

Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society



Newsletter

Volume 32:1 January 2021

Message from the President

Happy New Year Friends!

As you have heard often now, "Hindsight is 2020"; few would argue that the year has been one of brain-overload that stimulated much reflection and new insight. Governments, businesses, communities, families, and individuals have been revisiting and adjusting values and practices. Realignments have been occurring in activities and relationships; continuing with those that are valued has meant creating new approaches. Some efforts have opened up new opportunities that will quite possibly become new practice.

Healthy outdoor activities have been revitalized or discovered. The parks, the woods, and the mountains are filled with smiling people of all ages. Gardening has new shoots sprouting in unexpected places and at fertilized rates.

The tie-in here is that what passionate plant lovers like you and I have been enjoying for years, has become the curiosity of a large number of people. This is an opportune time to encourage and support the growth of the new gardener seedlings.

CVRS January Presentation
Wednesday, Jan 6, 7pm
Zoom Meeting
"Pruning"
(More details on page 2)

In This Issue:

"Pruning: Snow Effects Case Study"

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With Sadness

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Calendar of Events

Your Executive met on December 30th, to discuss a number of options for the structure and programs for the Upcoming CVRS Season. The ideas and possibilities are exciting to the Team and hopefully will be informative and enjoyable for you.

~ Verna ~

“Pruning Basics”

Presented by Barrie Agar

Barrie retired recently, December 2020, from her position as Head Gardener at Royal Roads University in Victoria. She is knowledgeable in many aspects of garden management and in this presentation will address “pruning basics” from the aspect of fruit tree pruning.

An opportunity for members to apply this information will follow in the form an “interactive” PowerPoint Presentation.



“Pruning Winter Damaged Trees and Shrubs”

PowerPoint by Verna Buhler

The presentation will show photos of damaged plants and will encourage Zoom guests to “unmute” and suggest approaches to pruning the damaged tree or shrubs.

Adventures in Plant Importation from the USA in 2020

By Colin Mathieson

I, like a lot of you, had planned to go to the 75th American Rhododendron Society Conference in Vancouver, Washington in the Spring of 2020.



My plan was to have a “Grand Tour” of Nurseries piggy-backed onto my trip to the conference resulting in my returning with lots of Rhododendrons and a list of others to get at a later date. The American Rhododendron Society had arranged a plant sale complete with the services of a Washington State Agricultural Dept. inspector who was going to issue the Phytosanitary Certificate necessary for crossing the border. Without it, those plants weren’t going anywhere North of the 49th!

I planned to take the Coho over to Port Angeles, head down to Brinnon and Whitney Gardens and also go to the Conference and take in their great selection of tours and buy plants. Afterwards, on the way home, I’d stop off at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden (RSB) in Federal Way, Washington and then head to the border with my load of plants.

But that was not to happen. COVID happened. **Conference cancelled until 2022!** I opted for Plan “B”. Perhaps I’d just head down to Brinnon and then Federal Way, picking up plants and the paperwork on the way, then swing back via the Sumas crossing and stop at Fearing’s in Abbotsford for some more plants (I was after all saving on conference, hotel costs - you know) before catching the ferry home.

Well, as we all know, the border was closed, and that “Grand Tour Plan B” came to an end before it started.

It was not looking good for acquiring those plants.

The Spring passed as did Summer. Then one day in early Fall my wife said a friend of hers had mentioned that she used a Victoria company to get items from the US that the suppliers wouldn’t ship directly to Canada. She said, “Why don’t you try them for your plants?”

After a bit of thought, I rose to the challenge and sussed out the company (Seawings Express International*) details etc. I contacted them and asked if they'd handled plants, and they said if I had the paperwork, it would be no problem.

***Note:** Seawings is not a Customs Broker; just a shipper. Clearance of your shipment is up to you.*

It looked simple:

Get your item shipped to "You" care of their Blaine address and then they'll truck it in "Bond" to their facility at the Victoria Airport (YYJ). The cost of this is \$18.00 for the first 5 pounds, then \$0.45 for each additional pound. From there, you clear it through Canada Customs and it's then released to you.

I did a "dry run" with a selection of books from the RSBG. I had, as Seawings stated, the books sent to me at their Blaine address. The books were sent by USPS and after several days arrived in Blaine ready for shipping to Canada. Two days later, I got an email from Seawings saying my parcel was ready for clearance from their facility at the Victoria Airport (YYJ).

Off I headed to YYJ and Seawings. At Seawings they gave me a Bill of Lading and I went to Customs armed with this and my invoice for the books. At Customs it took about 2 minutes and the officer stamped my Bill of Lading and sent me on my way.

Back at Seawings, I showed the stamped bill, and after I paid the shipping costs (the books weighed ~ 4 pounds so it cost only the initial \$18.00), was handed my parcel. Total time ~10 minutes - most of that walking to and from the two offices.

Feeling comfortable with this success, it was time to try it out with Rhododendrons.

I emailed Atsuko Gibson at the RSBG and laid out my plan. She saw no immediate problems with my plan but just to be sure she wanted to run it by the Phyto. Inspector. Atsuko's concern was getting a Phyto. Certificate for plants going to Blaine before they crossed the border.

The Inspector said, "As long as the shipping box(es) aren't opened, the Certificate is still valid". Points to note: the "Name and Address of the Consignee" is yours, and it's in Canada, **not Blaine**, but the box(es) is addressed to you @ Seawings in Blaine; also, a copy of the paperwork should be on the outside - no need to open the shipment.

Hearing this, Atsuko was confident they could do it. I would be charged for the plants, a small packing charge, the Phytosanitary Certificate (costs ~ 90.00US) and finally the UPS trucking costs to Blaine.



For my shipment of 24 plants with a total weight of 37 pounds the costs were: packing charges of \$7.00; Washington State Phyto. charges of \$91.10; and UPS costs of \$21.00. Not bad considering you'd need to pay the Phyto. fees anyway.

The Phyto. Certificate needs to be booked a week or two in advance so bear that in mind when planning your order timeline.

The RSBG ships on Mondays so this fits into Seawings advice to me regarding plants. If a shipment arrives at their Blaine Depot by late Tuesday, you'll see it in Victoria before the weekend. In my case, the plants were shipped UPS Ground and got to Blaine early Tuesday and were in Victoria ready for me to clear that Thursday. The shipping costs from Seawings was only \$32.40. That with the UPS costs amounted to about \$60.00 Can, less than the ferry ride to Vancouver!

I cleared Customs in about 20 minutes.

"So how do you clear Customs?" you might ask.

In theory, you just show up with your Invoice and Phytosanitary Certificate, but this assumes the Customs Agents on duty are versed in Plant Importation rules and regulations. This may not be the case as it depends on their exposure to this.

So, it is best to know the rules yourself and have a printed copy of the pertinent sections etc. in your possession.

The following screen captures show the key parts of Government of Canada's publication.



D-08-04: Plant Protection Import Requirements for Plants and Plant Parts for Planting Link below:

<https://www.inspection.gc.ca/plant-health/plant-pests-invasive-species/directives/imports/d-08-04/eng/1323752901318/1323753560467>

Next are the Key Sections **3.1 Permit to Import** and **3.2 Phytosanitary Certificate**

3.1 Permit to Import

A Permit to Import is required for all plants for planting entering Canada from areas other than the continental U.S. and for some plants entering Canada from the U.S. The Canadian importer must apply for the Permit to Import well in advance of the shipping date to ensure it is received prior to shipping. The Permit to Import will specify how the material must be packaged, transported, handled, controlled and used; this will help ensure that pests or biological obstacles to the control of a pest are not introduced into or spread within Canada. Please refer to directive D-97-04 for more information about the application procedures, issuance and use of a Permit to Import under the Plant Protection Act.

For plants from the continental U.S., consult [AIRS](#) to see if a Permit to Import is required.

3.2 Phytosanitary Certificate

A Phytosanitary Certificate is required for all plants for planting entering Canada. The Phytosanitary Certificate is issued by the NPPO of the exporting country and must list each of the plants in the consignment. The plants must be identified using accepted scientific names to at least the genus level. Certain plants for planting must be identified to species or even to cultivar (e.g. *Berberis* spp., plants regulated by the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora). The list of plants on the Phytosanitary Certificate should match the packing list for the imported material.

If one double clicks on the highlighted “**AIRS**” last line in 3.1, you are directed to a section that asks questions about what plants you are bringing in, etc. Based on your answers, the result will identify if you only need a **Phytosanitary Certificate**.

Hopefully your page now looks something like the following: the key being the bottom part: **“Documentation and Registration Requirements”**

If all goes well, you should be given an **Invoice from the Customs Officer** like the one shown. It will be your receipt for any duties, taxes, etc. due before your shipment can be released. In our case that’s just GST and PST.

Other Government Department Pre-Arrival Review System or Release on minimum documentation (OGD PARS/RMD)	
Requirement ID:	50865
Version:	10
HS Code:	060230
OGD Extension:	
Origin:	UWA
Destination:	BC
End Use:	05
Miscellaneous:	034
Documentation and Registration Requirements	
CODE	REGISTRATION
4	Phytosanitary Certificate
Print	
<small>The AIRS has been prepared for the convenience of reference only and has no official sanction. For all purposes of interpreting and applying the law, users should consult the Acts as passed by Parliament. If you require additional assistance interpreting this data or verifying its accuracy, please contact the National Import Service Centre.</small>	

CHRISTMAS 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

Thank-you to all who participated in a two-and-one-half hour Zoom Christmas Party in December.

Your enthusiasm and friendly competitive spirit created a lot of fun.

Hopefully, the little Christmas rhododendrons, most selected from those which were donated to the CVRS by Rose Rogan this past summer, are growing well in your care and when Spring comes, they will find their perfect homes in your gardens.

With limitations around dinners and gatherings with friends and family, the popular annual Tall-Tale Contest attracted more participants. The stories, all emerging from a specified list of words – *rhododendron names* – drew chuckles and even jiggly belly-laughs. Janice McLean won the bottle of wine with her straight-faced delivery of the last lines of her tale:

*"I was with the good-looking young man who had been hitch-hiking to the party with the promised **Midnight Mystique** surprise, at which, he hoped, young women would be attracted to his Santa suit.*

And I too, was excited.

*What I didn't tell him was that I was going to a CVRS Christmas party, where I lusted after **Pure Sex** – -- the rhododendron of course."*



In addition to the draw for the rhododendron plant gifts, Sandra created a gorgeous wreath as a Grand Prize. Joe and Irene Hudak were the lucky winners.

The following week, Sandra and Verna, Santa's elves, were the real winners. They enjoyed the face-to-face exchange of smiles and greetings as they made the outdoor, appropriately-distanced personal deliveries of the little rhododendrons.

Later that week, Barrie and Sandra delivered the Grand Prize of the wreath to Joe and Irene, along with another special award.

In keeping with CVRS traditional practice, the Silver Bowl Award was once again presented to a noteworthy club member. The recipient of the Silver Bowl Award is selected by a committee composed of the last three winners of the award – this year, Barrie Agar, Roy Elvins, and Sandra Stevenson.

Joe Hudak was deservedly selected as the recipient of the Silver Bowl Award.



“The award is to be presented annually to a member who has done notable work for the society. The recipients’ names and the years of presentation are engraved on little plaques attached to the Applewood base.” (CVRS Newsletter, Volume 2:9, November 1990)

The CVRS has enjoyed selling the results of Joe’s rhododendron propagating efforts for several years. Most of the larger one-gallon, and soon to be two-gallon stock remaining are from Joe’s 2016 cuttings.



Joe Hudak, 2020 Silver Bowl Award

Joe served on the CVRS Executive for many years. He volunteered for hours at all the club plant sales and special events. He donated many plants to the raffle tables at monthly meetings. He was always willing to share his passion and vast knowledge of rhododendron plants with others.

Before the arrival of COVID, Joe attended club Propagation and Plant Division Workdays, sharing stories and bantering at high-wit levels.

Joe faithfully threw his back, shoulders, knees and hands into the two-month summer landscape project at Shirley’s, and again continually contributed with fact-filled stories and wheel-barrows of humour.



Cowichan Bay from Mount Tzouhalem 2020



**Clive Justice
(1926 – 2020)**

With Sadness:

Douglas Justice informed fellow members of the American Rhododendron Society that his father, Clive Justice, passed away on December 21, 2020.

Clive was a founding member of the Vancouver Rhododendron Society and active in protecting local parks and Vancouver's heritage trees.

He was an ARS Gold medal recipient and a great supporter of the ARS and District 1.

**Condolences to friends and family,
Glen Jamieson**

Special Presentation



Friday, January 15, 2021 7 pm:

Linda Gilkeson

presents

Year-Round Organic Gardening

Organized by Glen Jamieson, District 1

**Season's
Greetings
from ARS
District 1**



Dear Fellow British Columbians:

It was really great to see so many of you on our Zoom calls this fall, but because some of you were unable to participate, I just want to express to you all from your District 1 directors a very Merry Christmas and the Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy New Year.

The year 2020 has been a very challenging one for all of us, and not being able to socialize with family and friends to the extent we have done in past years has made it even harder. However, this will all hopefully pass sooner rather than later, and we will once again be able to live our lives as fully as possible.

Thanks for all your support to keep District 1 a viable and productive group of ARS chapters, even when we can't meet monthly as in the past, and let's look forward together to make 2021 as interesting and wonderful as possible!

Merry Christmas,

Glen Jamieson and Chris Southwick



Useful Links:

Cowichan Rhododendron Society:

cowichanrhodos.ca/

Victoria Rhododendron Society:

victoriarhodo.ca/index.html

Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society:

marsrhodos.ca/

North Island Rhododendron Society:

nirsrhodos.ca/ws/

The American Rhododendron Society:

rhododendron.org/

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society:

nanaimorhodos.ca

Nanoose Bay Garden Club:

nanoosegardenclub.ca/

Linda Gilkeson's website:

lindagilkeson.ca/

Vancouver Island Rock and Garden Society:

virags.com

Linda Chalker-Scott:

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

Steve Henning:

rhodyman.net

2020-21 Executive

President: Verna Buhler

Vice-President: Ali Morris

Treasurer: Randy Bouchard

Secretary: Diane Allen

Director-at-Large: Candice Feeney

Director-at-Large: Wendy Wilson

Director-at-Large: Barrie Agar

Director-at Large: Dorothy Kennedy

Membership Chairperson: David Annis

Convenors:

Sunshine: Mary Gale

Tea: Judeen Hendrickson

Raffle: Hilda Gerrits

Program Planning: ExecutiveTeam

Fundraising: Executive Team

Garden Tours: TBA

Library: Verna Buhler

Newsletter Editor: Verna Buhler



2020 – 2021 Calendar of Events

Wednesday, January 6, 2021 7 pm:

“Pruning Basic/Winter Damage”

(Organized by Barrie and Verna)

Friday, January 15, 2021 7 pm:

Linda Gilkeson:

“Year-Round Organic Gardening”

(Organized by Glen Jamieson, District 1)

Wednesday, February 3, 2021 7 pm:

Agnes Lynn:

“Ericaceous Plants of Vancouver Island”

(Organized by Barrie)

Saturday, February 6, 2021 10 am:

Ken Nentwig:

“Water Efficiency in the Landscape”

(Organized by Vancouver Island Master Gardeners Association/Glen Jamieson)

Wednesday, March 3, 2021 7 pm:

Rosemary Profner:

“Propagation of Rhododendrons (plus maple and conifer grafting)”

(Organized by Barrie from Al Campbell)

Saturday, March 20, 2021 7 pm:

Brian Minter:

“What’s New in Edible Gardening”

(Organized by Glen Jamieson, District 1)

April: CVRS - TBA

April – Date/Time - TBA

Brian White:

“Vietnam in the Spring”

(Organized by Glen Jamieson, District 1)

May: CVRS - TBA

May – Date, Time - TBA

Marion Mackay, Massey University,
New Zealand:

“The New Zealand ex situ

Rhododendron Conservation Project”

(Organized by Glen Jamieson, District 1)

Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

(A Chapter of the American
Rhododendron Society)

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<http://cowichanrhodos.ca>