



NEWSLETTER

Volume 17, Number 6

EDITOR: LESLIE DREW

September 2006

Malaspina's New Rhodos

Malaspina University-College's Cowichan campus on August 24 officially received its rhododendrons donated by the Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society, the first gift of plants the campus has ever received.

Acting Principal **Maria Lauridsen** said the rhododendrons, planted outside the main entrance, would add beauty to the campus and also remind students and faculty every day of an unusual gift. "We appreciate the donation and the commitment to us and the community," she said. "The plants will grow and we will grow. We are planning for new facilities, and the plants will grow to relocate with us in 2010."

...continued on Page 3



Young rhododendrons clustered around the entrance sign at Malaspina University-College's Duncan campus are a gift from the Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society. From left, **Ingeborg Woodsworth**, **Stan Groves**, **Sharon Tillie**, **Maria Kemmler**, **Maria Lauridsen**, and **Gordon Howe**.

What's Coming Up

September Meeting: September 6 in St. John's Anglican Church Hall, 486 Jubilee Street, Duncan. Set-up at 7 PM, meeting starts 7:30.

Speakers: **Brian Russell** of Russell Nursery, North Saanich, will speak on Japanese maples, how to grow them, and how they can provide filtered shade for rhododendrons. **Ingeborg Woodsworth** and **Leslie Drew** will lead a discussion on rhododendron leaf burn this summer.

Tea and Goodies: **David Annis*** (748-1338); **Doris and Ian Anderson** (746-8678); **Ruth and Michael Ker** (748-7791).

Propagating Group Meeting: September 12 at 7:30 PM at the home of **Ingeborg Woodsworth**, 6596 McLean Road, off Mayo Road, off Highway 18 at Skutz Falls turnoff.

Directors' Meeting: September 20 at the home of **Siggi Kemmler**, 3730 Gibbins Road, Duncan.

ARS Western Regional Conference: Harrison Hot Springs September 22-24. To register see Summer 2006 issue of *The Journal of the American Rhododendron Society*.

REMEMBER THE BOOKS!

Library books are loaned for one month at a time, but those taken out at the last general meeting in May were a summer's worth of good reading. Please return them on September 6.

*Next meeting to be held October 4, 2006,
in St. John's Anglican Church Hall,
486 Jubilee Street, Duncan*

The Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

A Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society

PO Box 904, Duncan, BC V9L 3Y2 <http://cowichan.rhodos.ca>



President's Message

What a summer! We are truly California North . . . sweltering heat, endless summer. Are we grumbling? Benefits do come along with this heat—my arthritis is not as painful, and entertaining *al fresco* is actually fun. On the other hand, how many sundeck umbrellas did you put over your rhododendrons?

What do warmer summers forecast for our planting schemes? Do we plant more *R. macrophyllum* and more *R. occidentale*? Our western North American indigenous plants, after all, are more tolerant of temperature extremes than the exotics.

And now for our Rhododendron Chapter's upcoming year. It is still not too late to register for the ARS Western Regional Conference at Harrison Hot Springs. Registration forms will be at the front desk at our September meeting.

Our speaker on September 6, Brian Russell, will talk on Japanese maples and demonstrate, with slides and live plants, how they can provide filtered shade for our rhododendrons. He promises to bring a good assortment of Japanese maples for sale.

Also, to make this coming year even better than the last, think about running for the Executive or volunteering in some way. Our Propagation Group is actively pursuing several projects while sharing knowledge and plant material with one another, in preparation for the club's annual sale. What is your particular interest in rhododendron-related activities? Please phone or email your comments.

Happy gardening! It's still the best exercise and hobby of all.

by Ingeborg Woodsworth

Volunteers at the Sale

Our sale ran smoothly again this year, and this was almost entirely owing to the many volunteers who not only undertook their assigned tasks, but also filled in all the small, unpredictable gaps that arise at such events. The membership thanks you!

The sellers were satisfied with the space provided, although some were disappointed with their overall sales. The total income [see right] was about the same as last year's, despite our additional promotion. It is unclear whether this was because we changed the location again.

What should we do next year to increase the total income? Maintain the same location? Combine our sale with that of another club's? Bring in a greater variety of plants, such as "A Rhododendron and Rare Plant Sale," to steal an example from elsewhere? Change the date? Promote the truss display more? Any ideas that you might have to improve our sale income would be welcome. Please pass them along!

Finally, I am looking for an assistant for next year's sale who will take responsibility for all aspects of promotion—flyers, advertising, press announcements,

Grower	Total	To Grower	To Club
Alba Plants	\$491.00	\$368.25	\$122.75
Cherry Point Nursery	\$637.00	\$477.75	\$159.25
Firwood Nursery	\$1,819.00	\$1,364.25	\$454.75
Gord Pirie	\$45.00	\$33.75	\$11.25
Keith Muir	\$431.50	\$323.63	\$107.88
Mayo Creek Gardens	\$355.00	\$266.25	\$88.75
Members' Table	\$49.50		\$49.50
Peter Kearns Nursery	\$321.00	\$240.75	\$80.25
Prospect Nursery	\$673.00	\$504.75	\$168.25
Rhodohaven	\$741.00	\$555.75	\$185.25
Totals	\$5,563.00	\$4,135.13	\$1,427.88
Malaspina; Club Debit			(\$125.25)
Raffle			\$111.00
Rent			(\$90.00)
Other Expenses (advertising, signs)			(\$432.51)
Clear to Club			\$ 891.12

Summary prepared by Siggi Kemmler, Treasurer

signs, etc. Let me know if you wish to help with this small, but important, task.

by Ian Efford, Sales Co-ordinator



Malaspina's New Rhodos

...continued from Page 1

She spoke at a reception at the campus arranged by Malaspina and attended by representatives of the college and the CVRS. The club looked forward to seeing the collection develop, President **Ingeborg Woodsworth** said. She also urged all those interested in rhododendrons to join the CVRS; the wide scope of activities, now including propagation, offered much to members.

The plants were chosen at the club's annual spring sale in early May by **Peter Kearns** and another member, **Sharon Tillie**, before she retired as Malaspina's instructional director of continuing education. Originally, the club voted \$500 for the purchase from vendors; the actual cost was \$375.

The 22 rhododendrons, nearly all hybrids, surround the campus entrance sign and are protected from the afternoon sun by a pre-existing row of ornamental plum trees. The bed also features a commemorative plaque provided by the college.

A work crew of six directed by **Gordon Howe**, groundskeeper for both the Nanaimo and Cowichan campuses, took a full day to make the bed and set the plants. An automatic underground sprinkling system was installed throughout. The system has been timed to come on for half an hour each early morning and evening, but with shorter days and cooler nights, that will be cut back. The plants are also wired together as a theft prevention measure which the groundskeeper adopted from experience at the Nanaimo campus: baling wire lying above the planting medium and the



Stan Groves, Maria Lauridsen, and Ingeborg Woodsworth ready to cut a thank-you cake.

—Sharon Tillie photo

three inches of bark mulch at the base of the plants links all the plants, making removal of any plant impossible. Until their 2010 move, that is.

In the collection are 'Hachman's Marlis', 'Kalinka', 'Yaku Angel', 'Ernie Dee', 'Grace Seabrook', 'Aladdin', 'Bert Larson', 'Royston Red', 'Flora's Boy', 'Little Augie' (3), 'Mood Indigo', 'Fantastica', 'Marie Fortie', 'PJM', 'Graf Zeppelin', 'Horizon Monarch', 'Trail Blazer', 'Purple Lace', one species, *R. moupinense*, and one unknown. ↪

September in the Garden

It used to be said that the beginning of September was the cutoff date for watering rhododendrons; after that, one risked inducing a flush of new growth that would be zapped by early frosts.

No longer does this advice apply, at least not in this year of record-high summer temperatures. One usually reliable long-range forecast has the hot, dry weather of July and August continuing into October. So it looks as though we'll still have to water hang-dog rhodos for some time yet.

As the hours of daylight shorten, maybe it's

time to clean up the rhodos—pick off dead leaves and twigs, remove any seed pods missed in earlier dead-heading, and check that the labels are in place (many growers use two labels for large plants).

By now, most rhodos will have set flower buds. These are the buds distinguishable from leaf buds by their hardness when pinched lightly. So now we can get an indication of what our floral show may be like next spring. Meanwhile, we play a waiting game . . . the autumn rains can't come soon enough.

↪ by **Leslie Drew**



Protecting the Native *Rhododendron macrophyllum*

by Dean Goard

The Situation

The Winter 2006 ARS Journal carried a fascinating article by Dr. Benjamin Hall, and other researchers, on DNA sequencing of the *R. macrophyllum*, which identified four distinct categories, or clades, within the species. A clade is a group of organisms that are thought to share a common ancestor not shared with other clades.

These four clades represent tremendous variation within a species. I was stunned to see a site on Mount Elphinstone near our summer cottage. I was only aware of three known sites in British Columbia: Skagit River in Manning Park, Rhododendron Lake northwest of Nanaimo, and the one west of Shawnigan Lake. The article reported that the Elphinstone and Shawnigan Lake sites are populated only with Clade 1, Rhododendron Lake has only Clades 2 and 4, and Manning Park is predominantly Clades 2 and 4 with a small proportion of Clade 1.

The identification of the Elphinstone site piqued my interest, so I emailed Dr. Hall to see whether he could give me directions to the site and sent a copy to my ARS friend Ron Knight, who lives nearby on the Sechelt Peninsula. In reply, Dr. Hall identified the people we would have to contact to visit the site. Ron contacted them and discovered that the environmentalists who know the trails think that the best protection for the rhodos is to hide the area from everyone and do nothing to bring attention to the plants. There may be merit in that approach, but logging represents the greatest danger.

The provincial *Dogwood, Rhododendron and Trillium Act* had preserved native rhododendrons; however, this Act was repealed in 2002 removing any protection for these rare plants and other undiscovered sites. Only the Skagit River site is protected under the *Ecological Reserves Act*. One of the purposes of this Act is to reserve Crown land, including areas where rare or endangered native plants and animals in their natural habitat may be preserved.

—NEXT IN SERIES—

Alan Campbell's series of articles on Vancouver Island rhododendron hybrids will resume in our October issue with a profile of the work of Dr. Bob Rhodes.



Ron Knight at the Mount Elphinstone *macrophyllum* site

Why Should We Get Involved?

One purpose of the ARS is to encourage interest in, and to disseminate information about, the genus *Rhododendron*. The ARS research committee's interests involve studies on the biosystematics of native American rhododendron species, including a collection of superior clones and populations, which are distributed to the members through the Seed and Pollen Exchanges. The mission of the Western North American Rhododendron Species Project is to research and identify all locations of the indigenous *Rhododendron* species of the western United States and Canada, and to create a computerized archive of this information. Some British Columbia residents, including members of local chapters, have been involved in this project.

Our clubs on the Island have long shown interest in the two Island sites. Recently, Alan Campbell, past president of the Cowichan Valley Chapter, noticed that logging was getting closer to the *R. macrophyllum* stand near Shawnigan Lake, and has been trying to find out the status of the protection provided to the site. About 25–30 years ago, both concerned citizens and the logging company recognized that this stand of rhododendrons was of some significance, and it was agreed that it be protected.

At Rhododendron Lake, about 20 km west of Nanaimo, the plants are located along the lake edge with their roots almost in the water. This contrasts with the Shawnigan Lake site, which is on a south-facing dry bluff.

... continued on Page 5



Protecting *R. macrophyllum*

... continued from Page 4

Ecological Reserves

Ecological reserves are established to:

- preserve representative examples of British Columbia's ecosystems;
- protect rare and endangered plants and animals in their natural habitat;
- preserve unique, rare, or outstanding botanical, zoological, or geological phenomena;
- perpetuate important genetic resources; and
- promote scientific research and educational uses associated with the natural environment.

Designation as an ecological reserve would probably provide the maximum protection for the four *R. macrophyllum* sites in the province. However, some may argue that this species is not rare, endangered, unique, or outstanding, and thus not deserving of this level of protection. Although this may be true in Washington and Oregon, in British Columbia they are most certainly rare, endangered, unique, and worthy of protection and further study. For more information on Ecological Reserves go to: http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/eco_reserve/ecoresrv/ecoresrv.html

Action To Date

At the March 19 ARS District 1 meeting, it was agreed that protecting these sites was an important initiative and I was asked to continue efforts in this regard. At the March 20 meeting of the Victoria Rhododendron Society Propagating Group, members agreed to grow plants from seeds or cuttings as one step in understanding of the Clade 1 rhodos. We will try to get seeds or cuttings from the Mount Elphinstone site for comparison. A summary of other actions follows.

1. Ministry of Environment

On April 26, I wrote to the Minister of Environment, **Barry Penner**, about the pressing need to protect *R. macrophyllum*, adding that our chapters would be pleased to work with ministry staff to protect these valuable sites. Not receiving a reply, I called the Minister's office at the end of July. I was told that the response had been "lost," but was now "found," and would be sent out right away. The response was from the Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Stewardship Division. The major points are:

Pacific rhododendron is not considered to be a species at risk in British Columbia. It has been assessed by the federal Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) based on a 1997 status report. The committee determined that the species is 'Not at Risk' in Canada. Based on information provided by the authors of the status report, the assessment indicated the populations of the species are large, extensive and mostly contained in protected areas. The Ministry's Conservation Data Centre (CDC) ranks Pacific rhododendron at S4, meaning that the species is 'Apparently Secure' or that the 'species is uncommon, but not rare'.

CDC staff have indicated that the sites on Vancouver Island are at little risk. As well, one of the sites you are concerned about at Rhododendron Lake is being managed for the species by the forest company operating in the area, including the creation of a network of recreational trails.

The ministry does not consider this to be a priority species that requires further protection or action at this time. It might be of value to your organization to deal directly with any land owners or land managers who are involved in the Vancouver Island or Sunshine Coast locations to assure your concerns are considered.

Well, this response was not unexpected, but we should note that their response is based on 10-year-old information and that the work of Dr. Hall suggests Clade 1 might be more precarious. We will continue to work with the forest companies.

2. Mount Elphinstone Site

Ron Knight visited this site several times in late May and again with me in early August. We had hoped to meet **Kevin Davie**, Operations Manager of Sechelt Community Projects Inc., but missed him. Ron subsequently visited the site with Davie's forester/biologist.

I wrote to Mr. Davie on June 8 to provide the background information given above, stating that our chapters had long shown interest in *R. macrophyllum* and that Dr. Hall's identification of the different clades had sparked a new way of examining them, adding:

We have noted that rhododendrons grown from seed from the Shawnigan Lake site germinate but do not seem to produce healthy plants in the garden. Our experience with plants grown from seed

... continued on Page 6



Protecting *R. macrophyllum*

... continued from Page 5

from the Manning Park site is much better with healthy floriferous plants growing in our gardens. Dr. Hall noted that the study indicates that clade 1 is generally found near salt water; these locations would tend to have the least extreme summer and winter temperatures. Many, but not all of these, are in low-precipitation (rain-shadow) areas. He also noted that as far as he could tell, no one has ever done studies of the performance of *R. macrophyllum* in gardens from seed collected at different locations. He noted that to be of value, these studies would need to go on for 10 years or more.

Mr. Davie replied that: “managers of forest lands are required to manage all forest resources. While some are legislated, others are based upon other values unique to the community.” He maintained that the best way to help plan operations was to have Ron Knight added to the community advisory consultation process, suggesting that Ron would then have direct input into planning. He also encouraged us to provide the information needed to manage this species and to determine where other locations exist.

The site is small with only about 12 plants [see below]. Some have layered extensively to form clumps. Ron and I will return in the fall to obtain cuttings and seed.



3. Shawnigan Lake Site

A number of us went up to the site in late May when the plants were in bloom. The underbrush seemed thicker than before. We started to flag the individual plants or groups of plants as an aid in finding them when they are no longer in

bloom. We were trying to plot them out but lost the tape and were overwhelmed by the magnitude of the task. The intention is to go back this fall and check out the seedlings, continue the mapping of the individual plants, and collect seed and some cuttings.


I will get back in touch with the forest company to see how we move forward.

4. University of Washington Workshop August 24–27 at Friday Harbor Lab

I have been invited to participate in this 12-person workshop on *macrophyllum* organized by Ben Hall. The tentative program is as follows:

- *R. macrophyllum* population mapping: recent findings
- Variation in *R. macrophyllum* populations as seen in plant appearance (flower colour, morphology, leaves, etc.) and by DNA sequences
- Ecophysiological challenges for *R. macrophyllum* populations at different locations
- Common garden studies, review of the classical work of Claussen, Keck and Hisey
- A discussion of propagating *R. macrophyllum* from cuttings
- Design of *R. macrophyllum* common garden(s): what clones should go into the study (i.e., where to sample; design of the garden, replicates, etc.) and where would we like the gardens established.

In addition, I've talked with the University of Victoria's Dr. Gerry Allen, graduate supervisor for Shane Ford who completed a Master's thesis on *R. macrophyllum*, and asked her to provide guidance for our project. I hope to develop a more rigorous strategy and set goals for the project. We are to meet again in the fall.

I also approached the University about using Finnerty Garden as a test site for *macrophyllum* and received a positive response. 

Editor's Note:

Dean Goard is immediate past president of the Victoria Rhododendron Society and recently retired from the University of Victoria. His account up to March of this year is reprinted from the March issue of the Victoria Chapter's Newsletter. He has kindly updated progress on the project for our newsletter before leaving for the University of Washington workshop.



Helping with Restoration of a Historic Cowichan Lake Garden

Delving into the identity of plants surviving in an old rhododendron garden always brings the thrills of discovery. It's like a dig by archaeologists, except that the objects of the search are still alive.

This was the experience of several members of the Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society's Propagating Group as they explored the former Myers garden at Honeyoon Bay in late spring. The owners, **Caroline** and **Andrew Clarke** of Victoria, had asked for help in identifying 28 azaleas and other rhododendrons which had been abandoned for years under previous ownership. In exchange, the group will have an opportunity to take cuttings this fall.

Until the late 1980s, the property belonged to **Cedric and Gertrude Myers** who, over decades, had developed a fine ornamental garden noted especially for its azalea collection. When rhododendron culture took strides forward in the 1950s, they began collecting and propagating newly available species and hybrids. Cedric made several azalea crosses—these were his specialty. A sign remaining over a former garage near the entrance ("*Gonzalea*") combines his sense of humour, his Portuguese background, and one of his many interests. He was an authority on native plants, and taught many young people on trips into the mountains.

The major features of the Myers' extensive landscaping are still there—a sunken lawn with a foot-bridge over a stream, a winding pathway to a higher level, rockeries, and everywhere banks of azaleas and



Azaleas were Cedric Myers' specialty.

—Janet Gardner photos

other rhodos, which have not been pruned, mulched, or dead-headed for years, against a background of huge specimen conifers and deciduous trees. The Clarkes plan to redesign the garden with help from the Propagating Group, starting with the labelling and carrying on with guidance on moving large plants.

The ID quest stretched into two sessions, a week apart. **Ingeborg Woodsworth** led the way and **Janet Gardner** photographed the blossoms and leaves on each plant while another member listed the location, flower colour, number of petals, and average leaf size. Identification will take a lot of research. In a few instances, the original metal labels could still be found, either on the plant or lying on the ground. These retrievals brought to light such treasures as the well-known 'Irene Koster', the scarcely known 'Rafael de Smit', and 'Berryrose' ('Doncaster' × *dichroanthum*). Later on, Janet distributed compact discs of her photographs for further study.

How much the original plantings had grown since they were under the Myers' care 20 years ago, amazed the Propagating Group, even considering that annual precipitation in the Cowichan Lake district is the highest in the Valley. A row of Lombardy poplars along Myers' Lane on the east side had been felled, liberating two straggling giant rhodos reaching as much as 10 metres skyward.

The beauty the garden once held is still visible, and can easily be imagined. 



The Groves are Leaving

A leader in establishing the Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society, Stan Groves and his wife Nyra are moving to Sidney. However, he will still be taking part in activities revolving around rhododendrons. “I’ll probably join the Victoria chapter,” he said last week.

Stan brought tremendous talent, energy, and good humour to the founding of the Cowichan Valley chapter. Like several of the charter members, he attended meetings of the Victoria club when none existed here and helped out when that chapter was host to the largest-ever ARS convention in 1989. A key figure in the local chapter’s founding in 1989–1990, the second president (1990–1992 inclusive), and always willing after that to take on any job which needed doing, Stan also knows how to blend business with pleasure. At their Cherry Point home, he and Nyra were genial hosts at the annual Christmas parties, and always opened their garden to tour groups.

The Groves came to the Cowichan Valley in 1981 from Parksville where they had owned and operated a resort, Beach Acres, for more than 20 years. On

moving into the spacious house on Kingscote Road, Stan began renovating and at the same time developing an outstanding rhododendron garden that included elaborate terracing at the front, looking across the water to Saltspring Island. He built the rock walls himself and planted more than 800 rhodos on over three acres of garden. Among the specimen trees and rhododendrons are examples rarely seen in Victoria or Cowichan Valley gardens. His plants of the species *R. calophytum* and *R. morii*, and the hybrids ‘Cowichan’ and ‘Dave Dougan’, are especially fine.

While Stan gardened, Nyra was busy with the Arbutus Travel Club, which they founded in 1985, and with her own travel agency, established a year earlier. In recent years, they sold that business, and while “technically retired,” Nyra still organizes tours.

They sold their Cherry Point property four years ago, and moved into a townhouse on Quamichan Lake. Now, recognizing “a need to downsize” and wishing to be closer to a daughter who lives in Victoria, they are moving to a seafront condominium at Marine Park at the north end of Sidney. Many good wishes from the club will go with them. ☞

Speaking of . . .

Speakers on a wide range of topics centred on rhododendrons have been lined up for the months ahead.

SEPTEMBER: Brian Russell of Russell Nursery, North Saanich, leads off with his talk on Japanese maples on September 6.

OCTOBER: Paul Wurz, president of the North Island Rhododendron Society and a nurseryman, will speak on Vancouver’s Jack Lofthouse and the hybrids he created.

NOVEMBER: Our life member, Jim Crawford, who gardens on Saltspring Island, will speak on our indigenous rhododendrons *R. macrophyllum* and *R. albiflorum*, two very different and intriguing natives.

JANUARY: Janet Gardner will entertain members with a talk about digital photography.

FEBRUARY: Ian Efford will give a lively account of the 2006 Pacific Region International Rhododendron Conference which he will be attending October 20–23 in Tasmania, Australia.

MARCH: Ron Knight, who has a woodland garden on the Sechelt Peninsula displaying more than 400 different rhododendrons and is extremely active in rhododendron circles, will be back to talk on dwarf rhodos. Ron spoke to us last year on how to make rhodos think they’re growing in the Himalayas. ☞



Editor's Notebook

by Leslie Drew

Lately, reluctantly, I've been thinking—always a dangerous exercise—that parts of the rhododendron garden, which my husband and I started planting 25 years ago, would be better off in new settings.

Sure, the Cowichan Valley lies in the low-precipitation Olympic Mountains rain shadow. Sure, we in the valley share a Mediterranean climate with the rest of southeastern Vancouver Island. Sure, we don't get the monsoons beloved of many rhododendrons from southeast Asia.

But starting last summer and intensifying this summer, in a garden at least five kilometres inland, several rhodos with medium- or large-sized leaves have taken an unprecedented beating from the sun. So many leaves have been crisped on some of these mature plants that unless they make a comeback when the rains arrive, they'll have to be tossed on the rubbish heap, as the English say, which will be a pity, after the years spent pandering to them.

These are plants that have been blasted by the sun's rays for four or five hours in the peak heat of late morning and afternoon, day in and day out, plants which might as well be in Big Sky country. Most of the damage took place right at the start of the first extreme heat in July which, as we know, came after cool weather.

After experiencing a little leaf burn last year, I raised the subject at an ARS district meeting, suggesting that a district-wide study might indicate whether any particular species or their derivatives were especially susceptible. A very knowledgeable grower said I wasn't giving the plants enough water. So this year I poured buckets of water onto the mulched rootballs of fully exposed plants, and still leaves burned on some of them. I also tried to determine whether there were any connections in the victims' backgrounds. Were rhodos from particular species more vulnerable than others?

One that has had as much exposure as the burned ones yet shows no signs of damage is 'Etta Burrows', a *strigillosum* cross. Another is 'Anna' which has 'Jean

Marie de Montague' in its genetic makeup, and Jean Marie again is a *griffithianum* hybrid. A pattern? Fortunately, the *yakushimanum* species and their hybrids have come through the summer unscathed, and so have the small-leaved rhodos, the ones I love like 'P.J.M.' and *R. dauricum*.

Checking with other growers, I couldn't establish whether garden location—inland or seaside (or lake-side) made any difference. What did matter, though, was the amount of shade. I must admit that we didn't always give groupings enough shade from other shrubs such as spirea, which stand up to fierce sun and drought, nor did we always move youngsters into shady places as they grew up. We should have planted more dogwoods and more Japanese maples, which that superlative gardener **Dorothy Shaw** told us are the ornamental trees that grow best in the Cowichan Valley. We should have delved deeper into the literature and consulted more experts. Early on, **Bill Dale** brought **Bob Rhodes** around to our place. Bob was a great help. "That," he'd say, pointing to a certain rhodo, "needs shade." Or, with another, "that will take full sun." He knows a great deal, as hybridizers do.

Probably everyone's experience is different. There's much to learn and much study to be done. I've just been informed by a grower at Victoria that oranges and yellows are especially prone to leaf burn—we need follow-ups on that information, and a lot more. For this reason, **Ingeborg Woodsworth** and I will be leading a discussion on leaf burn at our September 6 meeting. We're looking for audience participation, so let us know what you've experienced, and maybe we can all benefit.

These are some of the questions that need to be addressed:

- What rhodos suffered severe leaf burn and how badly? Tip burn or the whole leaf?
- Where is the garden located? Right at the seafront, high up above, by a lake or stream in a valley, inland away from a large body of water?
- In which direction is the garden oriented? Exposed to the westerly sun?
- Planting medium? Well mulched?

Could the cause have been lack of water? Or lack of shade? Or could there have been splash from watering? Here, even the early morning sun packs a wallop. ↪



New Member

Welcome to new member **Leslie Bundon**, a keen gardener whose interest in rhododendrons was furthered by **Janet Gardner**. A grade 4 teacher, who was born and brought up in Saskatoon and went to university there, Leslie came to British Columbia some 30 years ago. She lived in the Okanagan and then the Windermere Valley, and came to Duncan in the mid-1980s. She has a new bed of young rhododendrons that are doing well at her Davis Crescent home. As well as the help from Janet, seeing other members' gardens on the tours this year inspired her to join. ↪



Prize Winners at Spring Sale

Prize winners at the CVRS annual plant sale on May 3 were as follows:

1. **Sharon Petterson:** *Rhododendron* 'Coral Mist' donated by the Society
2. **Johanna Mellor:** Bag of rhodo fertilizer donated by Buckerfields
3. **Tracy Veldhuis:** 25-foot length of rubber hose donated by Country Grocer
4. **John Blore:** Rhododendron donated by Les Clay
5. **Peter Lewis:** Rhododendron donated by Prospect Nursery, Saanich Peninsula

— 2006 Directors —

PRESIDENT	Ingeborg Woodsworth <i>mayocreekgardens@shaw.ca</i>	749-6291
VICE-PRESIDENT (Acting)	Ian Efford <i>efford@shaw.ca</i>	246-1453
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TREASURER	Siggi Kemmler <i>siggi-k@shaw.ca</i>	746-8751
MEMBERS AT LARGE	Roger and Anne Slaby <i>rs0321@telus.net</i>	748-4623
	Ian Efford <i>efford@shaw.ca</i>	246-1453
	Jackie Walker <i>jacquelinewalker@shaw.ca</i>	743-3650
EX-OFFICIO	Alan Campbell <i>stonefold@shaw.ca</i>	743-3597

— 2006 Conveners —

BARGAIN TABLE/RAFFLE	Joyce Gammie Daphne Jackson Dawn Fedorchuk	246-2484 748-9475 715-1233
GARDEN CLUB LIAISON	Joyce Gammie	246-2484
GARDEN TOURS	Anne and Roger Slaby	748-4623
HISTORIAN	Bev Mountain	746-6339
INTER-CHAPTER RELATIONS	Ingeborg Woodsworth	749-6291
LIBRARIAN	Janet Gardner	748-1867
MEMBERSHIPS	Jackie Walker	743-3650
NEWSLETTER	Leslie Drew	748-6152
CHRISTMAS PARTY	Joan Clarke Mhairi Bruce	748-1272 743-8327
SPEAKERS	Alan Campbell	743-3597
SPRING SALE	Ian Efford	246-1453
SPRING SHOW	Sharon Tillie Janet Gardner	748-8254 748-1867
PROPAGATION	Alan Campbell	743-3597
REFRESHMENTS	Maria Kemmler	746-8751
SUNSHINE	Ann Springford	746-7303
WEB SITE	Alan Campbell	743-3597