

Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

Newsletter

Volume 31:6 September 2020

Message from the President

Hi Friends,

This newsletter is overdue by weeks now, and the information files that need to be distributed to you are thick, and, as yet, are relatively confusing to me as *so much is changing on a daily basis*. That expression is becoming over-used but is nonetheless absolutely true.

Thank-you for your patience during the last few months. In normal circumstances, we would have elected our new Executive at the end of June and the two summer months would have been used to transfer tasks and responsibilities



Rhododendron arboescens ('var georgiana')

Photo: Rhododendron Species Foundation

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on to new personnel. Instead, a transfer of boxes and files is happening now, when we should already be getting everyone together in some suitable format.

I have finally admitted to myself that we will be unable to sort through all that is supposed to define a clear path for us to follow this season in this first newsletter and must simply communicate what is clear and straight-forward at this point. Then we will continue to request your patience with the slower pace of an evolving plan for this 2020/21 CVRS season.

This issue will highlight just some of the events of the past few months---as isolated, “small-bubbled”, and “virtual” as they may have been. Photos and a few stories will hopefully bring the CVRS community together to continue to appreciate and share passions with fellow gardeners. More information on these and other



Euonymus (Spindle Tree) in Sandra's garden
Photo: Sandra Stevenson

stories will follow in the October newsletter. Sadly, we will also dedicate much of the October newsletter to a tribute to our dear friend Peter Lewis.

So, what has been happening that you will read about in this newsletter?

Your contributions to the CVRS Truss Plus Photo Contest were enthusiastic. You will find results of the nine Categories of the HYBRID TRUSS CONTEST in this issue. There will be another dozen category results to pleasantly surprise us in the next newsletter issue, coming soon.



Joe leaves Shirley's garden with a big smile on the last day of the landscaping project

A crew of CVRS Members installed gardens in Shirley Efford's new property. Some photos will show the progress made.

In August, people began to recognize that "Virtual" was good, but "Safely Together, in-person" was better. Several meetings, the ARS District 1 Meeting and the CVRS AGM Meeting, were held. Full reports and photos from these two events will be included in the October issue which we hope to issue in the second week of October.

Your new CVRS Executive will be introduced here; information regarding membership fees, and options as to how our monthly meetings may be held will also be included.

We are anticipating that forced changes will open up unprecedented opportunities to learn and share

together with numerous other chapters, and on a much larger scale than we could have imagined before.

Hopefully, this September newsletter will answer questions that you may have had regarding whether or not maintaining membership in the CVRS will be worth your participation. We do wish for all of you to find that your loyalty has been rewarded and will strive to make that happen.

Thank-you for continuing to support and enjoy this special assembly of enthusiastic gardeners.

See you soon,

Verna

MEMBERSHIP FEES REDUCED to \$30

The CVRS Executive has made a decision to reduce the Membership Fee for the 2020/21 season from the regular \$45 to \$30.

The decision was made to encourage you all to renew your membership with the Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society as we attempt to create interesting activities for you to enjoy during this difficult pandemic period. We really need your support through this season so that when the "waves" recede our special rhododendron community can resume its busy and socially healthy activities and gatherings once again.

The restrictive challenges are new to all of us and the Executive made the difficult decision to cancel the Monthly Meetings at St. John's Parish for the time being. We, the members of the Executive, have been meeting and planning a unique program of activities and so we feel connected. ***However, we are well aware that our members do not feel connected and do not know what to expect, and we are sorry about that and hope to change that very soon.***

Membership fees (\$30) can be paid by cheque and mailed to:

Cowichan Valley Rhododendron
Society
PO Box 904
Duncan, B.C. V9L 3Y2

E-transfers may be possible soon.

We welcome all of your ideas as we develop ways in which we can interact, share our passions, and learn together.

Your CVRS Membership *will continue* to offer these unique opportunities:

- You will receive the JARS (Journal of the American Rhododendron Society) every three months. This material in this journal is progressive and knowledgeable. It alone is easily worth the membership fee in its offerings.
- You will receive the CVRS Cowichan Rhododendron Newsletter once each month other than in July and August. (Yes, September's is very late, and October's will follow shortly)
- The CVRS will continue with its dynamic Propagation Club activities.
 - * The first is scheduled for Saturday, October 3, 2020. This event will focus on the division of plants such as *Hosta* and *Paeonia*.
 - * Dates for collecting and sticking rhododendron cuttings will be determined shortly as garden visits are scheduled.



Coming soon are opportunities to connect while remaining at home:

- ZOOM Meetings: Opportunities for Meetings without leaving home on those dark and rainy nights
- Special Presentations: Exciting presentations, unlike any we have ever been able to access before, are being set up.
 - * On November 18th, Steve Hootman from the Rhododendron Species Foundations, is offering a presentation of his plant hunting trip to Northern Vietnam in 2017.

"I will show images and discuss the amazing plants and sights seen on a two-week expedition to the mountains of north Vietnam. Included will be a few species of Rhododendron completely new to science."

- Pop-up Plant Sales: Our usual offerings of unique plants, in different formats and venues. We are developing ideas for more frequent small sales held at our members' properties and in small venues such as parking lots. This will enable us to ensure appropriate safety practices and still share and purchase our sought-after plants, all the while smiling behind our designer rhododendron masks.

Your Executive will work hard to make this a positive year.

RESULTS OF THE CVRS TRUSS-PLUS PHOTO CONTEST: Part One

Compiled by Verna Buhler

"If we can't go to the Rhododendron, the Rhododendron must come to us." Barrie Agar



Many of you contributed to the CVRS Truss-Plus Photo Contest initiated by Barrie Agar in May. Diane Allen and I compiled and submitted the photo collections to our most experienced Rhododendron Truss Judges, Al and Liz Murray. There were one hundred and fifty-two entries in total in eight categories. Our judges determined that several large categories required further divisions and after many hours were able to arrive at final decisions for each. They announced at the CVRS AGM that the results were ready to publish.

In the following pages are the results of only the CVRS Hybrid Truss Categories. This Category was subdivided into nine more specific divisions. More exciting results will follow in the upcoming issues of the newsletter.

**Category:
'Loderi King George'
Hybrid Truss**

WINNERS:

FIRST: Ali Morris

SECOND: Bernie Dinter

THIRD: Bernie Dinter



FIRST: Ali Morris



SECOND: Bernie Dinter



THIRD: Bernie Dinter

Category: White Hybrid Truss

WINNERS

FIRST: Ali Morris

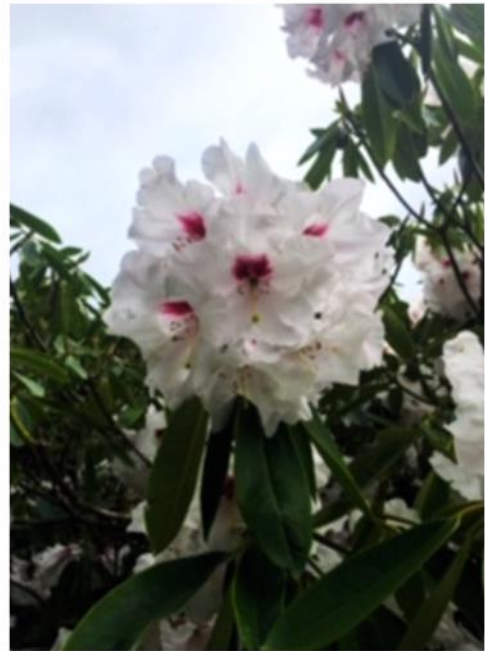
R. 'Babylon'

SECOND: Doug Kitts

R. 'Blewbury'

THIRD: Carrie Nelson

R. 'Fragrantissimum'



FIRST: Ali Morris
R. 'Babylon'



SECOND: Doug Kitts
R. 'Blewbury'



THIRD: Carrie Nelson
R. 'Fragrantissimum'

Category: Yellow Hybrid Truss

WINNERS

FIRST: Carrie Nelson

R. 'Hotei'

SECOND: Carrie Nelson

R. 'Golden Lights' (Azalea)

THIRD: Doug Kitts

R. 'Windsong'



FIRST: Carrie Nelson
R. 'Hotei'



SECOND: Carrie Nelson
R. 'Golden Lights' (Azalea)



THIRD: Doug Kitts
R. 'Windsong'

**Category:
Light Pink Hybrid
Truss**

WINNERS

FIRST: Carrie Nelson

R. 'Lillian Peste'

SECOND:

R. 'Senator Jackson' x *decorum*



FIRST: Carrie Nelson
R. 'Lillian Peste'



SECOND:
R. 'Senator Jackson' x *decorum*
(two photos)



**Category:
Mid Pink Hybrid Truss**

WINNERS

FIRST: Carrie Nelson

R. 'Ingrid Mehlquist'

SECOND: Janice McLean

R. 'Viennese Waltz'

THIRD: Janice McLean

R. 'Hoppy'



FIRST: Carrie Nelson
R. 'Ingrid Mehlquist'



SECOND: Janice McLean
R. 'Viennese Waltz'



THIRD: Janice McLean
R. 'Hoppy'

**Category:
Dark Pink Hybrid
Truss**

WINNERS

FIRST: Janice McLean

R. 'Midnight Mystique'

SECOND: Doug Kitts

R. 'Very Berry'

THIRD: Janice Mclean

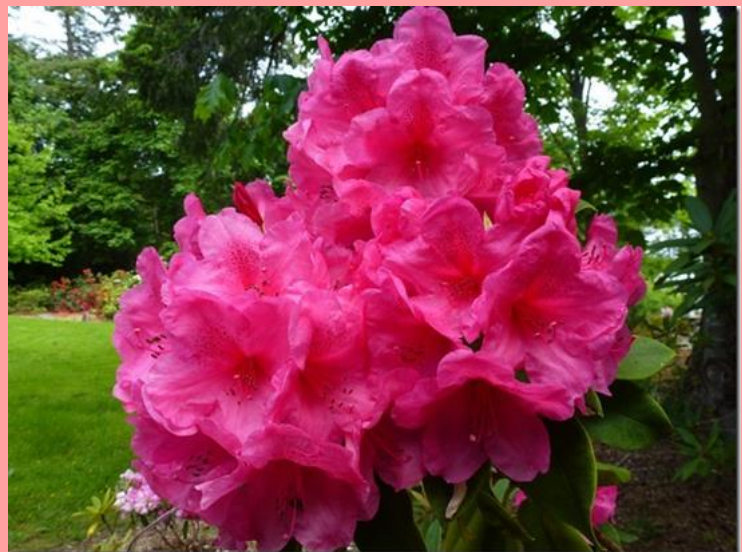
R. 'Newcomb's Sweetheart'



FIRST: Janice McLean
R. 'Midnight Mystique'



SECOND: Doug Kitts
R. 'Very Berry'



THIRD: Janice Mclean
R. 'Newcomb's Sweetheart'

**Category:
Reds and Blue Hybrid Truss**

WINNERS

FIRST: Elisabeth Zoffman

R. 'Etta Burrows'

SECOND: Alan Campbell

R. 'Muncaster Mist'

THIRD: Elisabeth Zoffman

R. 'Etta Burrows'



FIRST: Elisabeth Zoffman
R. 'Etta Burrows'



SECOND: Alan Campbell
R. 'Muncaster Mist'



THIRD: Elisabeth Zoffman
R. 'Etta Burrows'

Category: Orange Hybrid Truss

WINNERS

FIRST: Alan Campbell

R. 'Glory of Littleworth'

SECOND: Alan Campbell

R. 'Trewithan Orange'

THIRD: Carrie Nelson

R. 'Arneson's Gem' (Azalea)



FIRST: Alan Campbell
R. 'Glory of Littleworth'



SECOND: Alan Campbell
R. 'Trewithan Orange'



THIRD: Carrie Nelson
R. 'Arneson's Gem' (Azalea)

Category: Peachy to Look At

WINNERS

FIRST: Carrie Nelson

R. 'Odee Wright'

SECOND: Carrie Nelson

R. 'Starbright Champagne'

THIRD: Carrie Nelson

R. 'Nancy Evans'



FIRST: Carrie Nelson
R. 'Odee Wright'



SECOND: Carrie Nelson
R. 'Starbright Champagne'



THIRD: Carrie Nelson
R. 'Nancy Evans'

Shirley's Garden

Dear Friends,

I have been trying to find words with which to respond to you for your kind thoughts and deeds to help me through this difficult time. Not easy but I will try.

Many of you brought flowers – some of the bunches so large that I thought you must have felt that Ian was larger than life which, of course he was in so many ways. The house was full of flowers! Others brought baked treats. These things were such a comfort to me and the family. The tributes were wonderful.

The greatest gift the club members made in memory of Ian and to express their appreciation of all he contributed to the club was the generous donation of time, energy and expertise to finish the garden he had barely begun. I intend to hold an open garden in the spring so that you can all come and see and enjoy in full bloom the wonderful results of the work of club members.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Shirley



Summer 2020 Landscaping Project

During July, most of us remained tucked in our gardens, attacking the long lists of overdue gardening tasks, grateful for the absence of regular everyday interruptions.

Several of the CVRS members, Joe Hudak, Sandra Stevenson, George Morgen and Verna Buhler who were available on Mondays and Fridays, spent a number of weeks installing new gardens in Shirley Efford's new property. Randy Bouchard, Sharon Tillie, Mary Pike, Kathy Coster, and Malcolm Ho-You also worked on the project whenever they could.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED:



Four of the CVRS landscaping crew, Joe Hudak, Sandra Stevenson, George Morgen and Verna Buhler, with Shirley, celebrating the last day on the project



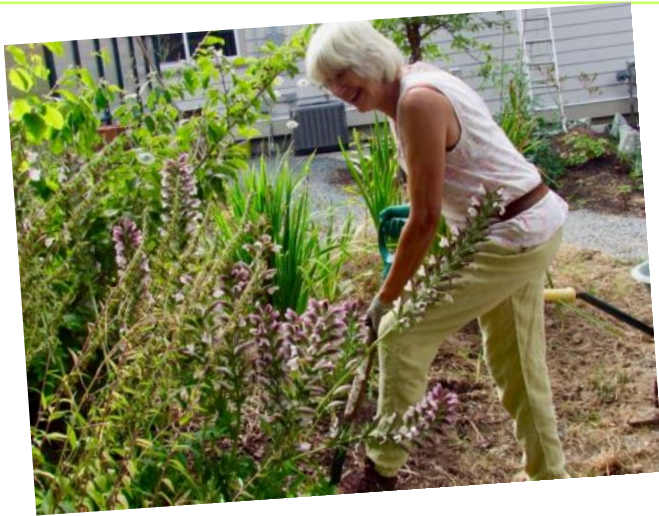
The self-acclaimed directors of the project: Sandra, Shirley, and Verna

BEFORE:



DURING:

A walk-through, to review the layout planned by Ian and Shirley. Five garden areas, divided by wide pathways, were determined. Project phases were planned with Shirley. Weeding, identification and lifting of existing plants began and continued through each phase.



A fair amount of laughter and bonding occurred as well.

One contest determined how many “digs” each person could handle; another, how many could be delivered. Sandra handled most; Joe delivered most.



Buckets were filled with weeds and removed after each visit.

Shirley and her daughter, Sonja, provided freshly baked treats and cold drinks for the crew daily!





At week three, George and Kubota were called in, and thereafter attended regularly to demonstrate the superiority of machine and operator over hardworking, fairly-old gardeners.

Together they removed loads of weed-filled clay and replaced it with truckloads of new soil and bark mulch.

“To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.” – Audrey Hepburn

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:
lindaqilkeson.ca/

Vancouver Island Rock and Garden Society:
virags.com

Linda Chalker-Scott:
<https://puyallup.wsu.edu/lcs/>.

Steve Henning:
rhodyman.net

Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society AGM

Executive for 2020/21

President: Verna Buhler

Vice-President: Ali Morris

Treasurer: Randy Bouchard

Secretary: Diane Allen

Due to a sudden illness in Diane's family and a need for her to refocus her energies, Randy has graciously offered to assume the responsibilities of Interim Secretary. Diane will continue to serve as our communications liaison as she is able to do so from her home. We value her expeditious management of CVRS correspondence.

Director-at-Large: Candice Feeney

Director-at-Large: Wendy Wilson

Director-at-Large: Barrie Agar

Director-at Large: Dorothy Kennedy

Membership Chairperson: David Annis

Convenors:

Sunshine: Mary Gale

Tea: Judeen Hendrickson

Raffle: Hilda Gerrits

Program Planning: The Executive Team

Fundraising: The Executive Team

Garden Tours: TBA

Library: Verna Buhler

Newsletter Editor: Verna Buhler



Late blooming *Rhododendron* 'Black Sport' in Janice McLean's garden



Late blooming *Rhododendron dalhousiae* var. *rhabdotum* subsection *Maddenia* (greenhouse for winter) in Al and Sandy's garden

Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

2020 Annual General Meeting Minutes

August 29th, 2020

Held at the home of Mary & William Pike

3440 Gibbons Road, Duncan

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Verna Buhler at 12:30 pm

Quorum: A quorum was met with 21 attendees.

Welcome & Introduction of Board Members: President Verna Buhler welcomed everybody.

Previous AGM Minutes: Moved by Ali Morris; Seconded by Diane Allen to approve the June 19th, 2019 Minutes. Carried.

Financial Statement: Elaine Kitchen presented the Financial Statement, noting that a Balance Sheet will be forth coming after the inventory of plants kept at Verna Buhler's property have been counted as part of our inventory of plants for future sale. Moved by Candice Feeney; Seconded by Barrie Agar to accept the financial statement. Carried.

General Comments: Verna thanked Elaine Kitchen for the many years of volunteering as our Treasurer; her hard work for the Garden Fairs was greatly appreciated by all our members.

Garden Fair 2020 was cancelled due to the health pandemic, but our group of volunteers managed plant sales with great success at Verna Buhler's and Elisabeth Zoffman's homes.

Elections were conducted by Sharon Tillie:

The following officers let their names stand to be elected for a one-year term. (Directors-at-Large for two-year terms)

President: Verna Buhler

Vice-President: Ali Morris

Treasurer: Randy Bouchard

Secretary: Diane Allen

Directors:

Barrie Agar - Speaker Coordinator

Candice Feeney

Wendy Williams

Dorothy Kennedy

Sharon Tillie called the question three times for each candidate and then declared each position filled by acclamation; each person elected for a one-year term. (Directors-at-large for two-year terms)

Membership Coordinator: David Annis will continue with this role.

Verna Buhler thanked Mary & William for hosting our AGM at their beautiful property.

Adjournment on a motion by Barrie Agar at 2 pm.

Secretary, Diane Allen (for Verna Buhler)



2020-21 Executive

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Library: Verna Buhler

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Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

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

<http://cowichanrhodos.ca>



<http://cowichanvalleygardenfair.com>

Due to COVID-19 the 2020
Garden Fair is cancelled



[www.facebook.com/
CowichanValleyGardenFair](http://www.facebook.com/CowichanValleyGardenFair)

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