

# Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

## Newsletter

Volume 31:5 June 2020

### Message from the President

Verna Buhler, CVRS President for June

Dear Sad Friends,

Appropriate sensibilities fail us at this time as we reflect on our great loss in the sudden passing of Ian E. Efford, our dear friend and mentor. From the depths of our disbelief and shock many of us expressed that we were in the midst of an ongoing relationship with Ian, with activities that were not yet complete.

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*R. quinquifolium*

Sandra was on her way to visit Ian and Shirley's garden on Sunday afternoon, Barrie had just dug a special iris that Ian wanted, Carrie was in the midst of an email conversation with Ian, and I needed to send Ian the photos he had asked me to take of the Rhododendrons at the Lake Cowichan Memorial Garden so that he could write an article for the newsletter. I also needed to thank Ian for the plants he had given me just on Wednesday --- his last Wednesday. How many other people were engaged in personal Ian-activities that would no longer be possible to complete?

Probably familiar to you, and typical of Ian's generosity and mentoring, were his words in the last email he sent to me as we arranged for George to deliver the rhododendron that he had purchased at the CVRS Plant Sale about a week before:

*"I will give two plants to George for you, if he reminds me. One is a clump of Hepatica. I suggest that you plant it in a fairly shady spot and dampish if possible. It will grow larger but not invasive. Very beautiful. The other is a pot with four chestnut seeds of a red chestnut taken from the arboretum at George Mason University in Virginia. One is just showing its head above the soil. You might wish to pass on the other three to someone else once you have transplanted the first one. Do not forget that it will grow into a very large tree! No rush on the photos, [of the Rhododendrons in the Memorial Garden in Lake Cowichan that he had asked me to take]. I have some and will write an article about the garden and have Ingeborg check the identifications." Ian*

Ian did not need a reminder from George about the plants; he had them ready and thoroughly explained to George what these plants were and what they needed. They will remain precious, along with the *Lewesia* and my other special plant treasures from Ian.

We have much to do to ensure the legacy of Ian continues. Ian collected and germinated the seeds; he nurtured the seedlings; then he passed them on into our care with suitable instructions for us to continue their development on our own.



*R. Wilsonii*

What are these seedlings? A few come to my mind and all of you will know of others.

- Ian was the chief contributor of articles for the newsletter, and some of you are well-suited to fill that void. High on his list at this time was the article about the Lake Cowichan Memorial Gardens
- Ian initiated the CVRS Propagating project. A short Propagation Club Report is included in this issue of the newsletter and continuing this effort would honour his intent
- Ian generously shared plants, enriching our lives. As Joe said, “For Ian, plants were meant to be shared.” We can continue such sharing with similar spirit
- Ian believed that the Cowichan Valley needs a Botanical Garden. His thoughts were that azaleas could form a large part of such a collection. We can keep our eyes open for land possibilities and inspire our municipal leaders to appreciate the value of providential and educational plant reserves
- Ian took time to fully support the efforts of an organization. He showed up
- Ian had time for people, and although his was a difficult act to follow, we could try
- Ian was building his new garden; we could help his family with the labour

This issue is dedicated to Ian E. Efford.

Karen, Ian’s daughter sent an email thanking friends for their support. Ian’s ability to express and communicate appears to continue in Karen’s modest and gracious response:

*Thank you so much for your emails. The outpouring of love and respect for my father has been a great help to my mother, myself and siblings and our children. We are all shocked and deeply saddened and the stories we have heard from dad over the years come out through all the lovely notes from people. We grew up with dad telling stories and know each of you, even if not in person. I’m sorry I am unable to respond to each of you personally at the moment but mum or I will soon. We are taking each day as it comes and feel dad’s presence in my son, Ian’s face and kindness , my brother Duncan’s humour and my brother Brian’s demeanor. Dad is here in all of us and your stories certainly help, so thank you. Love, Karen*

We have experienced a difficult three months and we are only beginning to resume regular patterns in our lives. There will be time for us to regroup in a short while.

In the meantime, let’s care for the plants, the seedlings, and each other.

Verna Buhler



# Dr. Ian E. Efford

***This tribute to Ian E. Efford is a collaborate effort of the members of the Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society anchored by the gentle words of Joe Hudak and penned by Verna Buhler.***

*"[Only days] ago, we lost a giant among us mere mortals. Admittedly, I am having difficulty putting this together; there seems to be something wrong with my eyes." In this manner, Joe Hudak begins his expression of his sense of loss and his admiration for his friend Ian.*

*"Dr. Ian Efford has accomplished more in his lifetime than any ten individuals. I had the privilege of being friends with him for the past fifteen years. He talked about some of his life experiences and among his stories were those of growing up as a six-year old youngster in England during the bombardment of 1942; he was given shots of brandy so he would sleep through the nights of explosions. When he and Shirley married, Shirley, a teacher, did not tell any of the other teachers that she was getting married. The hotel that they went to on their honeymoon was the same hotel where several of her fellow teachers happened to be staying at as well. At the morning breakfast, her colleagues' eyes were huge, and then much to Shirley and Ian's amusement, the head and tongue wagging began.*

*The last tee-hee regularly belonged to Shirley and Ian. Ian was so intent on getting into the field that he did not stay for the ceremony of receiving his PhD. In fact, it was not until the last few years while he was at Oxford, that he picked up his papers. He was definitely not an individual who looked for pomp and ceremony.*

*Ian taught at a number of universities, served as an adviser to the federal government in Ottawa, worked on projects in Africa, and travelled to many conferences -- his stories of getting lost in Japan were hilarious. He was on the research team from UBC that travelled to the Easter Islands."*

Ian E. Efford was born in Hackney London UK, in 1936, and was educated in zoology, ecology and oceanography. He earned his Ph. D. in Ecology from Oxford and his post-doctoral



**Ian E. Efford holds his ARS Silver Medal at a CVRS Meeting in Duncan. The American Rhododendron Society awarded this medal to Ian for his outstanding contribution to the CVRS and ARS communities.**

Research in Oceanography at the University of California. Thereafter, he spent fifteen years as a professor of ecology at the University of British Columbia where he directed an international research programme studying lake productivity at Marion Lake. The project involved forty scientists who produced over one hundred published papers during a twelve-year period. Ian served as Director General of Conservation and Renewable Energy for the Government of Canada where he supervised a staff complement of more than 3000 and a budget of \$500 million. He worked for the Canadian International Development Agency on African development projects and was well travelled and knowledgeable about many countries, cultures and challenges. After leaving the government, he became a consultant on science policy and international development, particularly in Africa. In 1964 he was invited to join the Canadian Medical Expedition to Rapa Nui (Easter Island). He took with him one of his graduate students and they explored the marine life in particular. This adventure for Ian was recently described in a book called *Stanley's Dream* by Jacalyn Duffin of Queen's University. (Efford, Ian E. *The Public Rhododendrons Gardens of Vancouver Island*, May 2015, with expanded detail provided by the British Columbia Iris Society)

Dorothy and Randy, recent CVRS members, initially connected with Ian on that cerebral level and their shared experiences of studying in England.

"Before meeting Ian, I had been told he was an Oxbridge man, a fact that raised expectations of an intelligent, intense, and quirky individual, characteristics that I know to be common among the chattering class studying at these great universities. Ian did not disappoint. His erudite nature surfaced

commonly and memorably on several occasions, including when he undertook additional research to settle a debate relating to the identification of one of our large trees. "It's a butternut!" he reported on the phone the next day, along with a detailed explanation of how walnut and butternut differ. "Yes, typically Cambridge," I told Randy, marvelling at Ian's devotion to research. Nor was it surprising when he called after a CVRS Christmas party to suggest that we make a trade: our newly acquired, coveted *R. quinquefolium* for his *R. wilsonii*, a lovely, healthy plant, he assured me, but



**Ian graciously and humorously thanks June 2018  
Summer Picnic hosts, Dorothy and Randy**



entirely unsuitable for his new garden bed of Japanese species. "Of course, he must have it," Randy and I agreed, understanding Ian's dedication to scientific order. Ian had a fine, scientific mind. "I specialized in little things with many legs," he once explained.

He was similarly clear and charming when I asked him to address Vancouver Island's Oxford-Cambridge Society and he delivered an engaging talk on the history of the Island's rhododendron gardens. With the aplomb of a seasoned lecturer, Ian responded to the audience's probing questions thoroughly and displayed a wit and good-nature that we in the CVRS knew to lurk under his rhododendron society sweatshirt and seemingly-curmudgeonly manner.

Because he took science more seriously than himself, I knew he would enjoy the joke in my fanciful Christmas party story about his and Shirley's date-night visit to the local marijuana shop. Enjoy it he did, and thus I wasn't surprised when he phoned to ask for a copy of this tale to distribute to his family, once I had corrected a small error. "Remember," he chided me, "I am a Cambridge man, not Oxford!" It was an Oxbridge moment I treasured. But it is his tender admonishment after one gathering that will remain with me forever, "Dorothy, next time you host a rhododendron club party you must deadhead *all* the rhodos!"

Before moving to the West Coast, Ian founded and was president of the Ottawa Botanic Garden Society, co-founder of the Ottawa Iris Society, and President of the Ottawa Valley Rock Garden Society. When he and his wife Shirley moved to Vancouver Island and settled in the Cowichan Valley, Ian became active in the Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society, serving on the CVRS Executive and as President in 2011 – 2012. (Efford, Ian E. *The Public Rhododendrons Gardens of Vancouver Island*, May 2015)

The Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society community has been immeasurably touched by the

positive influence of Ian E. Efford. Sandra Stevenson describes working together with Ian on the CVRS Executive.

"Ian was a dedicated educator and mentor and so generously gave of his knowledge and time to ensure the success of the CVRS and its goals. He was one of the main supporters and was always willing to take on or assist with any tasks necessary. He served on the executive for a number of years and with his guidance all activities were elevated to the highest of standards."

Joe continues, "*Everyone in the rhododendron world is a benefactor from Ian's knowledge and plant gifts. When he wrote the book entitled The Rhododendrons Gardens of Vancouver Island, he used his own personal finances to have it published, and within this last year, donated the remaining copies of his book to the rhododendron clubs on the Island.*"

*Ian's generosity was unlimited. Not only was he knowledgeable about the Rhododendron genre, but he was also an expert on Iris. One of his university buddies acquired a position of management at Kew Gardens. Ian would receive Iris seed packets from Kew and would germinate and grow them on until they flowered to see if there something unique. All of us received tall beardless Iris spuria in different colours from him."*



**Ian at the Garden Fair April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
(Photo: Sharon Tillie)



Sandra Stevenson shares her photos of irises gifted to her by Ian. "But above all he was a good friend. As many of you know Ian had a phenomenal memory and was a great story-teller. Over the years, Ian and I carpoled to many meetings, workshops and conferences. I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to hear about many of his worldly travels and hilarious escapades. Ian has left us with so many fond memories . . .



I share one of my fun memories of Ian, depicting the special person that he was. When carpooling, Ian would swing by and pick me up at the gate. One sunny morning when my husband came in from walking the dogs, he commented on seeing a strange man weeding our garden down at the gate. I thought I had better go and meet this new surprise employee. So, there I see the strange man, Ian, an Oxford scholar, weeding the garden while waiting for me. He suggested I had better hurry, or we would be late for the meeting. We both enjoyed a great chuckle when we realized that we had miscommunicated the date, and that the meeting was the following morning. To my benefit, my garden was weed free that day. Ian was truly kind to the core and so very humorous.



From his Ecologist's perspective, Ian recognized the value in educating and promoting interest in all aspects of horticulture and nature, both for the benefit of us as individuals and for building a richer community. This is not only a personal loss in losing a dear friend, but an invaluable loss for our club and the community as a whole."







**Ian and Shirley host the CVRS Summer Picnic at their home June 20, 2015. Ian presents annual awards.**

Sharon Tillie attempts to describe Ian's contributions: "Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society president, avid plant identifier, ARS Conference participant, propagator, skillful researcher and writer, energizer are only a pitiful handful of descriptions that come to mind when thinking about Ian."

The main thing I'm thinking about is that he will no longer be a physical presence at CVRS meetings and events. Ian was one of those people who are the backbone of support in an organization; he was always there; I miss him already. However, I'm comforted by knowing the effect of who he was will live on in the club."

Yes, Ian was the energizer, the backbone of our organization. Ian initiated projects; researched and organized; participated in meetings, work parties, explorations, celebrations, garden tours, conventions, guest host luncheons, dinners, propagating club events, and book club meetings. He could be depended upon to appear for all aspects of an event --- the planning, the setup, the chaos of the long days of the sale, and the cleanup. Ian did not know how to sit and observe when there were tasks to be done.

#### **IAN ALWAYS SHOWED UP:**



**Ian works at the April 2015 CVRS Plant Fair at Mellor Hall at the Cowichan Valley Exhibition Grounds.**



**Only a few days after the CVRS Plant Fair, Ian willingly lends a hand to unload Paul Wurz's plants at the American Rhododendron Society Convention in Sydney in May 2015. He continued to participate tirelessly during the week's events.**



Sharon continues, "I am remembering so many Rhododendron related good times with Ian who was most often accompanied by Shirley. Together they anchored laughter and congeniality at innumerable events . . . who can forget Shirley's stories at the Christmas parties or Ian's participation in just about everything related to plants. He even influenced a number of Rhododendron fanatics to become Iris fanatics!"

Truly, "Ian's participation in . . . everything . . . plants", his generosity and plant gifts are treasures to many of his fellow club members.

Ali Morris speaks of one that will be foremost in her mind. "Ian was an exemplary man, always willing to help. I loved his curious mind; he was never afraid to ask a question if he didn't know a plant. At our last club sale, I purchased two *Primula veris* (cowslip) that Ian had donated; they will be my little treasure, a sweet reminder of a great man."

And "his curious mind". How familiar is the sight of Ian bent over a plant in the garden? Ian was driven to know and understand by observing, questioning, and exchanging additional or related information. If a question could not be answered to his satisfaction, he would find out --- somehow.



On a CVRS Members Open Garden Tour, April 22, 2016, Ian's search for identifying labels sent him clambering down a steep embankment. His delight when he discovered he had been right about the rhododendron's identity was evident.



In May 2016, Ian organized a wonderful Up-Island Garden Tour. Participants still smile recalling the laughter and their bonding experiences when they talk about that trip, two vans jammed with chatter. Ian's biggest complaint was with the noncompliance of the travellers, "...too many women who are far too busy chatting to attend to my timeline instructions. I keep trying, but they just ignore me, even when they look right at me!" Then he grinned, "Oh well, lunch will be late."



**Ian, with Dixie Mueller, closely examines a plant and its label in Chris Southwick's garden.**



Just as in so many situations, Ian, was adaptive; instead of stressing, Ian, always curious and willing to share his knowledge, chatted with Doug Kitts, whose garden the group visited on that tour. They discussed the methods of propagation, the new hybrids that could result from Doug's efforts, and of course, any new plant acquisitions in his garden.

In all club events, Ian joined in with a spirit of fun and youthful enthusiasm, arriving prepared and nonchalant in colourful hats and shirts.

Ian sported irises on his Floral theme hat, as he examined the prize table at the CVRS Summer Picnic June 2016. "Now what is this? Legible labels, please."

Ian always encouraged labelling. "Label your plants people," Ian warned at meetings. "I know from experience. We may think we will remember, but the next time we go to tell someone about the plant, we stand scratching our heads."





This coming from a man who, as Sandra pointed out, had a “phenomenal memory”. His plant gifts to friends came clearly labelled including any new seedlings he had collected on trips through parks and gardens. Unlike many of us who collect seeds with the intention of planting them, Ian did so. His greenhouse displayed organized flats of labeled seedlings. Furthermore, Ian would remember what he had given to his friends and would at some point ask about the plants. Ian would certainly have thrived as a plant hunter.

Ian drew smiles from everyone with whom he engaged.

He addressed Kathy Koster convincingly, in his attractive Canada Day theme attire, at the Summer Picnic, June 17, 2017 at Siggie and Maria Kemmler’s home.

(Photo: Sharon Tillie)



In 2016, Ian initiated the idea of the CVRS owning a propagator to produce its own plants for CVRS plant sales. Plants not commonly found at nurseries could be grown, broadening the varieties available to passionate rhododendron collectors as had been done in the early periods of the rhododendron societies, and in keeping with the mission statement of the CVRS to increase the awareness of the rhododendron genus available to the community.

He researched thoroughly, encouraged support from a few members, then brought this initiative to reality by convincingly pinning down sources for materials and drawing in volunteers to assist in its building. He supervised the 2016 collection and sticking of cuttings, printed his report, then passed the opportunities on to other members. Ian continued to attend all of the Propagating Club activities always bringing with him special cuttings, his expertise, his entertaining stories, and his effortless presence.



Sharon writes, “[Now] I am remembering so many Rhododendron-related good times with Ian.” Other friends add their special memories.

“We feel such sadness with the passing of Ian,” Joyce Rodgers and Bill Masson write. “We remember his knowledge of plants and countries of origin, his willingness to share his plants and seeds with others so they too might enjoy them as well, the twinkle in his eyes while he was telling his Christmas stories, and his ever-present ability to laugh and create laughter. He will be sorely missed.”



**Ian, in another summer picnic hat, with Sharon Tillie at the June 2018 CVRS Summer Picnic. Ian would smile for the photo, then continue, “as I was saying . . .”**



Ian was genuinely interested in all aspects of plants. At the April 2018 CVRS Garden Fair, Ian peers over Liz Murray’s shoulders to view the trusses that have been submitted for the Truss show, expounding on the merits of particular species and hybrids that correspondingly come to mind. (Photo: Sharon Tillie)



Ian had a keen interest in botanical gardens. For several years he pursued the idea of creating a botanical garden in the Cowichan Valley. He met with municipal officials and was nearing the possibility of securing land when an election changed leadership and associated priorities. Ian said that it was now time for him to direct his energies and efforts to other tasks. The promotion and realization of such a dream now belonged to others.

**Always supportive of celebratory functions Ian and Shirley attended the Official Opening of the Greig Species Garden at Milner Gardens on April 22, 2018. Ian, a keen historian, enjoyed the signage depicting the stages of development of the garden.**



When Janice and Laurie Moseley joined the rhododendron club, they felt welcomed by Ian. “In the short time that we did come to know Ian, we knew him to be a warm and very good-hearted man with a genuine desire to help and make us feel comfortable as new club members. We found him very knowledgeable and wanted to get his books right away; we enjoyed them immensely --- enough, in fact, to purchase another as a gift for a sister for Christmas. We enjoyed his story-telling at the Christmas potlucks and his great sense of humour. Despite this, he at times seemed a bit shy and very modest. Ian, a kind and gentle man with a big heart, will be missed dearly.”



**Tall-tale Winner at the December 2018 CVRS Christmas party. Ian was always on the winners list in Tall-tale contests. He never used notes . . .**

Ian was the most faithful of attendees of Book Club meetings that were held most often on the second Thursday of each month. Guest numbers usually varied between four and nine, but at times there were fewer. If on rare occasion Ian was unable to attend, he would call or email his apologies. One day, I waited for a time, and was just about to package the goodies for another event, when Ian came up the drive. I was quite certain that he would leave after he noted the absence of fellow bibliophiles. He came in, relaxed over coffee and we chatted for several hours. Ian chatted and I learned. As Ian was leaving, after willing pauses to expand on a story or answer questions I asked, Ian spotted my *Agapetes* plant on the veranda. This led to twenty more precious minutes of learning. I had purchased this plant, as I had purchased other plants and trees such as a *Franklinia alatamaha*, a monotypic genus, due to Ian's influence. He had asked me to pick up his plant order from The Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden while I was there. I noticed his *Agapetes* plant choice and purchased one as well, as I knew it must be special. Ian noted how mine was distinctively different from his two. His had arching stems and had already flowered, and my was stiff and supposedly white-blooming. He suggested that I contact the RSBG to obtain more information. That is what Ian would do as he would need to know.

Many of us admit, we had not yet learned all we wished to learn from Ian. Only rarely, would anyone note a minor slip before Ian himself adjusted his information.

Joe relates a humorous Ian plant story. *"We have a miniature iris that grows only 3 to 4 inches tall. Several years ago, I asked Ian for its name, which I dutifully wrote down; then I misplaced the paper. The next year, when it was in flower, I asked him to identify it again, and this*



*time, I kept my note tucked away safely. A short while later, I found the original note --- the names were not the same. It was a bit reassuring, perhaps, that this god was human after all.*

*About five years ago, Ian gave me a plant that was not an iris nor a rhododendron, but rather a shrub that finally bloomed this year. Of course, I have lost the label and was intending to ask Ian to identify it for me --- now, I will just call it "Ian's Plant".*

Mary Pike relates how "Ian impressed us so with his knowledge of things botanical and also his humanity. He will be an enormous loss to the society. But I feel so much for his family. His wife, Shirley, was telling me at a gathering about how excited they were when they began their move to establish a more easily-managed house."





**Ian, at the CVRS Christmas Party  
December 2019, relaxed, and  
perhaps also deservedly tired  
after persisting through  
obstacles to build his new home.**

Yet, Ian had time for us. However busy and fatigued Ian might be, he attended the CVRS Propagating Club's Plant Division event held at Elisabeth's in February 2020. Ian showed up, despite his busy schedule and as he always did, he opened his trunk where he had trays bearing plant gifts for his friends in the Propagating Club. This time they were *Lewesia*, seedlings from seeds he had stopped to gather while touring a garden at just the perfect time. The surprise, he advised, was that being seedlings they could be any number of colours.

Ian also delivered young primulas for the impromptu CVRS plant sale held on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. He purchased the largest rhododendron he could find --- "for that space in our new garden" he said.

*"About two weeks ago we [Joe and Irene] were walking around Ian and Shirley's new house, and Ian was talking about his plans when we came to the new greenhouse that his son Brian had just completed for him. On the south side, he had a table with small potted plants; he selected one pot, and proudly advised me that this was one of the rarest Iris in the world. It had been a life-long dream for him to obtain one. So it was, one more of his ever-emerging dreams fulfilled."*

"Good journey Ian, I hope there are plants to see on the way!" Sharon Tillie



Ken Gibson expresses a similar message about Ian as he continues the journey that Sharon refers to, "My wife Dot, of fifty-three years, used to send this expression of comfort to those who experienced . . . a sudden and shocking loss of their dearest people. She would want me to share it with you, Ian's family: *"God looked around his garden/And found an empty place. . ."* perfect for Ian Efford, a brilliant and exceptional man . . . *"It broke our hearts to lose you/ But you didn't go alone/For part of us went with you/The day God called you home."* Who knows? Perhaps Ian is just working in the Master's garden."

**"If a peony were named after [Ian], it would most certainly be a special one such as *Paeonia* 'Pastel Elegance'. Ian as a mentor, educator, doctor, friend, gardener is truly a gift, born and inherited in his personality and his genes, a true gentleman, who I admired greatly as a friend." So sadly, missed by Malcolm Ho-You .**



Pastel Elegance Cream Pastel Peony

**Joe's words ring true:**

***"Such a brilliant mind and yet he had the time for the likes of us.***

***Rest in peace, dear friend Ian. Rest in peace."***



# CVRS Propagating Club

## Purpose:

- Teach interested members how to propagate rhododendrons, and other plants, in hands-on workshops
- Club propagator built to offer opportunity for members to gather and stick cuttings, keeping ½ of the successful takes for themselves and ½ for the CVRS
- Propagate rhododendrons for future sales at the CVRS Annual Plant Fair/Sale, recognizing that this is at least a three-to-four-year process
- Propagate special rhododendrons that are more difficult to find in large nurseries

## To Date:

- **Summer and Fall 2016:** Ian Efford initiated the design and building and the first year of club propagation activities at his home. These plants were distributed to members to grow on. I personally do not know the details of how that worked out. Joe Hudak distributed pots of cuttings he had stuck in Fall 2016: His expressed intentions were that one-half of the successful plants would belong to the CVRS and one-half would belong to the member who potted up and grew-on these plants. Many have grown to saleable size.
- **Fall 2017:** The propagator was moved to George and Verna's. Members attended a propagating workshop and stuck cuttings. Success was limited due to numerous factors including the learning curve involved.
- **Fall 2018:** CVRS members filled approximately one-half of the propagator. The success rate was very low. Rooting was weak or completely non-existent. The heating coil used to provide bottom heat quit working at some point in the coldest part of the winter. Furthermore, hindsight and analysis suggest that



Photos of plants propagated by the CVRS Propagating Club

the hormone Verna supplied was outdated (and for this I am very sorry). Also, the high, at least three-foot above the sand, design of the propagator did not provide enough consistent warmth for the cuttings, particularly when the coil failed. Although Verna and George replaced the coil with what they could purchase as soon as they noted the failure, positive response was limited. The coil was not as efficient as the original one. Although some plants survived the next stage of growth, the results were poor. Again, as caregiver, I apologize.

- **Spring 2019:** The CVRS purchased plants from Erica Nursery for sale at the Plant Fair. Many plants were sold at the CVRS Garden Fair, and the remainder were held at Verna and George's for care. Verna continued to sell plants when she could. Ali and Alan attended a potting up session and one-gallon plants were potted into two-gallon pots. These plants were being held for the CVRS 2020 Spring Garden Fair. Plants were also brought in for the CVRS Monthly Meeting raffle table, and Summer Picnic.
- **Fall 2019:** Most members did not submit cuttings. Ali and Candice gathered cuttings and they were placed into George and Verna's propagator. These will require potting up shortly; therefore, results at this time are unknown.
- **Winter 2019:** Members of the Propagating Club met at Verna and George's garden to lift, divide and pot up a number of Hosta and some Peony plants. Approximately one hundred pots of these plants were prepared for the CVRS Spring 2020 Garden Fair.
- **Winter 2020, February:** Members of the Propagating club met at Elisabeth's to lift, divide, and pot up a variety of companion plants for the CVRS Spring 2020 Garden Fair.
- **March 2020:** The CVRS Spring 2020 Garden Fair was cancelled due to COVID19 restrictions.
- **Spring 2020:** Elisabeth used social media and marketing sites to sell approximately \$700 of the plants that she held at her home.
- **Late Spring 2020:** CVRS members held a "spontaneous" one-day sale at Verna and George's on May 30 th . Victoria Rhododendron Society offered plants for the sale on the basis of a 50/50 split. Members delivered plants to add to those already available. The following weekend, Verna and George opened on Saturday in response to interest that a notice on Marketplace had generated. Sales earned approximately \$2000.
- **Spring 2020 Sales Reports:** The Sales Report is currently being prepared. An Inventory of CVRS Plants is also being prepared at this time.

Verna Buhler

CVRS Propagation Club Coordinator



**Newly transplanted cuttings May 2020**



## 2019-20 Executive

President: Shared/CVRS Executive Team

Vice-President: Diane Allen

Past President: Barrie Agar

Secretary: Verna Buhler

Treasurer: Elaine Kitchen

Members-at-Large: Alan Campbell, Candice Feeney,  
Ali Morris, Wendy Wilson

Membership Chair: David Annis, 250-748-1338

## Convenors

Sunshine: Mary Gale

Tea: Judeen Hendricksen

Raffle: Hilda Gerrits

Club Liaison: Alan Campbell

Program Committee Co-ordinator: Alan Campbell

Garden Tours/Trips: Al Murray

CV Garden Fair: The Team

Christmas Party: The Team

Library: Verna Buhler

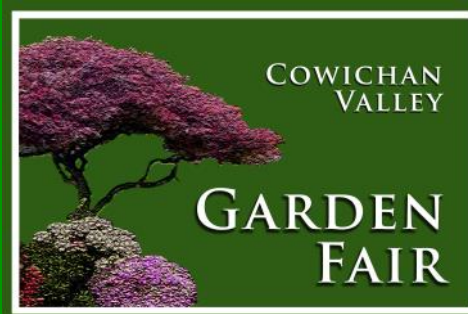
Newsletter Editor: Verna Buhler



## Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

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

<http://cowichanrhodos.ca>



<http://cowichanvalleygardenfair.com>

Due to COVID-19 the 2020  
Garden Fair is cancelled



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ML Media Design [www.mlmediadesign.ca](http://www.mlmediadesign.ca)