



# Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

Newsletter

Volume 33:3 March 2022

## *Message from the President*

February simply melted away for me! And that's alright.

There is evidence everywhere that Spring is emerging – bowing white blooms of *Galanthus* representing purity and innocence, and for their early determined appearance, hope. What is more uplifting than a carpet of white under bare winter trees or drifts of white lace against dark rhododendrons? Perhaps nothing. For some, the sunny faces of *Eranthis hyemalis*, Winter Aconites, satisfy the longing for sunshine to shady gardens. In my garden, the pink *Primula polyantha* that the Propagating Club salvaged from a Mill Bay garden last spring rewards with its colour. And the *Helebores* brighten my spirits every day as more and more lift their faces to the sun.

In this issue, you will find the third of a three-part series of articles focusing on Storeys in Garden Design. Adding to that, is Carrie Nelson's 'Companion Plants for March' in which she describes the many beautiful ground covers that star before rhododendrons claim the stage. . .

**Continued on Page 2**



## CVRS March Meeting

Wednesday  
March 2, 2022  
7 – 9 pm

### Special Presentation

*Ian and Anne Duncan*  
Page 3

<b>Greig Species Garden</b>	4
<b>AGM Rhododendrons</b>	5
<b>Companion Plants for March</b>	7
<b>Garden Storeying</b>	12
<b>Upcoming Events</b>	21
<b>Useful Links</b>	24

*Banner Photo:*

*Powerful roots of fir having grown to maturity on a nurse log at the Greig Rhododendron Species Garden at Milner Gardens on Vancouver Island*

in April and May. Gardeners may wish they had larger properties to display this array of possibilities.

As I was reading several of the newsletters that I received from the various chapters of the American Rhododendron Society, I was stopped by a question and link in the *Rhododendron News, Portland Chapter*. "Do you know about the [Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit](#)?" I know that I have often mentioned that special rhododendrons and other companion plants have been awarded the RHS AGM. This also reminded that I had to research the acronym to determine what it meant. Along with an explanation of the RHS Award of Garden Merit, you will find a condensed list of hybrid rhododendrons that have won the award and that you should be able to find and purchase on Vancouver Island. Some are readily available at nurseries and others may only be spotted at special plant sales.

You will find notices of a nice assortment of upcoming plant sales in this issue. At these sales you are sure to find many of the plants perfect for creating your personal versions of the layers of three-storey garden design. Does it seem too early for plant sale notices?

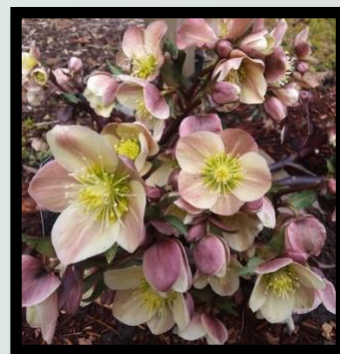
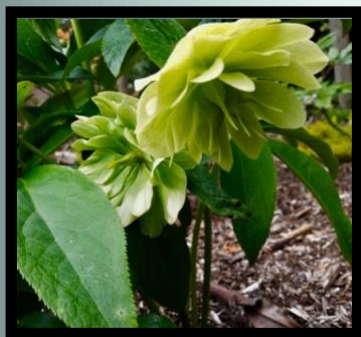
Let's admit it; most of us have already been experiencing some seasonal effects of the upcoming Vernal Equinox, that time when the day and night are of equal length.

*It's spring fever.*

*That is what the name of it is.*

*And when you've got it,  
you want—oh, you don't quite know  
what it is you do want,  
but it just fairly makes your heart ache,  
you want it so!*

**-- Tom Sawyer, *Detective*, by Mark Twain,  
American humourist (1835-1910)**



**Just enjoy it!**

*Verna*



## CVRS GUEST SPEAKERS

### Ian Duncan and Anne Allen

#### *Wildflowers of Switzerland and Austria by Bike*

**March 2, 2022 7pm**



**Anne and Ian above Penticton, on Day 7 of a 9-Day Bike Tour of the 650 km. Kettle Valley Rail Trail**

Touring Switzerland and Austria would delight anyone; however, touring on a bicycle is so much better. Anne and Ian did just that; a five week trip provided a wondrous array of forest and lakeside trails, wildflowers, panoramic views, river paths winding ahead and constant interruptions for "Photo Stop - another wildflower".

Ian Duncan is a retired kitchen and custom furniture designer who now enjoys woodworking, from crafting small pieces such as wooden butter knives to falling and milling his own lumber to build timber frame structures the old way, without metal fasteners. Anne Allen is a retired medical lab tech who enjoys gardening along with flower and wildlife photography.

We have been members of the Victoria Chapter since about 1990. Ian is on the board of VicRS and is a volunteer in the rhododendron garden at the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific (HCP).

We live on a wooded 10 acres in Saanich, with about 500 rhododendrons, Japanese maples, magnolias, and vegetable garden, all within about three acres of deer proof fencing. Anne is the plantsperson; Ian digs holes, makes stone walls, trails and structures.

Pre-COVID we enjoyed bicycle centric holidays in Europe: The Netherlands, Denmark, France, Belgium, Germany, and the South Island of New Zealand. Closer to the home front we have had wheels on the ground in almost every province.

# *Greig Rhododendron Species Garden*

## **At Milner Gardens and Woodland**

[milnergardens.viu.ca](http://milnergardens.viu.ca)

### **Advisory Board Meeting - February 2022**

Report by Verna Buhler

**Geoff Ball** reported that, for the past two years, Milner Gardens and Woodland was affected by the same COVID protocols and shutdowns as most other organizations. It operated with minimal Staff, who were stretched to perform a medley of unfamiliar tasks, and volunteers were unable to assist. Programs and admissions were cut, causing large financial deficits. A Ministry of Tourism Grant helped to create a better fiscal situation in 2021, and the financial situation is now stable.

**John Deniseger** reported on the Greig Rhododendron Species Garden plants and the ongoing projects. Trees, rhododendrons and companion plants have grown tremendously over three years and the donations of large rhododendron species from Art and Susan Lightburn helped to create a garden, in Phase 1, that appears more established than its actual age. Currently. . .

- Some trees outside the fenced area are dying, and others must be planted soon to ensure the garden is not over-exposed to sun.
- MARS is installing a 35 x 40 foot shade house in an adjacent meadow area which will be used to grow-on the rhododendrons propagated by local clubs.

**Phase 2** requires an injection of more funds, although some ARS Grant money remains:

- Expansion of the species garden, down a slope to the ocean, designated for large-leaf species rhododendrons. Views of the garden would be from above and below.
- Education and Interpretive Programs – development of accessible Data Bases
- Marketing on various levels

## **Anniversary Open House**

### **Special Event for ARS Members**

**April 26, 2022 1 – 3pm**

**Special visit to the garden which  
officially open on April 27, 2018**

**Contact the CVRS Executive  
if interested in group travel**

[cowichanvalleyrhododendronsociety@gmail.com](mailto:cowichanvalleyrhododendronsociety@gmail.com)



# Rhododendrons with RHS Award of Garden Merit

## The Royal Horticultural Society Award of Garden Merit

There are approximately 7500 plants of all kinds that have been selected to receive the RHS Award of Garden Merit. This is of more than 75,000 plants available on the RHS Plant Finder List



You may be familiar with the AGM logo. A cup symbol on a plant's label shows that it has earned the AGM – it's the Royal Horticultural Society's seal of approval that the plant performs reliably in the garden.

Before awarded, plants generally go through a trial period, often at Wisely Gardens. At other times, if the plant cannot go through on site trials, 'roundtable assessments' are carried out at a forum of horticultural experts.



### Award of Garden Merit plants are:

- Excellent for ordinary use in appropriate conditions
- Readily available
- Of good constitution
- Essentially stable in form and colour
- Reasonably resistant to pests and disease

*Choosing the best Rhododendrons for our gardens can be over whelming. To offer new gardeners some idea of plants that have met high standards, the RHS has a lengthy list of both species and hybrid AGM Winners.*

*From the complete list of hybrids, I have selected those that I personally know are available in our area. Some are readily available where plants are sold; some at large nurseries; others at specialty sales offered by Rhododendron propagators and growers and at special Rhododendron Plant Sales.*

The complete list, including species rhododendrons, can be found at:

[RHS AGM rhododendrons](#)



# AGM Rhododendron Hybrids

(including Evergreen and Deciduous Azaleas)



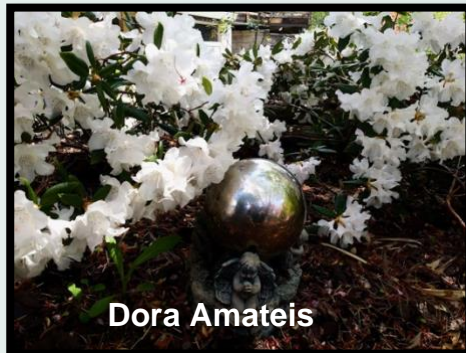
**Fastuosum Flore Pleno**

Alice  
Bashful  
Blewbury  
Blue Danube (E. Azalea)  
Chinese Silver  
(*R. argyophyllum*  
subsp. *Nankingen*)

Cilpinense  
Crest  
Cynthia  
Dora Amateis

Dreamland  
Elizabeth Hobbi  
Elsie Lee (D. Azalea)  
Fabia

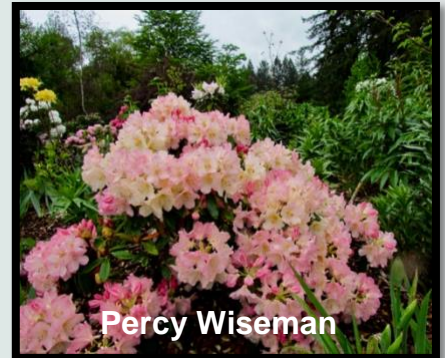
Fagetter's Favourite  
Fantastica  
Fastuosum Flore Pleno  
Gartendirektor Rieger  
Gibraltar (D. Azalea)



**Dora Amateis**

Ginny Gee  
Golden Torch  
Gomer Waterer  
Hachmann's Marlis  
Hachmann's Polaris  
Hachmann's Porzellan  
Hino-crimson (E. Azalea)  
Homebush (D. Azalea)  
Hydon Dawn  
Klondyke (D. Azalea)  
Koichiro Wada  
(*yakushimanum*)

Lem's Cameo  
Lem's Monarch  
Loderi King George  
Loderi Pink Diamond  
Loder's White  
Lord Roberts  
Markeeta's Prize  
Mother's Day (E. Azalea)



**Percy Wiseman**

Mrs A T de la Mare  
Mrs Furnival  
Mrs T H Lowinsky  
Myrtilloides Group  
(*R. camplogynum*)

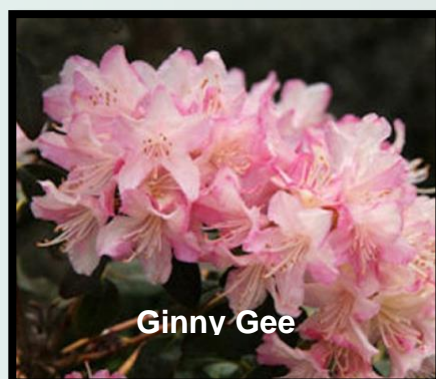
Nancy Evans  
Patty Bee  
Percy Wiseman  
Ramapo  
Razorbill  
Rock Rose  
(*R. racemosum*)

Strawberry Ice  
(D. Azalea)  
The Honourable Jean  
Marie de Montague  
Tortoiseshell Wonder  
Vulcan

Vuyk's Scarlet  
(E. Azalea)  
Yaku Fairy (*R. keiskei* var  
*osawae*)



**Lem's Monarch**



**Ginny Gee**



**Klondyke**

# Companion Plants of the Month

For over a year, we have been enjoying the *Companion Plant of the Month* articles submitted by one of the most knowledgeable plants women in our rhododendron club, Ali Morris. We are so grateful for the many unique plants introduced to our gardens by Ali.

Recently, Ali suggested that it was time to take a break. Before I could protest and plead with her, she assured me, in her ever reliable fashion, she had convinced Carrie Nelson to bring a new voice to the newsletter.

Thank you so much for your faithful contributions, Ali.

Ali has left us in good hands. Welcome Carrie!

Along with her first article, Carrie sent some photos and an enthusiastic message:

“I was ecstatic when I saw *Rhododendron moupinense* in bloom this afternoon and not frozen. I moved it last spring to a sheltered spot after the blooms froze last year.”

Carrie





# Native Groundcovers

## Companions for Rhododendron Gardens

By Carrie Nelson

*A recent episode on the CBC (The Current, Feb. 21, 2022) reinforced the responsibility we have to protect and create habitat for insect populations. To that end, I suggest, whether you use mulch or groundcovers, please leave some small patches of open ground free of mulch and/or matting groundcovers along pathways, rock walls, or at the back of your planting beds to allow ground nesting wasps, bees, and ladybugs easy access to burrow in for the winter (70% of bees nest in-ground). If you are concerned about those little bare patches, apply only 1 inch of mulch or a thin layer of leaves *after* the bees become inactive in the Fall, allowing them to easily dig out in the Spring.*

There are many native and introduced groundcovers that are slow growing and not invasive. If you have a lot of landscaping to do and think, "I'll plant periwinkle, ivy, St John's Wort, or Goutweed for a quick fix", think again. I didn't. Unless you have a path, driveway, or a concrete barrier, these ground covers take over, crowding out perennials, bulbs, and desirable slower growing groundcovers. Having said that, however, these *invasives* can be very attractive in the right spot and are effective at controlling erosion on steep slopes. I often have birds nesting in the ivy cascading down a rock wall. However, once planted these invasive varieties are almost impossible to eradicate.

Planting evergreen and drought tolerant groundcovers directly in a good soil mix or through an existing thin layer of mulch (10cm/2 in) around and under plants will help prevent extreme heat or cold damage to shallow rooted Rhododendrons and Japanese Maples.

Following are a few native evergreen groundcovers suitable for South East Vancouver Island and our increasingly dry conditions. Whatever you choose, research the suitability for your landscape.



### ***Arctostaphylos uva ursi***

also known as Kinnikinnick or Bearberry, is slow growing, drought tolerant, and has clusters of white/pink flowers followed by red berries that are attractive to birds and bears.

It is excellent in full sun or part shade on slopes and rock walls. Propagate Kinnikinnick from cuttings, seeds, or by layering.

It is deer and rabbit resistant.



### ***Linnaea borealis***

or Twinflower, is a slow and low growing creeper (10 cm tall), with very fine trailing runners, and diminutive leaves and flowers which are white to pink and fragrant, and approximately 1 to 1.5 cm long.

Twinflower is suitable on the flat or on slopes; it does best in shade to part sun areas, but highly adaptable, it grows in somewhat dry to somewhat damp environments. It has proven to be drought tolerant.



Photo: Bryan Pfeiffer



Photo: Carrie Nelson

### ***Mahonia nervosa:***

*Berberis nervosa* or dull Oregon Grape, is drought tolerant, best in part sun to shade.

Attractive as a mass planting under pruned up larger rhododendrons or specimen trees, it stands 30-40 cm high spreading by slow growing rhizomes.

Twenty cm long racemes of bright yellow flowers attract bees in the Spring; this is followed by edible, but tart, dusty blue berries. Berries attract birds and also make excellent grape jelly.

The plant was used by First Nations people for making tea, medicine, yellow dye and paint. Although the foliage is fragrant, deer and rabbits are deterred because of its prickly leaves.

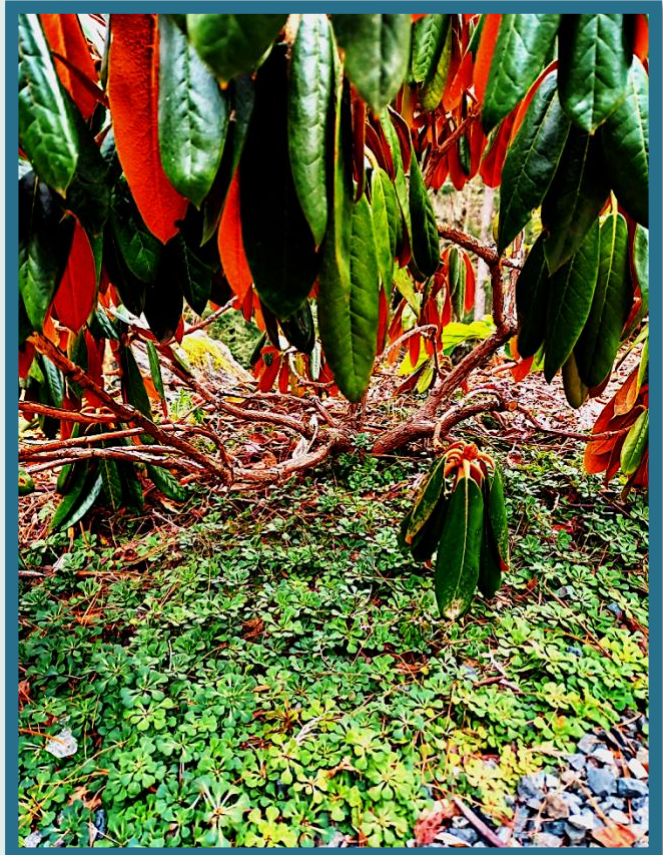
Propagate this native plant by root cuttings or division in spring.



***Sedum spathulifolium*, *Saxifraga*,  
*Bryosida*:**

There are also many *Sedums*, broad-leaved stonecrop, *Saxifrages*, and *Bryosida* or mosses, when planted in the right conditions, make excellent groundcovers under smaller but upright rhododendrons.

A number of nurseries on the Island carry native plants as well as non-native evergreen groundcovers.



***Saxifraga*** naturalized under *Rhododendron* 'Teddy Bear' (Photo above: Carrie Nelson)

Non-native *Saxifraga* in bloom in George's garden (Photo left and below: Verna Buhler)







**Nature's groundcovers -- stunning drifts of moss and sedum clinging to rock walls on the dry south face of Mount Tzouhalem overlooking Cowichan Bay** (Photos: Verna Buhler)





# GARDEN STOREYING

~ Verna Buhler ~



## GARDEN DESIGN - Part Three

### The Lower Storey

*For some odd reason I thought that discussion of the Lower Storey would be much easier than that of the Middle Storey. But it really isn't. The design concepts are very similar, but the plant choices and display approaches are once again vast. If you ever thought woodland shade meant a dull or limited selection of available plants, you may discover, by wandering through a garden of naturalized *Primula* such as the one created by the Weesje's in the photo above, that this is indeed a myth.*





What draws me along the winding paths of green woodlands or a gentle walkway through a garden? When I stop and bend down for a closer look, what has caught my eyes?

What appeals to me may not draw the same response from a friend walking right beside me.

*Therefore, taking note of such moments and answering these questions as you plan the Lower Storey of your garden, allows you to create special spaces that will delight you personally, every time you wander through or work in your garden.*

In Elisabeth's garden, a slightly curved and rising walkway, brightly edged with golden Japanese ***Hakonechloa macra***, offers glimpses of colourful blooms at its upper destination. Elisabeth also uses Hakone grass to contrast the lovely dark fronds ***Athyrium niponicum***, a Japanese Painted Fern, and to drape over blue-toned boulders beside a path. The bright spills of its linear foliage point first to the variety of small distinctive leaves and delicate flowers mingling in the lower storey before attention moves on to larger plantings.

Photos: Elisabeth Zoffman



Photo: Verna Buhler





As I began this third article about using the storeys approach in garden design, I thought about the Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society gardens that I had visited, always with my camera, so that I could narrow down my search through my photos.

In my own younger 2-acre garden, I have yet to create lovely drifts of lower storey plantings other than those in sun where peonies and irises star because upper and middle storey plants have not yet grown to mature levels.

Elisabeth's stunning compact garden came to mind immediately as one that would demonstrate the hundreds of options possible for lower storey plantings. As an avid plant collector, she also has unique middle and upper storey treasures, but in response to my request, she kindly sent me a large album of her lower storey photos.

*This then in part, became a photo story of the colourful Lower Storey.*

*Thank-you for that, Elisabeth.*



Upper and Middle Storey trees and shrubs are fronted by mounds and groupings of colour and foliage plants that are happy to receive extra hours of sunlight during periods of the day.

By selecting low growing and dwarf rhododendrons that grow well in more sun, such as *R.* 'Percy Wiseman' and perhaps, *R.* 'Rangoon', Elisabeth creates transitions to a variety of other plant gems sited among boulders near the edges of her borders.

Because she understands plant habits, she is able to space plants perfectly, so that each displays its uniqueness and also compliments nearby companions.

Foliage contrasts satisfy between flowering periods of her perennial choices.



***Anemone coronaria* 'De Caan'** and ***Gentiana acaulus*** varieties provide blues in a garden  
Photos: Verna Buhler



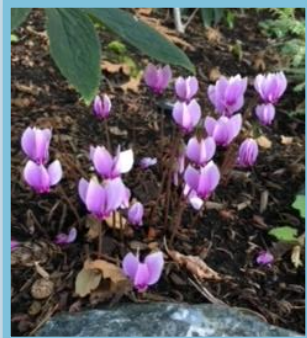




In this Lower Storey display, Japanese maples and rhododendrons such as *R. augustinii* are accompanied by unfurling fronds of a delicate fern, *Adiantum*, and a small upright fern, *Asplenium scolopendrium*.

Although we may not recognize the specific varieties, plants such as *Trillium luteum*, *Helleborus*, *Hosta*, and *Saxifraga* play roles in this pleasant mix. Whether the lacy foliage left of the *Helleborus* is another lovely fern, *Adiantum* or *Ruta*, *Corydalis*, or *Dicentra* would be a question for Elisabeth when she generously opens her garden for a tour for CVRS members at the end of March.

Early season ephemerals appear on the garden stage alongside long lasting *Helleborus*, each in turn briefly, then step back for the arrival of the next stars.





*Helleborus* species and hybrid blooms endure over a longer period than many of their lower storey companions. Elisabeth is a collector of *Helleborus* and therefore her winter and spring garden is spectacular. Photos: Elisabeth Zoffman

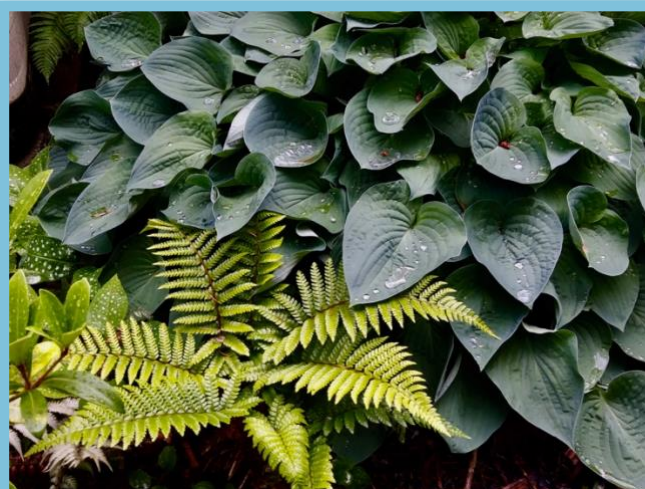




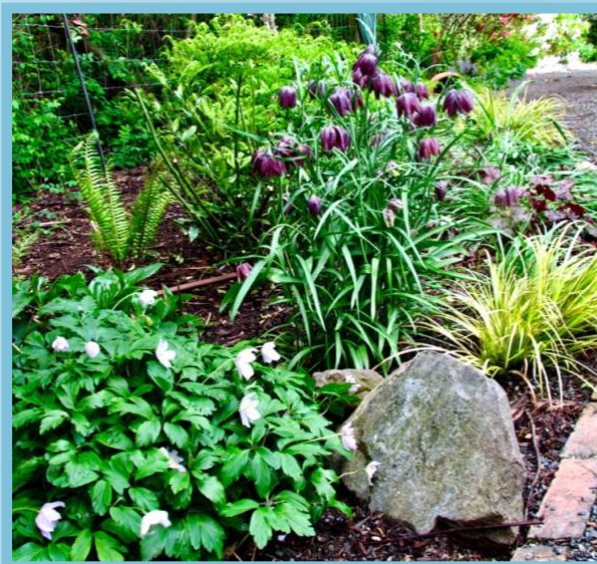
While many of the border and edge plants steal seasonal shows, the steady heroes of the shady Lower Storey are the foliage plants. They bloom, but the flowers are secondary in their impact.

*Hosta* foliage variations defy counting. *Hosta* answers colour quests in shades of darkest forest green, to hues of slate and blue, and tones from lime to yellow. Add to those options the variegated *Hosta*, and gardeners find themselves wandering about with pots in their arms desperate to find more ground space for their latest prizes.

Foliage sizes range from tiny to monstrous and placing them adjacent to one another with ***Skimmia***, spotted foliage and delicate blossoms of ***Pulmonaria***, and bright selections of fern create soothing and harmonious spaces.



Combinations become endless. *Hosta* with primula and fern; sword and maidenhair ferns with ***Fritillaria***, ***Anemone*** and ***Carex*** grass.





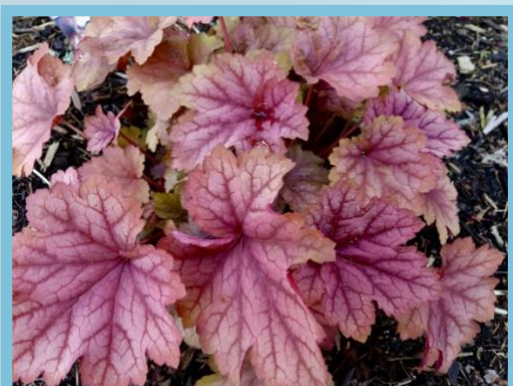
## *Dramatic foliage speaks for itself*

**Rodgersia**, and **Podphyllum** are but two of many with bold size, bold markings, unusual shapes and colours.



## *Delicate forms and habits have equal impact*

**Heuchera** and **Epimedium** charm with colourful foliage and spikes of delicate flowers



## *With so many options; how can I possibly choose?*

*Perhaps begin with how you would like your garden to make you feel,  
because it will; a garden will make you feel . . . something . . . much*

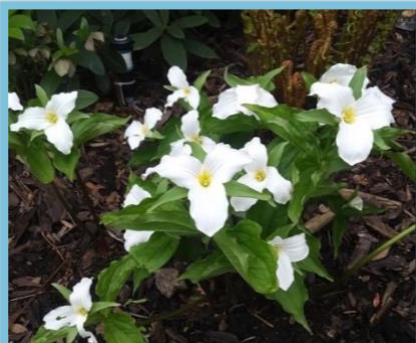
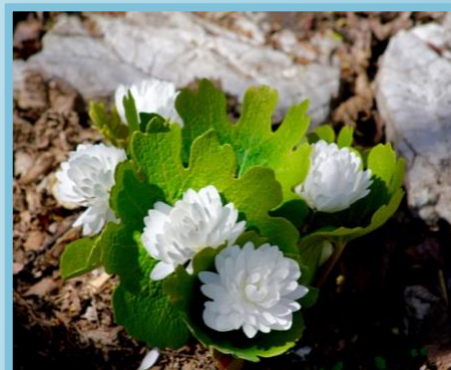
For some that means a variety of plants, vibrant colours and weekly changes in their garden carpets. Intriguing kaleidoscopes draw responses of awe and energy, eliciting joy and gratitude for Nature's surprises for the week.

Others prefer a more visual permanence in drifts of plants and repetition that calms and soothes their spirits and invites them into an unhurried sphere of quiet. Shifts and changes throughout the seasons are humble, gentle and subtle.



*It appeals to me to one day create a garden area with a Lower Storey that seems pure, magical and innocent -- one which I am still allowed to enter. There will be strength in its foliage and only white flowers -- except for a stand of Meconopsis. So, where would I begin my planning?*

First, I would need to learn which plants have growing requirements suitable to the garden bed I wish to design. In this case, a rhododendron garden with bright shade and some borders of part sun. In just minutes, I have a list of plants, a page long, that can't all fit into the space.



*Rhododendron 'Loderi King George'*  
*Rhododendron 'Milky Way'*, *Podophyllum*,  
*Heuchera 'Green Spice'*  
*Beesia*, *Sanguinaria canadensis 'Flora pleno'*,  
*Anemone*, *Hosta*,  
*Trillium*, *Aquilegia*,  
*Brunnera*, *Cyclamen*,  
*Gallanthus*, and  
*Meconopsis*,  
 (the Blue Poppy),  
 and many more . . .



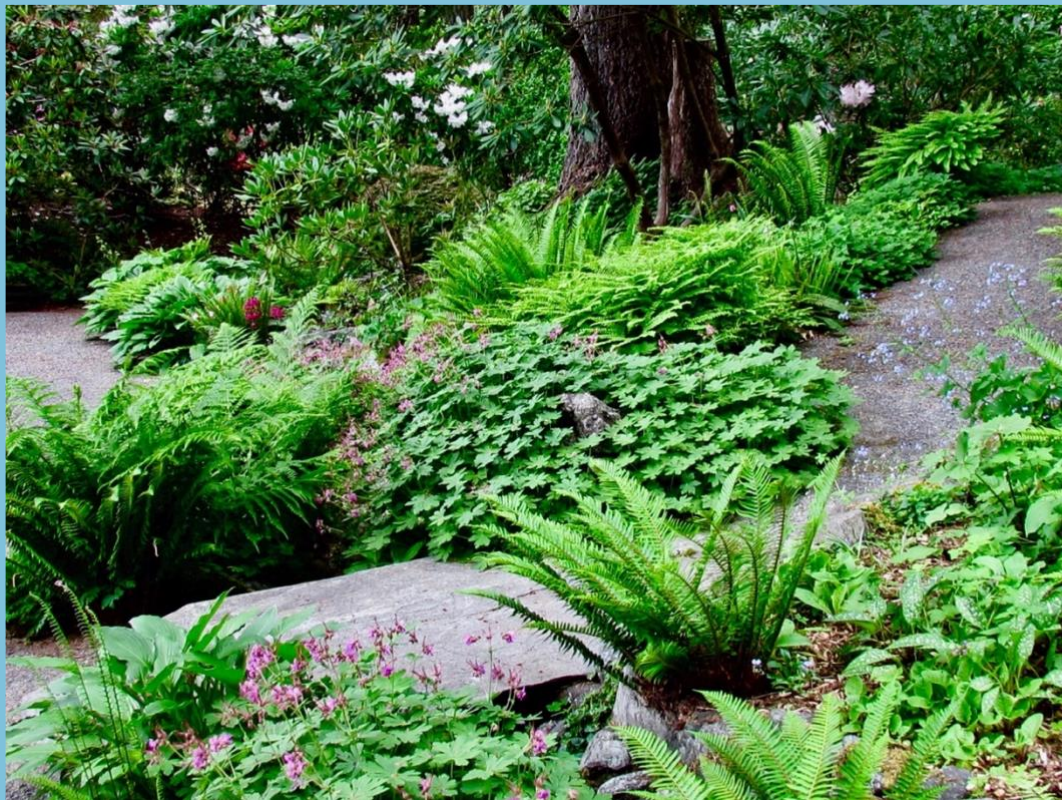


Beginning with an idea of the emotional effect you wish to enjoy in your garden on a regular basis, will help reduce your plant choices from 75,000 RHS Award of Garden Merit plants to a few hundred.

Know your plants, and your design can be a beautiful blend of magical seasons; for a time, the colourful kaleidoscope reigns, followed by periods when calm tranquility sojourns.

What aura does this garden suggest?

In Al and Sandy's former garden, ferns such as ***Polystichum munitum***, ***Blechnum spicant***, ***Adiantum***, and ***Athyrium filix-femina*** naturalize along a small stream and pathway beneath established trees and blooming rhododendrons. For subtle variations of texture, habit, and hints of colour, ***Geranium macrorrhizum***, several *Hosta*, small pockets of ***Primula***, ***Pulmonaria***, ***Rodgersia***, and ***Brunnera macrophylla*** are judiciously interspersed in the harmonious drift of greens of the ferns.



The garden, complete with its Upper, Middle, and Lower Storeys should dependably inspire the gardener's spirit.

Creativity, thoughtfulness, contentment, and hope

Trust yourself in the process. . .

~ Verna ~



# CVRS MEMBER OPPORTUNITIES



## RHODODENDRON *Species Botanical* GARDEN

PO Box 3798, Federal Way, Washington, USA 98063

Email: [Info@rhodygarden.org](mailto:Info@rhodygarden.org)

Website: [rhodygarden.org](http://rhodygarden.org)

Phone: (253) 838-4646

### Associate Member Benefits:

- Free year-round garden admission for each member (subject to change)
- 2 copies of the RSBG Yearbook, *Rhododendron Species*
- On-line newsletter
- On-line plant, pollen, and seed catalogs
- Use of Lawrence J. Pierce Library during business hours

Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society has an Associate Membership

*Check out the webpage*

### *Rhododendron Species Foundation and Botanical Garden*

*...is dedicated to the conservation, research, acquisition, evaluation, cultivation, public display, and distribution of Rhododendron species; provides education relating to the Genus; and serves as a unique resource to scientific, horticultural, and educational communities worldwide.*

RSF Mission Statement

## Go Fund Me Campaign for Van Veen Heritage Site

Kathy Van Veen bequeathed her 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Nursery and Garden to the ARS Portland Chapter. This is a rare four-acre oasis of horticultural and beauty deep within a Portland city neighbourhood.

Among other visions that Kathy had for the property, is one that meets with the Mission of other ARS Chapters: ***the ongoing effort of custom propagation in the greenhouses, ensuring that heritage, rare and uncommon rhododendrons, continue to be available for ARS Chapter plant sales and distribution.***

Support this effort by contacting [vanveennursery.com](http://vanveennursery.com) or [gofundme/1935c4d5](https://gofundme.com/1935c4d5)



# OPPORTUNITIES



## VANCOUVER ISLAND MASTER GARDENERS (VIMGA) SPRING EDUCATION DAY

Sunday, March 6th, 2022 11-1:30 pm

**Douglas Justice: *The Value of a Tree*:** A personal, selective examination of the intrinsic, ecological and cultural importance of trees.

**Bernie Dinter: *Small Fruits – The Under-Utilized Edible*:** Perennial food plants growing on shrubs and vines can be a major component of an edible garden.

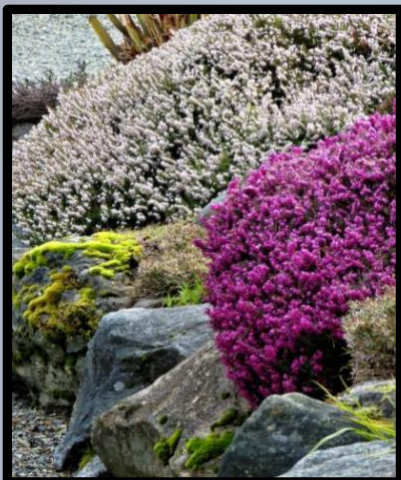
Register by February 28<sup>th</sup> [pqn-rep@vimga.org](mailto:pqn-rep@vimga.org)

## Vancouver Island Master Gardeners Spring Affair 2022 [*Horti*]Culture in a Changing Climate March 27, 2022 9am – 3:15pm

The weather we experienced in the past 12 months --flooding, heat domes, wild winds, and ice storms - can leave no doubt that our climate is changing. What can we, as gardeners, do about it?

Join the **Vancouver Master Gardeners** on March 27, 2022 to learn what you can do to make a difference. Unable to attend? View it online during a 4-week period after the event.

**Tickets: Early Bird \$45; \$50 after March 15, 2022** [Info@vancouvermastergardeners.org](mailto:Info@vancouvermastergardeners.org)



## Vancouver Island Heather Society Annual Heather Sale

Saturday, April 2, 2022  
10am – 12noon

Fisher Road, Cobble Hill  
Contact: [bcheathersociety.org](http://bcheathersociety.org)





2179 West Island Highway  
Qualicum Beach  
[milnergardens.viu.ca](http://milnergardens.viu.ca)

**VIU's Milner Gardens and Woodland**  
**Annual Spring Plant Sale**  
**11am – 4pm April 30 to May 1**

**Great discounts on Heritage Plants from the Milner collection**

**Come early for the best selections**

**COWICHAN VALLEY RHODODENDRON SOCIETY**

**ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE**

**Saturday, May 14, 2022 10am – 2pm**  
Gibbons Road, Duncan

Contact: <http://cowichanvalleyrhododendronsociety@gmail.com>

- Hundreds of special *Rhododendrons* and companion plants
- Free books and journals (former Weesjes's library collection)
- Knowledgeable plant specialists to answer questions
- Suitable parking available



**CVRS MEMBER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
**for the CVRS Plant Sale - May 14, 2022**

- Plant divisions for the Sale (So much appreciated!)
- Friday evening set-up (Bonus – volunteers shop early)
- Saturday Tasks: Sign-Up List will be distributed soon

*Many hands make lighter work and much fun!!*



**2021 – 2022**  
**Calendar of Events**

Contact CVRS:

[cowichanvalleyrhododendron@gmail.com](mailto:cowichanvalleyrhododendron@gmail.com)

**Wednesday, March 2, 2022 7pm (Social – 6:30pm)**

**CVRS March Zoom Meeting**

**Speaker: Ian and Anne Duncan – *Wildflowers of Switzerland and Austria by Bike***

**Sunday, March 6, 2022 11am – 1:30pm**

**VI Master Gardeners Spring Education Day**

**See Notice - Page 22**

**Thursday, March 10, 2022 7:30pm**

**NRS In-person Presentation at Beban Park Rec Centre**

**Speaker: Rosemary Prufer – *Pruning Rhododendrons***

**Sunday, March 27, 2022 9am-3:15pm**

**VI Master Gardeners Spring Affair 2022**

**See Notice – Page 22**

**Friday, April 22, 2022 7:30pm**

**NRS In-Person Presentation at Beban Park**

**Speaker: Lionel de Rothschild of Exbury**

**NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY EVENTS**

**May 4 - 8, 2022**

**ARS Annual Convention, Portland, Oregon** More information <https://ars2022.org/>

**2022:**

**ARS Fall Eastern Regional Conference, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Dates to be determined.**

**2023:**

**ARS Fall Western Regional Conference, Florence, Oregon. Dates to be determined.**

**2023:**

**ARS Annual Convention, Atlanta, Georgia. Joint ARS/ASA meeting. Dates to be determined.**



## USEFUL LINKS

Cowichan Rhododendron Society:

[cowichanrhodos.ca/](http://cowichanrhodos.ca/)

Victoria Rhododendron Society:

[victoriarhodo.ca/index.html](http://victoriarhodo.ca/index.html)

Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society:

[marsrhodos.ca/](http://marsrhodos.ca/)

North Island Rhododendron Society:

[nirsrhodos.ca/ws/](http://nirsrhodos.ca/ws/)

The American Rhododendron Society:

[rhododendron.org/](http://rhododendron.org/)

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society:

[nanaimorhodos.ca](http://nanaimorhodos.ca)

Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden:

[rhodygarden.org](http://rhodygarden.org)

Nanoose Garden Club:

[nanoosegardenclub.ca/](http://nanoosegardenclub.ca/)

Linda Gilkeson:

[lindagilkeson.ca/](http://lindagilkeson.ca/)

Vancouver Island Rock and Garden Society:

[virags.com](http://virags.com)

Linda Chalker-Scott:

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

Steve Henning:

[rhodyman.net](http://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: Wendy Willson  
Secretary: Diane Allen  
Director-at-Large: Barrie Agar  
Director-at-Large: Candice Feeney  
Director-at-Large: Carrie Nelson  
Director-at Large: Mary Pike  
Membership Chairperson: David Annis

### Convenors

Sunshine: Mary Gale  
Tea: Judeen Hendrickson  
Raffle: Hilda Gerrits  
Program Planning: The Executive Team  
Fundraising: The Executive Team  
CVRS Garden Tours: Candice Feeney  
CVRS Bus Tours: TBA  
Library: Verna Buhler