



The Victoria Rhododendron Society Newsletter

4821 Townsend Drive, Victoria, BC V8Z 5P2

September 2019
tkmcmillan@telus.net

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

General Meeting
MONDAY, September 2, 2019 starts at 7:30
Couvelier Pavilion at the HCP Gardens
505 Quayle Road, VICTORIA, B. C.

**Brenda Macdonald, "Rhododendron Colours for Fall
(Re-bloomers for Your Garden)"**

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REFRESHMENTS

by

Joyce & Don Whittle	Tom Widdowson
Keiko & William Alkire	Anne Allen & Ian Duncan
Sandra Allin	Ian Back

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 2 7:30	General Meeting - The Couvelier Pavilion Brenda Macdonald, "Rhododendron Colours for Fall (Re-bloomers for Your Garden)" and Anne Allen with a brief presentation on the Barlup Hybrids project	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Sept 16 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting at Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Sept 27-29	<u>ARS Fall Conference - Parksville</u>	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
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

Editor's Notes

by Theresa McMillan

Photos by Nadine Minckler and
Theresa McMillan

On June 23, we had our annual potluck picnic. This year it was at Lois and Roy Blackmore's home on Triangle Mountain in Langford.

Roy and Lois have a large number of well cared for rhododendrons under a forest canopy and in front of the house, a number of stairs going down to various levels. From each level, we could see more of the forest that covers Triangle Mountain at that point.



On the multiple level decks, were big rhododendrons in pots, tables, canopies and chairs. There was even a seating area with a Ladybug theme, Lois's favorite insect. A careful observer could see ladybugs climbing posts or tucked in here and there, displaying festive touches of red.

The weather was odd, to say the least. At some points, people were able to enjoy their summer hats and chat in comfort in the warm summer sun. At

other times, cold and fierce gusty winds blew the hats, napkins, dust and even small food items around, with people chasing after them.

The weather did calm down a lot, so we could eat our salmon barbeque in peace. This was very nice, because the food as usual was excellent, and very healthy.

This year, the winner of the Abkhazi Plate is Calvin Parsons, who has been a valuable member (and Vice-President and President), web designer and webmaster, for many years. Congratulations, Calvin!

Thank you to all the members who brought in food for the pot luck, helped barbeque the salmon, prepared the tea and coffee and provided plants for the raffle. Our summer salmon barbecue and raffle is one of our club's favorite events.



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A further note: Bill and I have volunteered to show our garden to fellow members several times and we know how much effort it takes to get it looking its very best in May. Therefore, we want to **thank** the following people for hosting the visits this year:

- 🌸 Brenda Macdonald and Sean Rafferty in Shirley
- 🌸 Johanna Massa in Sooke
- 🌸 Ian and Gloria Back in the Government House area
- 🌸 Janet Renouf in the Ten Mile Point area





BORDER SECURITY AND RHODODENDRONS...

OFTEN A SAGA IN ITSELF

by Lois Blackmore

Several in our group have experienced the trepidation we feel as we approach the border and wonder what will be our experience this time, as we try to import rhododendrons from the USA. We have attended conventions and conferences, visited nurseries, received plants from friends all in the name of rhododendrons and our passion for these plants. We have been stopped, our passports taken away, our vehicles searched, been interviewed for several hours, redirected to a different border crossing, been told we were a business, etc. With these experiences in mind, plus the fact that we are the recipients of Jim Barlup's remaining hybrids, I decided I would do "due diligence" and contact Ottawa so that there would be no further problems at the border. I used the Scout saying,



Looking to find room for one more cart load of rhodos.

and contact Ottawa so that there would be no further problems at the border. I used the Scout saying,

"BE PREPARED".

Step 1. Contact Border Services in Ottawa to ask what would be required with this particular event where five different vehicles were involved and were not actually travelling together as a group, but were going at different times and using different border crossings back into Canada.

Step 2. I received information within a week, telling me that it was not just Border Services that would have a say in this matter, but Agriculture Canada would also need to be involved to see if rhododendrons were on the list of restricted plants coming to Canada.

Step 3. Contact Agriculture Canada to find such information.

Step 4. Provide evidence that our Society was not for profit per se, but was based as an educational organization.

Step 5. I received a copy of our constitution from Bill Gordon with said information.



Ken estimating the job at hand for loading the rhodos at the Barlups former residence.

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BORDER SECURITY AND RHODODENDRONS - cont'd

Step 6. Must provide proof for the source (Jim Barlup) that these were indeed a gift and were an exchange between two societies with a common purpose.

Step 7. Provide a phytosanitary certificate that these plants were disease free and contained no soil product.

This was all organized, printed, and at the ready for the crossing into Canada.

Roy and I, Linda and Lloyd were the first to try out the crossing. We had everything in hand. We crossed back into Canada at the Harbour in Victoria. When talking to the Agent, she said " We were told it would be OK if the plants were from a society that was the same as ours...so away you go". Time spent in the harbour was about 5-7 minutes.

The following week, Ken, Madeleine, Nadine, Michael, Lynne and Lyall chose to return via Washington State Ferry at Anacortes. I offered to provide them with all my gathered evidence. However, they are braver than I am and so away they went. Ken and Madeleine were first off the boat. The Border Agent took one look at his licence plate that read RHODOS, asked a few questions, then the same for Nadine and Michael; the agent didn't question or speak to Lynne and Lyall at all.

As I write this, there are 460 pots of Barlup hybrids in the possession of the Victoria Rhododendron Society. So begins another chapter in the continuing story of the Victoria Rhododendron Society.



Ken, Madeleine, Nadine, Michael, Lynne and Lyall

The Gift of Barlup Plants

by Lois Blackmore

Clarification of Barlup Hybrids to the VicRS

In the Message of Understanding, all Barlup Hybrid Plants belong to the Victoria Rhododendron Society unless specifically named for an individual member. Placement of such plants can be in a variety of settings with the understanding that if a club project is approved and those plants are needed, the VicRS understanding takes precedent. Cuttings can be taken at anytime and those cuttings become the property of the propagator.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

by Lois Blackmore

It is often said that rhododendron lovers begin their collection by colour. Red, purple, lavender, white and yellow are the most common colours available in the commercial market. As gardens expand, or interest in the genus rhododendron develops, collectors begin to discern the differences in colour, size, shape, growth habits, etc. of the many plants that are available in the marketplace.

Rhododendron hybrids arise from two general sources. In nature, hybrid rhododendrons often occur in areas where species ranges overlap. A second source is man-made. Hybridizers around the world have found that using pollen from one plant and placing that pollen on the pistil of a different plant, often seeds will develop and, when planted, often produce plants that vary in size, shape, and colour. With this intervention of man, the variety of rhododendrons available in the marketplace has greatly expanded.

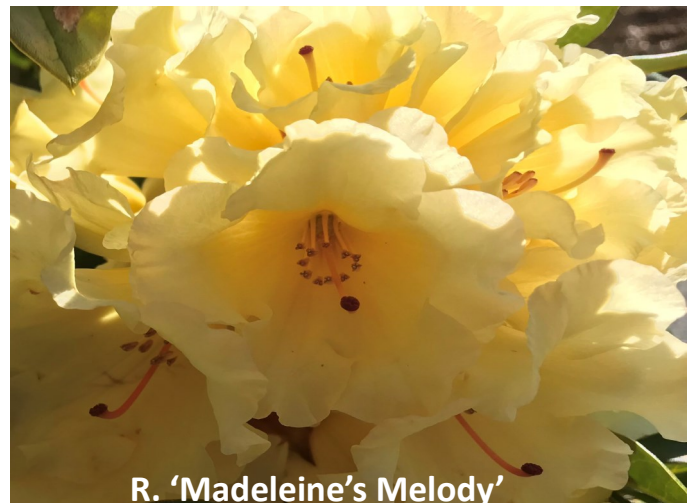
Most rhododendron lovers are familiar with the names de Rothschild, Waterer, Whitney, Dexter, Hobbie and Lem. Many plants created by the pioneers are still available. Most of these hybrids created are large plants as available parents were brought from the Himalayas by plant hunters. As the interest in rhododendrons for smaller gardens began to emerge, a new group of hybridizers became familiar names. Berg, Barlup, Brockenbrough, Cox, Fujioka, Greer, Hachmann, Lofthouse, Newcomb, Thompson and VanVeen are now part of the discussion on rhododendron hybridizing.



How do today's hybridizers find or create names for their man-made plants prior to registration? Some are named after family members. Others find names in magazines. Some create names after places they have visited. Others are named to honor a friendship. This has happened recently to one of our club members. Keiko Alkire has received this honor from Marc Colombel with R. 'Keiko'. Marc who lives in France and Keiko became friends at the ARS 2015 Convention held in Sidney, B. C. Marc is also known for his creation of RWAIN (Rhododendron Without An Important Name). Marc's sense of humor is well established.

Other members of the VRS have received this honour also; Madeleine Webb has 'Madeleine's Melody', and Lois and Roy Blackmore have 'Lois Blackmore' and 'Roy Blackmore', respectively, named and hybridized by Jim Barlup.

Other hybridized rhododendrons from Jim are in the process and soon be registered. Most of the extensive information required to be sent to England has been gathered; just small details are needed.



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As most VRS members know, the Barlups have moved into a retirement community and Jim has left his remaining legacy of hybrid plants to the Victoria Rhododendron Society. We accept these special gifts with love and respect for the friendship, trust and responsibility given to us to carry on his legacy.



VICTORIA RHODODENDRON SOCIETY BOARD

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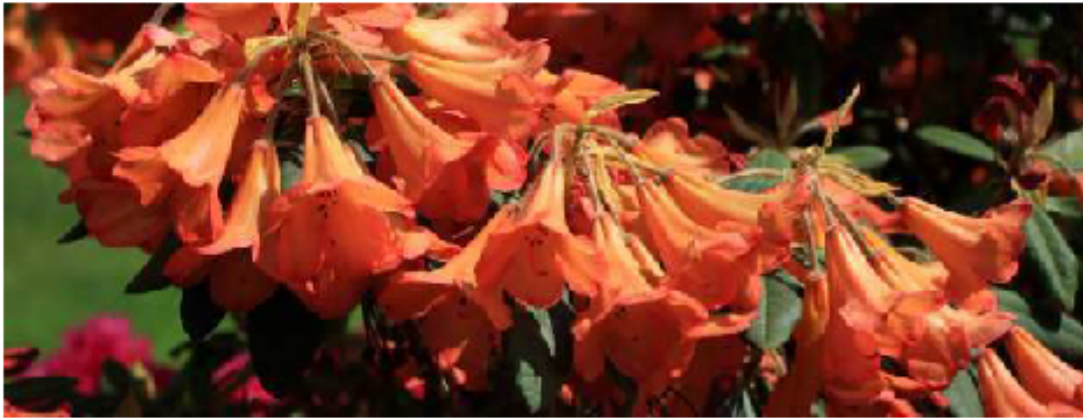
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Announcements

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.