

Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

Newsletter

Volume 30:4 May 2019

President's Message

With the ever-popular dance of two steps forward and one step back, spring has arrived. This is what I call a compressed spring, for all the plants that should have flowered in February or March are in full cry with their April compatriots. It makes for a spectacular display. This why some companies, when describing their plants and flowering times will coyly label them as "mid-spring bloomers". This covers about three months and relieves them of the tedious task of calming angry would-be artists who are distraught because the bright red tulips that were to flower well before the bright pink Rhododendron they are now clashing so horribly with, have bloomed a month later than planned.



Rhododendrons 'Sea-Tac' and 'Alena'. Just outside the cropped photo are the orange and pink tulips that would upset the artist's living canvas.

Barrie Agar Presentation
"Some Gardens of Ireland" or
"What I did on my Summer
Holidays"
Wed, May 1 @ 7:30pm
(More details on page 2)

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You just never know.

Delayed flowering is not necessarily a bad thing. If it is too cold for flowering it is probably too cold for pollinators. And while if you are a shrub or perennial you can ride it out, it is not so good if you are an annual, or someone's plum orchard. With increasing incidence of abnormal and cool weather in spring, it is important to encourage those pollinators that can tolerate lower temperatures.

I do find by about May everything is back to its normal time. It has warmed up enough that blos-

som times proceed as usual, sometimes with a little extra company from the laggard March and April crowd. We may see a few Rhododendrons consorting with those they wouldn't have been seen dead with before (florally speaking that is.) You will notice that Rhododendrons from the more frigid areas such as Eastern North America never flirt with early spring. They comfortably and reliably start to flower from mid-May onward. They might be on to something.

Barrie Agar, President



“Some Gardens of Ireland” or “What I did on my Summer Holidays”

Barrie Agar

Guest Speaker, May 1, 2019

“This will be a tour though some of the gardens I visited last summer, with a few Irish background shots thrown in as well. Right after the Rhodos finished blooming, if you must know, so they will not feature prominently.

I am having a hard time narrowing it down.”

BBC News; September 15, 2017

Air, mountain and water rescue teams were called to rescue two tourists who were lost for hours in a rhododendron forest in an Irish national park.

They were camping in Killarney National Park in County Kerry on Thursday when they became "disorientated". A helicopter guided them through the dense rhododendrons to a lakeshore, where they were rescued by boat.

It is not the first time rescuers have been sent to the forest, which covers about a third of the 26,000 acres park. A spokesman for the Irish Coast Guard in Valentia said the tourists' orange tent was spotted from the air, but the aircraft could not reach them in the dense terrain.

Instead it guided them to the shore nearby Lough Leane. The pair were taken on board a Kerry Water Rescue vessel at about 15:40 local time, more than two and a half hours after they first called for help.

A similar method was also used in 2014 to help two walkers who became “trapped in a ‘treacherous’ rhododendron forest” between County Waterford and County Tipperary.

Letter *from the Editor*



*"Go placidly amid the noise and
the haste, and remember what
peace there may be in silence."*

(Wisdoms from Desiderata, found
in Old Saint Paul's Church, Balti-
more, USA; dated 1692)

My garden used to be a silent and peaceful haven for me. Now my one year-old puppy believes that "peacefull" is boring. She either repeatedly pounds my back with a ball that I am to toss immediately, whether she drops it or not, or barks the instant that she has released it. Non-stop, all day. Neither does Sadie understand that part about it being time for **"tak[ing] kindly to the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth."** My shoulder used to be able to handle repeated ball throwing; Sadie unrelentingly expects me to ignore that wise message.

However, **"in the noisy confusion of life,"** I have been gifted with truly inspirational experiences this month. One day, impulsively, I took in the Rock and Alpine Show and Sale where I ran into Sean Rafferty who taught me about a number of unusual plants and pointed out a few that I should have. I then visited Abkhazi Garden in Victoria; shamefully, I admit that this was my first visit.

Another day, George and I went to the Victoria Rhododendron Society Plant Sale, which took place at Ken Webb's. I confessed that it was sinful not to have visited his and Madeleine's home before. Here, again, Sean was able to point to the plants I needed. Ken Webb showed us his successful propagator setup; this was so valuable, because George loves to hear from experts so that he can more willingly support "our" efforts. Caught in the

enthusiasm, he is also more willing to accommodate my addiction as plants slip into the van. We became Associate Members of the club that day, and then visited two open gardens in the area that afternoon.

Then, of course, the Cairnsmore Plant Sale is one that I never want to miss. Here Ali Morris, patiently and knowledgeably, educates gardeners about the numerous and unique companion plants for their gardens. She too, pointed out the plants that I needed in my garden, and I left happy, despite again acknowledging my "plant greed". I managed that guilt by remembering more Desiderata wisdoms: **"Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself"**, and Janice Moseley's similar, soothing words when she questioned and I confessed why I had seemed troubled at Ken Webb's the weekend before.



Thanks to Sean Rafferty, this very special, marginally hardy, fragrant species, *Rhododendron edgeworthii*, has a new home in our garden

In between those two weekends, I travelled to Langley to pick up some plants for my very busy friend Rose, and hearing of my plans, another wonderful friend, Joe Hudak, arranged for me to visit Les Clay. Les Clay is an 87 year-old former nursery owner and hybridizer. That was a treat for me! But that poor, gracious gentleman, Les Clay---my visit lasted four and one quarter hours! He exemplified another Desiderata message: **“Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career . . .”** An article honoring Les Clay will appear in a future issue of our newsletter.

Just yesterday, I enjoyed visiting Joe and Irene and their stunning garden. You will see several photos in this issue, in the **“Spring is Happening”** section, but there will, be more photos of his unique rhododendrons in an upcoming issue.



Former renowned nursery owner and hybridizer, Les Clay, of Langley, BC, points to the vigorous growth on one of his own hybrids that he had “brutally” pruned only last season.



Joe Hudak in his Barepoint garden in Chemainus, gently removes the one tattered leaf on his beautifully mounded rhododendron, fully loaded with buds, promising a spectacular display in May!

When I returned home, there was something very special and unexpected happening! My young *Rhododendron sinofalconeri* was unfolding its truss!

This month, I was convinced that truly, **“it is still a beautiful world”** and I didn’t even have to **“strive to be happy”**; it just happened.

See you very soon,

Verna



Demystifying Biological Terminology

“CLADE”

By Bruce Palmer

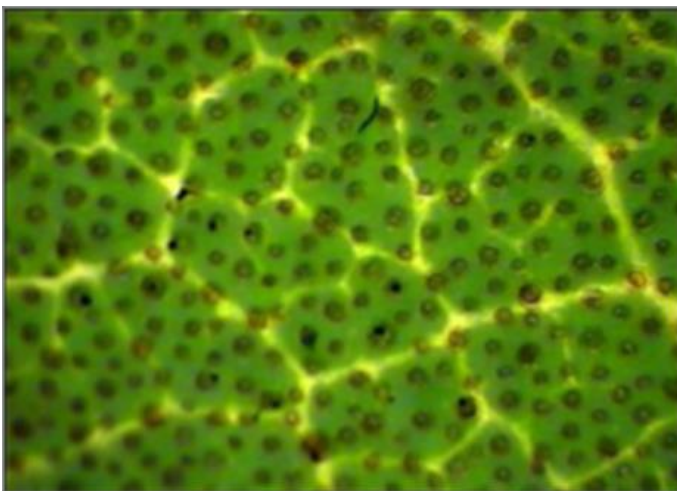
(Printed with permission, Eureka Chapter/American Rhododendron Society Eureka, CA)

This month's word, **CLADE**, is derived from the Greek **Klados**, meaning *group [or branch]*. In three of recent past issues of the *American Rhododendron Society Journal*, Dr. Glen Jamieson, biologist [B.Sc. in Agriculture from McGill University and a M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Zoology from University of British Columbia], and current editor of JARS, has been explaining classification within the genus *Rhododendron* in articles entitled “Rhododendrons for Beginners”. There are so many probable species within the genus *Rhododendron* (well in excess of 1,000) that various categories of subgenera, sections and smaller categories have been established over the years. Most current texts list either eight or nine subgenera, depending on whether you believe the *Vireyas* (that we can grow outside [in California]) are in a separate subgenus.

It was already obvious in the mid 1960s when the word **clade** was coined by one of the greatest

biologists of the twentieth century, Ernst Mayr, that our ideas of relationships among organisms did not square with DNA evidence. I remember taking a seminar on taxonomy in about 1966 where that very topic was current. Since that time it has become increasingly obvious that our ideas of relationships among plants are artificial and do not reflect what is true in nature. We now know that not all organisms we call algae are plants and that fungi are more closely related to animals than to plants. We also found that the hierarchy we learned in high school (kingdom, phylum [division], class, order, family, genus, species) is not adequate to explain the relationships of organisms in nature.

That's where the idea of **clades** comes in. A **CLADE** is a group of organisms whose DNA shows that they have a common ancestor. In 2005, Dr. Ben Hall and his lab assistants and grad students at the University of Washington did a



LEPIDOTE LEAF *Rhododendron* 'Alice Eastwood'



ELEPIDOTE LEAF *Rhododendron* 'Ivory Ruffles'

thorough study of 87 rhododendron specimens, mostly from the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden. They established that there are three primary **clades** in the genus, with some minor outliers, and proposed that there are in fact only four legitimate subgenera in genus Rhododendron.

It took some time for taxonomists to come around. In 1867, the International Botanical Congress established rules for naming relationships among plants. The rulebook, entitled the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* has been in force ever since, and has been revised about every ten years. Finally, in 2012, the International Botanical Congress came to grips with the DNA problem and changed the title to the *International Code of Nomenclature for Algae, Fungi and Plants* to better reflect current thinking.

If you'd like to understand the new Rhododendron classification system in detail, digest Glen's articles in the ARS journal.

[As a practical first step in application of this information] take particular note of two of the proposed subgenera Rhododendron and Hymenanthes. Take some time to identify the difference between "Lepidote" and "Elepidote" species and hybrids. If the leaves have tiny scales on the underside they are lepidotes and are in subgenus Rhododendron; if they don't have scales and **are not azaleas**, they are in subgenus Hymenanthes.

Note: Distinguishing between *Azaleas* and *Rhododendrons* is another lesson for the *Demystifying Biological Terminology* Section of a newsletter

Roots and a Happy Plant

Glen Jamieson

Plants can often survive a long time with root problems, but the key word here is survive, and does not mean they will thrive!

If a planted tree doesn't get much taller over time, or each year's new leaves are smaller than the preceding year, these are signs of a problem, and often it relates to the roots or how it was planted.

Do not plant a tree or shrub so that the root flare (the part of the tree where the stem morphs into the roots) is buried below the surrounding ground level.

This can for many species interfere with the uptake of oxygen by the roots, as they may then

be too far down in the soil. Without sufficient oxygen from the atmosphere, this can negatively affect a root's uptake of both water and nutrients, and hence plant growth.

If the tree or shrub is planted at the right depth but is still not growing well, grasp the stem and try rocking it. If you can feel movement in the soil, then the roots have not established well, and the question is then why not?

Since the plant's roots are obviously not exploring the surrounding soil, digging it up and checking its root system can't hurt it, so do so to see what the issue might be.

What you are likely to find is a root ball that may

be surrounded by burlap or else shaped like the container it was bought in, i.e., with the roots curled in a circle.

The solution is to remove the burlap if present and often the soil around the roots, and if the roots are curled, straighten and spread them

out, or if this is not possible, cut them so they now point outwards. This may seem drastic, but root pruning stimulates new root growth. Tough love works!

Root Girdling

By Verna Buhler

Avoid the problem of root girdling when you plant this spring!

What is root girdling?

A tree is girdled when something is tightly wrapped around the trunk or stem. A stem-girdling root circles, or partially circles, the base of a tree at, or just below, the soil surface.

What does root girdling do to the plant?

Stem girdling roots act like an ever-tightening tourniquet, strangling or choking off the flow of water and nutrients between the roots and the branches and the food produced in the leaves. They can also compress and weaken the trunk of a tree at or above the root collar flare (the junction between the trunk and the main roots) causing it to lean and lose its stability. Trees having stem-girdling roots suffer a slow decline in health and a premature death. There appears to be no known harm in roots girdling other roots.

A girdling root affects the appearance of a tree trunk. Usually tree trunks flare out where they enter the ground. The girdling root will prevent the collar flare, and the trunk may become narrower and appear flattened or sunken. The threat depends on the size of the root and the amount of the tree's circumference affected. It is almost impossible to predict if a developing girdling root will cause serious problems for a tree. However, if a tree has girdling roots it is more likely to have problems than one without them.



What causes root girdling?

The causal factors may be genetic or cultural. Some plants are more prone to root girdling than others. Most tree roots are in the top 6 to 24 inches of soil and grow out from the trunk in a spreading manner. Common cultural practices that can adversely affect this natural root pattern include:

- **Planting in a hole that is too small so the roots cannot easily spread out**
- **Planting container grown trees that have roots growing in a circular pattern**
- **Planting a bare root tree by twisting roots to fit into a small hole**
- **Leaving burlap and any part of a container in the planting hole**
- **Piling mulch against the trunk of a tree (creating a mulch volcano)**
- **Planting too deeply**

The most common theory of the cause of stem girdling roots is that they develop as a result of trees being planted too deeply.

When root systems are buried, less oxygen and water is available. The roots will grow up towards the surface of the soil and tend to encircle the trunk. The more deeply buried the roots are, the fewer the roots available for the tree to become established.

For additional information on this topic visit the Missouri Botanical Garden website from which this information and photo were drawn: <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/>

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/>

SPRING IS HAPPENING!



In Sandra Stevenson's garden:

*"The **Hepatica** made it through the snow and ice; it makes a great ground cover for a woodland garden. [Bryson's favourite]"*



In Joe and Irene Hudak's garden:

*"We are delighted with the brilliance of the **Rhododendrons** this year. There is '**Molly Ann**' with its upright stance and covered in coral red trusses."*



*"The amber blooms of '**Trewithen Orange**' in front of '**Unique**' and '**Ramapo**'---very nice." (Joe)*



*"The buds of '**Olympic Lady**' may even be prettier than the blossoms." (Irene)*



*“‘**Ilam’s Violet**’ is so vivid, while ‘**Patty Bee**’ is so soft in colour.” (Joe and Irene)*

In George Morgen’s garden:

*“Both of my **Rhododendron ‘Sir Charles Lemon’** are in bloom this year; a year-round standout rhododendron for a garden with its deep copper indumentum.*

***Rhododendron ‘Point somewhere’**, my fuschia rhododendron plant purchased at the Cairnsmore Plant Sale a year ago, was strongly promoted by Don Loewen; it is as stunning as he claimed!*

*I may re-think firing my gardener . . . oh, and I’m quite fond of my **Clematis ‘Nelly Moser’** too.” (George)*



*“Um . . . that’s not ‘**Nelly Moser**’ George; it’s **Clematis ‘Bee’s Jubilee**’.*

*Keep the gardener, your **Clematis ‘Nelly Moser’** needs some help.”*

In Tricia Guiget's Garden:

"I am often quite busy, but the garden keeps blooming!"



COWICHAN VALLEY RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

2019 MEMBERS' OPEN GARDENS

Welcome to the CVRS Members' Gardens OPEN for visits this spring!!

Something a little different is being added this year. Consider joining us for several teaching/learning workshops at one or more of these gardens. Or, simply stroll through at your own pace.

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2019; 1 - 4 PM

Tricia Guiget:

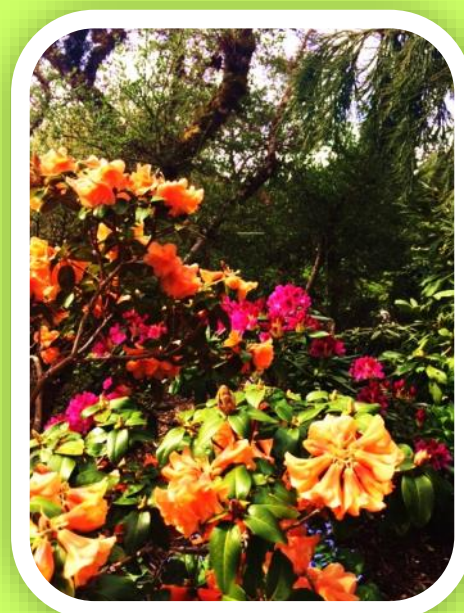
3861 Peache Drive

Cobble Hill, BC

(In Satellite Park: Off Telegraph Road; to Aros Road; to Peache Drive)

Tricia's property is ½ acre, featuring gardens of various ages, the newest---10 years. There are approximately 100 rhododendrons including species and big-leaf varieties. Perennial borders and beds, and a small vegetable plot include both usual and unusual plants.

Access and parking: flat and easy



TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2019; 5 PM to DUSK

Al and Liz Murray:

1951 Doran Road, Cobble Hill, BC

(Cobble Hill Road; Thain Road, Kingburne Drive; Doran Road)



Misty View Garden delights guests every year over a period of almost three months. The two artists have painted a living canvas on a sloping terrain with rock outcroppings and wide meandering pathways.



Here early, mid, and late-season blooming rhododendrons, magnolias, and companion plants, softened by the evening light, create an atmosphere of awe and peacefulness that transforms guests, who slow down, breathe deeply, and linger a while in the quiet.



SUNDAY MAY 26, 2019; 1 – 4 PM

Self-guided Tour, Workshops, and Social Hour

Verna Buhler and George Morgen

3908 Cowichan Lake Road

Duncan (North Cowichan), BC

(Hwy 8 or Sherman Road; Tansor Road; Cowichan Lake Road)

Self-guided Tour 1 – 4pm (any time) and Coffee/Happy Hour (after 4pm)

By comparison to the other open gardens, this 2-acre garden is relatively young, the oldest sections not yet ten years old. Plantings are in various stages of development with a young arboretum of approximately 150 trees, and an eclectic collection of rhododendrons including unregistered hybrids, older hybrids, new hybrids, species rhododendrons (including several big-leafed species), and azaleas. Companion plants have been added recently to the rhododendron gardens, and peonies and irises are too plentiful. Several ponds fill other spaces. This property is also home to the CVRS Propagator and the CVRS Library at this time. Please feel welcome to wander and stay awhile.

3 Workshops (each 30 minutes in length, with handouts):

This is an excellent teaching garden in that trials-and-errors in working with heavy clay soils of a former hayfield are evident; the methods used to overcome the challenges are identifiable; shade trees are young and not yet fully helpful during hot and dry weather; an awareness of small eco-systems within the property have been used to determine the placement of plants in attempts at meeting their growing requirements. Verna, and CVRS friends, will be leading these sessions between 1:30 and 3pm.

1:30pm: Planting Techniques

Various samples of soil types and methods of planting rhododendrons and other plants based on factors such as soil composition, drainage, and exposure will be demonstrated. Evidence of both happy and struggling plants will be explained along with necessary corrective measures

2:15pm: Pruning Tips to Achieve the “Murray-Immaculate-Garden” Effect

Having visited the Liz and Al Murray garden you have an idea of what well-maintained rhododendron gardens can look like! Based on instructions and a tutorial by Al Murray, Verna and CVRS friends will demonstrate and explain how trees and rhododendrons may be pruned to encourage their best growth and most desirable displays in a garden in desperate need of this care.

2:45pm: Stages of Propagation

A guided tour through the propagation area of the property will demonstrate the various stages of a four-year propagation effort. This process is possible only because of the mentoring of highly knowledgeable CVRS club members, namely Al Campbell, Ian Efford, Joe Hudak, Al Murray, Carrie Nelson, Rose Rogan, and Ken Webb.

Fall 2015 Cuttings: A few of the first of Verna’s initial propagating efforts (cuttings taken at Anne Slaby’s garden) were planted out last season.

Fall 2016 Cuttings: Cuttings have been in one-gallon pots for a year. Some cuttings came from late Dixie Mueller’s collection. Many are cuttings prepared by Joe Hudak and Verna. Impressive are the deciduous azaleas prepared by Joe.

Fall 2017 Cuttings: The second year CVRS club efforts, the first that were prepared at Verna’s, have been in pots for a season, with only limited success. Verna’s cuttings (collected from her own and friends’ and the Murray’s gardens) are also in pots.

Fall 2018 Cuttings: Both the CVRS cuttings and Verna’s cuttings (collected at Murray’s, Campbell’s and Finnerty Gardens) are still in the propagators.

**THURSDAY, MAY 23 TO SUNDAY,
MAY 26; 10 – 5PM**

Rose Rogan (Perennial Ridge Farms)

**5605 Jordans Lane, Duncan (North Cowichan),
BC**

(Hwy 8 or Sherman Road; Tansor Road; Cowichan
Lake Road; Jordans Lane)

Rose Rogan of Perennial Ridge Farms has agreed, under pressure, to open her farm, garden and nursery to CVRS guests for the entire weekend during her annual plant sale. Rose may be quite busy with her nursery, but during moments of quiet she will enthusiastically explain her plants, animals,

and
gardens to
guests!

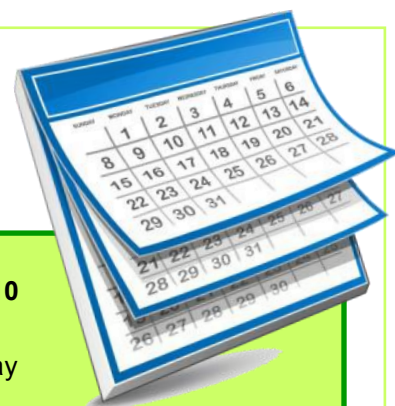
On her farm, Rose raises goats, chickens, ducks, and turkeys. Rose loves building window houses and playgrounds for her birds and animals.

Her creative gardens are pleasing displays of old and antique collections set amidst her rhododendrons and azaleas in a well-established arboretum. Wandering through her meandering paths and colourful garden rooms, or resting on her numerous unique garden benches is an inspiring experience.

Her nursery will be on display to demonstrate all stages of propagating and growing her plant stock to market readiness. (Please recognize that at times Rose may be very busy with sales, but save your questions for a slower moment and you will definitely receive answers, as Rose willingly shares her experiences)



Calendar of Upcoming Events



Sunday, April 28, 2019: 9 am - noon

Abkhazi Garden Spring Plant Sale at the
Abkhazi Garden
1964 Fairfield Road
(Rain or shine. Cash or cheques only)

Lost some plants over the winter? We've got your replacements. Come and buy interesting plants, most grown at the Garden. Irises, shade perennials and unique garden gems.

Stay for a wander around the garden and buy refreshments in the Teahouse. Proceeds of the plant sale to Friends of Abkhazi Garden Society for use in Abkhazi garden projects. www.friendsofabkhazi.ca or visit Abkhazi Garden on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

Sunday, May 5, 2019: 1 - 4 pm

CVRS Open Garden---Tricia Guiget (more information in Open Gardens Notice on pages 11-14)

Tuesday, May 7, 2019; 5 pm - dusk

CVRS Open Garden---Liz and Al Murray (more information in Open Gardens Notice on pages 11-14)

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 12, 2019; 10 am to 4:30 pm

25th Annual Cowichan Family Life Garden Tour

A self-guided tour of 7 beautiful gardens.
More information on page 16

Sunday, May 12, 2019; 10 am to 4 pm

NIRS Annual Mother's Day
Garden Tour:

Six beautiful gardens to visit in the Courtenay area

Thursday thru Sunday, May 23 – 26, 2019; 10 am - 5 pm

CVRS Open Garden---Rose Rogan (more information in Open Gardens Notice on pages 11-14)

Saturday, May 25, 2019; 9am to 2pm

Mill Bay Garden Club's Community Flower & Garden Show
Cobble Hill Hall
More information on page 18

Saturday, May 25, 2019; 10 am - 1 pm

Eswyn's Alpine & Rock Garden
10th Anniversary Open House and Plant Sale
Nanoose Place
More information on page 17

Sunday, May 26, 2019; 1 – 4 pm

Demonstration/Workshops at CVRS Open Garden--George Morgen and Verna Buhler (more information in Open Gardens Notice on pages 11-14)

September 27 to 29, 2019

2019 Fall Rhododendron Conference
Rhododendrons by the Seaside
Parksville Community and Conference Centre
More information on page 17



Mill Bay Garden Club's
**Community Flower
 & Garden Show**
"Celebrate Gardening"
Saturday, May 25th 2019
9am to 2pm
Cobble Hill Hall
 3550 Watson Ave, Cobble Hill

Exhibits accepted Friday, May 24th 2019, Noon till 6:50pm

Inside: Flower & Vegetable Show, Silent Auction,
 South Cowichan Healthcare Auxiliary Strawberry Tea
 and Gardening Book Sale

Outside: Plant Sales, Commercial Plant Vendors, Garden
 Accessories, Master Gardeners' Booth

Admission: Adults \$2.00 & Children free

★ Show brochures available at: Buckerfield's, Dinter Nursery,
 Thrifty Foods and Country Grocer

★ A donation from the show proceeds will be made to local charities

★ For more information visit: www.millbaygardenclub.com



Eswyn's Alpine & Rock Garden
10th Anniversary
Open House & Plant Sale

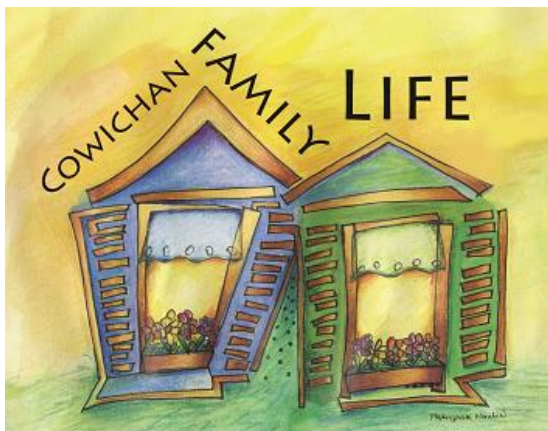
Come Celebrate With Us!
Saturday, May 25th, 2019
10 - 1 pm
Nanoose Place
2925 Northwest Bay Road, Nanoose, BC

You are invited to visit this remarkable public garden created in 2009 using the late Eswyn Lyster's unique collection of alpine and rock garden plants. This is a sustainable garden with no pesticides, insecticides or commercial fertilizers used. If you long for flowers but your terrain says no due to shallow soil and rocks it may be time to embrace drought tolerant alpine & rock garden plants.

A selection of plants will be available for purchase to raise funds for the upkeep of the garden. Coffee & tea will be available.

The event is hosted by Eswyn's Alpine & Rock Garden Caretakers and Alpine Gardeners of Central Vancouver Island (AGCVI)

Contact: Karen 250-248-3507 or Elaine 250-248-9568
 Facebook/Eswyn's Alpine & Rock Garden



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

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



2019 Fall Rhododendron Conference

A Vancouver Island Celebration of Gardening

The Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society (MARS) is bringing hundreds of gardening enthusiasts together for the fall conference of the American Rhododendron Society.

Rhododendrons by the Seaside

September 27 to 29, 2019

Parksville Community and Conference Centre

Register at www.marsrhodos.ca/ars2019/

With the theme of “Rhododendrons as the World Warms,” the lineup of speakers, workshops and tours promises a busy and exciting weekend for everyone. This conference is one of the biggest bargains of the year. An early registration fee of \$95 will entitle you to 12 speakers over three days, including two workshops, choice of one of three bus tours, two continental breakfasts and lunch on Saturday. As well, there is access to a plant sale, a display of international rhododendron photos throughout the facility and a silent auction. Two keynote speakers follow the evening banquets on Friday and Saturday. Dinner is buffet style for an additional \$50 for each night.

The conference theme relates to climate change implications, but the context is for all gardeners who are interested in growing healthy plants of any type in our area. Speakers include a wide range of local and internationally-recognized experts in their fields; Dr. Richard Hebda, Curator Emeritus from the Royal BC Museum; Dr. Linda Gilkeson, entomologist; Mike Stewart, rhododendron nurseryman; Steve Hootman, Executive Director and Curator of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden (RSBG) in Federal Way, Wash.; Dr. Nancy Turner, UVic ethnobotanist; Marc Colombel, author and hybridizer, France; Ron Long, botanist and wildflower photographer, Nancy Moore, landscape designer & horticulturist, Geoff Ball, executive director Milner Gardens and Woodland and Dr. Juliana Medeiros, research scientist, Holden Arboretum, Ohio. Bulb and seed propagation workshops will be conducted by Bernie Dinter, Cowichan nurseryman and Dennis Bottemiller, propagator extraordinaire recently of the RSBG.

For those who need a place to stay, the MARS website has a list of various accommodations near the conference site. For best choice and best price, we suggest booking early as late September is still busy with tourists.

Milner Gardens & Woodland News



Daily Openings

April 25 through to September 2 from
10:00 am - 5:00pm with last entry at 4:30 pm.

Summer season admission is \$12 Adult, \$7
Youth, and free for children age 12 and under
accompanied by an adult.

Free admission for current Milner Gardens
members, VIU Students with a valid card, and
Milner Gardens Guest Passes.

Rhododendron Bloom

April 18 through May 20 10:00
am - 5:00 pm with last entry at
4:30 pm.

The Rhododendrons at Milner
Gardens are one of the Gardens'
most significant collections.

Enjoy your stroll through the
woodland Gardens while the
Rhododendrons put on their best
display!



Species Rhododendron blooms in the photo from top left
clockwise:

R. species nova, *R. dauricum f. alba*,
R. sutchuenense, *R. irroratum*,
R. oreodoxa var. fargesii, *R. barbatum*, *R. davidii*, and *R.*
arboreum ssp. cinnamomeum.



The *Rhododendron* 'Veronica Milner' in bloom at the entrance to the Rhododendron Grove.

The Greig Rhododendron Species Garden was officially opened on April 22, 2018, and named in honour of Ted and Mary Greig, pioneer rhododendron propagators in BC, who were instrumental in the development of the original heritage rhododendron collection at Milner Gardens. The Greig Rhododendron Species Garden is a partnership between VIU's Milner Gardens & Woodland and the five Vancouver Island Chapters of the American Rhododendron Society, to highlight the tremendous diversity of form and range found in the genus *Rhododendron*.

"Eventually, the Greigs decided to name one of their rhododendrons, which still exists in the Milner's garden, in honour of Veronica. On April 13, 1957, Mary wrote to Veronica:

"We've got one really lovely little hybrid, ... We sort of dally now with a name - would you like to choose it?'...."

Excerpted from *In Veronica's Garden* by Margaret Cadwaladr.

Mother's Day Tea

Celebrate Mother's Day with Full Afternoon High Tea service in the Camellia Tea Room on May 11 and May 12, 2019 by reservation only between 11:30 am - 2:00 pm.



2018-19 Executive

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

Vice President: Ali Morris

Past President:

Secretary: Verna Buhler
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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



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>



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