

Message from the President

Dear Friends,

As I write this, we still appear to be in the grip of an Arctic spring. Bulbs have struggled to the surface to be met with frost and snow. New leaves burst forth to be blackened overnight, and the flowering cherries are easily 3-4 weeks behind. They are not as rash as some others I might mention and have cautiously peeked out as if to check conditions before presenting their beautiful faces to the world.

But hope, as personified by the pronouncements of the weatherman, states we shall have seasonal temperatures for the last week of April.

~ President's Message Continued on Page 2



opportunity to harden off. They will

recover.

CVRS May Meeting

Wednesday, May 3, 2023 7:30 pm

Gordon McKay

Presents

George Forrest Explorer - Plant Hunter

Information - Page 3

Letter from the Editor	4
Special Rhododendrons	5
Plants for CVRS's Plant Sale	8
ARS District 1 Presidents' Meeting Report	9
Yellow Rhododendrons and the Quest of the Xanthophile	12
Propagating Step 2	16
Greig Rhododendron Species Garden Special Invitation	19
Special Event	23
Calendar of Events	24
Useful Links	26

Banner Photo:

Cheerful *Rhododendron* 'Curlew' in Al and Sandy's former garden in Shawnigan Lake.

And it's about time. If you haven't pruned the roses yet, you had better get on that. I am speaking mainly to myself, being snagged by a rambunctious rambler every time I head out the door. The weeds are about to explode - prepare for that particular onslaught. All the flowers that have been holding back because of the weather will be opening in a frenzy. People will be out walking with a cheerful smile and a "it's good to be alive" attitude.

Our plant sale is on Saturday May 13th, and we can only hope for good weather to follow it. Although the plant sale attendees have never struck me as particularly timid in their quest to find new plants and are seemingly indifferent to the slings and arrows of outrageous weather. At least the perennials plants will be poking their noses out in the pots, so we don't have to try and convince people that the lifeless looking creature in front of them is in fact a vigorous botanical wonder, full of life, and waiting to burst the bounds of its confining pot.

By the way, as an observation on the coming weed storm, I was driving by a riot of yellow the other day. All the flowers were of a similar hue, some tall, some short, and shone against the lush emerald, green grass they were growing among. As I got closer, I realized that the short ones were dandelions.

And they were beautiful.

Barrie Agar

"MY CUTTINGS ARE ROOTING! NOW WHAT?"

Allan Murray will help with that!

He will demonstrate the next steps in propagating at the May 3rd CVRS Meeting.

You will want to be there.



CVRS May Meeting

Wednesday, May 3, 2023, 7:30pm

GORDON McKAY

presents

George Forrest Explorer and Plant Hunter 1873 - 1932

George Forrest spent almost 25 years in China and shipped back to England, plants that were new to Western botany. Cases of herbarium specimens and seed were sent with regularity. Our gardens bear witness to that, with Rhododendrons, Primulas, Berberis, and Deutzia being among the genera we now grow.

George Forrest died in China shortly before he was to retire and return home for good.

His last shipment of seed represented some 4500 species.





Letter from the Editor



Rhododendrons 'Hansel', 'Sun Silk' and 'Starbright Champagne' fronted by Hosta 'Patriot'

Dear Friends!

Considering the snowstorms we hear about in other parts of Canada, we can't complain, but I expect we are all looking forward to some blooms. I certainly am -- yes, stunning bright blooms covering my green mounds, please. I love the hues and shades of green, but it is April, and I am impatient for colour: pink, yellow, blue, and blends. Some early 'faithful' rhododendrons have made the effort, but even they seem a little reluctant to step out as festooned as in other years.

However, there are indicators of *supercalifragilisticexpialidocious* garden splendors ahead. (*I have always wanted to use that word in writing at some point in my life, so now, I have ticked off the checkbox; hopefully not you*) My favourite *Prunus* is teasing me just outside the kitchen window. Branches and branchlets of the *Prunus x yedoensis* 'Akebono' have draping clusters of delicate pink buds. Hummingbirds are enticed by the buds that open every few days. The tree is promising to be spectacular once again.

I imagine many of you are looking forward to purchasing a few special rhododendrons this spring. There is a lady who has visited me several times over the past two years, whose prime interest is a true yellow rhododendron. I have not been able to suggest the perfect yellow rhododendron that meets her expectations. The yellows I suggest are rejected because they show hints of pink or orange, are a lemon or creamy yellow, are too pale, or have a throat or specks of another colour. Barlup's *R*. 'Sun Silk' in the photo above was one that I had not yet propagated and could not offer her at the time. There are lovely yellow rhododendrons, and in this issue, you will find an article about some of these.

You will find a brief photo story about the Greig Rhododendron Species special open garden event for District 1 members and several surprises for unsuspecting individuals attending that day.

Included as well, is a Report from the ARS District #1 Presidents' Meeting, prepared by Alan Campbell who attended the meeting on Barrie's behalf.

Of course, you will see the recurring request for your help with the upcoming CVRS Plant Sale. You will have seen the Notice for the sale that is in compatible format for use on Facebook. Sharing it with **Friends** spreads the news quickly. The chances are that some of your friends also enjoy gardening and have the same affliction that some of us have, of seeing plants and choosing to buy them and solving the problem as to where in our garden they will have room grow, later! Let them know that there is a super sale coming up!

There is a quaint story about *Rhododendron* 'Francesca' that I found fascinating and thought you might enjoy as well if you haven't heard it. Also, after a bit of research on one of my rhododendrons that isn't looking as happy as it should this spring, I discovered some pleasant information about it that I will share as well.

Please enjoy the newsletter and please offer suggestions to the Editor and to the Executive about what would make this club more exciting for you.

See you soon,

Verna

"That One!" Rhododendron 'Anna Rose Whitney'

Last Spring, a gentleman stopped by, having seen a sign 'Rhododendrons for Sale'. He wanted a large, tough, bright rhododendron for his garden. I suggested we walk through the property and if he spotted anything he liked, I would tell him if I had one for him. We hadn't walked far when he pointed and said, "That one." He pointed to *R.* 'Anna Rose Whitney'. We walked on, and I pointed out several other beautiful rhododendrons, but he would always say, "No, I like that first one."

After I thought about his choice later, I realized that I should not have been surprised. Rhododendron 'Anna Rose Whitney' was the first rhododendron that caught my eye, as well. While browsing a gardening magazine, I admired a stunning 'Anna Rose Whitney' in a photo of the featured Seattle garden. I went up to visit Hans at Fairweather Nursery situated, at that time, just north of Duncan. He had many lovely rhododendrons and azaleas and was quite frustrated that I had my mind set on 'Anna Rose Whitney', a rhododendron that he did not have. Being a direct, impatient, and busy man, he asked why with all the other beautiful rhododendrons he had, I insisted on "that one". I explained and he grunted.

I eventually found *R.* 'Anna Rose Whitney', and every year, this fine old standard causes guests to our garden to stop suddenly and exclaim, "Look at that one!" Well done, W.E. Whitney!



Photo: Harold Green

"The biggest, boldest, brightest and "bestest" of the Pacific Northwest rhododendron originations is 'Anna Rose Whitney'. Named for the mother of the hybridizer W.E. (Bill) Whitney of Hood Canal and Camas, Wash., it was introduced in 1954. 'Anna Rose Whitney' has a good measure of Hooker's griffithianum blood from one of the parents 'Countess of Derby' to give it large stocky form, thick heavy foliage, and large strong dark pink flowers. Its quality and character make 'Anna Rose Whitney' recognizable anywhere. During the 1986 Congress of the International Federation of Landscape Architects held in Osaka, Japan, we found an extensive planting of 'Anna Rose Whitney' at a mountain top forest interpretation centre in a forest reserve high above the city of Osaka. Its large dark green slightly crinkled leaf is an unmistakable identifying characteristic." (Clive L. Justice JARS v50n2)

Rhododendron fortunei 'Emma and May'

My young plant, *R.* 'Emma and May', looked a bit unhappy this spring, so I researched to see if it required special conditions.

I was pleasantly surprised to find that it was a *species selection* of *Rhododendron fortunei* and when it blooms, it will be as fragrant as Loderi King George. It has lovely bluish-green foliage with coppery-blue new growth. Another exciting characteristic is that it sets buds at a young age. It is compact but, eventually, a large plant. Understandably, it won an RHS Award of Garden Merit in 2013.

Its name was chosen to honour Emma Smith DeVoe and May Arkwright Hutton who helped Washington State women achieve the vote in 1910. Male politicians attempted to placate the women, prior to the vote, by *allowing* them to choose the state flower. The women chose the *Rhododendron* but also continued pursuing voting rights for women.



In 2010, The Washington Women's Consortium approached Briggs Nursery for permission to use *Rhododendron fortunei* 'Emma and May' as the perfect symbol for the 100th Anniversary celebration of women's suffrage.

'Emma and May' does appreciate some protection from wind and late frosts. The frost factor would explain its sad appearance this spring. I should not need to move it from where it is currently sited but will carefully watch for indicators of stress, and, of course, the early signs of buds.



Rhododendron 'Fransesca'

This beautiful red rhododendron is a great plant for colder areas in your yard as it is hardy to Zone 5.

Large, full trusses of carmine-red flowers open in April or May. It grows to be about 4 feet in height and 5 feet in width. The dark foliage of large, slightly downturned edges make it appear strong and sturdy.

The following story was drawn from the Singing Tree website. I was unable to confirm the story through additional research, although information about Dorothy Swift, the story's author, does align with information in the story.

Tony Consolini, who worked at the estate that is now known as Heritage Plantation, hybridized many plants, making crosses most probably from plants from the estate, that he then grew from these seeds in his own garden.

Five Savella Brothers, who owned Bald Hill Nurseries in Rhode Island near North Kingston where author Dorothy Swift lived, purchased several seed lots from Tony Consolini. They germinated the seed, and then planted the small plants in their nursery acreage.

Unfortunately, they planted them too close together, in multiple rows, which were also too close to one another. Despite this, some beautiful plants resulted. The brothers tended to quarrel a lot and some of them were colorblind. They rarely agreed on much, including what to do with the attractive rhododendrons growing tightly by the acre. One plant that they agreed on was the one dark red that they named 'Francesca' after their mother; they registered and also patented the plant. Patenting was rare with rhododendrons.

Some of the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society were allowed to visit their fields in the early 1980's and label some plants as being suitable for propagation. Then, however, they were not allowed to take cuttings for several years, until, eventually, the brother who was the propagator, Leonard Savella, allowed them to take cuttings.

None of the brothers had children who wished to continue the business, and the brothers themselves were aging and passing. Eventually, the property was sold for upscale housing construction. Fortunately, some of the original crosses still exist in gardens of those like Dorothy Swift who had propagated some. The others were mostly destroyed during construction.

Tony Consolini's home garden contained numerous attractive rhododendrons from his own crosses. After he died, his property was purchased by a couple who were rhododendron enthusiasts and wanted the plants. They removed many of the rhododendrons and allowed propagation of their plants, so there are a number of these plants growing in the Cape Cod region.

CVRS PLANT SALE – WANTED! PLANTS!

It's that time again, when we encourage all our members to pot up divisions of their favourite plants to donate to the CVRS Plant Sale.

The earlier the plants are potted, the more well-rooted they become; they will then look wonderful by mid-May!

If everyone contributes 5 plants, we will once again be able to fill our sales tables with the special plants that our community appreciates.

At this time of the year, you may think you don't have those interesting plants, but in a short while, those plants will excite you as they do every year. No doubt, they would excite others as well.

Gentian, Ferns, Hellebores, Epimediums, Dwarf Irises, Heuchera, Lilies, Hostas, Peonies, Primulas, Euphorbia, Anemones, are just a few among so many more!

Please check to make sure your varieties are well behaved rather than invasive.



THANK-YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL YOUR GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT!

Report from the District 1 Presidents' Meeting April 2023

By Alan Campbell

This Report has been prepared by Alan Campbell, who attended in place of our President. Al recorded the discussions at the meeting and offers some personal comments of important points.

These points are identified by indentation and bolding of text.

Financial Matters:

First on the agenda was the yearly \$2.50 per member stipend to the District #1 Treasurer. This applies to the Chapter's full-term members, not associates nor honorary members. There are 300 ARS members here in the Island Chapters. This money is to aid the Director or Alternate Director to attend conventions or conferences. Due to COVID interference in normal routines, this fund has not been utilized recently, resulting in a current balance of \$6,220.91. The question was raised: Should this year's payment be suspended? Following discussion, the motion to continue to collect these funds this year, was passed, *unanimously*; the funds are due at the next meeting in August. The rationale was that some of the funds could be used to donate to the Greig Rhododendron Species Garden, or perhaps, to sponsor a Chapter member to attend an ARS convention or conference, someone who has never attended either before of the events before.

This brought to my mind that the CVRS did this some 10/15 years ago. Should the CVRS consider this again?

Also passed was the investment to have a main Zoom speaker for the Island Chapters again this year. Further input is required as to who that would be: Ken Cox, Steve Hootman, Seamus O'Brian, or others?

Upcoming Events:

A committee is still looking into the Five Island Chapters hosting the Spring Convention in 2026 or 2028. Hours of volunteer work is required to host such an event. All Chapter members need to get on board to make it successful. Dave Godfrey woefully commented that it would be the SSP in each Chapter, the Same Six People, that do all the work. It was then proposed that perhaps VicRS and CVRS could hold a one-day symposium much like MARS/NRS has done with their 'Fall into Gardening'. A different location and different time would interest many people. The 'Fall into Gardening' is always a sell-out (150 attendees) with good return and little outlay. Linda Derkach and John Denisinger would provide guidelines for hosting a successful event.

Awarding of Medals:

Glen Jamieson stated that more acknowledgement needs to be given to Chapter members with respect to awarding Bronze Medals, and even Silver Medals to those who meet the criteria.

Chapter Websites:

As Garth Wedemire has retired from hosting and updating the District #1 site, individual Chapters have been stepping forward. However, it was mentioned that links on each site should be checked as clicking on some doesn't take the viewer anywhere. Garth did say he would be willing to help in such cases. It was also recommended that each Chapter include on their website a history of speakers.

Will posting on websites require getting permission from speakers?

Plant sales:

North Island is holding theirs on April 30th. They mentioned that they have propagated many deciduous azaleas in the past but don't seem to be able to sell them. They will have many 3 gallons at their sale. Victoria mentioned that will be having two sales, one at Webb's and the other at Marquart's, both later this month. Prices for their rhododendrons will be \$23 for 1-gallon Hybrid plants; \$26 for 1-gallon Species; \$40 for 2-gallon plants. Alan stated when CVRS would have ours and where.

How does pricing look for our sale?

Plant Purchasing Options:

A comment was made about Log Cabin Nursery in Eugene, Oregon. Terry Henderson is the owner and presently he is the President of the Eugene Chapter in District #4. Terry is selling the plants he propagates for 7 US\$ per 1-gallon. He also sells his plants to nurseries (Garden Works) in B.C. for the same price. The question was raised as to whether interested Island Chapters would be willing to make a combined order of a few hundred plants. We don't know if Terry has a minimum number he would transport.

Our sale is MAY 13th, too close to consider for this year. The most important concern is where to store and care for these plants.

Special Days:

Courtenay Mayor has proclaimed May as 'Rhododendron Month' in the city.

Labelling machine:

Victoria Chapter has a commercial labeler machine. Lloyd couldn't recall the cost but did say it was under \$100.00. Is this something CVRS would consider?

Great idea that should investigate

News from other Chapters in District #1:

• MARS subsidizes its membership cost at \$30.00

This has been mentioned several times [for the CVRS] and should be scheduled for board to discuss and vote on

 North Island Chapter is in talks with a certain small nursery to see if an agreement can be reached for the Chapter propagators use of the Nursery property and equipment to root cuttings with a 50/50 split of the outcome.

ARS Endowment Fund:

The ARS Endowment Fund has not been accessed this year; Chapters should present proposals.

Next meeting: late August; venue and date yet to be decided.

Other matters that arose from friendly discussions:

Garth Wedemire brought in enough of his 1-gallon plants that everyone received 2 or 3 plants to take home. He and Sue are moving back to the mainland (family and health concerns). Garth also has many, many 1gal, 2gal, 5gal plants in pots on his Comox property. Due to his health, they are somewhat stressed and will need some TLC for a year or two (potting on/pruning). Free to all comers: pick them up and take them away. He and Sue will be at their Comox property until May 30th.

We have no area to store these and maintain them for one year - sad reality.

Sue Klapwijk: I broached the topic of plant sales with her, but she declined saying she has retired from selling. She did add that she has many plants in pots that she rescued from Harold Fearing's farm and from her parent's farm that she is willing to donate. Again, these plants are in much the same condition as Garth's and will need the same TLC.

Again, we have no area to store these and maintain them for one year - sad reality.





RHODODENDRON 'CAPISTRANO'

...has delicate pastel yellow flowers with no markings. In mid-May, it presents dome-shaped trusses of up to 15 funnel-shaped, frilly-edged flowers, which are up to 2 inches across. Its 4.5 inch long, muted deep green leaves are retained on the plant for two to three years, which gives R.

'Capistrano' its dense, mounding habit.

Looking for yellow rhododendrons?









Hachman's yellows: R. 'Goldbukett' (above) and R. 'Goldkrone' (below)





Yellow rhododendrons are sometimes difficult to grow. Consider the advice from experienced gardeners: most yellows require excellent drainage, and some prefer cool roots.





The Quest of the Xanthophile

By Alan Campbell



Most gardeners have a favoured colour scheme when beginning their garden vision. Some will lean toward the cooler colours of greens and blues while others find themselves drawn to the hot colours of the reds, oranges, and vibrant pinks. Still others will desire the meditative effects of whites and yellows. It is the yellow seekers that I hope to appease here.

Firstly, I must pay tribute to the wild species plants that have contributed their genetic makeup to provide so many yellow hybrids. These species that have been used mostly by hybridizers, looking to produce the 'perfect' yellow, have provided a wide variety of shapes and sizes. The larger leafed elepidote species include *R. campylocarpum*, *R. lacteum*, *R. litiense*, and *R. wardii*. While the smaller leafed lepidotes include *R. boothii*, *R. chrysodoron*, *R. hanceanum*, *R. ludlowii*, *R. lutescens* and *R. sulfureum*. For the warmer gardens *R. burmanicum* and *R. fletcheranum* from the sub-section Maddenia have produced some fine yellows. I can't neglect one other sub-genus, Pentanthera, the deciduous azaleas with its species *R. luteum*, a great addition to the yellows and, also, highly fragrant.

I expect that it is generally, if not arguably, accepted that it was Lionel de Rothschild of the famed Exbury Gardens in England who first focused on producing hybrid yellow rhododendrons during the 1940's. Lionel's directed purpose resulted in his fine 'Hawk' series. Most notably 'Hawk Crest', a plant still in demand today.

Here on Vancouver Island, during the 1950's and 1960's, Ted and Mary Greig produced many hybrids at their Royston Nursery, a fine yellow being 'Butterball'. The 1980's saw two men, who eventually became members of the Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society enter the hybridizing game. Fred Collins, a charter member of the CVRS, used one of Exbury's 'Hawk' series as a parent for his hybrid 'Orient' (not registered) a fine clear yellow. The other associate member, Dr. Bob Rhodes, hybridized 'Haida Gold', a plant that can be found in gardens from England to New Zealand.

Fine hybrids have been produced within the Lower Mainland of British Columbia as well. The hybridizer who comes to mind is Jack Lofthouse, whose yellow hybrids 'Butter Brickle', 'Lemon Float' and 'Sierra Del Oro' entered the nursery trade in the 1980's.

Yellow hybrids continue to flow out of the United Kingdom and Europe. Peter Cox and his son Ken at their Glendoick Nursery in Perth, Scotland have produced their 'bird series' of low mounding plants 'Curlew', 'Chiffchaff', and 'Chikor'. While out of Bramstedt, Germany the Hachmann Nursery exports many yellows such as 'Goldkrone' and 'Goldbuckett'.

I can't begin to list the hybridisers and their many hybrids that have come out of the United States. I will mention some notable plants to be found in many gardens: 'Golden Wedding', 'Goldstrike', 'Golden Bee', 'Top Banana', and, of course, 'Hotei', which means 'garden of happiness' in Japanese.

The one American hybridiszer I will mention is Jim Barlup of Bellevue, Washington. Jim introduced hundreds of his plants into the nursery trade. His notable yellow hybrids, to name just a few, are 'Kara Lee', 'Happy Hour', 'Madeleine's Melody' (named for Madeleine Webb of the Victoria Chapter), 'Meela', 'Mindy's Love', 'Sun Silk', and 'Windsong'. Jim passed away in 2020 at the age of 87. Jim gave much of his plant material to the Victoria Chapter, which they continue to propagate and register. The Victoria Chapter, along with the city of Esquimalt have developed a Jim Barlup legacy garden.

All the plants I have mentioned can be found growing in various Vancouver Island gardens. Many are being propagated by the five Vancouver Island Chapter propagating groups as well as interested individuals. Some are still being seen in the nursery trade. For the species plants, reliable sources would be the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way Washington or Bob Zimmermann at his Chimicum Woods Nursery in Port Ludlow, Washington.

I have listed several plants but so many more are out there and available. The difficulty will be choosing the perfect plant of size, depth of colour, and growth habit to suit an individual's garden setting.



"Embrace the choice; plant a yellow and create your own corner of sunshine."

~ Al Campbell

Al Murray's Rhododendron Propagation Method ~ Phase 2 ~

You followed the guidelines Allan Murray laid out for you in his Fall Workshop at the first CVRS meeting in September. You stuck the cuttings in your small domed flats of 32 pots, have dutifully sprayed the cuttings keeping them moist and green throughout the winter. Now, you are seeing signs of success. There are roots showing at the bottom of your individual pots.

Now what?

This next step in the process can sometimes be the more difficult one. Allan has developed methods that have proven to be the most successful for him. He has been determined and diligent in his approach in developing his methods. He gained some knowledge through research; some through the special relationships he formed over many years, and the chats with experienced propagators; some through trial and error. Much, however, is due to his creative application of common sense in applying all these ideas.

What is exceptionally wonderful is his generosity in sharing what he has learned. He embodies the spirit of the mission of the American Rhododendron Society:

The American Rhododendron Society is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to encourage interest in and to disseminate information about the genus Rhododendron. Society activities include public education, plant sales, flower shows, seed exchanges, and scientific research.



Rooted Cuttings

- In a very small space, Allan has rooted three hundred and twenty cuttings, enough for several years of plant sales!
- He likes the individual pots because he can simply lift the pot to examine the stage of rooting at the bottom. This will determine how long he waits before transplanting.
- His individual pots have the centers enlarged so that a gentle push with a finger releases the cutting from the pot for transplanting.



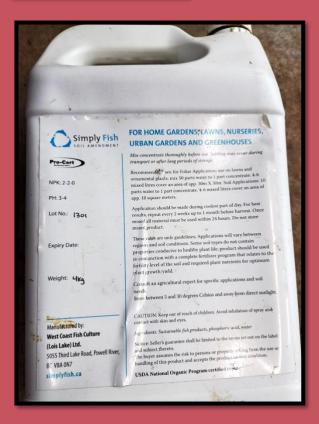


Tools and Products

- Allan uses the large hand-pump sprayer for application of water throughout the winter.
- The green bottle is the sprayer he uses to apply a foliage fertilizer to the cuttings once he sees roots at the bottom of the pots.

When Fertilizing, More is NOT Better!

- !00 parts water to 1 part fish fertilizer
- This fertilizer is 2-2-0 with a pH of 3-4
- Allan said he has had the fish fertilizer for many years, since he uses so VERY LITTLE for his applications.
- He applies the foliar spray to the rooted cuttings, using the green bottle with gentle spray, about once every 8-10 days.
- He watches for darker green colour along the veins of the cuttings to see that they are responding to the application of very WEAK fertilizer.
- These cuttings will remain in these pots for about another month.







Transplanting to One Gallon Pots

- Allan plants rooted cuttings directly into one-gallon pots. Although he knows that the accepted practice is to transplant into 4-inch pots, he does not do so. By the time of transplanting, his cuttings have roots that would not fit into such small pots.
- His potting mix is his own magical blend. He mixes this
 one wheelbarrow at a time. His measurements are
 experienced approximates: 60% bark mulch, and 40%
 compost, and several buckets of perlite to make the
 medium more porous.

Products for the Magical Blend

- Finding the right products for the blend may be difficult.
- Allan finds the bark mulch he uses seems to have more ground wood in it than it did in past years. He believes the ground wood absorbs more nitrogen than bark did in the past, so adding fertilizer LATER is important.
- He does NOT mix fertilizer with the blend. In fact, he adds NO FERTILIZER when he first transplants to the one-gallon pots.
- The compost he uses is made from leaves and manure that he gathers on his own property. Allan agrees that finding such healthy compost is difficult and the best idea is to create your own. He admits that this requires advance planning, as it does take several years to mature.



Fertilizing - 10 Months Later

- Allan adds fertilizer to the tops of the pot about 10 months later.
- He uses Jimmy Jons 6-12-12. This is lower in the Nitrogen component as he believes *his* compost mix is rich enough in nitrogen.
- It is important to analyze the compost mix that you use and carefully choose fertilizer ratios accordingly.

Caring for Plants in One Gallon Pots

- Allan recently added one more touch in the Phase 2 of his Propagation regime.
- AFTER the plants have grown in the one-gallon pots for one season, he adds grit to the top of the pots to reduce the splatter and loss of soil and fertilizer when he waters.
- Fertilizer is sprinkled lightly ON TOP of the grit.





The Result - Happy, Healthy New Plants





THE GREIG RHODODENDRON SPECIES GARDEN

The morning of the **Open Garden Event for District 1 Chapter Members** was wet and dreary. Apparently, more than a few of us questioned why we were pulling on warm boots and rain jackets and driving for an hour or two to walk around a garden on such a damp, blustery day. When we converged at Milner Gardens, we met the friends who had travelled further than we had, from Victoria and Campbell River. What we all smiled about was the dramatic change in the weather. Geoff Ball was congratulated, repeatedly, on his exceptional organization skills in arranging warm sunshine for the day.

Coffee and goodies were ready for us, and we wandered along the garden paths, and chatted with one another. After a time, Geoff called us to the circular platform in the Greig Rhododendron Species Garden where he explained that the installation of signage, that should be arriving shortly, would indicate the successful completion of Phase 1. He also explained that Phase 2 had begun with Jim Cadwaladr having drawn up the Landscape Design Concepts for Phase 2.



The event was very well attended. Although there were few rhododendrons in bloom that day, there were many sunny faces from every chapter on the Island, such as that of Alan Campbell and Art Lightburn (photo left). It was good to see a solid representation of Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society members, and it was obvious that everyone was pleased with the decision to make the effort to visit the unique Greig Rhododendron Species Garden.



Photos clockwise from above left:

- Geoff Ball and Chris Southwick welcome attendees gathered in the garden
- Al Murray, with Al Campbell and Garth Wedemire in the background
- Joe and Irene Hudak chat with Liz Murray over a hot cup of coffee
- Irene Hudak and Sandy Campbell listen to Geoff's explanation, until distracted
- Smiling friends from Up-Island chapters
- Jim Cadwaladr, retired architect, acknowledged for many hours of volunteer work on Phase 1, and currently, Phase 2 garden design











There were several surprises at this special garden event.

 Two awards were given to several hard-working chapter members for their outstanding contributions – a Bronze Medal and a Silver Medal





Bronze Medal

presented by MARS to

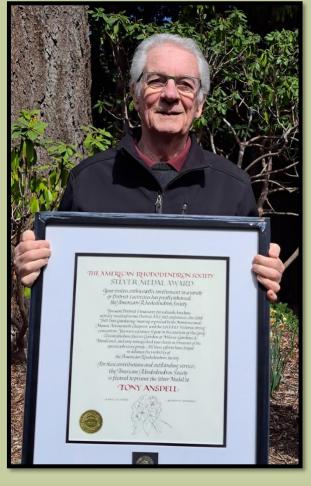
Diane Henders and Phil Betts

~~~~~

Silver Medal

presented by the ARS to

**Tony Ansdell** 



Your tireless, enthusiastic involvement in a variety of District 1 activities has greatly advanced the American Rhododendron Society. You were District 1 Treasurer for a decade, have been actively involved in two District ARS fall conferences, the 2018 "Fall Into Gardening" meeting organized by the Nanaimo and Mount Arrowsmith Chapters, and the 2015 ARS Victoria Spring Convention. You were a pioneer figure in the creation of the Greig Rhododendron Species Garden at Milner Gardens and Woodland, and only relinquished your duties as treasurer of the Species Advisory Group. All these efforts have helped to advance the visibility of the American Rhododendron Society. For these contributions and outstanding services, the ARS is pleased to present the Silver Medal to **Tony Ansdell.** 

# **COWICHAN VALLEY RHODODENDRON SOCIETY**

# **PLANT SALE**

Saturday, MAY 13, 2023, 10am - 2pm

St John's Anglican Church Parking Lot 486 Jubilee Street Duncan, BC







Hundreds of rhododendrons; a wide variety of perennials, grasses, ferns, tubers, bulbs, and edibles









### **Volunteers and Plants Deeply Appreciated**

- Come early Saturday: help with set-up of tables and tents
- Bring rhodo trusses and help set up the Truss Display table
- Offer your truck and muscle to transport plants to venue
- Bring plants, and help with labelling and pricing
- Throw on a red apron and be a priceless cashier!
- Answer customers questions or direct to the Master Gardeners
- Assist customers with purchases and filling the trolleys
- Assist customers with transporting their purchases to vehicles
- Manage flow of customers to avoid congestion
- Monitor plants and people to keep correct tags on plants
- Assist with take-down of tents and tables



#### 2022 - 2023

### **Calendar of Events**

Contact CVRS:

cowichanvalleyrhododendron@gmail.com

Wednesday, May 3, 7:30 pm

**CVRS Monthly Meeting** 

Gordon McKay: George Forrest, Plant Hunter and Explorer

Wednesday, May 10, 7:30pm

**MARS Monthly Meeting (QB Civic Center)** 

Thursday, May 11, 7:30pm

NRS Monthly Meeting (Beban Park Social Center)
John Deniseger: Why I Grow Rhododendrons

Saturday, May 6, 10am

Cairnsmore Hospice/Volunteer Gardeners Plant Sale (Cairnsmore Place, Cairnsmore Street)

Wednesday, May 10, 7:30pm

**MARS Monthly Meeting (QB Civic Center)** 

**Margot Moser:** Ferns

Thursday, May 11, 7:30pm

NRS Monthly Meeting (Beban Park Social Center)

Garth Wedemire: Finnerty Gardens Gems Over the Last Decade

**SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2023, 10 AM - 2PM** 

COWICHAN VALLEY RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

**ANNUAL PLANT SALE** 

**Venue: St John's Anglican Church** 



# May 13 & 14, 2023 10am – 4pm on Sat and Sun MARS Mothers' Day Garden Tour

Sunday, June 4, 2023 Cowichan Family Life Association Garden Tour

June 9 – 10, 2023

**Rhododendron Species Symposium at the RSBG** 







#### **USEFUL LINKS**

**Cowichan Rhododendron Society:** 

cowichanrhodos.ca/

Victoria Rhododendron Society:

victoriarhodo.ca/index.html

**Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society:** 

marsrhodos.ca/

North Island Rhododendron Society:

nirsrhodos.ca/ws/

The American Rhododendron Society:

rhododendron.org/

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society:

nanaimorhodos.ca

**Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden:** 

rhodygarden.org

Nanoose Garden Club:

nanoosegardenclub.ca/

Linda Gilkeson:

lindaqilkeson.ca/

Vancouver Island Rock and Garden

Society:

virags.com

Linda Chalker-Scott:

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

**Steve Henning:** 

rhodyman.net

Rhododendron, Camellia, Magnolia

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

Office of the American Rhododendron

Society: member@arsoffice.org





Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

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

http://cowichanrhodos.ca

#### 2022-2023 Executive

**President: Barrie Agar** 

**Vice-President: Dorothy Kennedy** 

Treasurer: Diane Allen Secretary: Mary Pike

Director-at-Large: Wendy Willson Director-at-Large: Candice Feeney Director-at-Large: Sandy Campbell

**Director-at-Large: Ali Morris** 

**Membership Chairperson: David Annis** 

#### Convenors

Sunshine: Vacant

Tea: Judeen Hendrickson

Raffle: Hilda Gerrits

Program Planning: The ExecutiveTeam

Fundraising: The Executive Team CVRS Garden Tours: Candice Feeney

CVRS Bus Tours: TBA Library: Verna Buhler Newsletter: Verna Buhler