

# The Victoria Rhododendron Society *Newsletter*



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

November 2011 Thirty-First Year of Publication

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web page – <http://victoriarhodo.ca>

**MEETING 7:30  
MONDAY, November 14, 2011  
GARTH HOMER CENTRE, 811 DARWIN STREET, VICTORIA, B. C.  
PHOTOGRAPHY NIGHT: Peter Barriscale has organized a contest of  
rhododendron and gardens photography, coloured or black and white  
photos, or coloured digital pictures.**

The Photograph contest has been for years part of our annual Show and Sale. Last year, when our Show was held at Hillside Mall and our Sale was at Abkhazi Gardens, we had no place to hang our pictures.

## **REFRESHMENTS**

**VRS members listed below are asked to help at our meeting by providing refreshments. Please let Betty Gordon know at 250-479-0210 if you are coming to the meeting and bringing something to eat. We provide the coffee or tea.**

**Jackie Walker, Ken and Madeleine Webb, Evelyn Weesjes, Ellen Wellborn, Bob and Betty Whitlock, Don and Joyce Whittle, Ann and Tom Widdowson.**

**Please wrap your cookies or snacks. Assistance in setting out the food, milk and sugar, cups, napkins and helping Betty in the kitchen cleanup is really appreciated.**

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## **NOTICES FROM THE BOARD**

Remember, the \$50 ARS dues for 2012 have to be paid at the November meeting because the list has to go to the ARS by November 30th.

Are you getting both a paper and electronic copy of the VRS Newsletter?

Do you really need a black and white printed copy when you can print your own if you really need hard copy?

Mailing costs for physical newsletters are very high and we want to reduce the number we have to mail each month as much as possible.

Norman Todd's new book should be ready to be sold at the meeting in November.

## VICTORIA RHODODENDRON SOCIETY BOARD

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waterlily@shaw.ca

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### Website:

Bill McMillan 250-478-3515

Calvin Parsons 250-385-1970

## A SPECIAL DINNER

For the last few years, the people who were doing the take down from the Show & Sale have been going for Chinese Food after we were finished. We have had such a good time we thought that we shouldn't wait till the next Show. So we have planned a Chinese Food Dinner Evening for Wednesday, November the 16th at 6 PM at Fonbo Restaurant 4458 West Saanich Rd in the Royal Oak Mall.

They will make us a group dinner for \$15 each, plus tip. Any alcohol of course will be extra. The seating is limited to 40 people, so it will have to be first come first served. To reserve your place please contact Ken or Madeleine Webb at: 250-744-1785, 250-883-5746 or kenwebb@live.ca

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## LAST MONTH'S TALKS

by Theresa McMillan

In October, Stephan Krantz of Peninsula Landscape Supplies had glass bottles showing several examples of his gravels, mulches and garden soils, including his special Fish Compost. He described how to manage our local soils, which are often high in clay, and acidic from so much rain and acidic conifer needles.

Lois Blackmore did her first Power Point presentation to show us several potted rhododendrons growing on the large decks of her house. The plants varied from miniatures to ones so large they were full garden size. They did very well with steer manure, and bud pruning to keep the plants flowering and in good shape.

# People's Choice Rhododendron Photography Evening Nov. 14

By Peter Barriscale

## New Information

The 5x7 pictures, color and black and white in a black mat, will be displayed on the tables at the back of the hall. At the end of the evening please take your prints home with you. The ballots will be collected and the results tabulated by the executive at their next meeting. If you remember please bring a pen or pencil with you to mark the ballots.

There is a 2 entry limit per electronic entry (Plogger) but you can enter as many 5x7 inch matted prints as you want.

The entries will fall into **TWO** categories, PHOTOGRAPHS and DIGITAL.

### Hard Copy (Standard printed photographs)

Photographs will be in the same format as was used in the past shows, namely either black and white or colored photos. **All entries are to be 5"x7" and mounted on a black mat, no frame.**

The subjects can be rhododendrons or garden scenes in color or black and white. Place a sticker on the mat with your phone number and title of the photo.

Please take your photos home with you at the end of the meeting.

### Digital Color Entries

Details

Electronic entries will have a 2 megabyte size limit in the jpeg format. Most pictures shown at our club meetings don't exceed 1 megabyte. If your photos are larger than 2 megabytes they will take a long time to upload and they would use up too much data space.

The limit is 2 pictures per category. We would like electronic entries in as early as possible, and the entry deadline is November 12.

### HOW to ENTER THE DIGITAL PHOTOS on line:

ONE WAY is to be found on the first page of the club website ([www.victoriarhodo.ca](http://www.victoriarhodo.ca)) on the Speaker Table under November 14 Photography Night. There is a link to the tool, Plogger, for uploading your photos. Click on it to get to the Plogger website.

ANOTHER WAY is to log directly onto Plogger at:

<http://victoriarhodo.ca/plogger/plog-admin/plog-upload.php>  
under username type: vicrhodo  
under password type: uploader1

Then click on the Login Button.

\* **Ensure that you are on the Upload screen** then:

Go to Filename and click on the 'Browse' Button

Find the photo you want in your files, click on the specific photo and then click 'Open' • Click on 'Picture Caption' box and enter your 7 digit phone number

• Click on 'Description' and enter a title e.g. Haida Gold, Butcharts Garden

• Click on Upload Button and your picture and data should upload. You should receive a confirmation message that your upload was successful.

- Go to 'Existing Album' and highlight one of the categories listed below that best describes your entry:

Plogger Test Collection Single Truss Rhodo  
 Plogger Test Collection Whole Plant Rhodo  
 Plogger Test Collection Foliage Rhodo  
 Plogger Test Collection Companion Plant  
 Plogger Test Collection Garden Scene

To see your entry or the entries of others click on 'View' and then click on a portfolio.

**Please do not try and delete pictures. Let Peter know if you need to delete a picture.  
 Peter Barriscale is at pbarris@shaw.ca**

**Judging**

Judging will be done by the whole membership with a People's Choice format using the Excel form below. The name of the photographer will be hidden as it was in the flower show. You will judge the photos at the November 14 regular club meeting.

Vote for one picture in each category. First, second, and third place ribbons will be awarded as well as an aggregate winner rosette ribbon based on a total point format, and a best in show rosette. Ribbons will be awarded at the Christmas Pot Luck Meeting.

If you want to, clip out this ballot and view the gallery online before the meeting. You can start making your choices for the best digital pictures in advance.

<b>Digital Slides</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>Title</b>
<b>1. Single truss</b>		
<b>2. Whole plant</b>		
<b>3. Foliage</b>		
<b>4. Companion plant</b>		
<b>5. Garden scene</b>		
<b>Mounted 5x7 Black Matte</b>		
<b>Color</b>		
<b>Black and White</b>		
<b>Best In Show</b>		

Here are some sample photos.



## **RHODODENDRON VARIETIES & GARDEN LOCATIONS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Many years ago I started a project which included collecting rhododendron names and their location in BC gardens. So far I have 125 gardens listed with an inventory of over 4000 rhododendron varieties.

I would like to update my list for the Western Regional Conference in Nanaimo in 2012.

At this time I would like to ask those who have sent me their inventory to update it, and to those who haven't sent an inventory to please consider doing so.

I will accept garden inventories during all of 2011. This will give me time to compile the information before the conference in Nanaimo in September 2012.

Harry Wright  
250-338-8345  
Email [haidaau@shaw.ca](mailto:haidaau@shaw.ca)

# ROOTSTALK

by Indumentum

This article is reprinted with permission from the April 1996 edition of Fraser South's "The Yak" newsletter.

The author of "Rootstalk", "Indumentum", is David Sellars.

While browsing through the Cloverdale Public Library archives recently, looking for information on why there are so few rhododendron species native to Surrey, I came across the newsletter of the Ganges North Maple Society. This organization meets on the third Wednesday of every month in a Temple Hall a few kilometres north of Katmandu, Nepal. There were newsletter articles on themes such as "Companion Plants for Maples: The Use of Rhododendrons to Fill in the Gaps" and "Avoiding Invasive Rhododendron Roots" and "Why Maple Species are Superior to Hybrids".

Yes, it seems there are species snobs even in the Maple societies and the most far-out are the lovers of large-leaved species. These obses-



*Acer macrophyllum*, having the largest leaves of any acer.

sives will go to the ends of the earth to seek out specimens of their adored treasures.

It was fascinating to read an elaborate account of a lecture given by Mustapha Notherplant, the famed Nepalese plant explorer who had recently mounted an expedition to western Canada in search of the rare and coveted *Acer macrophyllum*, the maple with the largest leaves in the world. He paddled a small canoe up something called Howe Sound and was astonished to find huge groves of Bigleaf Maples growing between elevations of sea level to 500 metres in mixed woodland. Some of these specimens must have been more than 100 years old and were tens of metres high!

Mustapha explored the woods for several days, collecting seed pods and taking photographs of these ancient giants. He was about to get back into his canoe when he smelled wood smoke and was aghast to discover the local people cutting down the enormous maple trees and using them for firewood!

At this point in the narrative, the newsletter reported that gasps of astonishment rose from the audience for they were horrified to hear of



*R. hodgsonii*, a big leafed rhododendron

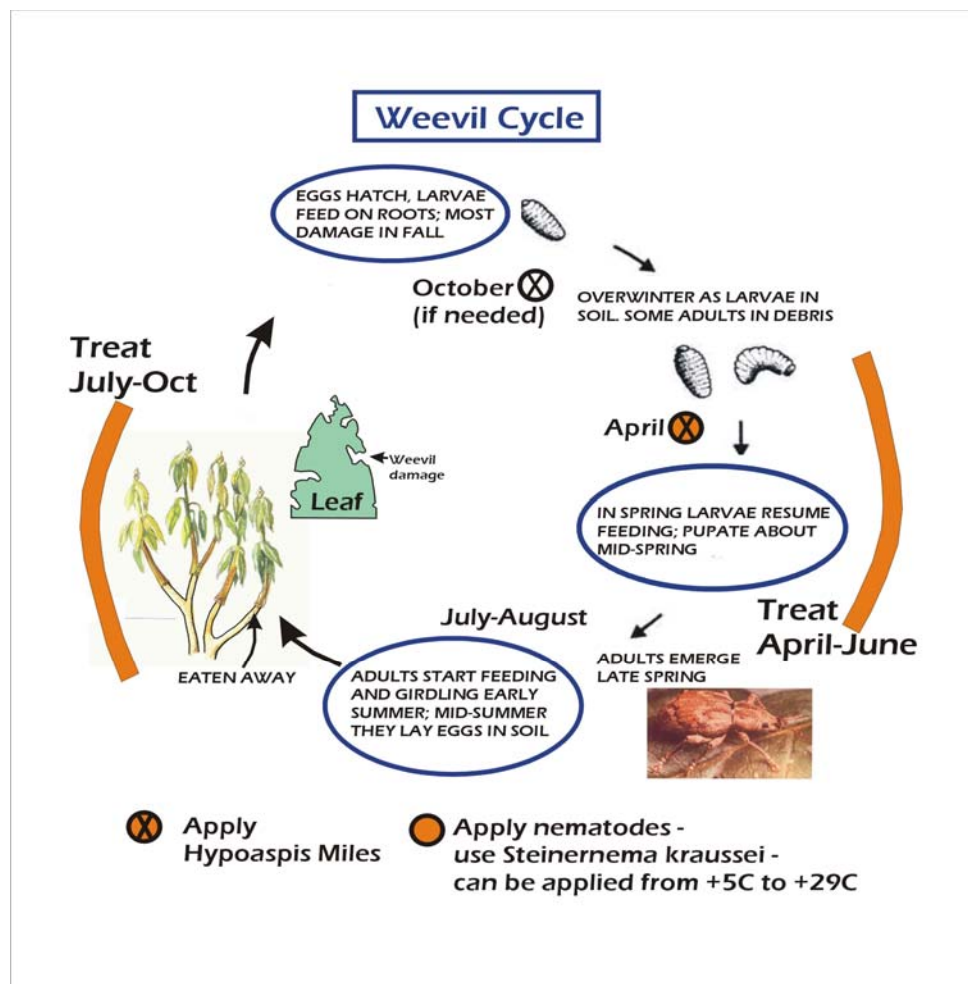
such sacrilege. Although a heated discussion ensued, the night was getting cool and

Mustapha threw another log of *R. hodgsonii* onto the open fire. One of the members complained that the society should set a better example as that log would have made a perfectly good yak saddle.

(Peter Cox in *The Larger Rhododendron Species* reports that *R. hodgsonii* is the favorite firewood of sherpas and porters in east Nepal and that it is also used for making cups, spoons and wooden yak saddles.)



A small tree of *R. hodgsonii*



**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 is a great variety of Rhododendrons and other plants for sale.

Monthly meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 7:30 pm from September until May (we meet the first Monday if the second is a Statutory Holiday).

**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

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 \_\_\_\_\_