



Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

Newsletter

Volume 32:6 September 2021

Message from the President

Hi Friends,

Odd isn't it, to realize that we are looking forward to the rainy season? Will we ever complain again about the clouds and drizzle? This fall, with new awareness, we will enjoy leaves drying due to chlorophyll changes rather than scorching.

During summer, those private oases that we featured in our June newsletter may not have been quite cool enough for us to linger with our drinks and books for hours at a time. Instead, many of us were dragging hoses and buckets around, determined to keep those special havens healthy and verdant.

Despite the stress, we did, and still do, have opportunities to smile. We need only reflect on that special day in July, when we gathered together with one another, in person, for the first time in far too many months. What a wonderful event that was! A beautiful setting, a lavish banquet of favourites from the kitchens of talented friends, chef-prepared proteins, a special birthday celebration, and even an entertaining AGM. Most importantly, it was that simple pleasure of in-person contact, sharing a meal and chatting with friends, that warms us as we acknowledge this element as the most valuable ingredient of our summer picnic.

That day we celebrated a more realistic hope that our lives might soon be *back to normal*. Today, we continue to be hopeful, but we need to delay a little longer before we can restructure our meetings and gather at St. John's Hall. The safety protocols required to meet at the hall are complex and therefore our September meeting will need to be a Zoom Meeting. Nor can we confidently predict when we will be

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CVRS Meeting

Zoom Format

Wednesday,
September 8, 2021
7pm

Guest Speaker:

Malonie Hewstan

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District 1 Report

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President's Message (continued)

gathering in person once again.

At the District 1 Meeting that Ali, Barrie and I attended on the lawn at Milner Gardens on August 24th, the representatives from every Chapter reported that learning opportunities during this last season had been tremendous, and all agreed that the unanticipated success of the Zoom Meetings had been a valuable experience. Access to so many knowledgeable speakers was a practice that all wished to continue in some hybrid format.

One aspect that I personally appreciated about Zoom, was meeting the people from other chapters that I knew by reputation only. I had heard their names from others, I had read about them and their achievements, or I had read their books and articles. It was a pleasure to attend the same meetings as Harold Greer, the author of *Greer's Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons*, the 'bible' that rhododendron enthusiasts carry with them for reference purposes. The sudden loss of Harold Greer several weeks ago was that much more shocking.

We must continue to move forward with determination and with gratitude for how fortunate we are and have been. For one, we can continue our drive to ensure a healthy and vigorous planet. We do this by planting and nurturing our gardens; providing environments for preserving endangered species and essential ecosystems through diversity in plant choices. Wildlife abounds in our green spaces. Our plants are resilient and will rebound with a little help.



It is propagation time once again, and we surge forward, thinking about which rhododendrons we will select for cuttings. We can get together in our friends' gardens to gather our favourites amidst the spectacular fall colours and the crunch of crisp leaves. Carrie Nelson, whose unparalleled garden of Japanese maples was featured in our March 2021 newsletter, has thoughts of inviting us to just such an event.

Importantly,

If you haven't already registered to attend the Virtual ARS Fall Conference, "*Fall into Gardening*", you should do so right now. It's free. When you scroll on to the next page you will find the link. The process is incredibly easy; it takes only one minute of your time and effort, for a most rewarding experience to follow.

Let's continue to spread our smiles around, in gardens, at propagation events, and for now, at the Zoom Meetings.

See you soon,

Verna Buhler

"HYDRANGEAS - the new directions"

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

Guest Speaker

Malonie Hewstan

"I have been gardening for 50 years, carrying on in my mother's tradition. I started the Mission Garden Club and continued for 10 years.

I belonged to Mission Toastmasters and from there became one of the garden speakers on the BC Council of Gardens club's speakers list, talking about my passion for Hydrangeas, Dogwoods and variegated plants.

Now my time is spent on my dream garden, with its 23 fruit trees underplanted with more than 138 Hydrangeas. I trained as an artist here in the Fraser Valley and in NYC; therefore, when not gardening, I am occupied with working on my paintings, photography and in Community theatre.

My Hydrangea presentation is on Power Point, so it's all set up to go; my talk would be an update on the new directions with regard to Hydrangeas."

Malonie



2021 Virtual ARS Fall Conference

"Fall into Gardening"

October 23 and 24, 2021



Hosted by Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society and Nanaimo Rhododendron Society in partnership with Vancouver Island Master Gardeners

This virtual conference is FREE and open to all interested gardeners - members and non-members – anywhere in the world!



ARS 2021 Fall Conference ***Fall into Gardening*** Schedule:

- **Saturday and Sunday, October 23 and 24, 2021 at NO COST!!**
- Four presentations each day starting at:
9 am Pacific - 12 noon Eastern – 1:00 pm Atlantic – 5 pm UK – 6 pm CET
- **All presentations will be recorded and available for our members in NZ, Australia & Asia to view at a convenient time.**

Saturday Speakers and Topics:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| • Hartwig Schepker, Germany | <i>Sichuan: A Plantsman's Paradise</i> |
| • Shannon Berch, BC Canada | <i>Living Soils</i> |
| • David Sellars, BC Canada | <i>From Rhododendrons to Rock Gardening</i> |
| • Don Hyatt, Virginia USA | <i>A Walk in the Woods</i> |

Sunday Speakers and Topics:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| • David Millais, UK | <i>Conservation of Heritage Rhododendrons</i> |
| • Linda Chalker-Scott, WA USA | <i>Landscape Mulches: The Good, the Bad, and the Just Plain Ugly</i> |
| • Richard Dionne, QC USA | <i>Growing Rhododendrons in Québec's Harsh Winters</i> |
| • Don Wallace, CA USA | <i>Fragrant Rhododendrons</i> |

To Join us please register using Mailchimp at

<https://mailchi.mp/9151e79e2a98/fall-conference-2021>

Please join us for this fall celebration of gardening!

In Memory of **HAROLD E. GREER**

One of the great rhododendron enthusiasts, experts and supporters of the American Rhododendron Society, Harold Greer, passed away a few weeks ago. Harold was known to many as “Mr. ARS”.

Nancy Greer shared this note on her Facebook page:

“Many of you may or may not know that Harold passed away August 10, 2021. He was working on the sprinkling system before last week’s hot spell. He was working next to a shallow pond in our backyard and he tripped and fell. His head hit a rock in the pond, and it knocked him out and he drowned. He did not suffer and died in our garden.

I am doing okay. It has been such a shock! Harold died in a beautiful garden that he loved so much and that is where he wanted to be.



In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Research Foundation of the American Rhododendron Society, or to The Species Foundation in Washington State. I will post (on Facebook) when his memorial service will be when a date is set. Thank you for all your prayers and love that some of you have sent me already.”

Harold Eldon Greer passed away unexpectedly while tending to his landscape and his beloved rhododendrons. Harold was born to Edgar and Esther Peterson Greer on May 21, 1945, in Greeley, Colorado. His family moved to Eugene, Oregon, when Harold was seven years old and shortly thereafter Harold was introduced to the world of plant materials, and specifically, rhododendrons, by his father. What began as a shared hobby between father and son soon became a business, Greer Gardens Nursery, originally located in the River Road area. In 1961, the family purchased a parcel of land on Goodpasture Island Road and moved the nursery to the site which would be home to the business for the next 50 years.

... Landscape Architect ... Entrepreneur ...

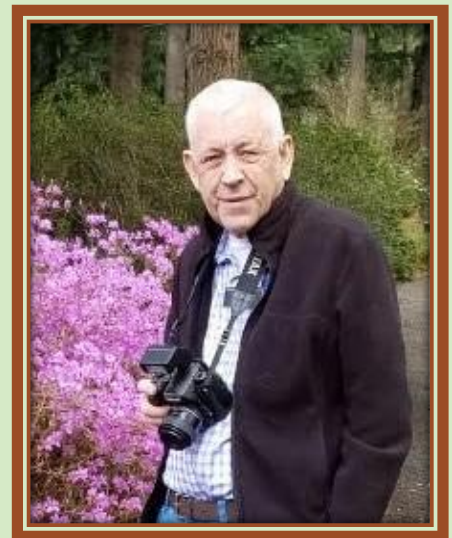
Harold was owner and long-time operator of Greer Gardens. This nursery, created by Harold and his wife Nancy, was world-famous as a place to find rare and unusual plants. It also became one of the leading mail-order companies in the USA for purchasing rhododendrons.

Harold graduated from North Eugene High School and attended the University of Oregon, but his passion from a very young age was plant materials and rhododendrons. As a teenager, he was the youngest person to be accepted into membership of the Eugene Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society and by the age of 22, he was the youngest person to ever be appointed as a Director for the American Rhododendron Society.

His involvement with the international organization continued as he served in a progression of officer roles, culminating as President of the American Rhododendron Society, again as the youngest person ever to do so. Additionally, he served on many ARS committees throughout his lifetime. Harold was the recipient of the ARS Gold Medal and served as President from 1987 to 1989.

. . . Rhododendron Expert . . . Photographer . . . Speaker . . .

Harold Greer became an internationally recognized expert and speaker about all aspects of the rhododendron world. Along with his love of rhododendrons, Harold possessed a talent for photography, another passion which continued throughout his lifetime. He had a very good eye for composition and color. Over the years, he photographed thousands of plant blooms, trusses, and leaves, which became the illustrations for the many articles and presentations he prepared.



. . . Writer . . . Hybridizer . . .



In addition, Harold wrote and illustrated several books about rhododendrons, the best known of which is *Greer's Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons*, the indispensable guide for information on both species and hybrid rhododendrons.

Harold Greer's book contains the photographs of a number of his hybrids, among which are a number of well-known favourites such as 'Trude Webster', 'Extraordinaire', and 'Hallelujah'.



Rhododendron 'Trude Webster'
Photo: Woodbury Rhododendrons



Rhododendron 'Very Berry'
Photo: Woodbury Rhododendrons



Rhododendron 'Hallelujah'
Photo: Garth Wedimere



Rhododendron 'Extraordinaire'

Harold had many friends around the world; his friends included some of the early members and pioneers of the rhododendron communities in the Pacific Northwest Region such as Halfdan Lem, Bill Whitney, Cecil Smith, Jim Capercii, the Thompsons, Ruth and Marshall Lyons, John and Rudolf Henny, Carl Petteplace, Ray James and Milton Walker.

Harold loved to share his wealth of knowledge about the plant world, but he was always striving to learn more. In addition to the American Rhododendron Society, he belonged to the Royal Horticultural Society, the Magnolia Society, the Camellia Society and he was a board member for the Rhododendron Species Foundation in Federal Way, Washington. Harold also loved to travel, and he incorporated his thirst for knowledge into the many horticultural tours he and his wife Nancy led to Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Germany, France, England, Scotland, Ireland and the Scandinavian region over the many years of their life together.



Harold Greer served on the Expert Panel at the ARS Conference in Sydney, Vancouver Island in May 2015. He is seated on the left of Ken Cox who is responding to one of many questions asked of these most knowledgeable rhododendron experts in the world.

In 2015, as Harold looked forward to retirement, he sold the Greer Gardens Nursery property to The Springs Living, a retirement and senior living company based in McMinnville, Oregon. Harold worked with the new owner, Fee Stubblefield, and his team at The Springs Living to envision and bring into existence a multi-level retirement community on the property, surrounded by beautiful gardens containing the rare and unique rhododendrons Harold had collected and nurtured during his lifetime gardens.



This community offers a range of lifestyles from independent living to assisted living, as well as memory care. An additional aspect of the new construction was a new home for Harold and Nancy's comfort and enjoyment in their retirement years.

The Springs at Greer Gardens will always remain as a reminder of Harold's passion for rhododendrons and beautiful gardens.

Harold lived a well blessed life. He will be remembered around the world for his wonderful contribution to the rhododendron world. He will be missed.

Information in this article was drawn from, and only slightly adapted, from both The Victoria Rhododendron Society Newsletter for September 2021, and the extended obituary written by and distributed by Dana Manion, newsletter editor of the Eugene Chapter ARS at the request and approval of Nancy Greer. Verna Buhler

Thank-you

From Chris and Kathleen Gale



I just wanted to give my heartfelt thanks to all of you for the absolutely superb afternoon luncheon you held for my Mum's birthday. She was completely surprised, and she is not an easy one to fool, and was amazed at the number of true friends she has that would make such an effort just for her.



Special thanks, of course, to Bill Dumont; what a feast and what a huge amount of work he put into feeding us all.

We still have the top of the cake and it will be coming out again at our family celebration next week.

Thank you all again so much, and please do not hesitate to come around anytime and give Mary a visit. Though knock really loud as she is getting just a little hard of hearing.

Thank-you, thank-you, thank-you

COMPANION PLANT for SEPTEMBER

FUCHSIAS

By Ali Morris



Most *fuchsias* are native to Central and South America in the Andes, some as far North as Mexico. New Zealand also has a few species.

Many years ago, I was asked, "What do you grow for summer colour in your shade garden?"

"*Fuchsias* and *Hydrangeas*," I replied then.

This would still be my response today. *Fuchsias* begin blooming in June and often last through October or to the first frost.

Fuchsias are named after a German doctor and botanist Leonard Fuchs. His chief notability is as the author of a large book about plants and their uses as medicines. He created the medicinal garden at the University of Tübingen in 1533, where he offered botanical field trips for students, demonstrating the medicinal plants *in situ*.



While many gardeners believe *Fuchsias* to be sensitive to cold weather, there are many hardy species and varieties that, once established, can be grown outdoors all year as garden shrubs.

Hardy *Fuchsias* growing in the garden are undemanding plants. They like rich, well-drained soil with plenty of nutrients and water; they prefer shade or partial shade. In order to give their best performances, they need to develop deep root systems and will happily grow into woody shrubs of varying heights.

Flowering occurs on new growth; cutting them back in spring will provide the best show of vivid shades of purple, pink, and white flowers. In the right settings of foliage plants such as rhododendrons, Hosta, and ferns, the graceful plants with bright pendent flowers are simply striking.

Hummingbirds love the *Fuchsias*; those long needle like beaks have adapted to retrieve the nectar from tubular flowers, which makes them the plant's main pollinators. Bees are also attracted to their flowers; elephant hawk moth caterpillars enjoy their leaves.

No deadheading required . . .





Fuchsia magellanica aurea

Fuchsia magellanica

With pink, tapering sepals and rich purple petals, *Fuchsia magellanica* and its cultivars are decidedly elegant.

They are hardy to at least Zone 7.

In warmer climates, they can reach heights of 150 cm or more, relatively large when compared with many other fuchsias.



Fuchsia magellanica
'Hawkshead'; hardy, rare, pure-white flowers with green tips



Fuchsia 'Jack Shahan'



***Fuchsia* 'Dollar Princess'**

One of few double cold hardy fuchsias; Zone 7-9

Bushy, upright, deciduous; 18 inches tall and wide

Winner of the Award of Garden Merit

Selected by Dan Hinkley for exceptional display of brilliant red and purple flowers and improved winter hardiness

Early to midspring cut back to one or two buds on woody stem

I like to grow the less hardy varieties in pots and display them around my deck in summer. In late fall, I move them to a frost free place and when new growth begins to show in early spring, I move them out again.



Fuchsias are very easy to propagate from cuttings. August or early September is an ideal time; however, any semi-ripe wood will do.

Furthermore, *Fuchsias* produce small fruit which is edible. Even the flowers can be tossed into a salad.

No, I haven't tried them; I will leave them to the cycle of life.

Ali



Note:

The goal when it comes to overwintering *Fuchsias* is to keep them alive, not to see blooming flowers over winter. They will simply not continue to bloom in the winter. There is not enough sunlight for them to thrive.

Your best bet is putting the *Fuchsias* into dormancy, which is sort of a resting state for plants. If you don't, they will most likely become infested with pests and not grow very well. In this resting state, the *Fuchsias* will look dead, but are basically just taking a winter nap.

Another option is to keep them semi-dormant, but this is only for gardeners who happen to have a moderately heated greenhouse that stays between 5 to 8 degrees C. This enables the plant to have slow growth through the wintertime.

BREAKING NEWS

September 4, 2021

Today's BCCDC, Province of B.C. info:

"You can get together with others for organized events, holidays and celebrations but they continue to look a little different. Personal gatherings such as get-togethers with friends and family can return to normal.

- Organized indoor seated events can be held with a maximum of 50 people or up to 50% of the venue's total capacity, whichever is greater.
- Organized outdoor gatherings can be held with a maximum of 5,000 people or up to 50% of the venue's capacity, whichever is greater.

Masks are required for people born in 2009 or earlier at gatherings in indoor public spaces.

Beginning September 13, people age 12 and older will need to provide proof of vaccination to attend indoor ticketed concerts, theatre, dance, symphony and sporting events as well as indoor organized gatherings like weddings, parties, conferences, meetings and workshops."

*** Please ***

Send your CVRS Executive feedback, your ideas, as to how you would like to see your club organize its activities this season

Milner Gardens and Woodland Society Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Milner Gardens and Woodland Society for the fiscal year 2020-21 will be held at 7 pm, Tuesday, September 28th, 2021. The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.

The meeting is open to all members in good standing by emailing milnergardens@shaw.ca to pre-register. Please put 'MGW Society AGM' in your email subject line.

Emails will be accepted up to 4:00pm on September 27, 2021. Those registering will be sent a link to the meeting.

The Milner Gardens and Woodland Society is an advisory and support organization which provides feedback and fundraising for Vancouver Island University's Milner Gardens & Woodland.

Please read more on the Society [here](#).

Regards,
Geoff Ball

OPPORTUNITIES



Do take time to read the Newsletter from the BC Council of Garden Clubs that was sent to CVRS Members this week.

Find interesting and valuable information:

- **Floral Arranging courses:** Levels 1 – 6
- **Features:** Three small accent trees
- **Adapting to Pandemic:** How garden clubs are hosting creative events
- **Accessing Volunteer Students:** For club Media development
- **Scholarship and Trust Funds:** Support Horticultural students
- **SPEAKER at the AGM, October 30, 2021, 9 am - 12 noon (Zoom):** Maria Valana, Instructor at Kwantlan Polytechnic University; **Topic:** Propagation



FALL PLANT SALE

- 25% off on all -plants, plus bargain bin discounts
- Members and Volunteers Only – Thursday, September 23
- PUBLIC SALE – Friday and Saturday, September 24th and 25th

Master Gardeners to answer your Gardening Questions



**the gardens
at HCP**
Horticulture Centre of the Pacific

505 Quale Road
Victoria, BC
www.hcp.ca (250) 479 6162

CVRS PROPAGATOR

If any CVRS member is interested in assuming the responsibility for the CVRS propagator, the time to arrange for that is now. The design needs to be adapted to overcome some of the shortcomings that became apparent over the last several years. If interested, please contact Verna Buhler as soon as possible.

Warren Berg Rhododendrons

One of my favourite hybrid Rhododendrons is *Rhododendron 'Golfer'*.

I have one very small plant from the only cutting that rooted several years ago. If I wish to see it, I have to push aside some Hosta leaves. Every time I find it, I sigh with relief; it is still growing. Well, in truth, I sometimes wonder if it actually is growing. The progress it makes seems minimal.



The stir that little silvery foliage beauty created in me each time I found it, made me determined to propagate more - I needed some backup 'Golfers'.

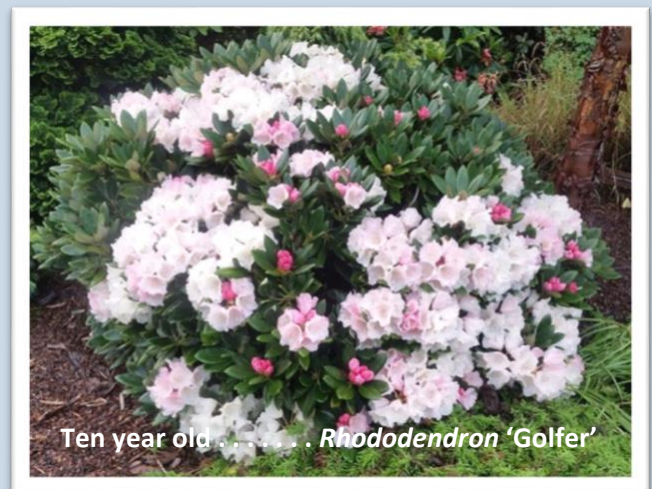
I learned, despite *sticking* a fair number of cuttings, to be delighted when just one rooted. With such consistently poor results, I decided it was time to understand more about its parentage.

Rhododendron 'Golfer' is a cross of *R. degronianum* ssp *yakushmanum* x *R. pseudochysanthum* (Exbury).

It was hybridized in 1965, by the late Warren Berg and named after his wife who was an avid golfer. They had a wonderful woodland garden in Pt. Ludlow, Washington.

The flowers are deep purplish pink in bud, opening pale purplish pink with slight brown dorsal spotting; the outside is striped a strong purplish pink.

In late summer and through winter, 'Golfer' forms a compact, rounded shrub with standout shiny, blue-green, leathery foliage. Its new growth in spring, however, is its most prized feature. It comes out a very light gray with a dusting of *tomentum* on the leaves.



Ten year old *Rhododendron 'Golfer'*

And indeed, *Rhododendron* 'Golfer' grows slowly. The plant in the photo is ten years old. One of the online nurseries markets this rhododendron as rare to explain its pricey tag on a very small plant, confirming my own experience with propagating and growing the rhododendron:

It is difficult to find R. 'Golfer' for several reasons: it is hard to propagate from cuttings with a very low percentage of success; plants from which to gather cuttings are also hard to find for some of the same reasons.

Warren Berg also hybridized other rhododendrons with which you may be familiar. He explains his objectives and focus, in an article he wrote for JARS v58n1:

*"As local hybridizing became more popular, the goals seemed to concentrate on the large showy trusses, but I not only wanted to be different, I also wanted smaller, quality plants, preferably crosses that had not been tried before. As luck would have it, I was flying to Japan at the time and became good friends with Koichiro Wada, who kindly gave me pollen and cuttings of his very dwarf *Rhododendron keiskei*. This was the same plant that he, at one point earlier, had given to Barry Starling, who named it 'Yaku Fairy'. Being the first to introduce this plant to the Northwest gave me a big head start in my goal for good but smaller plants. This resulted in 'Patty Bee', 'Ginny Gee', 'Golden Princess', 'Wee Bee' ('Not Too Bee'), 'June Bee', 'Peter Bee' and a few thousand not worth mentioning. I sent *R. keiskei* pollen to Peter Cox who also thought it was a great parent with additions to his Bird series."*



Warren Berg named his cultivars so that people would recognize the hybridizer and collect as many of his hybrids as possible. He often used "Bee" in the hybrid name; the "bee" coming from his last name.

Among Berg's yellow flowered hybrids are 'Golden Bee', 'Peter Bee' and 'Patty Bee'.

Rhododendron 'Patty Bee' (photo left) was also named after his wife, Patricia.

It received the ARS Conditional Award in 1983, the ARS Award of Excellence in 1984, the ARS Superior Plant Award and the German Gold Medal in 1993. It is a compact dwarf with larger foliage inherited from *R. fletcherianum* which turns bronze-red in winter. Flowers are clear pale yellow and unspotted. Trusses have about six flowers.

Some of Warren Berg's award winning pinks are *R. 'Too Bee'* and *R. 'Wee Bee'*



Rhododendron 'Too Bee'

'Patricia' x *R. keiskei* 'Yaku Fairy'

Flower pink with lighter throat and strong red spots, reverse darker pink, openly funnel-shaped, wavy to frilly lobes, $1\frac{1}{2}$ " across. Held in clusters of 3-5 lax flowers. Blooms early midseason.

Lepidote. Leaves elliptic, acute apex, cuneate base, $1\frac{1}{8}$ " long, convex, dull, retained 2 years.

Grows twice as broad as high, rounded and well-branched habit. Grows to a height of 1 ft. in 10 yrs. Plant and bud hardy to -10°F (-23°C).

It received the ARS Conditional Award in 1986, the ARS Award of Excellence in 1989 and the RHS Award of Merit.

Rhododendron 'Wee Bee'

Also known as 'Not Too Bee') is also a cross of 'Patricia' x *R. keiskei* 'Yaku Fairy'.

The flowers, three to five in a lax truss, are vivid red shading to pink in the throat with red spotting. It is somewhat taller growing than 'Too Bee'.

It received the ARS Conditional Award in 1987 and the ARS Award of Excellence in 1989.



Berg's white hybrids include *R. 'Ginny Gee'* and *R. 'Ernie Dee'*

Berg named these two, with an almost unnoticeable deviation from his regular 'Bee' pattern, based on the individuals he was honouring with a cultivar name.

Rhododendron 'Ginny Gee' (Warren Berg photo below) was another spectacular award winner.

R. keiskei 'Yaku Fairy' x *R. racemosum* (Forrest 19404)

The plant forms a tight mat, wider than tall. The foliage is dark, and the branches are short and stiff. The plant is drought and heat resistant and does well in an exposed location.

It is easy to root and buds up when young.

Flowers are light yellow green in bud, opening white with pale purplish pink mottling at lobe margins, both inside and out.



Flowers in terminal inflorescence of 9-11 buds (each with 3-5 flowers). A two-tone effect is created with the flowers opening at slightly different times. The flowers completely hide the foliage.

Rhododendron 'Ginny Gee' received the ARS Conditional Award in 1983, the ARS Award of Excellence in 1984 and the ARS Superior Plant Award in 1985.

Warren Berg was not only an outstanding plantsman and hybridizer but also a plant explorer with numerous trips to Japan, Korea, the Himalayas and China. He served on the ARS Board of Directors and was an award winner like his many hybrids. He received the ARS Gold Medal in 1989.

My research project into *Rhododendron* 'Golfer' led me to understand how a number of my other favourite dwarf rhododendrons were created by the same hybridizer. The fact that these award winning rhododendrons are smaller than many of the rhododendrons in my garden, fits perfectly with future plans to add another level interest in the collection. There is still space for more "Bees".

Verna Buhler

ARS District 1 Meeting Report

Meeting: Tuesday August 24, 2021 at 11 am at Milner Gardens and Woodland, Qualicum Beach, BC

Chapter Highlights:

- Each Chapter presented highlights of their seasons.
- Chapters have had two seasons without regular meetings, annual fundraisers, plant sales and garden tours due to COVID restrictions. Club expenses have been kept to a minimum.
- Most clubs adapted by holding online or plant sales from member gardens.
- For all Chapters, there was a positive side to the pandemic. Members learned new skills, navigating through Zoom meetings and webinars and listening to international speakers without the regular travel expenses.
- Propagation for all the clubs has become a more important factor as the supply of commercial rhododendron outlets dwindles.
- Most Chapters recently held, or plan to hold in September, an outdoor social for the first time in months.

Other Business:

- **The Zoom Effect:** All Chapters agreed that sharing speakers via Zoom was positive, and passed a motion to continue the District 1 Zoom account (500 guests)
- **District 1 Zoom Speakers** will be scheduled in the last two weeks of the month to avoid the overloads that occurred during the first two weeks.
- **The District 1 Speaker Schedule** will be organized by a small sub-committee
- **ARS Fall into Gardening Conference, October 23 and 24**, will be free and open to all members. Eight exceptional speakers will present. **All attending must be registered.**
- **Celebration of Life:** After much discussion, attendees decided to abandon the previous plans for a District 1 Memorial to honour members who passed away during the pandemic period. Individual Chapters are more able to honor their members.
- **Species Inventory:** Little has been done to date, but Lloyd Gilmore will meet with Garth Wedimere to evaluate software platforms for this project
- **Rain Gardens:** Chapters are encouraged to be proactive in their communities to encourage rain gardens. There is a sense that communities are in fact including plans for such future designs.
- **District 1 Website:** Maintaining the site was deemed valuable. Its shortcoming has been accessing information from the individual Chapters. **Each chapter is to define an individual who is to send information to Garth each month.**
- **Mainland Chapters:** Concern about dwindling participation and suggestions to encourage involvement in activities. Vancouver Rhododendron Society will be invited to host the next District 1 Meeting in March 2022.

Greig Species Garden Report:

- In late April, volunteers were once again allowed to work in the garden. Groups of 9 had the huge task of tidying the weed filled gardens. It took 5 weeks of labour to regain control.
- Earlier in the summer, Shaw Spotlight did a feature on the Greig Garden.
- Work crews continued the weeding and mulching, and during that period the companion plants were making their statements drawing appreciation from guests.

Greig Species Garden (continued)

- During the summer the volunteer crews monitored the garden and ensured watering where the irrigation system was weak. Ongoing improvements are being made to the irrigation system on an ongoing basis.
- There are **250 species rhododendrons in the garden**. More will be acquired when access to plants becomes available, such as those from Steve Hootman at the RSF in Federal Way Washington.
- Several plants are being cared for by volunteers until they are ready to be planted.

Next Month – Propagating; how, when, and where . . .

How Stunning . . .

. . . is this photo of Sandy Campbell underneath a stately *Rhododendron* tree that she and Alan planted on the property that they just recently left?

Rhododendron ‘Van Nes Sensation’



Last fall, Al and Sandy allowed me to take cuttings in their yard. I had not seen it in bloom, but I stuck about 15 cuttings of this plant and 90% rooted!!

Thank-you, Alan and Sandy

Verna



2020 – 2021
Calendar of Events

Contact CVRS:

cowichanvalleyrhododendron@gmail.com

Wednesday, September 8, 2021 7 – 9pm
CVRS Monthly Meeting -- Zoom

Saturday, October 23 - Sunday October 24, 2021
ARS 2021 Fall Conference -- Zoom

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY EVENTS

Saturday, October 23 - Sunday October 24, 2021
ARS 2021 Virtual Fall Conference – Vancouver Island

October 26 - 29, 2021
New Zealand Rhododendron Association 76th Convention, New Plymouth, Taranaki, New Zealand.

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/

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:

lindagilkeson.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/>



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: Randy Bouchard
Secretary: Diane Allen
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 ExecutiveTeam
Fundraising: The Executive Team
Garden Tours: TBA
Library: Verna Buhler