



NEWSLETTER

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EDITOR: LESLIE DREW

November 2006

VANCOUVER ISLAND HYBRIDS—PART 5

The Weesjes/Larson Connection

by Alan Campbell


The University of British Columbia knew talent when they saw it. Evelyn Jack received her degree in horticulture in 1954 and was immediately hired by the university into its horticultural program. Three years earlier, the university had hired a young man newly emigrated from Holland and employed him in its burgeoning Botanical Garden. The young man was Nick Weesjes, and he was elevated to head gardener in 1955. The next 25 years saw Evelyn Jack and Nick Weesjes increase the prominence of the genus *Rhododendron* in western Canada and the Pacific Northwest area of the United States as well as the breadth and depth of the UBC campus gardens. During the ensuing 25 years, three relationships developed which would enhance the gardening pleasures of the growing number of rhododendron enthusiasts in British Columbia.

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The Larson hybrid
'Malahat'



New Department

We should be so lucky! With this issue of the CVRS *Newsletter*, we're starting a Questions and Answers feature—see Page 3. The good fortune is that our associate member, Norman Todd, who writes about rhododendrons with erudition and humour, has kindly consented to conduct the column. You can send questions to the *Newsletter* at sahtlamrise@shaw.ca or write the CVRS at PO Box 904, Duncan, BC V9L 3Y2. 

What's Coming Up

November Meeting: November 1 in St. John's Anglican Church Hall, 486 Jubilee Street, Duncan. Set-up at 7 PM, meeting starts 7:30. Speaker on first, business later including annual meeting with election of officers for 2007.

Speaker: Jim Crawford, our life member who lives on Salt Spring Island, will be speaking on our native rhododendrons *macrophyllum* and *albiflorum* and showing slides. He is a life member of the ARS, a member of the Rhododendron Species Foundation, and was one of the founding members (1995) of the Western North America Rhododendron Species Project.

Bargain Table: Please keep in mind that the bargain table is a good source of plants to accompany rhododendrons—and revenue for our chapter. Spares of almost everything (except trees) welcome.

Tea and Goodies: Anne and Roger Slaby* (748-4623); Maria and Saggi Kemmler (746-8751) and Sharon Tillie (748-8254). * indicates team leaders.

Directors' Meeting: November 22 at the home of Ian Efford, 1435 Georgia Park Heights, Crofton. Incoming directors invited to meet everyone. If anyone has any concerns about Chapter activities, please attend; members are always welcome to attend directors' meetings.

Propagating Group Meeting: November 14 at the home of Alan Campbell, 1995 Shawnigan Lake Road, Shawnigan.

Christmas Party: December 6 at 6 PM in St. John's Anglican Church Hall, 486 Jubilee Street, Duncan. Recognizing the work of Stan and Nyra Groves and Fred Collins. Set-up 5 PM.

January Meeting: January 3 in St. John's Anglican Church Hall. Janet Gardner will show us the panoply of colour still displayed by the azaleas and other rhododendrons growing at the former Myers garden at Honeymoon Bay. This will be a PowerPoint presentation.

Next meeting to be held January 3, 2007,
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

With this lovely autumn weather it seems ridiculous to talk about Christmas, but I *must*. The annual Christmas party will be held at our regular meeting night and place, December 6. Come at 5 PM with your spouse, best friend, and (or) neighbour, bring along what you signed up for on the circulating potluck-sign-up sheet, and in case you forgot, phone me at (250) 749-6291 or Leslie Drew at 748-6152. Also, bring one of your treasures for the silent auction and prepare yourself for an evening of fun and games. Daphne Jackson and helpers are coming up with new games and ideas. I'm getting quite keen already.

Oh yes, we'll have turkey, ham, and wine as well as non-alcoholic punches. To defray some of the costs, we'll all pay \$5 admission.

Most importantly, our theme this year is Appreciation of Stan and Nyra Groves and Fred Collins. For you new members, the Groves' residence saw ever so many wonderful Christmas parties as well as picnics. Both Stan Groves and Fred Collins are founders and have devoted years of time and effort to the well-being of our Chapter.

The coming year's directorships and convener positions are filling nicely. Still, don't be shy—come forward and share your particular talents with the rest of us. We not only work hard for the good of the club, but also have a lot of fun and laughter at our gatherings.

Happy fall gardening!

by Ingeborg Woodsworth

From the minutes . . .

Extracts from the October meeting of directors of the Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society held October 18 at the home of Leslie Drew: Present: Ingeborg Woodsworth, President; Leslie Drew, Secretary; Siggi Kemmler, Treasurer; Anne and Roger Slaby, Directors; and nominees for the board for 2007: Leslie Bundon, Bill Dumont, Janet Gardner and Sharon Tillie, and Sharon Pettersson, new membership chair.

Proposed purchase of PowerPoint projection equipment was again discussed, with several speakers noting that costs had been going down in recent years. Bill Dumont said that cost of the bulb accounted for about half of the price. Janet Gardner observed that the cost of bulb use worked out to \$0.50 to \$1.00 an hour. The cost of a complete high-lumen unit was estimated at \$1700, and purchase was recommended to the November 1 general meeting, the sum being in excess of the \$1000 that directors have authority to spend on any specific proposal.

Acting on suggestions from the membership, the meeting decided on a trial basis to change the order of items on the programs at monthly general meetings, scheduling the main speaker first and club business later, starting with the November 1 meeting.

As to a proposal that the CVRS library be turned over to the Regional Public Library system, the Librarian reported that there had been no response from the Public Library. The directors decided to drop the idea.

Directors dealt with five points raised by Ian Efford, co-ordinator for the annual spring sale, which he wished discussed before he returns in November after attending a rhodo conference in Tasmania. The directors said no to a fall plant sale; Anne Slaby said she was looking into a bigger location for the spring sale; they agreed to stay with 25% as each vendor's share of the proceeds; they decided that the club would not buy and sell rhodos itself at the sale, and the idea of a truss show at the Duncan Mall a week before the sale was regarded as good promotion, but the big "IF" was whether enough members would volunteer to arrange the event.



THE QUESTION BOX

A Grex to Remember

by Norman Todd

Q S.K., Duncan: I really enjoyed Alan Campbell's article on the hybrids created by Dr. Rhodes (October Newsletter, *The Work of Bob Rhodes*). One or two technical words puzzled me, though. One is grex—what is a grex?

A The word *grex* was used at a recent meeting and an attentive and sharp-minded member asked its meaning. I remember the first time I heard the word; I even remember who used it. It was **Bob Rhodes** who was the subject of **Alan Campbell's** fine article. I was a new member of the Vancouver Chapter and Bob was president.

Gardeners define the word as: "A group variety including more than one seedling of a given cross." Probably the grex that we rhododendron growers come across most frequently and know best is 'Loderi'. Using this as an example involves a complication, so we might as well deal with the complication first.

Sir Edmund Loder (1849–1920) inherited a 100-hectare estate, Leonardlee, in southern England, from his father-in-law. Evidently, it was a rather drab valley with poor vegetation. Edmund set about to correct that and planted trees and shrubs in frenzied enthusiasm. He introduced antelopes, kangaroos, wallabies, deer and beaver—and rhododendrons.

In the mid-1800s, only a few rhododendron species had been introduced into cultivation in Britain. Man-made crosses of these species were being made. Loder did not start hybridizing until the latter years of the century, so was a bit of a latecomer among the rhododendron aristocracy. He had a superior form of *R. fortunei*. This plant had been introduced from China in mid-century by **Robert Fortune**. One of Loder's neighbours had a magnificent specimen of the somewhat tender *R. griffithianum*. This has huge flowers and powerful fragrance. The seed for this plant had been collected by **Joseph Hooker** in Sikkim in 1850. Loder took the pollen from his neighbour's



'Loderi King George', one of a familiar grex

[Photo courtesy Mike Trembath]

plant, put it on his *fortunei* and raised a swarm of seedlings. The complication is that all of these seedlings were called 'Loderi'; the name was officially recorded in 1901. This name gives the impression that the 'Loderi' are species, not hybrids—a usage not now permitted. A hybrid plant cannot have a Latin-sounding name.

The second complicating thing that Loder did was give different names to 32 of the seedlings. This also is not now permitted. Breeders are encouraged to name only the best of the bunch. Such a bunch is called a grex. Thus 'Loderi King George', 'Loderi Venus', 'Loderi Game Chick' are sister seedlings all from one grex. Several of these received Royal Horticultural Society awards, the first in 1914. Incidentally, another widely grown plant, 'Loder's White', comes from a different cross, *arboreum* var. *album* and *griffithianum*.

The word grex is not included in most household dictionaries. I am writing this in Microsoft Word and it does not like it at all. I must admit it is not a word most would want to use in a poem. It does rhyme with vex and hex so it could be useful. **Stearn's Botanical Latin** gives: "flock, herd, drove, swarm, hence a group of species or hybrids." The *Concise Oxford Dictionary of Botany* gives: "A slug-like pseudoplasmodium formed by cellular slime moulds of the order Dictyosteliales." For our purposes let's just stay with Stearn's definition. ☞



Propagating from Seed

This month and next month, the Propagating Group is concentrating on taking cuttings. At the same time and later, some members will also turn their attention to reproducing plants from seeds, either closed or open-pollinated.

The technique described here, known as the Gordon Wylie System, is named for **Gordon Wylie**, an ARS Gold Medallist and member of the Eugene, Oregon chapter, who has contributed much to our understanding of rhododendrons:

1. Rule one is careful hygiene: a weak solution of household bleach applied to tools.
2. Planting medium: fully saturated peat moss (the water squeezed out) and wet perlite.
3. The planting container should be a closed environment (but with drainage), providing essentially 100% humidity.
4. Place a layer of perlite on bottom of container, then a layer of wet peat moss, for a total depth of between 5 and 8 cm.
5. Sow seed on top of medium but do not cover with more medium.
6. Bottom heat of 21–24°C probably aids or speeds germination, but is not necessary. However, in winter the container should not be in a cold situation such as outdoors or an unheated space.
7. Never allow direct sunlight to reach the container. Artificial light 10–15 cm overhead, though, will assist initial growth.
8. Begin gradually exposing plants to air when cotyledons (the first pair of juvenile leaves) appear. Keep watering after air exposure begins: gentle misting is the best method.
9. Misting every 10 days to 2 weeks with weak liquid fertilizer after the first true leaves (second pair) appear will assist initial growth.
10. Prick out individual plants to a growing-on container after two or more true leaves appear. Careful, delicate handling is needed at this stage; handle seedlings by their leaves, not their stems. Timing is not critical as plants may be kept almost indefinitely in the germination container so long as moisture is applied. Transplanting medium: half peat moss and half perlite.
11. The next transplant can be to individual containers, and outdoors if you have a protected spot such as a cold frame when frost is possible. After further growth, the plants may be treated the same as young plants from a nursery.

Alan Campbell will have a handout for the November 1 general meeting on how to take cuttings of deciduous azaleas.

Silver Bowl Winners

The Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society's Silver Bowl will be presented at the Christmas party December 6.

The award has been given annually since 1990 to a member who has given outstanding service to the club in the past year. Names are engraved on plaques attached to the bowl's applewood base. In recent years, the choice has been made by recipients of the previous three years.

Those receiving the award from the start are:

1990 – Fred Collins

1991 – Dave Dougan

1992 – Leslie Drew

1993 – Margaret deWeese

1994 – Stan Groves

1995 – Peter Kearns

1996 – Sandra Evelyn

1997 – Allan and Liz Murray

1998 – Greg, Etta, and Ruth Cook

1999 – Daphne Jackson

2000 – Doris and Ian Anderson

2001 – Ann Springford

2002 – Ken Flett

2003 – Anne and Roger Slaby

2004 – Janet and David Gardner

2005 – Alan and Sandy Campbell



PROPAGATION GROUP

Taking the Cuttings

by Siggs Kemmler

As stated in the first part of this story (October Newsletter, "Making a Box for Cuttings"), I did monitor the soil temperature and found it too high, reaching 28°C during the warm afternoons of late September. A thermostat was needed.

I found a very good electronic thermostat, but at \$89 its acquisition was quite outside our financial limit. Well, the next best thing would be a timer. The one I bought is electronic. It was on sale at Canadian Tire and cost just \$9.59 tax included. It is doing the job. At current settings, the low soil temperature at night is between 17°C and 19°C and the daytime highs are between 20°C and 22°C. Right now, the timer is off from 9:30 AM to 8:00 PM, but as daytime temperatures go lower, I will adapt heat-on times to suit.


Next, I visited one of my favourite rhododendron friends and acquired some cuttings. These were taken from this year's growth, cut just above the dark wood of the older growth. At home, I took more cuttings from some of my favourite rhodos, then stripped all but three of the leaves from each cutting, and reduced these leaves again by about one-half. I also broke off any forming buds, leaf or flower. Before putting the cuttings into the soil, I took one



Cuttings of 'favourites' engaged in waiting game

or two 2 cm long slivers off the bottom sides of each and dipped this wounded part into #1 growth hormone.

My little greenhouse has no growing lights or automatic sprayers, but I go twice a day and manually spray the cuttings, using rain water in an old plastic bottle with a vaporizer top.

Now I wait and hope that at least some of them will deem my efforts sufficient and root. Either way, you will hear about it . . . 

The Window-Sill Style

For those of us who don't want to build a heat box to propagate rhododendron cuttings, there is an easier and cheaper though less productive method—window-sill propagation.

These tips come from Paul Wurz, president of the North Island Chapter, in his group's October newsletter. Paul spoke at our October general meeting on the Lofthouse hybrids. He writes:

Cuttings can be taken when the new growth is semi-ripe (September–October). They should be 7–10 cm long and pencil-wide in diameter. Any flower buds should be removed as well as all leaves except three or four at the top. These leaves can be trimmed down by cutting across them two-thirds of the way down from the tip.

Wound the bottom end of the cutting on two sides for approximately 2.5 cm by just grazing the hardwood and exposing the cambium.

Dip the cutting into a rooting hormone powder or jelly prepared for semi-hardwood

A good rooting soil mixture is 50% peat and 50% coarse sand or perlite.

Insert cuttings into a 4.5 L container and cover with a clear plastic bag supported with three small wooden stakes. Use an elastic band to hold the plastic bag on the pot.

Place the containers on a north-facing window sill and ensure that the temperature is about 21°C.

Water every week or two and give them some fresh air by removing the plastic weekly for 30 minutes at a time. Cuttings should root in about 4 months.

Small or scaly-leafed rhodos are good ones for the beginner as they root easily.



Essential tools for taking cuttings



Weejas/Larson Connection

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Though I have mentioned in an earlier article the relationship that grew between UBC and the newly formed Rhododendron Species Foundation at Federal Way, Washington, I would like to expand slightly on that subject. In 1964, **Dr. Milton Walker** of the Foundation and **Mary Greig** approached UBC concerning U.S. import regulations, which disallowed the Foundation to bring plant material directly from Britain to the U.S. I should clarify here that even though plant material could not go directly from Britain to the States without being fumigated, effectively destroying the plant material as well as any parasites, British material could enter Canada and, by agreement, the States and Canada would allow plant material to cross the 49th parallel. It was another case of foreign elements using Canada as a stepping-stone into the United States.

Dr. Walker had amassed a large amount of seed and cutting material from the best of British gardens, so much that UBC had to dedicate the task of propagating this material to a proficient individual. Evelyn Jack was that person. The agreement with the Foundation allowed UBC to keep for itself an example of each species that Evelyn propagated. These in turn were handed over to Nick Weesjes to add to the botanical garden on the campus grounds. It was from these introductions that Evelyn began to propagate additional plants to begin her own collection of rhododendron species.

The second relationship which developed, fortunately for rhodo growers, was also with a fellow from the Lower 48. **Hjalmar Larson**, a nurseryman in the Tacoma area, was no stranger to our province. During his annual fishing trips to Campbell River, he became acquainted with the Royston Nursery and established a friendship with **Ted and Mary Greig**. In 1954, Larson was invited to give a lecture on grafting at UBC, and through this event came to the attention of Evelyn Jack and Nick Weesjes. Sometime later, **Ed Trayling**, a rhododendron grower and hybridizer on the Lower Mainland, also a friend of Larson's, closed the loop by arranging a visit to the Tacoma nursery for Evelyn and Nick. From as early as the late 1940s, Larson had been receiving seeds of rhododendron species and cuttings of English hybrids from Britain. He had somehow managed to do this despite the import restrictions.

Not only was Hjalmar a nurseryman; he also entered the realm of hybridizer. Here again, the problems of too much product and not enough time and space became an issue. He needed the help of other competent growers and

Evelyn was high on his list. Over time, she received the product of 40 hybrid crosses and grew on more than 1000 seedlings from them. Growing these seedlings on, painfully evaluating every single plant, and registering those deemed the best has resulted in some of the finest plants that we can grow in our gardens.

Being the astute readers that you are, the third relationship that I alluded to should be apparent by now. Few people can claim to be employed at an occupation which is also their source of enjoyment and their hobby. Nick and Evelyn were two of these, and while working alongside it was natural that their working relationship should evolve beyond the platonic. The Weesjes, upon reaching retirement age and leaving the employ of UBC in 1981, now directed their energies to their own dreams. Other than the four years between 1938 and 1942 when, as a young girl, she lived in Scotland, Evelyn had grown up in Victoria, her birthplace, so acquiring land and moving to the north end of the Saanich Peninsula was not an unexpected relocation. Here were 4 hectares of raw land, a diamond in the rough, ready to be shaped and polished to reflect a dream.

Towner Crest began in 1982, and it took several years for the planting beds to take shape. The results of 20 years of collecting the best to come out of British gardens while working at UBC quickly filled beds with mature plants, while the assessing of hybrid seedlings filled even more. The main feature of the cultivated 3 hectares is rhododendrons in the natural setting of native conifers, but hardly the only feature. [Please keep in mind while you read that this new undertaking was being done by a retired couple.] Other than the driveway and the house site, all work was done by hand. A few large-leaf maples and any dead or diseased conifers were removed; the remaining native flora was retained. This native flora included Douglas-fir, grand fir, bigleaf maple, red alder, cascara, arbutus, and yew, as well as Oregon grape and sword fern for ground cover.

Nick also dug, by hand, a drainage ditch 60 cm deep by 30 cm wide to reroute excess water around the 4 hectares or toward a small creek running through the property, in effect making the property as a whole a raised bed. A maze-like watering system runs through the garden, giving each plant its own drip feed or micro spray, not just to the rhodos, but also to the hundreds of other trees, shrubs, hostas, and candelabra primulas that make up the more than 3000 plants currently planted out.

It will have become apparent to you that in designating

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Weejas/Larson Connection

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Vancouver Island hybrids I am being liberal, geographically speaking. The hybrid 'Malahat' ('Gill's Triumph' × *R. strigillosum*) I can't include. This is a Larson hybrid produced and grown in his nursery at Tacoma; he just happened to name the plant after one of his favourite drives. The same goes for 'Qualicum's Pride' ('Anna' × 'Cotton Candy'), a hybrid produced and raised by Lloyd Newcomb at his garden in Snohomish, Washington State. The plant was chosen from his garden and named by the Mount Arrowsmith Chapter to be its marquee plant at the ARS Western Regional Conference held in 1995 at the mid-Island community.

But when a stalwart of the local rhodo community, Dave Dougan, raves about an unnamed hybrid that the Weesjes have grown from Larson seed and Evelyn names that hybrid 'Dave Dougan' (*R. yakushmanum* × (*R. calophytum* × 'Grisette')) registered 1993, that plant I just have to include. Evelyn says she can see very little of *calophytum* in it, but that it is a nice, well-behaved *yak* hybrid. Evelyn honoured another well-known Island rhododendron grower and historian by naming another of her Larson seedlings 'Bill Dale' (*R. yakushmanum* × *R. strigillosum*) (1993). A sister seedling, 'Elze Weesjes', named for one of Nick's sisters, was registered in 1996. Two more of his sisters had rhodos named for them in 1994, appropriately enough, sister seedlings of *R. yakushmanum* × 'Mrs. Horace Fogg'. A well-known plantsman and member of the Victoria Chapter lent his name to yet another Larson seedling, 'John Trelawny' ('Jutland' × 'Fusilier') (1994). The next hybrid evaluated and found worthy of registering in 1995 was 'Gretha Rijkse' ('Kluis Sensation' × 'Fusilier'), once again named for a sister of Nick's. After much prodding from Evelyn, an excellent red *strigillosum* hybrid was named and registered by Ken and Dot Gibson of Tofino as 'Clayoquot Warrior' ('Essex Scarlet' × *R. strigillosum*) (1995). The latest Larson seedling from the Weesjes garden to be evaluated and chosen is 'Lies Weesjes' (*R. yakushmanum* × 'Belvedere') (1998), named for yet another of Nick's sisters. Of all the Larson/Weesjes hybrids listed above, 'Clayoquot Warrior' is perhaps the one most




'*R. Dave Dougan*'—Evelyn Weesjes' nice, well-behaved *yak* hybrid

available. The others have not been propagated as much, but I'm working on that.

Building a new garden from scratch, growing on and evaluating 1000+ seedlings of Hjalmar Larson's crossings must have kept Evelyn busy, but she did find the time to demonstrate her own aesthetic nature. Her keen eye and artistry are evident in the hybrids 'Nick's Choice' and 'Towner Crest', sister seedlings of 'Van Nes Sensation' × 'Mrs. Horace Fogg', both registered in 1995. Both of these plants growing in our garden have set buds and will bloom next spring. Herman Vaartnou of Victoria, of whom I will speak more next month, was honoured by Evelyn with the naming of her hybrid 'Dr. Herman Vaartnou' (*R. macabeaenum* × unnamed *R. lacteum* hybrid) (1996). Originally the lacteum was received by Evelyn in one of the seed shipments from Britain as species seed, but as the seed grew and matured it just didn't seem to key out to the true species. She expects the seed was the product of naturally-occurring hybridization, which is why she calls the cross as being from "an unnamed *R. lacteum* hybrid". I have yet to get cutting material of 'Dr. Herman Vaartnou', but I have managed to obtain cuttings of the lacteum hybrid as it is also a fine plant. Evelyn has intimated that there are many more unnamed hybrids planted out amongst her gems. That teaser intrigues me to no end!

The locals as well as informed others seem to use the Weesjes garden as a semi private park, coming and going as whimsy takes them, and Nick and Evelyn are more than generous in sharing their Eden with those who take pleasure from it. In conversation with Evelyn, she asked that I mention herself and Nick less and their garden more, but the garden is them. The garden expresses their expectations, knowledge, drive and commitment much more than any conversation would draw from this quiet and self-effacing couple.

What the garden cannot tell you is that in 1970 the ARS proudly awarded Evelyn the Gold medal, its highest award, for her work on the genus rhododendron and in 1990 the Victoria Chapter was very pleased to present her with the Bronze Medal for her work at the Chapter level. Towner Crest, the garden overlooking Towner Bay from the crest of the hill, is a jewel in the crown of gardens encircling the Garden City of Victoria. 



Editor's Notebook


by *Leslie Drew*

Funny, is it not, how everything—starting with the celestial sphere we live on so precariously—goes around and around? **Paul Wurz's** excellent talk on the Lofthouse Legacy, the rhododendron hybrids created by Vancouver's **Jack Lofthouse** (1915–2005), could not have been more timely for our club. He spoke in the midst of **Alan Campbell's** series in this newsletter on hybrids made by Vancouver Islanders which, in **Bob Rhodes'** case he tied to the Island through his membership in Island chapters. Besides, Gabriola Island, the Rhodes home for many years, is close enough.

When he had his medical practice at Maple Ridge and took up rhodo growing as a hobby, Bob worked closely with other rhodo people on the Lower Mainland through the ARS. When he branched into hybridizing, it was natural that he should be introduced to and work with Jack Lofthouse—after all, you don't meet hybridizers of any plant every day of the week.

Paul Wurz is a collector of Lofthouse hybrids, and they were numerous. Forty-six are registered (quite a few are listed by Greer), but he made 120 in all, which is a lot when one considers the years required for the fruits of a single cross to be propagated, grown on, tested, and selected. And because Lofthouse was a fine photographer, whenever Paul visited him at his large city lot he had access to an excellent collection of photos of those hybrids, which in slide form rolled up one after another for his audience here—'Pink Petticoats' and 'Canadian Sunset', two of the best known; 'Cherry Float' with its unique colour; 'Snowstorm', 'Canadian Beauty', 'Butter Brickle', 'Sierra del Oro', which Paul hopes to register; 'Sweet Sue', Lofthouse's favourite, and 'Viennese Waltz' one of Paul's favourites. Most of the hybrids are very floriferous and bloom at an early age.

There were gaps, though. 'Lady of Spain' flashes on the screen, and Paul says: "I know nothing of that one." As he explains, though he has spent years building his collection, it's by no means complete. He has yet to find some of them in someone's garden somewhere. Chapters like ours, which have propagating groups, are in a key position to help out. Difficult though some of Lofthouse's hybrids may be to propagate, usually at least one propagator has the knack, and a worthwhile hybrid need not be lost forever.

So, in an instant, we all learned the value of a propagating group. 



The Lofthouse hybrid '1000 Butterflies'



The Lofthouse hybrid 'Party Orange'

It's That Time . . .

A reminder that membership renewals for 2007 are due this month. **Sharon Pettersson** will be taking them at the November 1 general meeting, or they can be mailed to the Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society at PO Box 904, Duncan, BC V9L 3Y2.



Some of the Lofthouse hybrids that Paul Wurz is looking for:

- ‘Promise of Spring’
- ‘Wally Zeglet’
- ‘Lady of Spain’
- ‘Truly Fair’
- ‘Copper Kettles’
- ‘Golden Moments’
- ‘Desert Storm’
- ‘Sierra Beauty’
- ‘Red Petticoats’
- ‘Mantilla’
- ‘Colour Carnival’
- ‘Hotei’ x ‘Copper Kettles’ #5
- ‘Christmas Candles’
- ‘Spring Joy’
- ‘Hotei’ x ‘Lem’s Cameo’ #55
- ‘Strawberry Float’
- ‘Proposal’
- ‘Fusilier’ x ‘Red Walloper’ #9
- ‘L’Orchid’
- ‘Sierra Sunset’
- ‘Burnished Brass’
- ‘Yellow Bird’
- ‘Gold Fingers’
- ‘Enticement’
- ‘Silver Trumpets’
- ‘Star Ship One’
- ‘Sierra Stars’
- ‘Mai Tai’
- ‘Spanish Gold’ x ‘Sonata’
- ‘Charisma’
- ‘Sunrise Serenade’
- ‘Sierra Treasure’
- ‘Mother Lode’
- ‘Brief Encounter’
- ‘Butter Fudge’
- ‘Dresden Doll’
- ‘Peach Sunrise’
- ‘Yellow Butterflies’
- ‘June Sinclair’
- ‘French Lady’
- ‘Jet Set’
- ‘Show Stopper’
- ‘Sun God’
- ‘Sierra Magic’
- ‘Kisha’
- ‘Spotlight’
- ‘Irish Spring’
- ‘Lorelei’
- ‘Crown Jewels’
- ‘Cinnamon’
- ‘Tahitian Sunset’
- ‘Peach Parfait’
- ‘Sierra Glow’
- ‘Yellow Jello’
- ‘French Vanilla’
- ‘China Doll’
- ‘Freckles’
- ‘Confetti’
- ‘April Beauty’
- ‘Hawaiian Sunset’
- ‘Rainbow’s End’
- ‘Treasure Chest’
- ‘True Love’
- ‘Super Nova’
- ‘Lem’s Cameo’ x ‘Pink Petticoats’ #2
- ‘Lem’s Cameo’ x ‘Pink Petticoats’ #12
- ‘Southern Belle’
- ‘April Affair’

— 2006 Directors —

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New Members

We all see the very old rhododendrons reaching skyward in downtown Duncan, and marvel that they still bloom at what must be a great age. New members **Roy and Gloria Elvins** know some of these sturdy old-timers very well. Roy, who is custodian at St. John’s Anglican Church, in whose hall we meet, has cared for a very old pink-flowering rhodo across the street when the property was owned by the church, pruning, cutting out dead wood, and prolonging its already long life. The Elvins live close by the church and have a couple of well-established rhodos themselves . . .

...And in Mill Bay **Hugh and Fiona Lawrence** are making a garden on less than half an acre, with Hugh redesigning a portion and planting rhodos. Fiona, a former member who now has more time than she had before, says her husband has recently become very interested in rhodos—“he can’t get enough of them.”

Welcome all! 