



The Victoria Rhododendron Society Newsletter

4821 Townsend Drive, Victoria, BC V8Z 5P2

February 2019
tkmcmillan@telus.net

Thirty-Ninth Year of Publication
<http://victoriarhodo.ca>

General Meeting
starts at 7:30
MONDAY, February 4, 2018
Presenter: Anne Nightingale - Victoria Birds
 Couvelier Pavilion at the HCP Gardens
 505 Quayle Road, VICTORIA, B. C.

In This Issue

- ◇ Upcoming Events ----- 2
- ◇ Editor's Notes ----- 3-4
- ◇ Announcements ----- 5
- ◇ Notes From The Board ----- 6
- ◇ RSBG Spring Catalog ----- 6
- ◇ Jim Barlup - The Hybridizer ----- 7-9
- ◇ Contest - Can You Count ----- 10
- ◇ Tragedy in Our Rhododendron World 11
- ◇ Board Members ----- 13
- ◇ Key Contributors ----- 13
- ◇ Contest Answer Slip for free ticket ----- 13

REFRESHMENTS

by

Theresa & Bill McMillan	Karen & Burns Morrison
Linda Miller	Nadine Minckler
Bonnie Moro	Jack McNeill

PLEASE EMAIL Betty Gordon at
bbgordon@shaw.ca

or phone 250.479.0210 if you are coming with your wrapped goodies or snacks. Coffee and tea are supplied. Assistance in setting out the food, milk, sugar and napkins, and helping Betty with the cleanup is really appreciated.



BRING YOUR OWN MUG

Upcoming Events

2019	Event	Place
Feb 2 10-3:30	2019 Qualicum Beach Seedy Saturday Website: qbseedysaturday.ca	747 Jones Street Qualicum Beach, BC
Feb 4 7:30	General Meeting - The Couvelier Pavilion Ann Nightingale - Victoria Birds	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Feb 18 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Mar 4 7:30	General Meeting and AGM - The Couvelier Pavilion Circle of Learning	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Mar 16 7:00	Ole Jonny Larsen, Norwegian Species Enthusiast Tickets available online Parking attendants needed info TBA	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Mar 18 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Apr 1 7:30	General Meeting - The Couvelier Pavilion Susan and Garth Wedemire - Visiting Wales	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Apr 14 10-2:00	VicRS Plant Sale	5008 Old W. Saanich Rd
Apr 15 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
May 6 7:30	General Meeting - The Couvelier Pavilion FLOWER SHOW	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
May 12 10-2:00	VicRS Plant Sale	4640 Cordova Bay Rd
May 16-19	ARS Annual Convention Registration starts December 1st, 2018	Malvern, PA
May 20 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Jun 17 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Jun 23 Noon	Sunday VRS Summer BBQ Picnic at Lois and Roy Blackmores'	758 Walfred Road
Sept 2 7:30	General Meeting - The Couvelier Pavilion	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Sept 16 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Sept 27-29	ARS Fall Conference	Parksville, BC
Oct 7 7:30	General Meeting - The Couvelier Pavilion	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Oct 21 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA

Editor's Notes



by Theresa McMillan

Our Christmas Pot Luck Dinner, Dec. 3, 2018

What a difference artfully arranged Christmas greenery makes to our Festive Season!

On December 4 last year, our raffle table and our dinner tables looked bare in comparison to other years. Jacq Bradbury's absence, her expert instruction, a place to create by her home, and her garden's cuttings from the fall and winter cuttings not available, were sorely missed.



Christmas Potluck



Lots of greenery at our raffle

Fortunately, some of Jacq-influenced greenery was available as table centerpieces and raffle swags and wreaths.

This year, by good luck, Agnes Lynn won a remarkable collection of Jacq and her crew's work. (See the pictures.) Several of us less fortunate members looked at the entrants enviously. Artificial decorations can be very showy, but the fragrance and textures of "the real thing" is very special too.

Many volunteers help make our annual Christmas Pot Luck dinner

so special. For many of us, it is the first chance to put on our Festive Season finery. The Couvelier Pavilion looked beautiful with its tree lit with white lights, round tables with red and green napkins and fresh centerpieces.

There were many pictures of VRS members and activities shown on the front wall-so good for our memories!

(Continued on page 4)

While waiting for the dinner, people walked around the raffle table. It was full of items, both homemade and purchased. It was hard to choose where to put our raffle tickets.



Nasty puzzle

Then Sharon Joseph provided a Christmas jig-saw puzzle for us to work on. The winners win the first choice at the buffet table, savories, salads, vegetables, ham and turkey, and later a choice of desserts.

As ever, the food was excellent. Thank you everyone for bringing it all.

Sean Rafferty and our President Brenda MacDonald then ran the raffle. Brenda called out the number, and Sean chose the matching gift and member. There were cries of surprise and delight at the items that were won.



Puzzling over the puzzle



VRS members

As well as proceeds from the raffle, there were boxes of non-perishable food for the Mustard Seed Food Bank. The donations, taken to the Mustard Seed by Bill Gordon, were very much appreciated.

At the end of the party people helped with the clean up. White tablecloths were folded, red and green napkins too. Chairs were returned to the storage area, dishes, cutlery, casserole dishes and raffle prizes taken away.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!



Sean & Brenda -raffles choices

Announcements



Christmas Dinner Donations

We took in \$500.00 in cash and 47 pounds of food, Most were most appreciated down at the Mustard Seed.

Well done to all the members for donations to make the raffle table so successful. Special thanks to Jacquie Bradbury and her helpers for the lovely swags and table pieces.

Always amazing!

Bill Gordon

Christmas Centerpieces

Request for florist green foam (oasis) and candles

For those who were lucky enough to take home a centerpiece, would you please bring any candles (if unused) and/or oasis to our next meeting. Much appreciated. Thank you.



NOTES FROM THE BOARD

by Brenda Macdonald

Notes from the Board, January 17, 2019

Ole Jonny Larsen, president of the Norwegian Rhododendron Society and ardent species rhododendron collector, will be speaking at the HCP (our usual meeting place), but on Saturday, March 16, at 7:00 pm (not our usual meeting date/time). There will be an entrance fee, discounted for members of the Victoria Rhododendron Society. Tickets will be available online. More details will be available on the [Horticultural Centre of the Pacific](#) website soon.

Our nominating committee is looking for members to fill the various Members at Large (MaL) vacancies as existing MaL step down. Please consider participating in the Victoria

Rhododendron Society in a more active role.

Our annual Plant Sales have been confirmed for Sunday, April 14, at the Webbs', and Sunday, May 12, at the Marquardts'. Keep your eyes open for requests for help at work parties prior to those dates.

Our annual Christmas Do was a wonderful success. Thanks to Sharon Joseph for providing the entertaining crossword for the evening and to Jacquie Bradbury and her helpers for the swags and table centerpieces. The raffle items were a treat, and the proceeds (\$500, as well as some foodstuffs) were sent to the Victoria Mustard Seed.

Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden

The 2019 Spring Catalog is [here!](#)

For ordering instructions and more information, visit [here.](#)



Rhododendron huanum

Jim Barlup: the man, the hybridizer, our benefactor

Part Two

by Lois Blackmore

MY LOVE AFFAIR WITH RHODODENDRONS

Jim Barlup ... the hybridizer.

After realizing that there were no orange rhododendrons...Jim began hybridizing rhododendrons in 1975. This was after realizing there were no orange rhododendrons available for landscaping purposes. It is now 44 years later. Much has been learned, and today, at 85 years of age, his interest in hybridizing still remains. Rhododendrons, hybridizing, and learning about...that is Jim Barlup.

Jim's learning process about hybridizing rhododendrons began with asking questions. What do people want when purchasing a new rhododendron? Is it color, foliage, fragrance, growth habit, hardiness, etc.? Jim's main focus has been as a west coast hybridizer. This has allowed him to create less hardy plants that will survive well in a west coast



Jim Barlup

climate. His initial leaning was toward creating orange, yellow and coral trusses with low growing habits, good foliage, dense growth habits and large bud production.

However, Jim has created a huge variety of colors, truss shapes, plant sizes, leaf shapes and colors. His trusses range from the purest of whites to the brightest of oranges, and include a huge variety of multi-colors and pinks, yellows, oranges, purples, corals and magentas.

Beautiful corals include Amber Honey, Amber Peach, Amber Sun, Amber Waves, Amber Touch and April Morn. Beautiful sunrises and sunsets are reflected in these hybrids.



April Morn

Jim's yellow plants are too numerous to mention in this article. Selecting a few of the yellow hybrids, as one must do, we find beautiful yellows, including Madeleine's Melody, Frosted Lemon, Golden Mist, Grand Recital, Loon's Call, Invitation, Mindy's Love, and Pecos Dawn, with colours varying from palest yellow to brilliant yellow, there are many choices.

One of Jim's first successful orange hybrids was created by crossing (Sedona x [Flaming Star x Bergie Larson]). Autumn Orange was hybridized in 1991 - 16 years into his hybridizer journey. Other orange creations include Orange Amber,



Dancing Embers

(Continued from page 7)

Orange Prelude, Dancing Embers and Tangerine Charm.

In 1989, he began an attempt to create dark purple trusses. His goal was to create dark purple, low growing rhododendrons with excellent foliage. Over his many years of experimenting with a variety of parents, he achieved wonderful success in creating deeper dark purple plants. Crosses with Black Adder and Black Widow have created Night Melody, Pauline Linda, Purple Moon, Night Wind and Purple Embers. Many of these crosses are in our inventory of Jim Barlup hybrids.

Multi-color trusses provide the collector with a plethora of choices. Yellows, pinks, magentas, purples, corals, lavenders, whites, oranges often provide difficult choices



Cody

for a collector, for example, Copper Canyon, Copper



Fire Rim

Dust in yellows; Cody and Claret Mist in pinks; Teton Twilight and Winding Road in magentas, Silver Plum and Purple Moon in purples, Honey Gold and Amber Waves in corals, Jessica Gustavson and Lavender Satin in lavenders, Rocky Point and Vanilla



Rocky Point

Torch in whites, and Fire Rim and Carol's Candy in oranges. How does one choose?

In 1996, Jim began using East Coast hybrids to try to bring more hardiness into his breeding program. As Jim states, sometimes one must take a wrong road in choosing parents, but at least he says he at least learned what not to do.



Amber Waves

Another adventure Jim undertook was how to reduce rhododendron plant sizes by using *R. proteoides* as a parent. Starting with 50% *R. proteoides* and 50% other hybrids, Jim found that the time for budding ranged from 5 to 10 years. This maturity range was not viable for a commercial nursery plant. The answer was to create plants using 25% to 12% or less in dwarfing in size and still with good foliage. This combination of percentages took many years to discover.

Another fairly recent discovery on Jim's part was with the rhododendron hybrid Plum Passion. Using this plant

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)



Blue Tango

created by Jim (Plum High x Jonathan Shaw), it has a tendency to produce a variety of colors. When the pollen is used from this hybrid many, many pleasant surprises appeared.

Some of the most beautiful surprises include Drifting Dreams, a palest of pink beauty, Wild Plum, deep purple with a dark red throat, Rose Tango, a magenta and white combination; Wind Whisper, almost white with a red throat, Wild Berry, a bright magenta with a red throat, Winding Road, a magenta/white combination with a yellow throat and Rose Dancer, bright pink with a very dark throat. Other examples include Lavender Moonlight, Claret Mist, Blue Tango, Velvet Morning, and Jessica Gustavson.

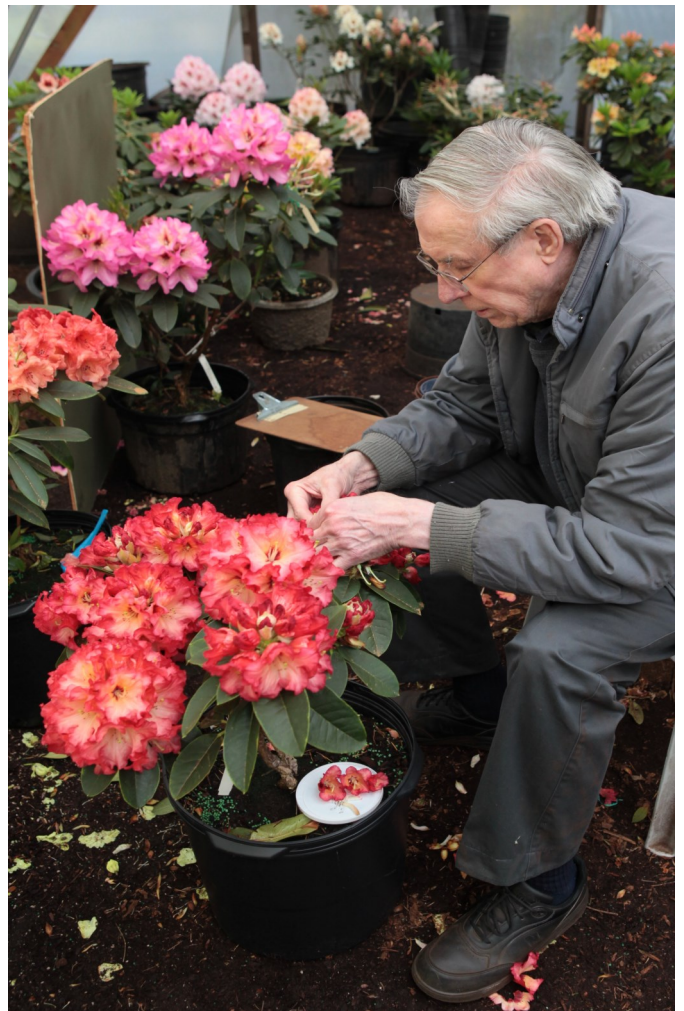
As one can assume, Jim is a meticulous note keeper. His notes are both handwritten and entered into a huge database on his computer. Every day includes a rhododendron activity of some kind, whether inside or out. The Victoria Rhododendron Society is most grateful for the many kindnesses he has bestowed upon our club and the wonderful gifts from his rhododendron career as a hybridizer. We are most fortunate.



Wild Berry



Mindy's Love



Jim hybridizing in his candy store



CAN YOU COUNT

For our February, March and April meetings, you can earn a free ticket for a plant from our raffle table. There will be a section on the [last page of the newsletter](#) that will set up the criteria one must know to receive the free ticket. In order to get your ticket, write the answer on a folded piece of paper and give it to our ticket seller.



First Daffodil
Jan 20, 2019

A TRAGEDY IN OUR RHODODENDRON WORLD

by Lois Blackmore



Cynthia - May 2015

As many have realized that over the Christmas season, the 100-year-old Cynthia Rhododendron that has been growing in Ladysmith for many years was severely damaged in a wind and rainstorm that rocked Vancouver Island for many days.

An email to our Victoria Rhododendron Society calling for help and information was received shortly after this happened.

Four knowledgeable and expert rhododendron aficionados from our society volunteered to look at the damage and offer



Cynthia - January 2019

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)



The volunteer work party and concerned locals

The loss of this magnificent landmark also captured the interest of other members of the ARS on Vancouver Island. Visitors from other chapters were there to observe and join in the discussion. On a positive note, those in attendance took many cuttings. Out of this

suggestions as to the viability of saving this magnificent plant. Ken Webb, Sean Rafferty, Alan Murray and Roy Blackmore traveled to Ladysmith to look and see what possibly could be done in such a situation.

After lengthy examinations and much discussion, their conclusion was that the remaining branches be left to grow on and the severely damaged parts be removed. As well, they suggested having the top of the remaining plant trimmed back to encourage new growth. As a result of this decision, approximately ¼ of the plant now remains.



The Richmonds - Owners

tragedy and through these cuttings, memories, both old and new, will be forthcoming for all rhododendron lovers on Vancouver Island and beyond.



Sean, Al and Ken

VICTORIA RHODODENDRON SOCIETY BOARD

President

Brenda Macdonald 778-528-3647
victoriarhododendron@gmail.com

Vice President

Past President

Lois Blackmore 250-478-6615

Treasurer

Bill Gordon 250-479-0210

Secretary:

Sharon Joseph 250-383-1756

Members-at-Large

Carol Dancer 250-721-5273
Carolyn Marquardt 250-477-8387
Carrie George 250-642-3176
Ian Duncan 250-479-0820
Jackie Ralph
Ken Webb 250-744-1785
Linda Gilmore 250-642-2256
Lloyd Gilmore 250-642-2256
Lynne Ferrie 250-478-1100
Theresa McMillan 250-478-3515

KEY CONTRIBUTORS

**Audio & Video Equipment &
HCP Meeting Room Steward**
Ian Duncan 250-479-0820

Membership

Brenda Macdonald 778-528-3647
Ellen Wellborn 250-479-1898

Newsletter Committee

Theresa McMillan, Editor 250-478-3515
Joyce Whittle 250-656-7313
Linda Gilmore, Production
Madeleine Webb 250-744-1785
Bill McMillan 250-478-3515

Refreshments Organizer

Betty Gordon 250-479-0210

Website

Calvin Parsons 250-590-0489
<http://victoriarhodo.ca>



CAN YOU COUNT

How many Barlup Hybrids are mentioned in the newsletter that have one parent as Plum Passion?



Answer: _____