

Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

Newsletter

Volume 32:5 June 2021

Message from the President

Hi Friends,

I am sure you all have one of these. A special sanctuary that you slip to for rest and solitude.

This oasis in the heat of the summer surrounds you with hues, textures, fragrances, and peace of Nature's presence. Here, a wanderer would sense silent eyes before discerning you, the reposed bronze, nestled and still in your secret garden, a carafe of fresh cool water nearby, a notebook and a CVRS newsletter on your lap.

It was Sandra and Carrie who suggested we invite members to submit photos of their secret sanctuaries. Even if you share a photo, your secret place will probably still remain a very personal and private hide-away, especially if we don't credit your photos.

I know I am looking forward to seeing you all in person very soon. Plans are coming together for a CVRS Summer Picnic. Feedback following last year's picnic and AGM at Mary and William's wonderful pastoral property was positive and encouraging, proving that despite COVID limitations, we can safely meet and enjoy a happy social event when we adhere to all the well-advised guidelines.

Until we meet,

Verna

July 17, 2021

CVRS Summer Picnic

Host: Bill Dumont

***The Rose Tree Garden
on Hutchison Road***

CVRS Summer Picnic

My Secret Garden Spot

Companion Plant for June

Fujioka's Hybrids

CVRS Club Spirit

Upcoming Events



CVRS SUMMER PICNIC and AGM

Saturday, JULY 17, 2021 (11:30am – 2pm)

HOSTED BY: Bill Dumont

THE ROSE TREE GARDEN

995 Hutchison Road

FORMAT: *Picnic Style*

Provided:

- *a special shared feature of Barbecued Salmon, prepared by Chef Bill Dumont, well-known for his culinary skills*
- *several selections of wine also courtesy of the CVRS*

To Bring:

- *individuals/family groups – a basket packed with your favourite picnic fare and beverages; plates, cutlery and drink glasses; folding chairs; and smiles*



Annual General Meeting

The AGM portion is generally brief and fun-filled, as it has in the past been led by several entertaining persons. You will receive more information regarding vacancies on the Executive and various Committees.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!



In the Summertime or Anytime

*Most of us like to slip away for
moments,*

. . . or hours . . . at a time,

to rest

to collect our thoughts

*to allow our thoughts to drift
and drift*

to read

to write imaginary novels

*to hold inner conversations
with those we love,
or once loved*

to search our souls

*to look closely and distantly,
and impartially*

*to revisit our latest Socratic
discussion – with God –
promise to listen more
next time*

to sip wine or cordials

to nap . . .



*Thank-you for sharing your quiet
places with fellow members.
Your contributions are always
appreciated*





*"Rest and be thankful."
— William Wordsworth*



*"We are not noble by
birth. We are noble
only by virtue of the
way we think, speak,
and act."
— Thich Nhat Hanh,*



*"Each person deserves a day
away in which no problems
are confronted, no solutions
searched for."*

— Maya Angelou



*"We must use time
wisely and forever
realize that the time
is always ripe to do
right."*

— Nelson Mandela



*Your time is limited, so
don't waste it living
someone else's life
- Steve Jobs*



*"You can renew your
spirit and strength,
if you take time to
rest your soul."
- Lailah Gifty Akita*

*"There are few sounds as
soothing to me as the
gentle patter of rain falling
outside."
- Michael Vito Tosto*





*"We should always allow
some time to elapse, for
time discloses the truth"*
- Seneca

*Be yourself. "Within you, there
is a stillness and a sanctuary to
which you can retreat at any
time and be yourself."*



*"For fast-acting relief, try
slowing down."*
- Lily Tomlin

Thank-you So Much



Catrona Dalton, Ali Morris, and Diane Allen cashing out at the end of the sale

Photo: Dorothy Kennedy

Special thanks Dorothy, for remembering that we should have at least one photo of the event

Thank-you . . . to all of you who went out of your way to support the fund-raising efforts of your CVRS club this spring.

Some of you supported through repeated purchases of club plants, both rhododendrons and companion plants, throughout the past months.

Others assisted by working hard, physically, during garden salvage events and potting up events, to ensure a wide variety of plants could be made available.

Some of you generously donated plants and plant divisions for the sales.

A number of you committed time from your own busy schedules over the three days of the weekend of the Plant Sale to enable it all to happen. Thank you to the in-person masked volunteers who priced plants, prepared labels, set up tables, provided supplies and equipment, “manned” the gate, worked the cashier station, offered knowledgeable tree and plant information to customers and touring guests, tallied, and deposited the rewards of the event . . .

Special thank-you to these weekend volunteers:

. . . Sandra Stevenson, Randy Bouchard and Dorothy Kennedy, Wendy Willson, Bill Dumont, Catrona Dalley, James Galt, and George Morgen

Heartfelt thanks to the backbone . . .

. . . of all the Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society activities this past season. These two individuals made everything happen, continually providing initiative, encouragement and support in every aspect:

Ali Morris and Diane Allen

The two constants,
deserve our special thanks at the CVRS Summer Picnic

Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden
Species Symposium

Friday, June 25 to Sunday, June 27, 2021

Register at: rhodygarden.org



- **World's largest collection of rhododendrons in a Pacific Northwest Forest**
- **Plus, a tropical conservatory, Blue Poppy Meadow, stumpery, and more**

COMPANION PLANT for JUNE

By Ali Morris

***Lilium martagon*,**

Martagon lily, also called Turks Cap lily, is a great companion plant in a rhododendron garden.

It likes the same growing conditions as do rhododendrons; it takes up little space between plants; and it starts to bloom just as the main flush of the *Rhododendron* season is trailing off.

The Martagon lily is native to Europe and Eurasia, found in a widespread region extending from Portugal east through Europe and Asia as far east as Mongolia. It is a protected species, and not grown often enough in our gardens.

The plant itself is very attractive; the foliage grows like a whorl around a slender but sturdy stem, only to be topped by many dainty flowers.





The petals, appearing as though dipped in wax, are truly a wonder of nature. When they first appear, the flowers resemble a hat; soon those thick petals gently curl up; hence the common name 'Turks Cap'.

Imagine how colours, ranging from white to dark burgundy, in tall, abundant and delicate sprays, could transform your gardens. In addition, they very often offer golden highlights.

Martagon lilies grow in full sun and in medium shade. In my garden, where they experience only a few hours of sun, they only grow to be about four feet tall; however, they can grow to be five feet tall, and amazingly, do not require staking.

This plant doesn't need to be transplanted or divided, like some of the larger lilies. In fact, it doesn't like to be disturbed, and therefore might take a year or two to get established.

However, the martagons never disappoint and are well worth the time.



*If you don't have these beauties in your garden,
perhaps give them a try,*

Ali

Frank Fujioka



Frank Fujioka is a Master Rhododendron Hybridizer



He has lived on Whidbey Island for about 17 years and planted the entire area around his home overlooking the Admiralty Inlet of the Puget Sound. Three quarters of an acre make up is garden and farm where he grows selected plants.

Good foliage and form are high on his list of primary goals, so he culls seedlings mercilessly. As a result, the rhododendrons that he selects are irresistible. It is so easy to love them all.

Frank also uses rhododendrons for his bonsai collection.

Frank Fujioka, is still naming new hybrids after many years of cultivation. Some of Frank's top hybrids include 'Seaview Sunset' which Paul Wurz once noted "is regarded by many as the most nearly perfect rhodo." His rhododendron 'Chemainus' has fantastic foliage with leaves that look polished. One of his scented hybrids is 'Spring Fragrance'; 'Cherries & Merlot' has

almost red indumentum. And one of his more recent introductions, 'Sparkling Stars' is spectacular!



Rhododendron 'Sparkling Stars'
[Yaku 'Sunrise' x 'Hansel'] x Lem's Cameo)

***Rhododendron* 'Sparkling Stars'**

Rhododendron 'Sparkling Stars' is new from Frank Fujioka of Whidbey Island, Washington State. It is a sister seedling of *R.* 'Starbright Champagne' and has one of the most striking flowers of the hardy rhododendrons you may ever encounter, or better, grow where you can enjoy it from your patio chair. The pointy white flowers with a red throat will catch your gaze immediately!

"Is this really a rhododendron?" will be the frequently voiced question when friends visit your gardens. This plant has won the "People's Choice" award at the Eureka, California Rhododendron Show.

Plant it in a shady area or against a dark background for a dramatic effect.



***FRANK FUJIOKA'S
HYBRIDS***

Burgundy Lace

Cranberry Lace

Elsie Watson

Glowing Gold

Louisa Wittrock

Midnight Mystique

Miss Frances

Opal Luster

Pink Pinwheels





Pomegranate Splash



Primary Pink



Purple Amethyst

Saffron Silk

Seaview Sunset

Silver Skies

Sparkling Stars



Starbright Champagne

Vibrant Violet



Rhododendron 'Chemanius'

This Frank Fujioka hybrid will gain in popularity once gardeners have seen the plant in gardens. It forms a perfectly symmetrical dome of outstanding foliage and its blossoms cover the plant. Its indumentum and new growth are stunning.



Although some of you were aware of a weekend rush on the sixty young rhododendrons offered by the CVRS several weeks ago, you may not have realized how many of the most popular sought after plants were those of hybridizer, Frank Fujioka. Some of the others were those of the hybridizers Lofthouse and Barlup.

Recently, the club purchased several 32-plant-flats of cuttings that were at various stages of rooting. The CVRS Propagating Club is expecting to pot-up those that rooted successfully later this year. Many of these are of the plants created by these three hybridizers.

Join the CVRS Propagating Club for hands-on learning about these exceptional selections.

Club Spirit

As former ARS President, Ken Webb, so often explained, “It was the flowers that brought us together, but it is truly the people who have kept us coming back.”

It did not take long for those of us who became members of the Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society, to realize that we had made a fine decision in joining the rhododendron club.



Elsie Sands is a relatively new member in our Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society. Due to COVID restrictions, it is possible that only a few of us have met her in person. She exemplifies what I believe characterizes the club spirit –that of enthusiasm, generosity, and nurturing.

When, in spring, the CVRS invited bids for the 10-gallon tree peony that it had rescued, along with numerous other plants, from a garden scheduled for demolition, Elsie generously raised the bid by approximately \$25, successfully becoming the new owner of this unknown peony. She was warned that we knew nothing about it other than it was supposedly peach in colour, and we had no idea how willingly it would re-locate. Elsie wasn't concerned, **“If it grows, I know I will enjoy it; if it doesn't, [the money] is for a good cause.”** She was smiling when we set it into the perfect spot that she had chosen for it in her garden.

As her photos prove, it has rewarded her generous and nurturing spirit.

“We thank you, Elsie. . .” (CVRS Executive)

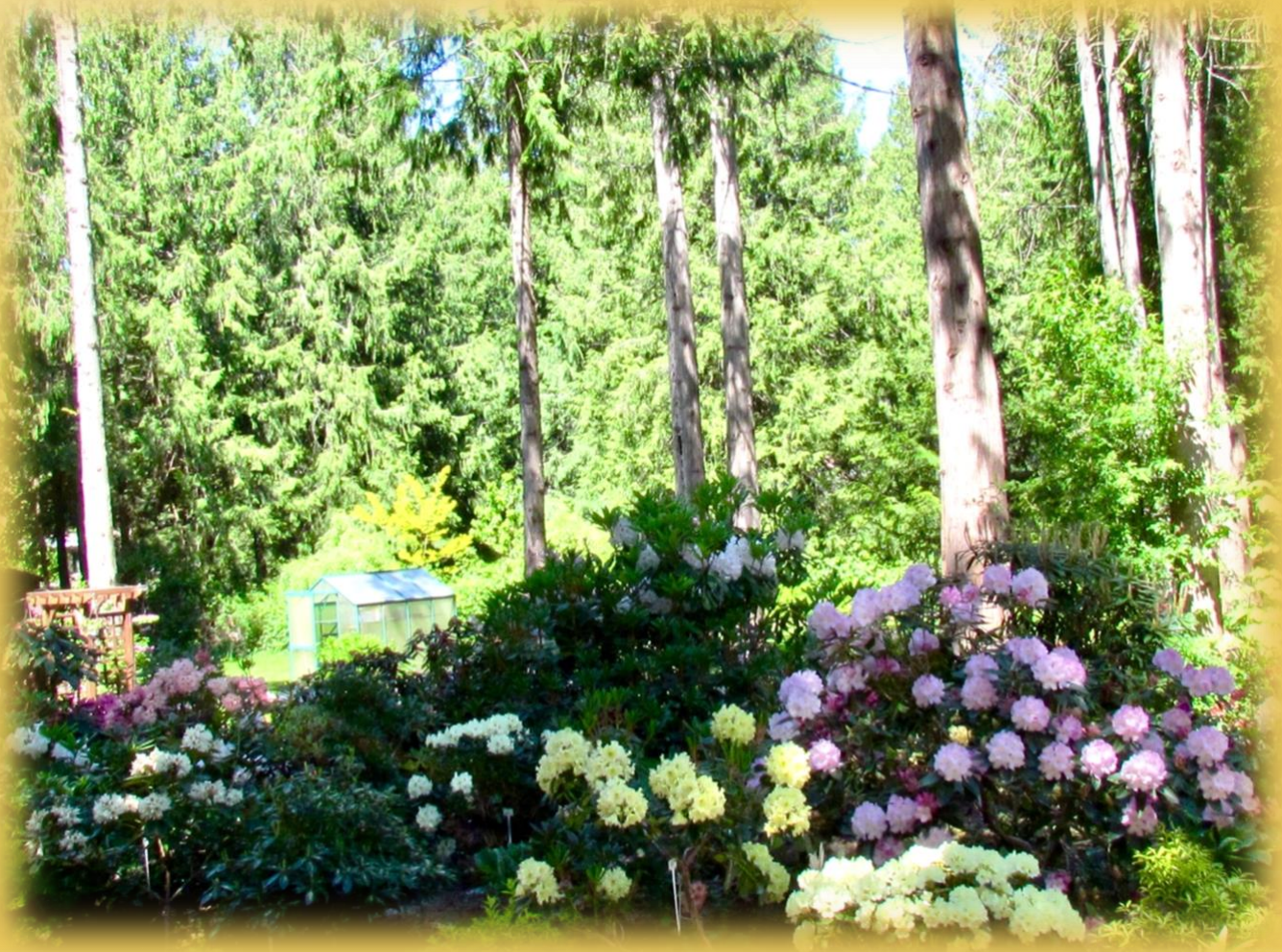
CVRS Summer Picnic Venue



Our gracious host, Bill Dumont

Imagine yourself seated in this beautiful garden, 'appropriately' near friends that you have not seen in person for quite some time!

Resolve to be there on Saturday, July 17, 2021





2021 ARS Convention in Nova Scotia

“Rhodos Down East: Exploring the North Atlantic Region”

A Brief Synopsis by Verna Buhler

For four days over this last weekend, June 3 to 6, I attended the 2021 ARS Convention presented by the Atlantic Rhododendron and Horticultural Society and the American Rhododendron Society. Although disappointed that they were unable to host an in-person conference in Halifax as they had planned, the organizers' persistence and determination resulted in a truly successful event.

Virtual zoom presentations by renowned rhododendron experts such as Kristian Theqvist of Finland, Ken Cox of Scotland, among so many other special leaders, were informative, fascinating, and inspiring.

The AGM portion of the program included the presentation of more Gold and Silver Awards than are normally awarded each year; they are awarded in recognition of the many outstanding contributions of individuals over past years. You will read more about the recipients of the three Gold Medals and the two Silver Medals in upcoming issues of the Journal of the American Rhododendron Society.

More relatable to us perhaps, is the news that the ARS Presidential term of our fine Vancouver Island friend, Ken Webb, is now over. Ken expressed full confidence in Bill Meyers

and the two gentlemen determined to continue the support and the friendship that has developed between them over the last several years.

This is merely a brief synopsis of much progress being made internationally in support and development of the genus *Rhododendron*. Rarely can I fathom how this one genus has drawn so much human interest all around the world. But it has and continues to do so.

At the CVRS Summer Picnic, Sandra Stevenson and I will attempt to provide more updates from the Convention and will encourage you to attend these events yourselves in the future. I can honestly report that spending four to five hours per day, for four consecutive days during this very busy period of spring, was worth every minute to me.

I plan to repeat my experience in a few weeks by attending the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden Species Symposium.

I look forward to another incredible learning experience, and hope to see more of you there.

ARS Silver Medal Winners from Vancouver Island

June Bouchard and John Deniseger

You have both enthusiastically supported many activities on Vancouver Island District 1. In particular, your efforts as co-registrars for the 2012 Nanaimo and the 2019 Parksville ARS Fall Conventions were critical to the success of both meetings, and over the past years you have both contributed extensively, in the development of the Greig Rhododendron Species garden in Milner Gardens & Woodlands.

John, in particular, has been active in virtually all phases, from the planning, garden creation and establishment, plan selection, planting and ongoing weeding and maintenance, and you have supported island chapter activities by giving talks and helping organize the new "Fall into Gardening" mini-conferences.

For all these major activities, the American Rhododendron Society is pleased to jointly award the Silver Medal to June Bouchard and John Deniseger.





2020 – 2021

Calendar of Events

Contact CVRS:

cowichanvalleyrhododendron@gmail.com

Friday, June 25 to Sunday, June 27, 2021:
Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden
Species Symposium rhodygarden.org

Saturday, July 17, 2021 11:30 am
CVRS Summer Picnic – See notice in this issue

Saturday, October 23 - Sunday October 24, 2021
ARS 2021 Fall Conference -- Zoom

Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden Species Symposium

Participate in a weekend of exploration into the world of rhododendrons! Hear from local and international experts on a wide range of topics, from plant hunting to vireyas to the creation of a centralized *Rhododendron* research community.

The Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden will host its annual symposium virtually, featuring a peak bloom garden tour facilitated by Executive Director and Curator Steve Hootman

- ***Keynote presentations:***

- The New Zealand ex situ Rhododendron Conservation Project – Dr. Susan Elizabeth Gardiner Davies, President of the [New Zealand Rhododendron Association](#)
- The Rhododendron Research Network – Dr. Juliana Medeiros, Research Scientist at the [Holden Arboretum](#) and co-founder of the [Rhododendron Research Network](#)
- Companion Plant Rarities from the Far Reaches by Kelly Dodson and Sue Milliken – Proprietors of [Far Reaches Farm and Botanical Conservancy](#)
- The 2019 Expedition to south Yunnan and Guangxi by Steve Hootman – Executive Director and Curator of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden

Looking forward to seeing you there!

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

Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden:

rhodygarden.org

Nanoose Garden Club:

nanoosegardenclub.ca/

Linda Gilkeson:

lindagilkeson.ca/

Vancouver Island Rock and Garden Society:

virags.com

Linda Chalker-Scott:

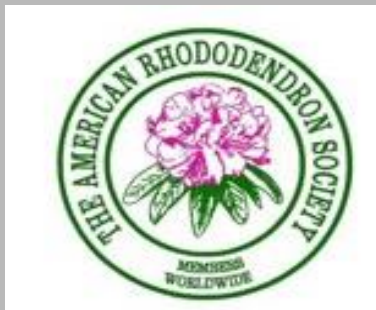
<https://puyallup.wsu.edu/lcs/>

Steve Henning:

rhodyman.net

Rhododendron, Camellia, Magnolia

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



Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

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

<http://cowichanrhodos.ca>

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: The ExecutiveTeam
Fundraising: The Executive Team
Garden Tours: TBA
Library: Verna Buhler