



The Victoria Rhododendron Society Newsletter

4821 Townsend Drive, Victoria, BC V8Z 5P2

October 2019
tkmcmillan@telus.net

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

General Meeting
MONDAY, October 7, 2019 starts at 7:30
Couvelier Pavilion at the HCP Gardens
505 Quayle Road, VICTORIA, B. C.

Lloyd Gilmore, "My Hybridizing Journey"

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REFRESHMENTS

by

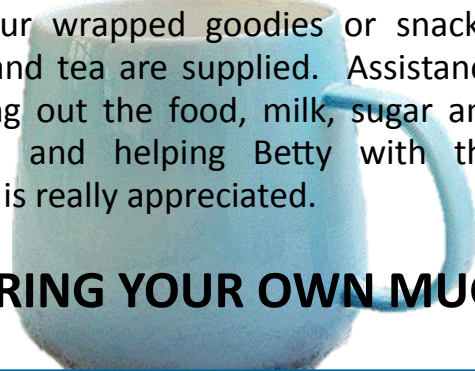
Lois & Roy Blackmore	Jacq Bradbury
Stephen & Marjorie Brice	Archie & Norah Brown
Bert & Norma Buckley	Frank & Ann Buffam

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
Sept 27-29	<u>ARS Fall Conference - Parksville</u>	Parksville, BC
Oct 7 7:30	General Meeting - The Couvelier Pavilion Presentation: Lloyd Gilmore and his 'My Hybridizing Journey'	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Oct 21 5:30	Propagation Group Meeting and taking rhodo cuttings ==>> Please note the early time to take cuttings Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	Lois and Roy Blackmore 758 Walfred Rd
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
Jan 6 7:30	General Meeting - The Couvelier Pavilion	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Jan 20 Noon	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Feb 3 7:30	General Meeting - The Couvelier Pavilion	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Feb 17 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Mar 9 7:30	General Meeting - The Couvelier Pavilion	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Mar 23 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Apr 6 7:30	General Meeting - The Couvelier Pavilion	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Apr 12 TBA	PLANT SALE	TBA
Apr 20 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Apr 30-May 3	<u>ARS Annual Convention - 75th Anniversary</u>	Portland, Oregon

President's Remarks, October 2019

And we're back!

September was time to down tools and resume our monthly meetings. Here is what has been happening:

- The remaining Barlup plants have now all been transported over the border. Currently being temporarily housed at a number of members' homes, they will move to the Norm Todd Propagation Centre at the Horticultural Centre for the Pacific in the near future.
- And... the Norm Todd Propagation Centre at the HCP is verging on completion. There have been many work parties undertaken by many hard-working volunteers. Only a few more sessions are needed. There are still plant pots to scrub out and irrigation lines to process. Please consider joining us when next Ian Duncan sends out a call.
- The Barlup plants at Gorge Park (site of the massive and communal plant-in last spring) have settled in nicely. There were a few losses, which will be replaced, but overall things look good. Gorge Park might be included as one of the Open Gardens next spring.

The nights draw in, the leaves fall, and the mad growth of the summer is slowing down. Time to sit back and think about how you will do things differently next year.

Hope to see you at the October meeting, when our own Lloyd Gilmore will talk to us about hybridizing and his own personal goals and strategies.

Happy gardening!

Brenda Macdonald



Everyone, Please Welcome
Liam Mason
Our newest member of the
Victoria Rhododendron Society

Editor's Notes

by Theresa McMillan

Our first fall season's meeting fell on Labour Day, September 2 and the meeting at the Couvelier Pavilion was well attended.



R. saluense
by Lorenz Von Ehren

Many people had noticed that this summer's weather had not been as hot and dry as the past few years.

Brenda Macdonald's talk referred to the re-blooming of rhododendrons and fall leaf changes. As we know, the vast majority of rhododendrons bloom spectacularly in spring and summer.

What is not so noticeable are the many rhodies who put on a few sprays of flowers in the fall. Some of the plants change their leaf colour too.

The fall season changes add more to the genus rhododendron's value in our gardens.



R. trichostomum
courtesy of Glendoick Gardens



R. quinquefolium
by Alpsdake



R. Cherries and Merlot
by Phoenix Perennials and
Specialty Plants



R. schlippenbachii
photos by Bill McMillan



R. 'Razorbill'
photo by Kenneth Cox

Brenda Macdonald promised several people after the talk to provide a plant list in the next newsletter.

RE-BLOOMERS PLANT LIST

- R. anthopogon ssp. hypenanthum 'Annaprna' – lovely cream coloured "limp tissue" blossoms with aromatic leaves
- R. aberconwayii – a somewhat open habit and rigid, upright stance with heavily textured, deep crimson leaves
- R. 'Bluebird' – R.intricatum x R. augustinii – a low, mat-growing alpine plant x a tall willowy plant
- R. campylogynum
- R. 'Curlew' – R. ludlowii x R. fletcherianum, a Cox yellow bird, with nice red speckles in the throat
- R. 'Elizabeth' Red foliage
- R. 'Fabia' – R. dicroanthum x R. griersonianum. R. griersonianum lends a distinctive brick red colouration to its crosses
- R. impeditum – narrow, very small leaves
- R. fastigiatum – differs from R. impeditum by its larger leaves, pale opaque scales and glaucous upper leaf surface. (R. impeditum has a dark green upper leaf surface, rusty brown scales and an almost invariably mat-like habit)
- R. 'Medusa' – R. scyphocalyx x R. griersonianum. Another R. griersonianum hybrid with the same brick red colouration, but unlike R. Medusa, it has no calyx
- R. 'Razorbill' – R. spinuliferum x unknown. Lovely pink colour with strange spinuliferum-shaped blossoms
- R. 'PJM' – R. minus x R. dauricum
- R. quinquefolium – symmetrical vase-shaped growth habit with attractive butterfly-like leaf whorls
- R. saluense – flat mauve-purple blossoms seem large in proportion to the leaves

- R. 'Redwood' – R. insigne hybrid shows glossy bright red leaves in fall
- R. 'Scarlet Wonder' – R. 'Essex Scarlet' x R. forrestii ssp Repens
- R. trichostomum – always dainty, pink, daphne-like blossoms with lovely aromatic foliage
- R. 'Songbird' – a blue, non-Cox bird, hybridized by Horlick in 1954
- R. 'Yellow Hammer' – the rhododendron most likely to always be in bloom
- R. schlippenbachii – ethereal pink spring blossoms followed by warm peachy leaf colouration in fall
- R. haematodes – waxy, deep red blossoms
- R. sanguinum ssp. didymium – perhaps the darkest red of all, almost black
- R. citriniflorum var. horaeum – should be yellow, but var. horaeum rivals R. sanguinum ssp. didymium for blackness
- R. amundsenianum – a fairly recent introduction of blue-purple
- R. neriiflorum ssp. neriiflorum var. Rosevallon – the species with the deep purple underleaf which has been used in so many recent hybrids
- R. 'Cherries and Merlot' – a Frank Fujioka cross utilizing Rosevallon with nice habit and upright leaves which showcase the purple underleaf
- R. cinnabarium xanthocodon Purpurellum Group – not yellow at all, despite the specific epithet xanthocodon
- R. mucronulatum
- R. camschaticum
- R. cinnabarium ssp. xanthocodon Concatanens Group – a xanthocodon which is acutally yellow
- R. 'Transit Gold' – a R. cinnebarinum ssp. xanthocodon hybrid
- R. 'Cunningham's White' - with Clematis 'Ville de Lyon'

A FAIRY TALE FROM THE VICTORIA RHODODENDRON SOCIETY PROPAGATING GROUP

By Lois Blackmore

Once upon a time, two people were the Victoria Rhododendron Propagating Group. They were Ken Webb, and his cohort in action, Madeleine Webb. Ken and Madeleine were our “go to” for sale plants, auction plants, sale plants for other district sales and just gifts to any meeting they attended on Vancouver Island. Some years ago, they hosted a workshop for District 1 members on how to do cuttings for amateurs, bringing Denis Bottemiller, the former head propagator of the Species Foundation, as teacher and mentor. Very slowly, some members began to learn to propagate. Some used the Marc Colombel method, employing a used roasted chicken container. To say there was limited success is an understatement.

However, the Webbs did not give up. They continued to practise their art form. Slowly, slowly they encouraged members to be involved with visits to their propagating shed, inviting people to fill the new pots for transferring seedlings and providing further presentations on propagating Rhododendrons while continuing to bring newly propagated plants to our meetings.

After some time, a few members began building propagating benches and setting up smaller propagating systems in their basements and outdoor buildings. They were beginning to learn the processes involved in becoming successful propagators. It was during this experimental stage that a friendship developed between a very successful west coast hybridizer, Jim Barlup, and some members of the Victoria Rhododendron Society. From that beginning friendship, a gift of several hundred cuttings was given each year as gifts to our members for further growth and development. Soon, on Vancouver Island, the Victoria Rhododendron Society spring sales became the

place to buy special, collector and publicly unavailable rhododendrons.

As the cross border friendship continued to unfold, the original mother plants, no longer used by Jim in his propagating program, were given to our society. With the cooperation of Tony and Carolyn Marquardt, these mother plants became the source for new cuttings every year. Soon a large hoop house was constructed on their property and even more cuttings became available for sale. With such success, a new and a quite wonderful problem began to emerge. What was going to happen with such a large inventory of plants and where would these be stored?

With such a successful endeavour, a huge storage problem emerged. Ian Duncan suggested the possibility of having the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific partner with our group. He wanted to create a growing on area for this stock of special rhododendrons. Our board approved this spending of monies and that project is well under way. Concurrently, Calvin Parsons, approached the township of Esquimalt and offered to provide his gathering of Barlup hybrids to the new Sewage Treatment Plant garden. This proposal morphed into the Town of Esquimalt creating a Jim Barlup Garden in Gorge Park that continues to expand, with new plantings scheduled for October 2019.

In recent years our group welcomed a species expert and species collector, Sean Rafferty and his wife, Brenda McDonald. With Sean as president of the Rhododendron Species Foundation, and Brenda, as our president, species propagation was added to our propagation menu.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

A Fairy Tale From The Victoria Rhododendron Propagating Group - cont'd

The summer of 2019 brought propagating to a new level when Jim and Judy Barlup moved to a retirement community, leaving all of Jim's remaining named and registered plants, his unnamed crosses and his 2018/2019 seedlings to the Victoria Rhododendron Society. Lloyd and Linda Gilmore, Roy and Lois Blackmore, Ken and Madeleine Webb, Nadine and Mike Minckler and Lynne and Lyall Ferrie travelled to Bellevue, loaded their trucks to the brim and returned with a plethora of propagating materials.

Most fairy tales end with the wording "happily ever after". Our fairy tale is an ongoing, delightful process that appears to be only the beginning of a new adventure for the Victoria Rhododendron Society.



VICTORIA RHODODENDRON SOCIETY BOARD

President

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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

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Carrie George 250-642-3176

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Joyce Whittle 250-656-7313
Linda Gilmore, Production 250-642-2256
Madeleine Webb 250-744-1785
Bill McMillan 250-478-3515

Refreshments Organizer

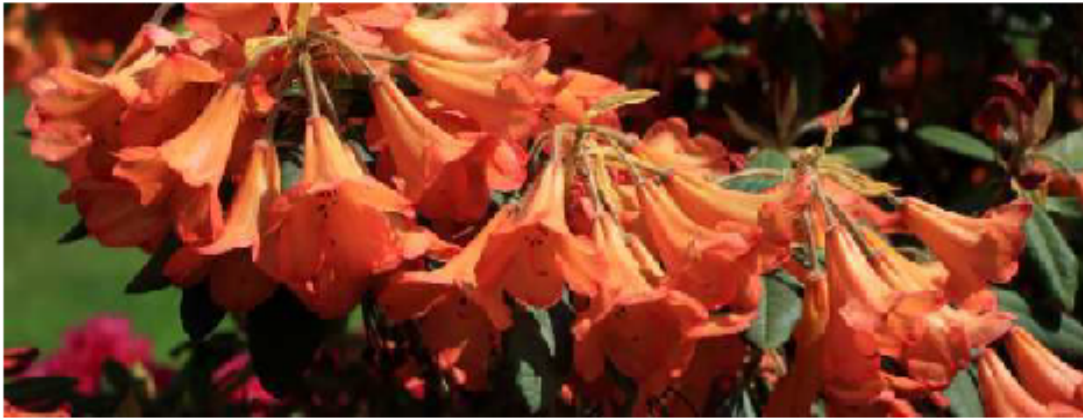
Betty Gordon 250-479-0210

Website

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

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.