

# The Victoria Rhododendron Society

## *Newsletter*



Box 5562 Postal Station B, Victoria BC Canada V8R 6S4

SEPTEMBER 2010

Thirtieth Year of Publication

e-mail: wtmcmillan@telus.net

web page – <http://victoriarhodo.ca>

**MEETING 7:30**  
**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2010**  
**GARTH HOMER CENTRE, 811 DARWIN STREET, VICTORIA, B. C.**

**Speaker: Paul Wurz “Hybrid Rhododendrons Suitable for West Coast Gardens”**

Paul Wurz became a full time gardener when he retired after teaching school. His and his wife Lynn’s hobby farm, Hidden Acres, in Campbell River has a wonderful display garden and welcomes many visitors each year. Their focus is to make many new and specialty rhododendrons more readily available.

### **REFRESHMENTS:**

Please let Johanna Massa know at 250-642-5491 if you are coming to the meeting and bringing goodies.

**Marjorie Harkness, Ann and Stephen Harvard, Joe and Linda Harvey, John and Alison Hawkins, John and Jeannette Howard, and Lorraine Hoy.**

Please wrap your cookies or snacks.

Coffee and tea are supplied.

Assistance in setting out the food, milk and sugar, napkins and helping in the kitchen cleanup is really appreciated.

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### **NOTICES FROM THE BOARD**

VRS members have been asking our president, Jacq, about clothing with the VRS logo. A few years ago, some members bought green fleece vests or sweatshirts with the VRS “Transit Gold” logo (a golden rhododendron as seen in the header, above left) on the front.

Jacq will bring in a few samples of vests and jackets, in various sizes and in dark blue (the best colour available) to our September meeting.

## VICTORIA RHODODENDRON SOCIETY BOARD

President:

**Jacqueline Bradbury** 250-389-1379

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**Lois Blackmore** 250-478-6615

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Bill McMillan 250-478-3515

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Joyce Whittle 250-656-7313

Calvin Parsons 250-385-1970

### Website:

Arthur Ralfs 250-337-5818

Bill McMillan 250-478-3515

Calvin Parsons 250-385-1970

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Interested members can sign an order form.

Calvin Parsons and Bill McMillan have begun to revise our Website:

**victoriarhodo.ca.**

Anyone with ideas or wishing to participate would be most welcome.

## Our June 27th VRS Picnic lunch

Some 72 members (a record number) braved iffy weather to attend our annual picnic at Ann and Tom Widdowson's garden on West Saanich Road.

The garden was lush and beautiful (thanks to a cool damp spring). The pot-luck lunch extended over a few hours as more members came in to join us.

Jacq presented trophies to the winners in the Rhododendron Show and Sale in April. There was some rain, and umbrellas were opened, but it did not last long. Mostly cloudy weather prevailed.

Thanks to members who generously donated plants, we had a wonderful free plant raffle. People crowded around all the donated plants under a big tree at the edge of the lawn to try to select the ones they wanted to win.

Every attendee left with two or three plants to grow and develop in gardens or in pots on balconies or patios .



**At the VRS picnic in June, members were checking rhododendrons and companion plants for the free raffle of donated plants.**



**John Hawkins accepts the Harman and Hella Vaartnou Plate for his R. Fragrantissimum from our President, Jacq Bradbury**



Keiko Alkire with the Jean and Norman Todd trophy for the best lepidote in a container, her *R. goreri*



E.E. Dickman accepting Mary's Memorial Cup and the Jim Calder Memorial Trophy for her peony and *R. cinnabarinum variety roylei*



Anne Allen accepting the Rothschild Challenge Trophy for the Best Rhododendron in the Show, *R. Hurricane*



Moe and Johanna Massa with the Gibson Memorial Trophy for high aggregate in the show.



Ann Widdowson accepting the Abkhazi Plate acknowledging her and Tom's service to the Victoria Rhododendron Society

### September Rhododendron Care

As fall rolls around the days are shorter and the nights cooler. During the summer a rhododendron needs one inch of water per week to the roots of the plant . However, in September morning dew and rain reduce the need for as much watering so now is the time to taper off the watering. This will also help the plants harden up for the winter. A warning though, if we have an Indian summer with dry weather and wind, this will dry the plants rapidly, so be prepared for some supplementary watering.

This is a good month also to think about cuttings. Remember our Propagation Group if you are interested and want help. We meet on the third Monday of each month and welcome new members. Contact Ken and Madeleine Webb (250-744-1785 or kenwebb@shaw.ca for information).

## IN MEMORY

### ETTA COOK

Etta led an interesting life as a nurse, particularly as a nurse in the Philippines in World War II.

When Etta retired, she built a new home and 5 acre rhododendron garden near Duncan. She loved to share her garden with family, friends and feral cats. She hosted many tours. She was a member and bronze medal holder of the American Rhododendron Society. One of her greatest joys was receiving a rhododendron named after her, R. "Etta Cook".

She wished all her friends to spend the time enjoying life. Her chosen words for you.

*Miss me - But Let me Go When I come to the end of the road, And the sun has set for me I want no rites in a gloom-filled room, Why cry for a soul set free.*

*Miss me a little, but not too long, And not with your head bowed low Remember the love that once we shared, Miss me but let me go For this is a journey we all must take, And each must go alone.*

*It's all a part of the Master's plan, A step on the road to home.*

*When you are lonely and sick of heart, Go to the friends we know, And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds.*

### PHOEBE NOBLE

Well known Victoria gardener and teacher of mathematics, Phoebe died on July 31. She became passionate about plants (particularly hardy geraniums) when she retired from the University of Victoria. She, along with George Radford, answered David Lam's call to aid in the restoration of the gardens at Government House. She remained keenly interested in this project. Phoebe shared her love of gardening and teaching through her many lectures, magazine articles, and open gardens that she hosted on her two-acre property.

Geranium X oxonianum 'Phoebe Noble'



### MARTIN SWENY

Martin Sweny passed away on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Martin settled in Victoria in 1976, where he worked for Canada Post for 12 years. He began planting his collection of rhododendrons and azaleas in 1979. Each year, friends and neighbors enjoyed the floral display and each year, Martin patiently deadheaded all of his rhododendrons, some of which could only be reached using a sizable ladder. Aside from caring for his rhododendrons, Martin spent much of his later years donating his time and money to help under-privileged people locally and around the globe.



**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE !!**

**This year, the Victoria Rhododendron Society's dues must be in by November 15th.**

**This is particularly important for ARS members. If the dues are not paid by then you will not receive your Winter 2011 ARS Journal.**

**The Membership form is on the last page, or page 8, of this Newsletter. Please copy/cut out the form, and either mail your dues or bring them along with the form to the next meeting on October 4 or on November 1.**

**Thank you.**





**THE  
VICTORIA  
RHODODENDRON  
SOCIETY**

Website:  
<http://www.victoriarhodo.ca/>

All meetings of the society are open to the public and visitors are always welcome.

Of particular interest to gardeners is our Annual Show and Sale, held in April or May. The show has spectacular displays of flowers, and there are a great variety of Rhododendrons and other plants for sale.

Monthly meetings generally are held on the first Monday of the month at 7:30 pm (except June, July and August).

**The usual meeting place is the  
Garth Homer Centre**

**811 Darwin Street  
Victoria, B.C.**

Visits to superb local gardens are an annual Club spring activity.

**OUR AIMS**

The aims of the Victoria Rhododendron Society are to promote the cultivation, propagation and breeding of Rhododendrons, and also to foster knowledge, fellowship, friendship and enthusiasm concerning Rhododendrons and allied plants.

While the focus is on Rhododendrons, the interests of members as a group are wide. Talks on other shrubs, trees and herbs suitable for over- or under-planting are included, as are landscaping techniques.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Full membership** includes membership in the VRS and the American Rhododendron Society of which we are an affiliated Chapter. This brings the ARS quarterly journal with expert articles and colour photographs. Also included is the right to participate in the ARS annual conventions, and the ARS seed exchange and pollen bank. Members also receive the Newsletter of the VRS.

**Local Membership** includes the Newsletter and participation in local events, but does not include membership in the ARS.

**Associate Membership** enables members of other Chapters to participate in the activities of the Victoria Chapter.

cut along dotted line

Mail to: The Victoria Rhododendron Society, P.O. Box 5562 Station B, Victoria, B.C., V8R 6S4

Mr.       Mrs.       Mr. & Mrs.       Dr.

I wish to receive my Newsletter by E-mail       Agree to be on the circulated club membership list

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City and Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one of the following: Regular Member \$50      Local: \$25      Associate \$10

If Associate, which chapter do you belong to? \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Paid by Cash \_\_\_\_\_ or Cheque \_\_\_\_\_