

Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

Newsletter

Volume 29:5 June 2018

President's Message

As editor, I will attempt to convey a message on Barrie's behalf, recognizing there is no possibility of mimicking the hilarious wit unique to every 'Barrie' delivery! I assume full responsibility for error in this note. Verna Buhler

Barrie was unable to forward her message to you before she left for her much-deserved trip to Ireland. I overheard a comment that the primary purpose for her trip was to practice and sharpen her accent in case she was becoming too West Coast to ensure preservation and perpetuity of her language. As we know, "et" in West Coast Canadian phonetics is "eight".

Summer Picnic

Sunday, June 24; 11:30am
(More details on page 2 & 3)

In This Issue:

AGM Call for Nominations 4

Letter from the Editor 5

Letter to the Editor 6

Janice & Laurie Moseley's
Adorable Garden 7

Lynn Clark's Restored Estate
Garden 8

Victoria Garden Tour 10

Plant Fair Debriefing Meeting
Notes 12

Plant Fair 2019 Planning
Notes 13

Greg Species Garden Official
Opening 14

Calendar of Upcoming Events 17
2017-18 Executive 18



Having attended the Plant Fair Planning Committee Debriefing Meeting following the Plant Fair, I am quite confident in conveying that Barrie's message to you would include immense appreciation and gratitude for the many wonderful and humble club members who came out to ensure the event was a success. Her sense of relief and satisfaction was evident at the May Meeting and reiterated at the debriefing session. The success of the event was due to all of you who contributed time, skills, energy, and plants. Unanimously, the group recommended continuing and building on the successes of the Plant Fair Committee approach.

There has been a bit of confusion as to whether

Barrie will be able to attend the Summer Picnic, but our hope is to see her there. She has indicated a willingness to continue to serve in the position of President if needed, and therefore at the Summer Picnic a number of issues will be presented that require membership approval.

Consider becoming involved by standing for nomination for Executive positions as identified in the newsletter. Carefully review the information and then attend the Summer Picnic where the Executive Committee for 2018/2019 will be ratified.

Thank you for the tremendous teamwork; this quality is so fundamental to a healthy club!

SUMMER PICNIC AUCTION ITEMS

Plants donated by Alan Campbell:



One 4 gal. *R. quinquefolium* (min. bid \$50.00)



One 2 gal. *R. burmanicum*
(min. bid \$25.00)



One 2 gal. *R. valentinianum*
(min. bid \$25.00)



**Plants donated
by Elizabeth
Zoffman:**

Three
epiphyllums
(assorted
colours)



Summer Picnic

Sunday June 24, 2018; 11:30 am

Hosted by Dorothy Kennedy and
Randy Bouchard

2595 Mill Bay Road, Mill Bay, BC

THEME: Florals

Wear floral clothing – hats, shirts, pants, dresses!!

There will be a *Silent Auction!*

CVRS provides:

- Chicken and Salmon
- A selection of beverages: punch, wine

Please bring:

- Lawn chairs, plates and cutlery
- Contribute to the feast: appetizer, salad, bread, or dessert

“Welcome to our garden!”

The garden contains a splendid mixture of mature and new plantings, along with areas under construction. All advice is welcome!”



CVRS AGM CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

CVRS - 2018 Annual General Meeting and Picnic – June 24, 2018; 11:30 start

LOCATION: The home of Dorothy Kennedy & Randy Bouchard, 2592 Mill Bay Road, opposite Keir Rd. on upper side of Mill Bay Road. Parking on Keir Rd; **on-site for those with mobility issues**

“Hear Ye, Hear Ye”

BELOW IS THE SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR THE CVRS BOARD THUS RECEIVED AS OF MAY 31, 2018

Anyone wishing to nominate other candidates (CVRS member in good standing) to the Board please do so prior to the AGM by calling Carrie Nelson at 250-710-5101 or Sharon Tillie at 250-748-8254, or you can nominate someone on the day of the AGM. See table for specifics on positions.

***NOTICE OF SPECIAL RESOLUTION:** CVRS members in good standing will be asked to vote on the following:

“That a one-time exception be made to the constitution, #9 (a) Directors and Officers, to extend the term of office for president by 1 year to allow Barrie Agar to continue in the position. A vote of 75% in favour is required to pass a special resolution according to the Society’s Act.

Positions of the Board:

Position	Term	Status	Comments:
President	1 year	Open for nominations	Incumbent, Barrie Agar, willing to stand for reelection * See special resolution above.
Vice President	1 year	Open for Nominations	Ali Morris has volunteered to stand for VP
Treasurer	1 year	Open for Nominations	Incumbent, Elaine Kitchen, willing to stand for reelection
Secretary	1 year	Open for Nominations	Incumbent, Verna Buhler, willing to stand for reelection
Member at Large	2 year	See comments	Incumbent Ali Morris will resign her position if elected VP Elizabeth Zoffman is willing to stand for election as member-at-large
Member at Large	2 year	Diane Allen	1 year remaining on 2 year term
Member at Large	2 year	Open for Nominations	Incumbent, Ron Martin, willing to stand for reelection
Member at Large	2 year	Open for Nominations	Incumbent, Al Campbell, willing to stand for reelection

Reference: CVRS Constitution & BC Society’s Act.

Letter *from the Editor*



As I prepared this letter for the June newsletter, I felt stalled for at least a week. For some reason I was having difficulty identifying the intangible feelings that I experienced over the last several months with you, dear fellow gardeners. It was important for me to understand what made the various gatherings so special.

I first noticed this feeling after the Plant Fair. This similar sense lingered during and after the Murray's open garden and it tended to subdue me at the Official Opening of the Greig Species Garden in April. Then in early May, shortly after the North Island Rhododendron Garden Tour participants stepped off the bus to wander thru our garden, that same sense overrode the anxiety that had kept me sleepless the night before. No, it definitely was more than just relief.

This happened again at the Maple Bay Manor. I had appreciated a special opportunity to visit the Stone garden only once, over ten years earlier, and wondered often when driving by,

whether or not the garden had been lost. Therefore the privilege of visiting it, and attempting to capture its beauty with a camera caused the same heavy tingling in my chest; it held me so long that Lynn was closing the gate behind me at relatively 'darkish' dusk.

When the Nanaimo Rhododendron Bus Tour members visited, I thought the good feeling came from having come to know a number of the guests through the Milner Woodland and Gardens Species Garden Project. This was definitely an important and enjoyable factor, but the enigma was more powerful than that explanation as well. Several days later that same swelling spirit drifted into Ali's unique garden in the evening light, easing at least some of the stresses from being over-taxed and fatigued.

Reflecting on the atmosphere of quiet reverence of the Official Opening of the Greig Species Garden provided the context for other descriptors. A reflective peace emanated from those gardeners present, in particular from those who had done so much to ensure that the vision and venture became reality. They were humble, having worked together peacefully and cooperatively with a shared purpose---their love and care for the earth, the wonders of nature, and a mature grasp of how fleeting a Garden of Eden, the Earth, can be. There was a respectful and quiet message of hope in this preservation of diversity and this gift to future generations.



Recognition of this fleeting privilege could be fundamental to this passion. However, well before that is the immediacy of the amazement that plants elicit in us, and the nurturing instinct that plants generate in us when we surround ourselves with them.

Then, last night, as I was reading the preface to Daniel J. Hinkley's book, *The Explorer's Garden, Rare and Unusual Perennials*, Hinkley provided the perfect prose:

"When it is all said and done, it will forever be the garden that sustains me and provides my purpose. But what is all this commotion that I feel, that we all feel in our hearts and minds? It is not just plants; it can't be. If we garden for the right reasons, we garden in reverence for this sphere that we inhabit as it hurls us through space. We as gardeners gather like druids to celebrate the mind-boggling complexities that our gardens embody. Our gardens become an aggregate of history and moment blended with equal parts of tantalizing reality, polished by perfect light."

Is that *reverence* the intangible that draws us together in the gardens in spring? Perhaps naming the experience isn't important. Gardens in May are simply spectacular! Enjoy!

Verna Buhler

P.S. There is no possibility of fully representing and honouring the gardens in our community in a single edition of the newsletter. Therefore this June issue represents only a snapshot of feature articles of local gardens and their gardeners in upcoming issues. When you view brief glimpses of the beautiful gardens that you were unable to attend you may shed tears. I have whipped myself thoroughly for missing the Moseley Open Garden opportunity, and the CVRS Road Trip to the Victoria gardens. The photos I have been sent for purposes of the newsletter made such regret easy, despite my valid reasons. Instead of joining me in self-flagellations when you see the photos in the newsletter, resolve to clear your May calendars to attend all of them in upcoming years.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Just a short note to say how much I enjoyed all the open gardens this spring. Each was spectacular in its own way. From Murray's blooming display, to Moseley's myriad of scattered knick-knacks that were on view at every turn, to Ali's secret shaded paths, to Kaiser/Rimmer's stunning azaleas, and to Verna's rapidly expanding estate! What a treat to see all these! Thanks to all who opened their gardens.

For those of you who did not attend any of the local viewings, you missed a lot.

David Annis

(a disclaimer here: My own garden, being only 4 years old, won't be on the schedule for a few more years. Someday!)

Note from the Editor:

Thank you so much David, for being the very first to submit a letter to the editor. Hopefully this will encourage others to do so as well!

Verna Buhler





**Janice and Laurie
Moseley's**

Adorable Garden

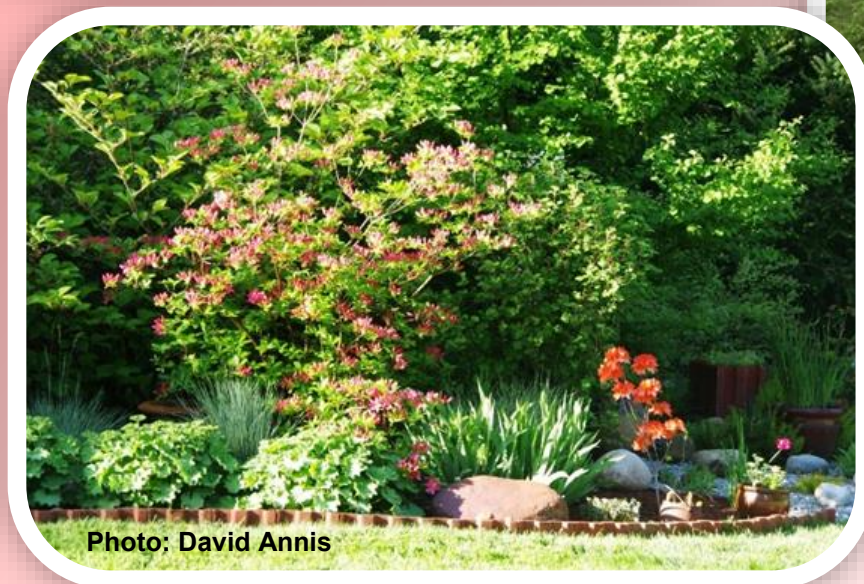
Artistic

Perfection

Detail

Multi Seasonal

A Promise of Rose Gardens



Lynn Clark's Restored Estate Garden

Maple Bay Manor

Spectacular

Mature

Preserved Collection

Generous

Inviting

Tranquil



Photo: Sharon Tillie



Photo: Sharon Tillie



Ali Morris's Enchanting Garden

A Work of Art

Unique

Layered

Contrasts

Textures

Colour

Intellectual Appeal



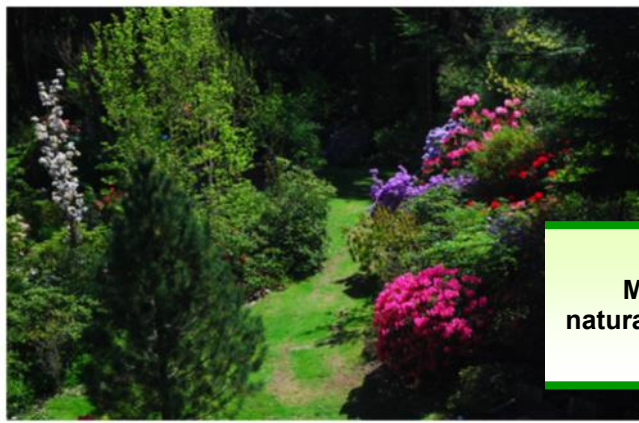
VICTORIA GARDEN TOUR

MAY 5, 2018

Photos submitted by Barrie Agar (unless otherwise noted)



Al and Sandy Campbell's
Garden: Stunning
presentations of a vast
rhododendron collection



Massa Garden –
naturalistic and colourful



Photo: Sharon Tillie



Photo: Sharon Tillie



**Blackmore's Garden – Barlup
dazzle, terraces, lunch on the
elaborate potted-
rhododendron patio**



**McMillan's Garden: small
space, huge garden of
colour and special
collections**



Photo: Sharon Tillie

PLANT FAIR

Debriefing Meeting Notes

Growers: quality products, happy

Vendors: plentiful, varied, happy

Layout: improved, flowing, not crowded

Checkouts: improved, effective

Truss show: brilliant, well supported

Membership: increased

Sales – increased

Customers: pleased, plentiful, complimentary

Volunteers: hardworking, respectful,



Overall - Successful event!
Thank you all!!



Photos by Sharon Tillie & Verna Bullher

GARDEN FAIR 2019

Planning Notes

Book Mellor Hall: **DONE!**

Planning Committee: Keep same team if possible – varied skills and talents, respectful cooperative group, team-players

Solicit more Gold Sponsors

Vendors: Limit to 6 garden related products

Maintain “airport” lineup for checkout

Review advertising/signage

One more cashier

One more in Accounting

Ensure Tag Quality



Photos by Sharon Tillie & Verna Bullher

GREIG SPECIES GARDEN Official Opening

at Milner Gardens & Woodland
on April 22, 2018 was a satisfying and inspiring event.



Haliaeetus leuconcephalus approved

The history and story of the development of the Greig Species Garden was fully depicted in the recent May edition of the Journal of the American Rhododendron Society. The Official Opening of the Greig Species Garden was an experience worthy of sharing in a short photo story in this newsletter.

It was evident from the outset that the celebration received the stamp of approval from the diverse gathering of supportive guests, and from Nature as well. The generous hours of dedicated work and respectful cooperation were quietly honoured on this warm and sunny Sunday afternoon in April.

Geoff, together with Mount Arrowsmith (MARS) and Nanaimo (NRS) rhododendron chapter members dedicated many hours of work toward the realization of the vision.



Geoff, John, Marilyn, Art and Susan are several of many generous contributors who have spent so many hours ensuring this project succeeds



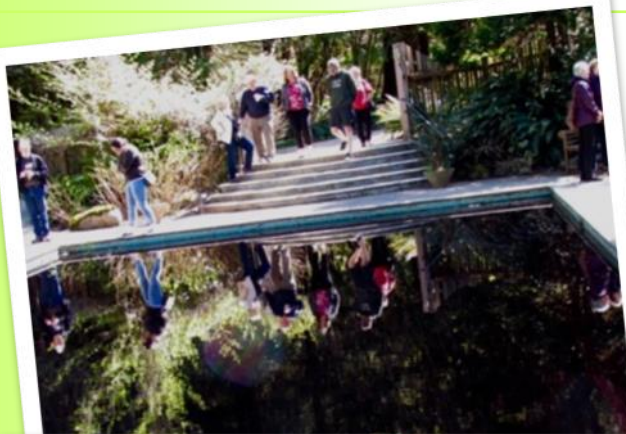


A supportive group of ARS members from various Island chapters enjoyed the opening event.

The CVRS assisted this endeavor by making financial contributions to support the development of the garden, by serving on the Advisory Council (currently Alan Campbell and Verna Buhler), and by volunteering at a work party in April shortly before the official opening. Several members of CVRS attended the opening ceremony.

The format for the opening ceremony, designed and proposed by Geoff, and heartily supported by the Advisory Council, proved to be a perfect balance of movements: meaningful speeches by key representatives, respectful acknowledgement of personalities significant in historical roles, and expressions of gratitude for the cooperative spirit of the project.





It continued with a gentle movement alongside the dark reflecting pool toward the cedar entrance gate for the ribbon cutting.

Then came time to wander freely with friends and acquaintances through the garden to examine the species rhododendrons, amidst meditative drifts of harp melodies.

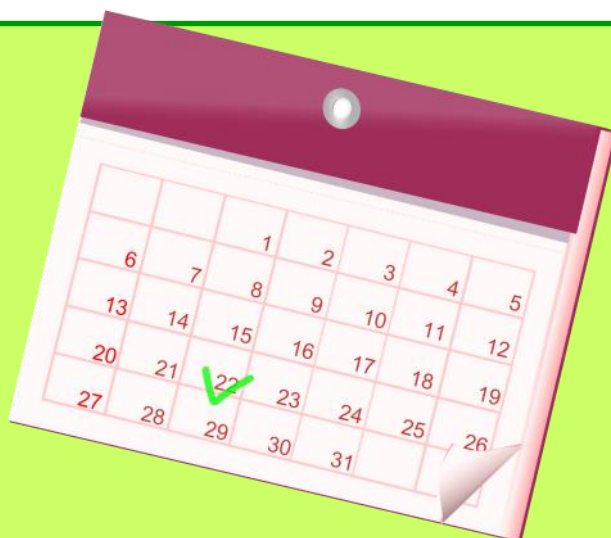
Lastly, of course, cake.

The special event was indeed well orchestrated and meaningful---a gentle celebration---honouring the past and eliciting hope of preserving this special collection of unique plants for the future.

Photos and article by Verna Buhler



Calendar of Upcoming Events



Thursday, June 14, 2018; 2pm

Book Club Meeting, CVRS Library (3908 Cowichan Lake Road)

Sunday, June 24, 2018; 11:30am

CVRS SUMMER PICNIC

At the Kennedy/Bouchard home:

2596 Mill Bay Road, Mill Bay

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Book Club Meeting 4:30 – 5:30pm (Note: Change in start time)

Propagating Club Transplanting Session 5:30 – 6:30pm

Back-to-back events at 3908 Cowichan Lake Road

July 15, 2018; 10am to 4pm

Point Roberts Garden Tour XV, Point Roberts

(For details see notice in the April 2018 CVRS Newsletter)

Thursday, August 16, 2018; 4:30pm

Book Club Meeting CVRS Library (3908 Cowichan Lake Road)

Sunday, October 28, 2018; 1 – 4pm

2018 Special Fall Conference 'Navigating Garden Myths'

February 2, 2019

Mixing It Up "Beauty & the Beast"

2017-18 Executive

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

Vice President: Judeen Hendricksen

Past President: Carrie Nelson

Secretary: Verna Buhler
Vlbuhler@shaw.ca 250-748-8889

Treasurer: Elaine Kitchen
y1880@yahoo.ca 250-746-6419

Membership Chair: David Annis

Directors at Large:
Diane Allen, Alan Campbell, Ron Martin, Ali Morris

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

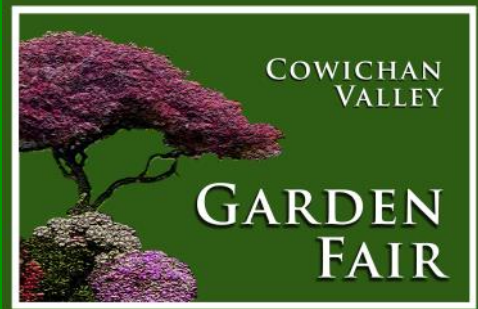
Christmas Party: The Team



Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

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

<http://cowichanrhodos.ca>



April 28; 10 am - 2 pm
<http://cowichanvalleygardenfair.com>



twitter.com/CowGardenFair



www.facebook.com/CowichanValleyGardenFair

Newsletter design/format & website edits by
Mary-Lynn Boxem (mlboxem77@gmail.com)