



The Victoria Rhododendron Society

Newsletter

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May 2015

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Thirty-Fifth Year of Publication

web page – <http://victoriarhodo.ca>

There will be no regular meeting in May;
the ARS Convention in Sidney will be on from May 6-10.
On Sunday, June 28, we will be having our annual Pot-luck luncheon
at the Horticultural Centre of the Pacific.
Details in June's Newsletter.

NOTICES FROM THE BOARD

There was further discussion about the meeting place for VRS next year; Garth Homer or the HCP. Parking issues and storage for our library are being considered.

Calvin Parsons has worked on Membership for a few years, taking over from Gareth Shearman's fully computerized system.

Calvin is retiring from the position. So we need a new Membership person who is familiar with computers. What needs to be done is data entry on members, collection of the dues, and issuance of receipts.

If you are interested, please let anyone on the Board know. Thank you.

April's Talk on Soil Biology and Mycorrhizae on Ericaceous Plants

By Lois Blackmore

Shannon Berch has extensive knowledge about soil biology and provided our group with new knowledge about the organisms found in soil. She provided an in-depth explanation about soil organisms and their relationships to plant growth.

Starting with the smallest of organisms is bacteria. There are between 100 million to 1 billion bacteria found in a single teaspoon of soil.

The next largest organism is fungi, belonging to molds and mushroom families. These look like long filaments, with several meters of these filaments found in a teaspoon of soil.

Next largest are protozoa. These consist of ciliate, flagellate, naked amoeba and testate amoeba.

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Nematodes are the first free-living creatures found in soil compounds.

Arthropods are the largest organisms found in soil. These consist of mites, spiders, springtails, minipedes, beetles and earthworms. Several hundred can be found in a square meter of soil. In British Columbia, seventeen species of worms can be found, only two of which are native to this province.

Mycorrhizas provide a beneficial relationship between fungi and particular plants. For rhododendrons, as members of the heather family, ericoid mycorrhiza are particularly helpful. Arbuscular mycorrhiza benefit about 80 percent of all plants. In particular, ectomycorrhiza are beneficial to trees.

It was interesting to note that in potting mix, there are likely no mycorrhiza.

The one particular inoculum mentioned by Shannon. It was called Symbiom Rhodovit. She discovered it on the internet and was not familiar with the product itself.

I did some research on this product and it is currently available only in Europe. A compilation of what it says:

“Rhodovit is a liquid, natural product developed specifically for mycorrhizal treatment of ericaceous plants, especially Rhododendrons...

It works extremely well especially with rhododendrons because these plants naturally have a weak, non-resistant root system and the mycorrhizal fungi extend it and provide the plant with everything it needs.”

2015 ARS CONVENTION

Sidney, BC, Canada

May 6 – 10, 2015

Fabulous Rhododendron Garden Tours

Location: Mary Winspear Centre

Come join us at the convenient Mary Winspear Community Centre, 2243 Beacon Ave. in spectacular Sidney-by-the-Sea, BC, Canada.



International Keynote Speakers

- Jim Barlup, Washington State
- Marc Colombel, France
- Kenneth Cox, Scotland
- Harold Greer, Oregon
- Guan Kaiyun, China
- Lionel de Rothschild, England
- Hartwig Schepker, Germany



Champagne Lace', the official convention rhododendron is a magnificent hybrid donated by Jim Barlup.



Check www.2015rhodo.ca for Registration Forms, Schedule and Garden Tours.

