Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

Newsletter

Volume 30:2 March 2019

President's Message

As we dig out from a record February snowfall, we are left pondering the erratic weather, yet again. Snowdrops and hellebores have bounced back as if nothing had happened. I was not as assiduous in sweeping the snow from the bent trees and shrubs as I should have been, but I have been very lucky. Everything appears to be standing erect once more with no broken branches. It remains to be seen if the cold weather has damaged any flower buds.

Perhaps this blast of winter is a good introduction to Ole Jonny Larsen, a Norwegian Rhododendron enthusiast. He will be visiting Vancouver Island in mid March and giving presentations here and

Lloyd Gilmore: Hybridizing to Create Specific Rhododendrons
Wed, Mar 6 @ 7:30pm
(More details on page 2)

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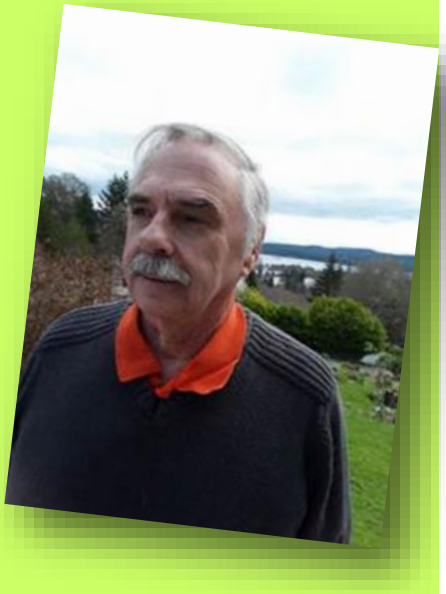
throughout the Lower Mainland. He has successfully grown many varieties of Rhododendrons and Magnolias in a climate that is much harsher than the cold spell we have just gone through.

Jonny Larsen spoke at the International Conference in Germany last year and was very well received. On the Island, he will be speaking at the Nanaimo, North Island, MARS and Victoria Chapter meetings. He will visit the Cowichan Valley and tour some of our gardens, which, hopefully by that time, will not be under snow. Since our Chapter is in a central location to the other clubs, we agreed to offer our guest a brief break in his intense schedule. Instead of hosting a presentation we will organize carpools to some of the other clubs' venues to hear Jonny Olsen speak. **Look for the Notices and the Presentation Schedule in this newsletter.**

Barrie Agar, President

Special Guest: Lloyd Gilmore



Hybridizing to Create Specific Rhododendrons

"My hybridizing interest started about 40 years ago with orchids, and my first serious hybridizing was a *paphiopedilum* cross.

After reading an article about Jack Lofthouse in the Province newspaper in the early 1990's, I went to see him three times, and as a result it inspired me to start hybridizing rhododendrons. After our move to Sooke, I could hybridize in earnest.

Jack Lofthouse with his hybrids.

My presentation will be describing my attempt at creating smaller rhododendrons with indumentum, a scented hose-in-hose flower, and floriferous nature for smaller gardens."

Jeda (Jack Lofthouse hybrid)
Photo: Harold Greer

Letter *from the Editor*

Greetings Fellow Snow Lovers and Everyone Else!!

I wish nicer families for you than those like mine who chose to send me this type of email!

As unusual as the snow has been, hasn't it been fascinating to see our gardens transformed by such soft white cover? I was impressed by how, overnight, areas of the yard that I have regarded as unattractive, became quietly calming, drawing me to stroll through with fresh appreciation. Yes, I suppose it was a knee-to-chest trudge, but it was lovely none-the-less. I loved to see natural structures of the trees and shrubs become so defined by white snow against gray skies.

My attempts to knock snow off limbs and branches exposed my pruning successes and failures of the past, and I resolved to prepare for future snowy weather while pruning this year. Does any other good come of it? Al Murray, I need your expertise!

The possible bud loss could mean that this will be the year for a hard pruning of the lanky rhododendrons in my garden, something I am always reluctant to do because I want to see the blooms.

In this newsletter, you will find details of the Ole Jonny Larsen visit to the Island, along with many other exciting Spring Events. At the Expert Panel meeting in February, Ian promised to forward a follow-up article on Weevils and rhododendrons for the March newsletter. You may also be interested in an update on the Propagating Club activities.

I have decided that propagating rhododendrons can be a humiliating experience. The forces of nature are both friend and foe. The propagating beds become too moist or too dry. The rats that carve their very adorable hollow into the warm pots in my propagator and pull my special species cuttings that I gathered from Al and Sandy's garden to line their nest, destroy my spirit. It was a perfect set-up for them; they also fed on my dozen pots of *Fritillaria imperialis* and species *Tulipa* bulbs. Then, the CVRS heating coil died during the coldest of weeks, and had to be replaced. Really, I have come to think that rhododendron growers could ask a lot more for their products than they generally do!

We'll get together soon, and often,

Verna

Root Weevil Control on Rhododendrons

Reprinted from CVRS Newsletter,
January 2012

Root weevils are the most important pests of rhododendrons and azaleas in the Pacific Northwest. About a dozen kinds of root weevils attack these plants, but usually only five of them are of any significance. These are the obscure root weevil, Sciopithes obscures, black vine weevil, Otiorhynchus sulcatus, woods weevil, Nemocestes incomptus, Dyslobus spp. (no common name), and the clay-colored weevil, Otiorhynchus singularis. The first three are probably the most important.

Black vine weevil adult.
(Photographer unknown)

Damage

Although the larvae of several of these weevils do feed on the roots of many ornamentals, this type of damage usually is serious only in potted nursery stock or in very sandy soil. In the landscape environment, adults cause objectionable damage, consisting of mild-to-severe notching of new leaves, depending on species or variety of plant.

Root weevil larvae. (Antonelli photo)

Description and Biology

The obscure root weevil is brown, displaying a wavy brown line across the back near the rear. It is about 5 to 7 millimeters long (1/4 inch). The black vine weevil is about 9 millimeters long (2/5 inch), black or brownish black, often with small flecks of yellow or white. The clay-colored weevil is similar but lighter in color and smaller. The woods weevil is light to dark brown with gray spots on its back. It is about 5 to 7

millimeters long (1/4 inch). Dyslobus are grayish black weevils ranging from 7 to 10 millimeters long (1/4–2/5 inch).

Larvae of all species of root weevils are very similar in appearance. They are legless white grubs with brown heads. The pupa, white in color, is about the same size as the adult. It is very soft and has the outline of the parts of the adult weevil.

An example of damage caused by the weevil larvae. Note female adult on stem.

The life history is similar for all species. Weevils overwinter as adults (inactive during cold weather) or as larvae in the soil. In late May and June *Otiorhynchus* larvae change to pupae, which are inactive and do not feed. Transformation to the adult stage occurs in June and July. Adults feed on plant foliage and begin to lay eggs 3 to 4 weeks after emergence. Obscure root weevil adults emerge beginning in August and are more numerous from August to October. As larvae emerge from the eggs, they burrow into the soil to feed on roots.

Woods weevil has a life history very similar to the other root weevils except the different stages of growth overlap. It is possible to find adults, eggs, larvae, and pupae all at one time in one location; however, a major peak in adult numbers occurs in late autumn.

Root weevils feed and develop on a wide variety of plants. Weedy fields, woodlands, and fencerows (especially salal or huckleberry thickets), all serve as sources of infestation for adjacent rhododendron plantings. Because these weevils cannot fly, they may require several years to spread entirely across a large planting from an outside source or from an infested plant brought into a clean planting.

Biological Control

Various insect killing nematodes are available for control of immature root weevils as a soil drench. Limited data relative to the success of this technique is available; however, it is available for your use should you want to try it. They are best used when soil temperatures are 52°F or above (usually late summer to early fall). Also nematodes should be applied to soil previously saturated with water and should never be applied in direct sunlight, as UV light kills them quickly.

Adult root weevil damage to foliage.

(Antonelli photo)

Chemical control

At the moment, there are no insecticides registered for general control of larval root weevils in a non-commercial garden setting in BC. [Ed. This paragraph has been changed from the original text]

Mechanical Control

Apply bands of sticky material to the trunk of the shrub to keep weevils down. Weevils are night feeders. They generally move to the trunk, or any other access to the foliage, the following evening. If a sticky band is present, they either will not cross it or may become trapped in it. This technique is less effective where taller plants overhang the rhododendrons. Indications are that prolonged use of this material on bare bark may be somewhat damaging. Snugly fitting a strip of polyethylene (Visqueen) around the trunk and applying the sticky material to the strip can avoid potential problems.

Cultural control

Recent research by WSU entomologists has shown some species and hybrid rhododendrons are less susceptible to adult weevil feeding than others. The following is a list of some rhododendron species and hybrids that are highly to moderately resistant. In most home landscapes, hybrids are more common than species. Unfortunately, hybrids are generally less resistant than species rhododendrons. Dark red flowered hybrid or species rhododendrons are generally susceptible.

This article was published by A.L. Antonelli, Ph.D., Washington State University Extension entomologist, WSU Puyallup, and R.L. Campbell, Ph.D., WSU Research entomologist, retired, College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences, Washington State University Extension Department Extension Bulletin 0970E, 2007.

It has been reproduced with permission of Dr. Art Antonelli and has been modified in the section on chemical control to reflect the state of the regulations in British Columbia. Only one of the photos are from the original article.

SPECIES RHODODENDRONS

SHOWING RESISTANCE TO FEEDING BY ADULT ROOT WEEVIL

SPECIES	SERIES	COLOUR	RATING *
heliolepis	Heliolepis	white, rose	100
impeditum	Lapponicum	purplish blue	100
scintillans	Lapponicum	purplish blue	100
burmanicum	Maddenii	yellow to greenish	100
dauricum	Dauricum	lavender-rose	97
intricatum	Lapponicum	mauve	97
minus	Carolinianum	rose, white	93
desquamatum	Heliolepis	rose, violet	93
ferrugineum	Ferrugineum	rose, white	93
hemsleyanum	Fortunei	white	93
cuneatum	Lapponicum	rose	90
fastigiatum	Lapponicum	lilac, purple	90
yakusimanum	Ponticum	white, rose	90
ungernii	Ponticum	white, pale pink	83
rubiginosum	Heliolepis	pink, rose	83
irroratum	Irroratum	white, ivory, rose	83
racemosum	Virgatum	white, rose	80
russatum	Lapponicum	blue-purple	80
carolinianum	Carolinianum	pink, mauve, white	80
oreodoxa	Fortunei	rose, white	80
oreotrephes	Triflorum	mauve, purple, rosy	77
vernicosum	Fortunei	red	77
adenophorum	Taliense	white, rose	77
campylogynum	Campylogynum	rose	77
xanthocodon	Cinnaborinum	pink, purple,	77
diaprepes	Fortunei	crimson	73
pubsescens	Scabrifolium	ivory, yellow	73
lepidastylum	Trichocladum	white, pale rose	73
pemokoense	Uniflorum	white, rose	73
arizelum	Falconeri	pale yellow	73
glaucophyllum	Glaucophyllum	lilac-pink	73
decorum	Fortunei	white, yellow, rose,	73
cardiobasis	Fortunei	crimson	73
praestans	Grande	white, rose	73
hippophaeoides	Lapponicum	white, pink,	73
eurysiphon	Thomsonii	chartreuse	73
imperator	Uniflorum	white, rose	70
concatenans	Cinnaborinum	magenta-rose, pink	70
yunnanense	Triflorum	lilac, rose	70
ciliatum	Maddenii	ivory, rose	70
discolor	Fortunei	white, pink	70
davidsonianum	Triflorum	white, pink, rose	*70*

HYBRID RHODODENDRONS

SHOWING RESISTANCE TO FEEDING BY ADULT ROOT WEEVILS

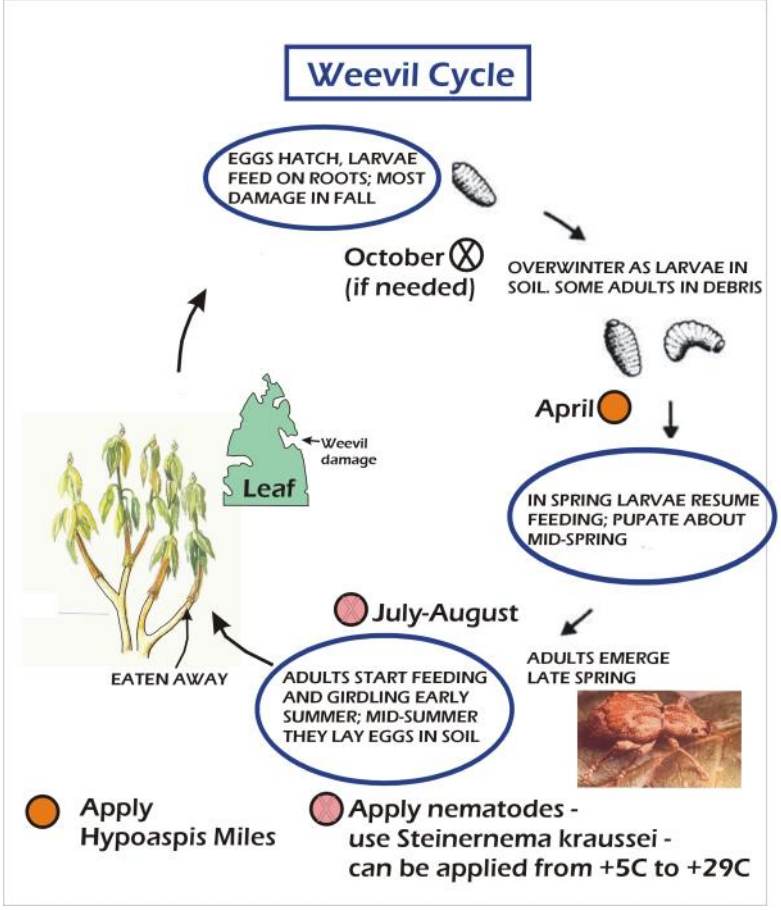
HYBRID	COLOUR	RATING *
P.J. Mezzitt (P.J.M.)	pink	100
Jock	pink	92
Sapphire	blue	90
Rose Elf	white, flushed violet-pink	89
Cilpimense	white	88
Lucky Strike	deep salmon-pink	83
Exbury Naomi	lilac tinged yellow	81
Virginia Richards	Chinese yellow/crimson	81
Cowslip	cream, pink	80
Luscombei	rose-pink	80
Vanessa	soft pink	80
Oceanlake	deep violet-blue	80
Dora Amateis	white, lightly spotted green	79
Crest	yellow	79
Rainbow	carmine-pink	76
Point Defiance	pink	76
Naomi	pink	76
Pilgrim	rich pink	76
Letty Edwards	yellow	76
Odee Wright	yellow	76
Moonstone	yellow	73
Lady Clementine Mitford	pink	72
Candi	bright rose	72
Graf Zeppelin	bright pink	71
Snow Lady	pure white	71
Loderi Pink Diamond	delicate pink	71
Faggetter's Favourite	cream with pink	70

*The higher the number, the less feeding is expected. A 100 rating indicates complete resistance

Doug Justice's comments on the control of the Black Vine Weevil [*Otiorhynchus sulcatus*]

- regular, repeated picking and disposing of adults in the late evening;
- boards or up-turned pots, which the weevils will shelter under, can be carefully inspected during the day and any weevils present dispatched;
- summertime applications of parasitic nematodes [the soil temperature must be over 12C for the nematodes to be active];
- encouraging ground-feeding birds [keep cats inside];
- using trap crops, such as common primrose, *Primula vulgaris*. The weevils preferentially lay eggs in the trap crop container which can then be discarded.

[Quoted from material distributed at "The Ultimate Rhododendron Conference: UBC Botanical Garden April 2010]



Hypoaspis miles *

Another proposed control is the mite *Hypaspis miles* although there is little information as to whether it is effective in killing the larvae of weevils in the garden.

The mite is used as a control in commercial greenhouse situation and can be purchased on-line but it is quite expensive for an unproved control method. It is a soil-dwelling predatory mite that usually stays in the growing media and can feed on a range of different organisms, including larvae of fungus gnats and shoreflies, nematodes, and pupae of thrips, leafminers and gall midges.

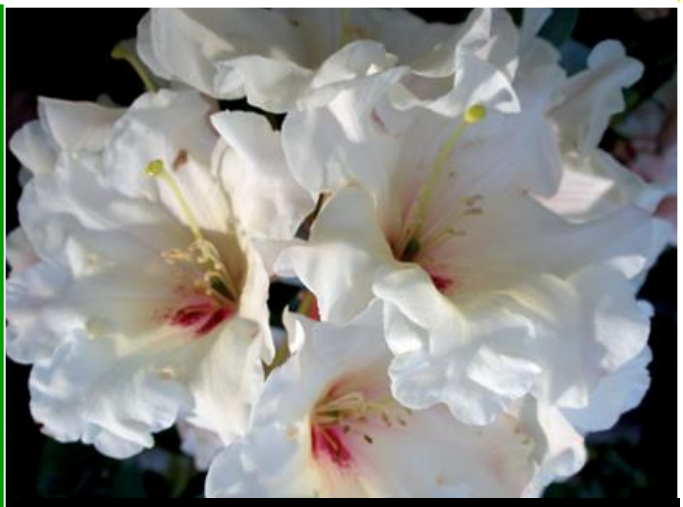
If one was to test this predator against weevils, it should not be distributed around the rhododendrons until the temperature is warm - above 12C and the area should be kept moist after the predator has been distributed.

[* Ed: Abstract from Greenhouse Canada January 2007; The diagram is taken from the Victoria Rhododendron Society newsletter]

CVRS PROPAGATING CLUB UPDATE

Verna Buhler

In light of the recent news about Erica Nurseries falling into difficult times, it seems timely to report on the progress of the CVRS Propagating Club efforts to produce its own stock of marketable rhododendron plants.



'Butter Brickle' X 'Babylon' *Photo by Paul Wurz*

Several years ago Peter Lewis made a comment that we as a club could surely propagate and grow plants for sale at our Garden Fair rather than making large purchases for that purpose. He made a good point, and Ian Efford did initiate a propagating plan.

How are we progressing? In all honesty, it is difficult to say.

For the first season, 2016 – 2017, the propagator lived at Ian's, and for the 2017 -2018 season, at Verna and George's. It also remained in place for the 2018 – 2019 season.

Ian prepared a report for the 2016-2017 Season for the newsletter (See the list at the end of this article)

These young plants were distributed for "growing on" at CVRS members' homes. At this point, Randy and Dorothy have submitted information regarding the status of the 2016-2017 plants in their care. Any information regarding the others would be most welcome.

Success in the next season, 2017-2018, was limited.

Approximately 55 plants survived. These are located in the greenhouse at Verna and George's.

The trouble-shooting and planning meeting scheduled in fall was poorly attended and therefore, the information we had hoped to gather did not come forth. Some suggestions

Approximately 55 plants were produced from the 2017-2018 Propagation effort. Club members have not yet claimed their half of the cuttings.

for overcoming possible problems in last season's efforts were discussed. However, our expertise and experience in this endeavor is limited; the learning curve is a bit steep. Personally, I feel responsible, but I am willing to try to improve the results in the 2018-2019 season.

The task of cleaning and preparing the propagator for the 2018-2019 season of cuttings was done that day. But because the "planning for the future" portion of the meeting did not happen, practices continued in much the same format as in the previous year.

On the next Saturday, members gathered together to prepare cuttings for the 2018-2019 season, and at the end of the day, the propagator was approximately 60% filled.

Over the next several weeks, I was able to fill the propagator with cuttings from a friend's attractive rhododendron garden; these plants unfortunately, were not labeled. Whether or not I will be able to identify them remains to be seen as the property was sold shortly after I obtained the cuttings. I recorded the position of plants and may be able to photograph the garden when it is in bloom this year.

View inside the CVRS propagator, from West to East. The plants at the front are those for which identification labels were not available. They also include some Skimmia.

At this point in the year, the plants in the propagator are still green; however, they do look cold. The heating cable has not been working for over a week. George and I have not been able to make it function and, therefore, we have ordered another heating cable. It should arrive this week and we will immediately replace the other. We have also hung a shade cloth over the propagator to insulate it more and to protect it from rapid environmental changes due to the sunlight that reaches it during this time of the year.

View inside the propagator, from East to West. Contributors will recognize their personal labels.

Photo: Verna Buhler; February 22

Joe Hudak cuttings:

The other CVRS rhododendron and azalea plants that should be available for market in the next while are the plants that have grown from the 2017-2018 cuttings that Joe Hudak distributed, in tall white buckets, to willing club members in Spring 2018.

Joe gave these to members with the understanding that half were to go to the CVRS and half would remain with the club member willing "to grow them on". I have a fair number of these growing in my greenhouse. Note the two photos of the rhododendrons and azaleas.

Joe Hudak/VernaBuhler rhododendrons in one-gallon pots in a hoop house from 2017-2018 cuttings

Photo: Verna Buhler; February 22

Joe Hudak/Verna Buhler deciduous azaleas from 2017-2018 cuttings
In the upper left corner of the photo, there are also numerous Hibiscus syriacus, believed to be 'Red Heart', which Joe Hudak grew from seed.

Photo: Verna Buhler; February 22

Isn't it exciting to think that soon we will have a fine stock of our own rhododendrons and azaleas to sell at our Garden Fair?

At this point, as someone overly keen, I would be willing to initiate the collection of data to create an ongoing record of the plants that the CVRS "owns". In time, club members may wish to formalize the Propagation Club, and assume roles for the various tasks.

We could invite feedback as to a suitable time for an organizational meeting.

Let's do it!

R. 'Mrs T H Lowinsky'
Photo: Garth Wedemire

R. tricanthum
Photo: Hank Helm

2016 – 17 CVRS PROPAGATED PLANT LIST

RHODODENDRONS:

Airy Fairy	1
Aloha	1
Anah Kruschke	4
Anna Rose Whitney	1
Annie Orange	1
Arnold Piper	5
Blue and Gold	2
Bob's Blue	2
Cherry Float	2
Double Date [Rosie's mix]	5
English Rose	1
Fabia	1
Golden Gate	3
Grandma's Hat	6
Gretzel	1
Haggard Anne	1
Helen's Child [Rosie's mix]	1
Helsinki U	5
Horizon Monarch	6
Horizon Serenity	1
Jingle Bells	2
King George	2
Lem's Monarch	2
Mrs J. E. Millias	2
Mrs T. H. Lowinsky	2
Naomi Hope	1
Naselle	9
Redwood	1
Snow Sprite	1
Starbright Champagne	2
Teddy Bear	5
Tiana	10
Trail Blazer	1
White Swan	3
Whitney's Late Orange	2
Wild Ginger	4
Unknown	1
Unknown	2
Unknown	11
R. pachysanthum x Rothchildii [Joe Harvey Cross]	1

SPECIES:

R. augustinii	6
R. augustinii x B. Simpson	3
R. minus v chapmanii	5
R. morii	1
R. sutchuenense	1
R. trichanthum	3
R. tschonoskii	2

AZALEAS:

Arneson's Gem	7
Azalea (Unknown)	1
Knaphill *azalea*	1

Total: 142

Cuttings were provided by:

Carrie Nelson, Joe Hudak, Sharon Tillie, David Annis, Bill Dumont, Ian Efford, Doug Kitts and Trudy Muiser.

I apologize if I have missed anyone.

Ian Efford

Expert Panel

Wisdom, Tips, and Laughs

At the February meeting, our Expert Panel, Roy Blackmore, Sean Rafferty, and Ken Webb provided knowledgeable responses to members questions, generally wrapped in humorous wit.

Thus, these **TIPS BECAME MEMORABLE** despite the rampant virus of memory loss that spread through the meeting hall that evening.

Temperature changes:

Cold snap: January weather had set us ahead by a month or two, and had us predicting an early spring and a dry summer. With the extreme change in temperatures, we should now expect that many of our rhododendron buds would turn brown and drop off without sharing their resplendencies this year. New growth may begin earlier due to the bud drop.

Hot summer: Heat in June and July brought on higher bud set. Without adequate water in the summer the new growth may be shorter and have smaller leaves.

Mild fall: With the cooler temperatures and increased moisture, some rhododendrons experienced late growth spurts and blooms. The new growth might not have had time to harden off and may struggle or die.

Weevils:

What attracts or dissuades them:

Weevils like weaker plants; keep them healthy

The shapes of leaves can be a factor, creating ease of access to weevils. They seem to like *Rhododendron* 'Elizabeth'.

Washington State University study provides list of those less susceptible. See the article in this newsletter.

Some plants have their own defensive systems. Studies are being done on *allelopathy.*

> Allelopathy is described as the interference to plant growth resulting from chemical interactions among plants and other organisms mediated through release of plant-produced bioactive secondary metabolites referred to as allelochemicals. A number of mechanisms have been studied for the release of allelochemicals from various plant tissues including volatilization or leaching from aerial parts, exudation from roots and decomposition of plant residues in soil. Despite differences in biological activity and mode of action, related compounds commonly share similar biosynthetic pathways while some classes of metabolites can be produced using diverse biosynthetic pathways. Recently considerable research has also been undertaken to critically understand the role of allelochemicals in plant succession and plant invasion in native and nonnative ecosystem. In addition, numerous studies have been performed on the selection and utilization of weed suppressive crops and their residues for weed management in sustainable agriculture systems. A better understanding of allelochemical production with respect to plant defence strategies, both physical and chemical, may also allow us to better protect and manage developing crops, limit the spread of invasive weeds, preserve native plant stands and create strategies for allelochemical development and application as novel pesticides. The use of sensitive analytical techniques associated with performance of metabolomics in concert with other *omics* technologies has led to new advances in the identification of unique allelochemicals, the biosynthetic pathways associated with their production, their complex role(s) in the soil rhizosphere and their production as impacted by a changing climate. Identification of novel plant metabolites, including allelochemicals, may result in a source of biologically based pesticides through the provision of complementary structures for future synthesis and as an aid in the development of new molecular target sites. (sciencedirect.com)

West Coast *R. macrophyllum*: Depending on where they are found in the wild, they do appear to be different. Some have much larger leaves than others. Studies are being done to determine if the rhododendron so named along the West Coast are significantly different. Ben Hall had identified about four clines. Mycorrhizal associations may be factors.

Deciduous azalea sawfly: This is difficult partially because of important timing. The natural insecticide *spinosad* will control **sawfly larvae.** Bt (Bacillus thuringiensis), which is an effective natural control for true **caterpillars**, is ineffective on **sawfly larvae**.

Special Event

OLE JONNY LARSEN

VANCOUVER ISLAND SCHEDULE

From Ålesund, Norway, Ole Jonny Larsen is a retired school teacher and a popular speaker, most recently featured at the 2018 ARS Conference in Germany. Author of several books on rhododendrons and plant hunting, Jonny has also written for the ARS Journal, the RSF yearbook, the Royal Horticultural Society's Rhododendron, Magnolia and Camellia yearbook, plus the newsletters of the Scandinavian Rhododendron Societies. He has participated in three plant-hunting expeditions to Yunnan and Sichuan, China; and runs a nursery supplying species rhododendrons to Scandinavian collectors.

Thursday, March 12, 2019: North Island

http://www.nirsrhodos.ca/ws/

- Full day of garden visits
- Presentation pm: ***"Plant Hunting, the Experience of an Amateur",*** followed by short talk about ***"Jean Rasmussen"*** after the coffee break.

Wednesday, March 13: Mt Arrowsmith

http://marsrhodos.ca/coming-events/#meeting

- Presentation 7:30 pm: ***"Plant Hunting, the Experience of an Amateur",*** again followed by talk on ***"Jean Rasmussen"***.

Thursday, March 14: Nanaimo

http://nanaimorhodos.ca/

- Presentation: "***Rhododendron Species Cultivation in Scandinavia"*** followed by ***"Jean Rasmussen"*** story

Friday, March 15: Cowichan

- Tour of Cowichan gardens

Saturday, March16: Victoria

victoriarhodo.ca/index.html

- Presentation 6 pm: ***"Plant Hunting for Amateurs"*** and ***"Jean Rasmussen"***

  Horticulture Center of the Pacific
  (505 Quayle Rd Victoria, BC.)

The Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Presents

Ole Jonny Larsen – *all the way from Norway*

"Rhododendron Culture in Scandinavia"

As well as a short presentation on *"Jean Rasmussen in Norway"*, *(plant hunter Frank Kingdon Ward's 2nd wife)*

Ole Jonny Larsen, a passionate collector of plants, has one of Norway's largest private rhododendron collections. He's written many articles and published a number of books on rhododendrons and the great plant hunters of the past. Well known in Europe as a speaker and lecturer, we are very fortunate to have him here in Nanaimo.

Thursday, March 14th, 2019

Beban Park Social Center, 7:30 pm

Free Admission

IN MEMBERS' GARDENS

Baldy Mountain snow cover at Carrie and Rick Nelson's.

A rhododendron droops its leaves as a protective measure against cold and loss of moisture.

In Shawnigan Lake, Al and Sandy Campbell's patio draped softly in winter.

A flicker lingers near a bird feeder hoping it will soon be restocked.

Cowichan Lake Road, snow cover defines structures and simplifies landscape features.

Vancouver Island Heather Society

Annual Heather Sale

Featuring: • 4 different kits of 9 plants with planting plans • Many tried and true varieties • Rare and unusual varieties • Tree Heaths • Cassiopes (Mountain heather)

Looking for more information: bcheathersociety.org

Master Gardeners Heather Pruning Demonstrations

Saturday March 30th Doors
Open from 10am – 12noon

Stu Armour Building Fisher Rd. Cobble Hill
Around the corner from the Farmers Institute

Vancouver Island Master Gardeners Present

Moss Landscapes of Southwestern BC

Featured Speaker Kem Luther, MSc, PhD Moss Landscapes of Southwestern BC

Join with Vancouver Island Master Gardeners in welcoming Dr. Kem Luther author of Boundary Layers (Oregon State University Press, 2016). In this informative seminar, Dr. Luther will showcase Vancouver Island mosses and talk about their environmental and social roles as well as the role of mosses in lawns and on roofs. You are invited to join Dr. Luther for a 'moss walk' after his presentation

March 10th, 2019, 12:15 — 3:00 pm
Parksville Community & Conference Centre
132 Jensen Ave., Parksville BC
$10.00 cash or cheque at door

Space is limited, register for seminar & moss walk email: wendy.strachan1@gmail.com

The Vancouver Island
Rock and Alpine Garden Society

ANNUAL SPRING FLOWER SHOW

Friday, April 5; 1pm to 8pm

Saturday, April 6; 9am to 3pm

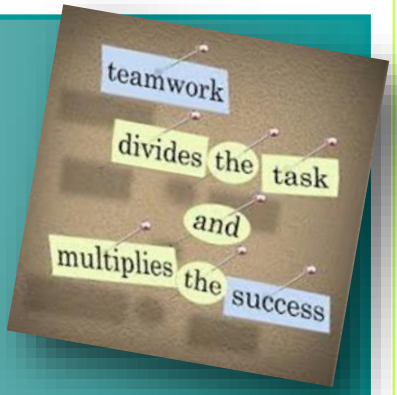
Public sale of member donated plants;
11 am Saturday

Come to see rock and alpine, succulent, woodland and wetland plants. There will be plant and seed sale, door prizes, a silent auction, tea and more!

Cadbora Bay United Church
2625 Arbutus Road, Victoria

Admission by Donation
Visit our website *www.virags.com*

Request for Assistance



From: Art Lightburn

Re: Greig's Rhododendron Species Garden at Milner Gardens

Common Cause: Moving rhododendrons to our special Vancouver Island species garden

Hi from snowy Nanoose!

We were going to start lifting the smaller [rhododendron] species to go to Milner Gardens, but the weather has played a trick on our schedule. Luckily the little snow is keeping the ground from freezing to any depth.

I see the transfer of the rhododendrons as a three-stage process:

- lifting and wrapping the plants
- transporting them to Milners
- planting them in the proper sites

Using the number list John has provided and 25+ numbered stakes, we could go to the garden and stake out the locations of each plant, making the location of each plant predetermined.

I have started a list of volunteers, but will need someone to canvas MARS, Cowichan, Victoria and North Island for volunteers.

We will need volunteers for: Probably, two days of digging and wrapping, with some of the transport happening at the same time.

Also: Large trailers or a flat deck would be handy.

We would have liked to start earlier, but we have no control over the weather.

Best regards,

Art

25th Annual Cowichan Family Life Garden Tour

Charity Fundraiser

Sunday, Mother's Day,
May 12, 2019; 10am to 4:30pm

Tickets: $25

A self-guided tour of 7 beautiful gardens

Ticket Outlets

Duncan

- Buckerfield's Supply Store
- Volume One Bookstore
- Jim's Pools and Spa
- Cowichan Family Life Assoc.

South Cowichan

- Third Edition Gifts, Mill Bay
- Dinter Nursery Ltd

North Cowichan

- Russell Farms Market & Garden Centre
- Sandpiper Garden & Glass

Nanaimo

- Green Thumb
- Little Tree Garden Centre

Victoria

- Elk Lake Garden Centre
- Dig This—Oak Bay
- Dig This—Broadmead

"Chat in the Garden"

Master Gardeners at every garden to answer your gardening questions.

Garden Tea

With musicians and artists
Catering by VIU Culinary Arts Program

Presented by CFLA which continues to provide Cowichan Valley access to affordable or free counseling.

250-748-8281

http://cowichanfamilylife.org

Counselling Office:

#28—127 Ingram Street

Duncan, BC V9L 1N8

Calendar of Upcoming Events

CVRS MONTHLY MEETING SPEAKER LIST

Wednesday, March 6, 2019
Lloyd Gilmore

March 13 - 18, 2019
Jonny Larsen Special Presentations and Events

Wednesday, April 3, 2019
Garth Wedemire and Sean Rafferty's Wales Journey

Wednesday, May 1, 2019
Barrie Agar, Ireland

Cobble Hill
Seedy Saturday

March 9th from 10 am - 2 pm

Cobble Hill & Stu Armour Halls
3550 Watson Avenue - Cobble Hill

2 venues - over **45 venders**
featuring **Lee Valley Tools**, Perennial Ridge Nurseries, Saltspring Seeds, Full Circle Seeds, Seeds of Diversity, Brother Nature Organic Seeds and other organic & heritage seeds, plant starts, bulbs & tubers, mason bees & their houses, garden tools, body care, permaculture and so much more!

FREE ENTRY

presented by the Cobble Hill Farmers Institute
wheelchair accessible, lots of free parking and great food
www.facebook.com/cobblehillseedysaturday

For more information contact:
cobblehillseeds@gmail.com

Vancouver Island's best Seedy Saturday

CVRS BOOK CLUB MEETING

Thursday, March 14, 2019
2 pm at the CVRS Library;
3908 Cowichan Lake Road

Please open the gate and drive right in. The gate is there only to keep dogs in and deer out -- - never our friends! Coffee and snacks are provided.

PLEASE NOTE: This date may need to be changed once more information regarding the "Jonny Larsen" presentation times and dates are available.

April 5 – 6, 2019
The Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Garden Society Annual Spring Flower Show (Cadboro Bay United Church, Victoria www.virags.com)

Thursday, April 11, 2019
Margot Moser "*Native Plants"* Nanaimo Rhododendron Society Meeting

Saturday April 13, 9 am to 2 pm
Mill Bay Plantaholics Sale
2836 Oceanside Lane, Mill Bay
Proceeds from the sale will be divided between the Malawi Girls on the Move program & Somenos Transition House.

Seedy Saturdays: (www.seeds.ca)

March 9, 2019; 10 am – 2 pm
Cobble Hill Seedy Saturday

March 23; 10 am – 2 pm
Campbell River Community Center

Sunday, April 28th – 10 to 1 pm
NIRS Annual Rhodo Show & Sale: at KFN Hall on Comox Road.

Thursday, May 9, 2019
Graham Sakaki – Research and Community Engagement Coordinator for the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute (MABRRI). *"Mt Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve and Milner Phenology Project"* (Nanaimo Rhododendron Society)

Sunday, May 12th – 10 am to 4 pm
NIRS Annual Mother's Day Garden Tour: Six beautiful gardens to visit in the Courtenay area.

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/.

2018-19 Executive

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

Vice President: Ali Morris

Past President:

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,
Elizabeth Zoffman

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

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ML Media Design www.mlmediadesign.ca

Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

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

http://cowichanrhodos.ca

April 27, 2019; 10 am - 2 pm

http://cowichanvalleygardenfair.com

www.facebook.com/CowichanValleyGardenFair