



The Victoria Rhododendron Society Newsletter

4821 Townsend Drive, Victoria, BC V8Z 5P2

May 2019
tkmcmillan@telus.net

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

General Meeting
MONDAY, May 6, 2019
starts at 7:30

Flower Show - Bring your trusses

Couvelier Pavilion at the HCP Gardens
505 Quayle Road, VICTORIA, B. C.



In This Issue

- ◇ Upcoming Events -----2
- ◇ Editor's Notes -----3
- ◇ Notes From The Board -----4
- ◇ Work Party Plan - Norm Todd -----5-6
- ◇ New Barlup Garden Establishment -----7
- ◇ Announcements -----8-10
- ◇ Rhodo Show Rules-----11-12
- ◇ Board Members-----12
- ◇ Key Contributors-----12

REFRESHMENTS

by

Carol & Harold Turnham	Audrey & Evert Van Eerden
Carmen Varcoe	Stan Warlow
Madeleine & Ken Webb	Ellen & Dennis Wellborn

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
May 5 1-4 pm	Open Gardens Agnes & Dave Lynn	3918 Woodhaven Terrace (off Tudor Avenue)
May 5 All Day	Open Gardens Brenda MacDonald & Sean Rafferty	10575 West Coast Road, Shirley
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 12 10-1:00	Open Gardens Robert and Elizabeth Burke Please park on Tudor Avenue, rather than pulling into the driveway.	2926 Tudor Avenue
May 16-19	ARS Annual Convention	Malvern, Pennsylvania
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
Nov 4 7:30	General Meeting - The Couvelier Pavilion	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Nov 18 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Dec 2 6 pm	Christmas Potluck Dinner	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road



Editor's Notes



by Theresa McMillan

Talk on April 1, 2019

Review of Susan Grant and Garth Wedemire's talk, "Visiting Wales"

Last spring, Garth, Susan, and other Rhododendron lovers took a Scottish Rhododendron Society tour of several Welsh gardens.

Their pictures showed a country of mists and rain, beautiful old grey stone houses and castles, and perfect rhododendrons. There was an interlude of Welsh singing, including the National anthem.

They visited the world-famous Bodnant Garden, the Picton Castle and the High Glanau Manor among others. Garth is a well-known photographer of rhododendrons; several of his pictures are on the the ARS website.

The weather was usually cloudy, often rainy. Tea or coffee breaks were very welcome and pictures of fine china, steaming beverages, and plates of the most delicious-looking goodies demonstrated Welsh hospitality even better known. The High Glanau Manor's family furnishings, which feature Arts and Crafts styling of 1923, are particularly attractive.

I did not notice any photos of rhododendrons with notched leaves from our local bane, weevils. If there were some, Garth avoided photographing them.



Bodnant Garden, Wales



Picton Castle, Wales

What struck me most were photos of a most beautiful *R. thomsonii* with red flowers, white calyxes and leaves unmarked by distortions of grey or yellowish mildew, which gradually killed so many fine *thomsonii* rhododendrons here a few years ago. Britain's rhododendrons seem to have developed a resistance to mildew.

Now, if only *R. ponticum* which came from the New World could be controlled. It is a major invasive pest in Britain.



NOTES FROM THE BOARD

by Brenda Macdonald

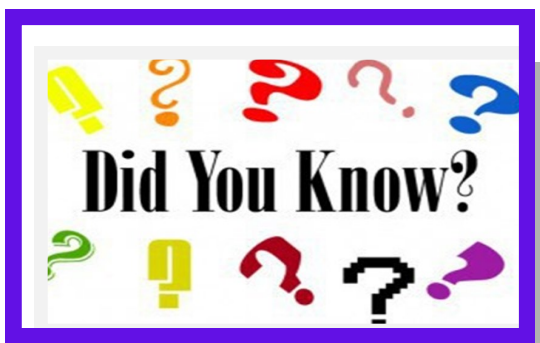
April 8, 2019

April was another busy month for members of the Victoria rhododendron Society. We had the Plant Sale at Ken Webb's on April 14, as well as Open Gardens at the homes of Bill and Betty Gordon, and Anne Allen and Ian Duncan. There was also a visit by some members of the Danish Rhododendron Society, involving garden visits and a dinner at Fonbo's Chinese Restaurant on April 20. There will be a work party for planting the Barlup hybrids in the Gorge Park on Saturday, April 27.

The month of May will also be busy. There will be an opportunity to visit the Open Gardens at Agnes and Dave Lynn's, and Sean Rafferty and Brenda Macdonald's on Sunday, May 5. Then there is the Plant Sale at Marquardts' on Sunday, May 12.

Ian Duncan has advised there is some preliminary work to be done by the regular HCP volunteers at the new Norm Todd Propagation area, before a general call-out for other assistance. Get ready to help out when the time comes.

A couple of members who attended the Ole Jonny Larsen lecture at the HCP on March 16 and were therefore eligible for a rebate on their entrance fee, have yet to pick up their cheques. See our Treasurer, Bill Gordon at the next meeting. Our annual truss show is on May 6.



The **Rhododendron Species Foundation and Botanical Garden** is home to one of the largest collections of species rhododendrons in the world. They have on display over 700 of the more than 1000 species found in the wilds of North America, Europe, and Asia as well as the tropical species found in south East Asia and northern Australia.

Work Party Plan for the Norm Todd Propagating Centre

by Ian Duncan

At our April general meeting, Ian Duncan announced that VicRhodo and HCP had reached an agreement for an area of the HCP lands that our society could use to create a propagating and growing-on centre for rhododendrons. In honour of one of our society's founders, Norm Todd, we have named it 'The Norman Todd Propagating Centre at HCP'. It is in the lower field, beside the farm garden, just outside the wood gates on the service road below the Japanese Garden ponds.

Work on preparing the site has begun. At this time, work parties are on Wednesday mornings, from 9 -



noon; tea/coffee/cookies break at 10 - 10:30 at the rotunda by the pavilion.

On April 10th a group consisting of Ian D., Bill G., Calvin P., Lloyd G., Pacific Horticulture College student, Stewart, dug out about 30 apple and cherry trees. The site had been leased to Bartlett Tree Services for five years. They had a research program to see if the trees could be inoculated with various disease pathogens. The results were positive in that the trees all stayed

healthy and refused to be infected. During the week, the college students dug out the remaining trees and replanted them in another garden area.

April 17th Ian D., Bill G., Dan S., PHC student Stewart, and HCP volunteer Lonnie P. loaded the remaining trees into a trailer and hauled them up the composting pile, then removed 140 feet of wire deer fence and two strands of fencing wire.

Lots of progress for just two mornings' work means we can now see the cleared space and envision the completed project.



Todd centre looking north with fruit trees

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)



Todd Centre with fruit trees



Trees for removal

On April 24th, the existing overhead watering system will be removed and the fencing rolled up for future use.

The next step is to have all the grass removed, the site levelled, and a few fence posts pulled. This will be done by machine.

Then new fence posts will be put in, preserved wood skirt boards added, drain rock delivered and installed, greenhouse fabric laid, rabbit fencing and deer fencing installed, gates installed, and drip irrigation added.

Work party notices will be sent to members, with descriptions of what is to be accomplished each time. We look forward to your participating in helping to create our propagating and growing-on centre.



Volunteers Are Needed For the New Barlup Garden Establishment in Gorge Park

Volunteers are required for transporting our Barlup collection from Marquardt Farm to Esquimalt Gorge Park on April 27.

Marquardt Farm: Tony is in charge of loading 68 rhodos from 4640 Cordova Bay Road. Volunteer positions required: truck drivers (truck without a canopy, as rhodos are large), rhodo movers (strong backs).

Esquimalt Gorge Park: Lois is in-charge of Barlup Garden. Gorge Park entrance is located opposite the Gorge Pointe Pub, 1075 Tillicum Road, Esquimalt. Please park in parking lot, a short distance from the Barlup Garden site. Truck drivers may park on road to unload rhodos.

Volunteer Positions required: Rhodo movers (strong backs), small hole diggers, wheelbarrow engineers with shovels and rakers to move bark mulch.

We hope to include everyone regardless of physical ability for this great creation so please come and join us in the cheering section (to offer advice and supervision). Many hands make light work.

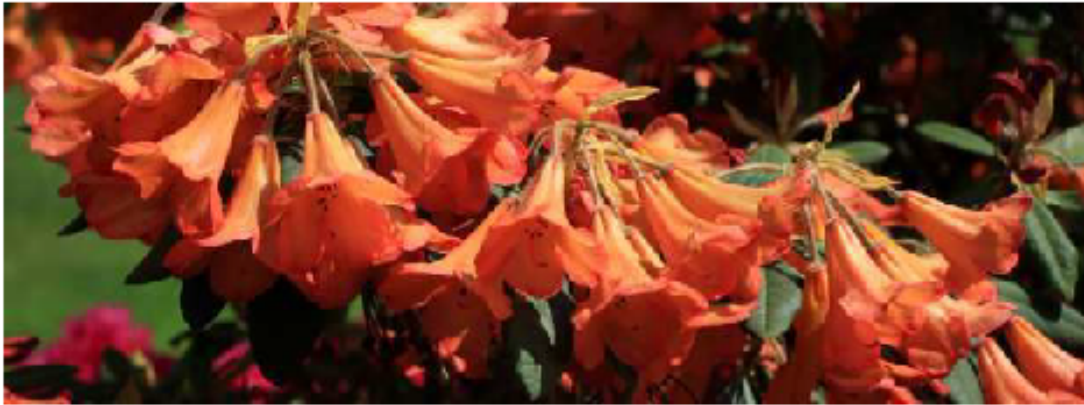
Please RSVP if you can volunteer to cparsons937@gmail.com. Please indicate which volunteer position you wish, whether you will bring a truck, a wheelbarrow or shovel/rake.

Thank you to all that can help us with this new garden.



Announcements

2019 Fall Rhododendron Conference **A Vancouver Island Celebration of Gardening**



The Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society (MARS) is bringing hundreds of gardening enthusiasts together for the fall conference of the American Rhododendron Society.

Rhododendrons by the Seaside

September 27 to 29, 2019

Parksville Community and Conference Centre

Register at www.marsrhodos.ca/ars2019/

With the theme of “Rhododendrons as the World Warms,” the lineup of speakers, workshops and tours promises a busy and exciting weekend for everyone. This conference is one of the biggest bargains of the year. An early registration fee of \$95 will entitle you to 10 speakers over three days, including two workshops, choice of one of three bus tours, two continental breakfasts and lunch on Saturday. As well, there’s access to a plant sale, a display of international rhodo photos throughout the facility and a silent auction.

The evening banquets on Friday and Saturday night will have two keynote speakers each night after a full course buffet dinner, for an additional \$50 for each night.

The conference theme relates to climate change implications, but the context is for all gardeners who are interested in growing healthy plants of any type in our area. Speakers include a wide range of local and internationally-recognized experts in their fields, including Dr. Richard Hebda, Curator Emeritus from the Royal BC Museum; Dr. Linda Gilkeson, author and entomologist; Mike Stewart, rhododendron nurseryman; Steve Hootman, Executive Director of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden (RSBG) in Federal Way, Wash; Dr. Nancy Turner, UVic ethnobotanist; Marc Colombel, author and hybridizer, France; Ron Long, botanist and wildflower photographer; and Nancy Moore, landscape designer and horticulturist. Bulb and seed propagation workshops will be conducted by Bernie Dinter, nurseryman and Dennis Bottemiller, propagator extraordinaire recently of the RSBG.

For those who need a place to stay, the MARS website has a list of various accommodations near the conference site. For best choice and best price, we suggest booking early as late September is still busy with tourists.

Upcoming Events



Mother's Day Weekend 2019

May 11, 2019 - May 12, 2019
Saturday - Sunday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm



Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden

The 2019 Spring Catalog is [here](#)

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



Rhododendron huanum

Denman Island Home and Garden Tour June 15-16, 2019

Tickets are now on sale for this enchanting Tour, deemed by the Globe & Mail as "one of Canada's top six horticultural events." Every two years this idyllic island throws open its garden gates, inviting the public for a rare up-close look at the creativity, skill and passion Denman residents pour into their properties.

The Denman Conservancy has declared 2019 to be The Year of the Wetland, and many of our extraordinary properties offer natural and man-made water features, creating complex, lively ecosystems. The famous Des Kennedy Garden is a major attraction again this year, and other highlights include an organic vineyard (with tasting room), a home built from creatively recycled components, a modern homestead and market garden, a couple of oceanfront west-coast architectural delights, and an island-style chocolate factory. Bloom lovers will not be disappointed, either - roses, lilies, and a whole host of other blossoms will be found in abundance.

This weekend event provides an unforgettable experience for lovers of gardens, homes and rural charm. Many people return year after year, and are never disappointed. Join them! Come for a day trip or book into a cozy B&B and stay for the weekend.

Early bird tickets are \$18, purchase online at <http://www.denman-conservancy.org/home-and-garden-tour/>. You can also find us (and Like us) on Facebook: www.facebook.com/DenmanIslandHomeAndGardenTour. Please help us spread the word about this great event.

Katarina Meglic
Media Coordinator
Denman Island Home & Garden Tour
778-557-7429
www.denmanconservancy.org/

[Find us on Facebook!](#)



The Great *Victoria Rhodo Society* Show-Off

The Categories:

- 1) best red truss
- 2) best orange truss
- 3) best yellow truss
- 4) best multicolor truss
- 5) best white truss
- 6) best pink truss
- 7) best cream truss
- 8) best purple/lavender
- 9) best truss with a blotch
- 10) best truss with speckles
- 11) best miniature truss (under 6")
- 12) "This Bud's for You"... best bud and leaf
- 13) best hammerhead truss (more than one blossom head on a single stem)
- 14) best pendulous truss
- 15) best scented truss, rhododendron or azalea best azalea spray
- 16) truss with best indumentum (fuzzy leaves)
- 17) most artistic weevil-notched leaves
- 18) best companion plant
- 19) best "Novice" truss (any entrant who has never won in any category before)



The Rules: - Entrants

- any rhododendron truss is eligible, somewhere
- you cannot win if you do not enter – valuable prizes abound!
- enter early! enter often! but one entry per category per entrant (extra entries can be placed on the Display table)
- the club will provide a ready receptacle for the truss, but if you prefer to provide your own it must be heavy enough to support the truss without tipping over, and relatively inconspicuous (such as an old ginger beer bottle)
- each truss must be "show ready" – no prepping of trusses on site.
- pick up and complete a registration card for each of your entries. Fold the card over so your name is hidden and only the name of the truss is visible
- pick up small cup to hold voters' beads
- place container with truss on top of card and place cup for beads in front of your entry

(Continued on page 12)

The Rules: - "Judges"

- each club member who attends the show is a 'Judge'
- pick up your bag of beads from the registration table
- place one bead in the cup of the entry you feel best exemplifies the category
- sit down, have a cup of tea, await the results

Hints: - Entrants

- try to pick your truss from the top of the plant. It will be straighter and better formed than a truss from the side of the plant
- there should be a nice whorl of leaves below the truss; remove any superfluous leaves
- spruce the entry up a bit by wiping down the leaves with a damp cloth to remove dirt and pollen
- tidy the truss by removing bud scales (the petal-like appendages that enclosed the bud before the blossom opened) and other foreign objects
- sometimes crushing the stem of the truss will help prevent the blossoms from wilting

**VICTORIA RHODODENDRON
SOCIETY BOARD**

President

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

Vice President

Lloyd Gilmore 250-642-2256

Past President

Lois Blackmore 250-478-6615

Treasurer

Bill Gordon 250-479-0210

Secretary:

Sharon Joseph 250-383-1756

Members-at-Large

Carolyn Marquardt 250-477-8387
Carrie George 250-642-3176
Ian Duncan 250-479-0820
Lynne Ferrie 250-478-1100
Theresa McMillan 250-478-3515

KEY CONTRIBUTORS

**Audio & Video Equipment &
HCP Meeting Room Steward**

Ian Duncan 250-479-0820
Robert Burke

Membership

Brenda Macdonald 778-528-3647
Carrie George 250-642-3176

Newsletter Committee

Theresa McMillan, Editor 250-478-3515
Joyce Whittle 250-656-7313
Linda Gilmore, Production 250-642-2256
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>