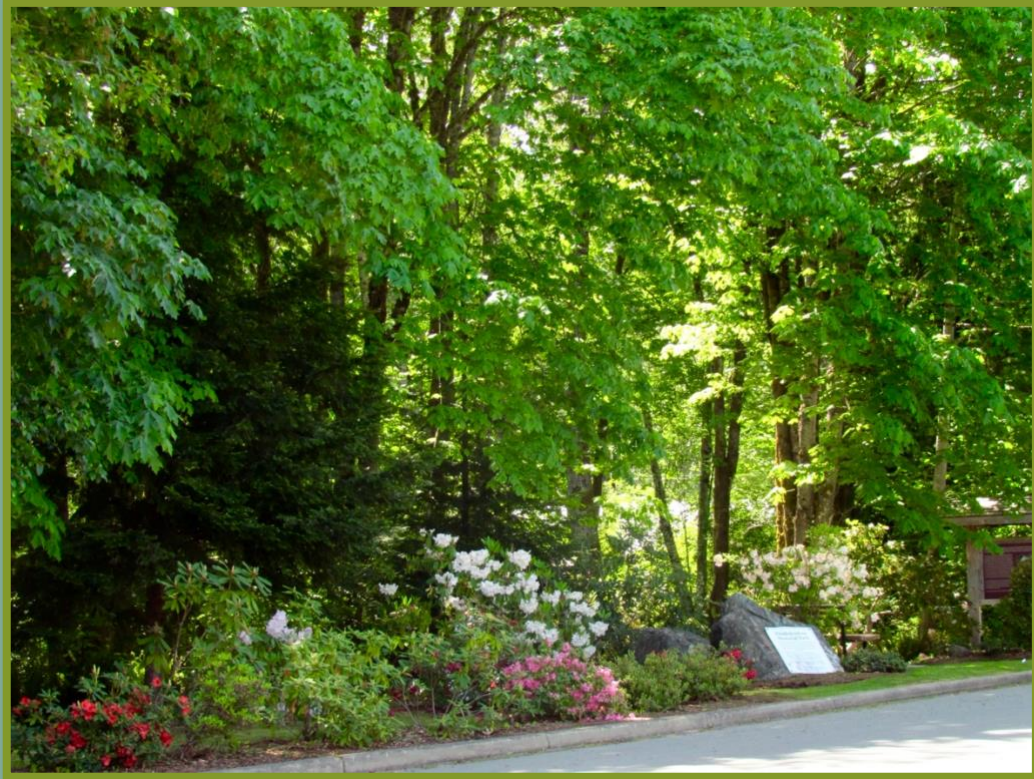
*"We have begun Phase 1 (approximately 2 acres) of the Lake Cowichan Rhododendron Memorial Park project with original plants and some propagated species and hybrids. These come from the main core of rhododendrons and azaleas at the University of Victoria/Finnerty Gardens. They were originally transplanted to University of Victoria from the university Endowment Lands at Marble Bay near lake Cowichan, Vancouver Island, BC. The Simpson family, who had cultivated rhododendrons with the Stoker family, endowed the property at Marble Bay to the University of Victoria. This property is considered to be one of the cradles of the Pacific Coast for rhododendron hybrids. The history of these rhododendron plants, their origins, and their propagation, was published in spiral bound booklets and were available at the grand opening of the park during the Lake Cowichan heritage Days in May.*

*There is the potential of having five phases to this project. We have available to us land on both sides of Point Ideal Road, as well as the boulevards, in which to plant specimens. This property provides a very unique setting for rhododendron culture with its humidity, uneven ground, and established trees. Phases 2-4 will encompass four manageable plots of land, which with Phases 1 and 5 will make up the entirety of the park."*

**One of the stunning rhododendrons growing in the Lake Cowichan Rhododendron Memorial Park.**







The stunning Lake Cowichan Rhododendron Memorial Garden in May 2020. Photos were taken upon a request made by Ian Efford who planned to create a pamphlet that guests could use to help identify the rhododendrons that were now only numbered.

Photos: Verna Buhler







In early spring of 2016, when I visited Ingeborg to interview her for an update of the Lake Cowichan Memorial Garden, she met me looking as sharp and classy as ever. We wandered through parts of her garden, and although winter still reigned, the evidence of a hardworking, creative gardener was apparent around every curve and corner. She explained to me the elements that were necessary for a lovely garden – curves that led guests to meander and linger; arches and structures to draw eyes to multiple levels and surround the guest with plants; water, water plants, and a variety of bridges to calm the spirit and create a tranquil retreat.



**A zigzag bridge made of natural elements to encourage guests to practise the Zen principles of mindfulness, by slowing down and becoming aware of their surroundings.**

Photos: Verna Buhler, May 2016



Ingeborg would have been 86 years of age when last she set up a stall at the Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society Plant Fair at Mellor Hall. It was the last Plant Fair before COVID changed practices. She was as dynamic as always, a standout in her red clothing and her enthusiastic and confident manner.

That day, Ingeborg sold the *Rhododendron augustinii* behind her in the photo with Ian Efford. She said she had brought along her prize *rhododendron* as a display that would help her sell the other plants on her table.

However, she whispered mischievously to me, *"That gentleman really wanted it. He made me an offer I simply couldn't refuse. In any case,"* she added, *"I know how to grow more."*

Ian and Ingeborg, both outstanding in intelligence and wit, often enjoyed the intellectual challenge of their conversations.

Barrie Agar remembers her from the early nineties when she *"would sweep into the nursery [Barrie] worked in at the time. Always a character. Very much larger than life."*



*Ingeborg Woodsworth - very much larger than life*

# RHODODENDRA

*A fabulous gift from John Verwolf!*

## The Life & Death of Hirsutum Now its Resurrection as Rhododendra

Many of us couldn't believe the wealth of information and photos that became available on Hirsutum. It was too good to be true. It required a continuing web presence and constant maintenance. In 2021, it lost its web presence and had lost maintenance in 2015. It was just announced that Canadian web-guru John Verwolf has created [Rhododendra](http://www.rhododendra.com) which is a functional replacement for Hirsutum. The new website is at <http://www.rhododendra.com>



John Verwolf

On June 4, 2009, a website, Hirsutum.info, was created by Herman van Ree in the Netherlands. The goal of the Hirsutum project was to collect as much information and as many photos as possible concerning rhododendrons. This included species, hybrids, azaleas, vireyas and azaleodendrons. It was amazing how quickly this website grew. The actual ambitious goal of posting photos and information was being carried out by one person, Marjo Schlenter, Herman's wife.

It eventually grew to over 20,000 entries. I was skeptical at first that such a site would last for very long. However, it grew and grew and became the go-to site for rhododendron information. Finally, on July 19, 2012, after seeing Hirsutum grow, I made available to Herman and Marjo, 2,000 of my photos at <http://rhodyman.net/hirsutum.html>. Hirsutum listed over a 1,200 hybridizers and had over 10,000 photos contributed by over 150 photographers from around the world. The major contributors were Garth Wedemire from Canada, Everard Daniel from England, Herman van Ree, and Tijs Huisman from Holland. Valley Forge Chapter's Jim Willhite was also contributing photos and was the major contributor from the US.

Then in 2015, Herman van Ree announced he was discontinuing his involvement with the Hirsutum website. The website continued to be available, but with no new information. Then, in 2021, the website stopped working altogether. There were some archives of the Hirsutum site that saved some pages, but since Hirsutum was database driven, only a portion of the information was available in the archives.

Recently, on November 13, 2023, Ken Webb announced "they have a guy on Vancouver Island who is working on rebuilding the Hirsutum Website." His name is John Verwolf. Rhododendra is the name of his new website, <http://www.rhododendra.com>. He still has to add information about hybridizers and botanists from the old Hirsutum website and he is going to build a public input system so that users can add information as they collect it. However, for all intents and purposes, Rhododendra is up and running and has most of the functionalities that Hirsutum had.

Thank you John Verwolf!

Steve Henning  
ARS Dist. 8 Dir.

**Bookmark this valuable resource!**



# *Viburnum furcatum*



Photo: Wikipedia

*Viburnum furcatum* is one of the most ornamental of all *Viburnum* species. It forms a large deciduous shrub with large and ovate, deeply pleated, and fuzzy leaves. Pure white flowers appear in spring and are arranged in a flat-topped panicle like a white hydrangea species. In Autumn, the leaves turn shades of ruby and purple – stunning! It can reach a height of 1-2m.



Photo: Far Reaches Farm

The RSBG form is an “all around extremely ornamental plant for full sun or the woodland garden, easily grown under most conditions, if it has decent drainage. It is rarely seen in cultivation.”



Photo: jurassicplants



Photo: Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh



Photo: jurassicplants



# *Gillenia trifoliata*

## Lovely Companion Plant

Verna Buhler



***Gillenia trifoliata*** is graceful, long-lived perennial that is not often seen in gardens.

The clump-forming, rhizomatous plant is compact and upright generally reaching 24-36 inches in height. Leaves are arranged in three narrow toothed lobes along reddish wiry stems. These are topped by loose wands of dainty star-shaped, white flowers with wine-red calyxes that persist after the petals drop. The flowers have five narrow petals, unequal in length, that project somewhat irregularly, forming graceful, ethereal displays.

In fall, the foliage turns a fiery orange red.

It is lovely when massed in the woodland border, enjoying partial shade and moist, well-drained soil.

***Gillenia trifoliata*** has earned the RHS Award of Garden Merit.

***Gillenia trifoliata*** is also known as Bowman's Root, Indian Physic, Fawn's Breath, and American Ipecac

Medicinally, among other applications, minute doses have been used internally in the treatment of colds, chronic diarrhea, constipation, asthma, and other bronchial complaints. The dried powdered roots have been used externally in the treatment of rheumatism.



# Stunning 'Christmas-red' Rhododendron Species



According to the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden experts, “***Rhododendron strigillosum* is one of the finest species in the genus**”. In early spring, it has very large, deep red flowers with black nectar pouches. The foliage is superb, with long, narrow, deep green leaves with very bristly petioles and margins. In its native China it is known as the “prickly rhododendron”.

Some well-loved hybrids, such as ‘Etta Burrows’ ‘Grace Seabrook’, ‘Taurus’ and ‘Matador’ have *R. strigillosum* in their parentage.



## ***Rhododendron ochraceum***

is considered by the RSBG to be one of best of the new introductions. This distinct species forms a round evergreen shrub with narrow leaves covered with a thick layer of indumentum. Petioles and young stems are bristly; the plant looks like a cross between *R. strigillosum* and *R. griersonianum*. The bell-shaped flowers are deep red with darker nectar pouches. “This species is considered by Chinese botanists to be one of the rarest rhododendrons in China with only a few remnant populations in scattered pockets of forest and on steep limestone cliffs.” (RSBG)



### ***Rhododendron arboreum ssp arboreum***

*Rhododendron arboreum*, is found growing in the Himalayas from Kashmir eastwards to Nagaland. This red rhododendron is the national flower of Nepal, and the state tree of Uttarkhand.

It holds the Guinness Record for World Largest Rhododendron.

A postal stamp was issued by the Indian Postal Department to commemorate the flower.

The aesthetic appeal of the flowers has earned it cultural and sacred significance; it is offered in temples for ornamental purposes.

The *Journal of Applied Pharmaceutical Science* [02 (01); 2012] explains the extensive medicinal and commercial value of *Rhododendron arboreum* to the communities in the hilly regions of India. Due to the presence of flavonoids, saponins, tannins, and other phytochemicals, the plant has anti-inflammatory, hepatoprotective, antidiabetic, antidiarrheal, and antioxidant properties.

In Garhwal, Himalaya, India, fresh petals of *Rhododendron arboreum* are harvested in the forests for the extraction of juice to use as a refreshing drink. It is also converted into a medicinal drink. ([nature.com/articles](http://nature.com/articles))

*While at the recent Rhododendron Conference in Florence, Oregon I had the pleasure of sipping Rhododendron tea at a small café. The owner said that she orders this special tea from India.*

Verna



# What 'Littleworth'?

*Have you ever been confused by the “glory” and the “beauty” of Littleworth?  
I have, and I thought a bit of research could clear that up.*

Verna Buhler



Photo: Rinus Manders

## ***Azaleodendron* 'Glory of Littleworth'**

*Azaleodendrons* are infrequent crosses between plants of different subgenera, namely the azaleas and the rhododendrons. There are relatively few *Azaleodendrons* as crosses between different subgenera are rarely successful.

*Azaleodendron* 'Glory of Littleworth' was raised by Henry Mangles, brother of James Mangles

## ***Rhododendron* 'Beauty of Littleworth'**

This hybrid rhododendron, possibly a *R. griffithianum* cross, was created by J. H. Mangles of Valewood, England.

The plant was passed to his brother and sister who lived at Littleworth Cross, near Farnam, England.



Photo: Harold Greer



### **Thus, a clarification of little worth:**

Despite the humorous word play that naturally accompanies references to these unique *azaleodendron* and *rhododendron* plants, these two plants were, perhaps ironically, the *finest* of the region; in fact, they were the *Glory* and the *Beauty* of Littleworth Cross.

## **20th Annual Qualicum Beach Seedy Saturday (2024)**

**Theme:** "Seeding the Future"

**When:** Saturday, February 3, 2024, 10:00 a.m. — 3:30 p.m. \*Seedy Saturday Events, Activities\*

**Where:** Qualicum Beach Civic Centre, 747 Jones St, Qualicum Beach, BC

**Seed Swap:** Booth Room

**Speakers:** Lions Room - 2 speakers: Michalina Hunter 10:30 - 11:30 am & Bonnie Zand 1:00 - 2:00 pm

**Other Activities:** Seed Vendors, Plant Vendors & other Participants, Master Gardeners, Seedy Cafe, Door Prizes and Two 50/50 Draws

**50/50 Draws: (BC Gaming License # 146419) Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5**

There will be two 50/50 draws: at 12:00 noon & 3:00 pm.

**Please Note:** Ticket holders **MUST** be present to win — so if you can't stay for the draw(s), give your ticket to someone you trust so that they can collect your prize money for you if you win.

**Cost:** Admission by Donation

**Other:** Town of Qualicum Beach truck in parking lot to collect pesticides/herbicides

**Contact:** Murray Chantler, Publicity Coordinator

**Email:** qbsspublicity75@gmail.com

**Website:** [www.qbseedysaturday.ca](http://www.qbseedysaturday.ca) For more information about QBSS

**2023 – 2024**

### **Calendar of Events**

Contact CVRS:

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

## **December 2, 2023 CVRS Christmas Party**

See a Notice on Page 3 in this Issue

## **NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY EVENTS**

**May 2 - 5, 2024**

**ARS Spring Convention, Bellingham, Washington, USA**



## 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)

Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden:

[rhodygarden.org](http://rhodygarden.org)

Nanoose Garden Club:

[nanoosegardenclub.ca/](http://nanoosegardenclub.ca/)

Linda Gilkeson:

[lindagilkeson.ca/](http://lindagilkeson.ca/)

Vancouver Island Rock and Garden Society:

[virags.com](http://virags.com)

Linda Chalker-Scott:

<https://puyallup.wsu.edu/lcs/>

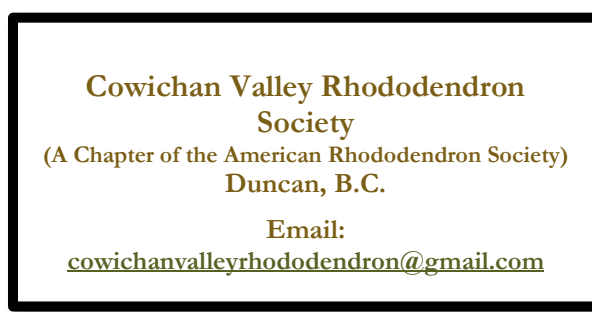
Steve Henning:

[rhodyman.net](http://rhodyman.net)

Rhododendron, Camellia, Magnolia

<https://www.rhodogroup-rhs.org/>

Office of the American Rhododendron Society: [member@arsoffice.org](mailto:member@arsoffice.org)



### 2022 - 2023 Executive

**President:** *Barrie Agar*  
**Vice-President:** *Dorothy Kennedy*  
**Treasurer:** *Elisabeth Zoffman*  
**Secretary:** *Mary Pike*  
**Director-at-Large:** *Sandy Campbell*  
**Director-at-Large:** *Janice Moseley*  
**Director-at-Large:** *Laurie Moseley*  
**Director-at-Large:** *Tricia Guiguet*  
**Membership Chairperson:** *David Annis*

### Convenors

**Tea:** *Vacant*  
**Raffle:** *Hilda Gerrits*  
**Speaker Team Chair:** *Sandra Stevenson*  
**Fundraising:** *The Executive Team*  
**Sunshine:** *Vacant*  
**CVRS Garden Tours:** *Vacant*  
**CVRS Bus Tours:** *Vacant*  
**Library:** *Verna Buhler*  
**Newsletter:** *Verna Buhler*