



JUNE

**North Island
Rhododendron
Society
2009/2010 Executive**

President
Diana Scott338-0208

Vice-President
Dave Crucq941-1957

Past President:
Harry Wright.....338-8345

Secretary
Pauline Thompson339-3423

Treasurer
Dave Godfrey335-0717

Director: Ways & Means
Nadine Boudreau339-0909

Director: Membership
Brian Staton337-5228

Director: Publicity
Chris Aldred335-3221

Director: Newsletter/Library
Noni Godfrey335-0717
..... nonigod@shaw.ca

Social Committee:
Marleen Crucq941-1957

Revenue Table Committee:
Louise Casson.....334-2331

Sunshine Lady:
Pauline Bonney339-7594

The club meets at 7:30 p.m
the second Tuesday of each month
(except May through August)
United Church in Comox.

Coming Events

1st June 2010 - Executive Meeting 2:00 pm

The executive meeting will be held at the home of Christine Aldred, 4769 Kilmarnock Drive. (just around the corner from Noni and Dave Godfrey) Please no parking on the newly poured driveway.

12th June 2010 - Wrap Up Picnic Pot-Luck

Picnic Protocols! The season's finale beckons!

This year the gathering will be held at the home of Ross and Nancy Munro, 3700 Hilton Road, Royston. South along Island Highway turn left at Hilton Road (sign for Greystone Manor) Watch for "NIRS" signs to guide the way!

Attendees to this year's gala will have a chance to play the new games Brian has in store for us. New members will be welcomed, old friends embraced - warmly, in both cases. Do wear your name badges. Festive dress would be highly desirable...but any old thing will do.

Members are requested to bring one or more dishes...each suitable for serving several people...of delicate appetizers, seductive savories, buttery breads, crunchy salads, virtuous fruits, and elegant desserts.

The annual phenomenon of a perfect balance of dishes for all tastes will again be manifest. The picnic committee has requested that members bring their own plates...whether Royal Doulton, Value Village, or chipped crockery...whatever may be available, and also serving utensils. (Only a limited supply of clean gardening trowels is available!) And, your best outside mugs and drinking vessels for the communal tea and coffee, (or your own harmless or otherwise beverages) and please no disposable dishes or cutlery!

4:00 PM....Please bring your lawnchairs!

(If you wish to sit anytime during the event)



...by Diana Scott

May is always a very busy month for our Chapter! The City of Courtenay once again proclaimed "May as Rhododendron Month", and we were certainly involved in many rhodo-related activities.

Early in the month we had a very successful Rhodo Sale and Truss Show at the K'omox Band Hall, followed by the annual Morrison Bunwich. Thanks to Bernice for hosting and offering us the opportunity to put our feet up and 'chill out' after the sale before heading home. The weather was perfect the following weekend for our annual Mother's Day Garden Tour where the Scott, Hollingshead/Barnett, Ashbaugh, Staton, Clyde, Toutant and Lee gardens were open to the public. Each garden looked terrific and brought oohs and ahhs from the lucky Tour-ists! Thanks to the garden hosts, and the entire executive who worked diligently over the past months to organize the various aspects of the Sale and Tour.

Special thanks to Nadine Boudreau for organizing the Sale and overseeing the two events; to Brian Staton who organized the garden on the tour; to Chris Aldred for getting the great Publicity, and to Noni and Dave Godfrey who worked diligently in the background as usual. Our members once again came out in force volunteering many hours to ensure that these events ran smoothly. You made sure the Comox Valley Rhododendron Garden looked great, worked your feet off at the Rhodo Sale, welcomed the public to our featured gardens and generally did whatever was needed. Thanks to everyone for their hard work and positive attitudes. It's an honour to work with you all!

To top off the month, we had our Ferry/Bus Tour to Powell River on May 27th. What fabulous gardens! Thanks to Brian Staton and David Moore for organizing the day, and thank you to Diana Wood and Anthony McMorran, Mikal and Rob Stewart, David Moore and Mary Lou MacMillan, Dave Smith, and Nell Dragovon who opened their gardens to our club. Thank you to Isabel Petch and the Comox Valley Horticultural Society for donating 2 tickets to their upcoming Garden Tour June 19th and 20th, and congratulations to Harry and Gwen Wright who won the tickets. All in all, it was a very special day!

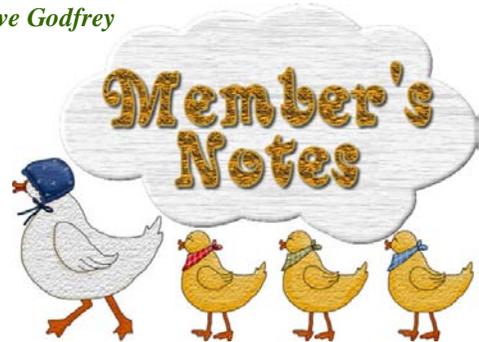
Our AGM on May 11th saw a few changes to the Executive for the upcoming year. We welcome Helena Stewart to the

group as she takes over Publicity from Christine Aldred. Chris has done an exemplary job over the past few years and has built up a terrific portfolio of information to pass along to Helena. Chris will continue on the executive, once again heading up the Revenue Table with Sue Holt. We also welcome Paul Wurz back to the executive as Vice President and look forward to taking advantage of his rhodo wisdom! Our new executive will be assuming their responsibilities as of July 1st, and we look forward to working for the club over this next term.

We are a casual and close-knit club. Please don't hesitate to talk with us about ideas and suggestions you might have.

We hope to see you at the 'wind-up' Pot Luck on June 12th at Ross and Nancy Munro's garden. If we don't connect over the summer at one of our evening work parties for the CVRG - we look forward to seeing you at our first meeting September 14th!

...by Dave Godfrey



From the longest standing member (Harry Wright) to our newest member (Norma Janes), there were 41 in total attending our Annual General Meeting on May 11th in the garden of Diana and John Scott. Most members who had not visited the Scott garden on our Mother's Day tour took the opportunity to see the wonderful variety of plants that their garden has to offer.



During the short business portion of the meeting, the financial statements for the past year were presented, as well as an overview of the financial statements for our two major fundraisers, the sale and the garden tour. Ways and Means director, Nadine Boudreau, thanked all those members who pitched in and helped with both events, and made them a great success once again. Nadine also reported that the rhododendron trusses that garnered the most votes for the 'People's Choice Award' were 'Phyllis Korn' in first place, with 'Firestorm' and 'Henry's Red' tied as runners up.

Just for the record, the winner of the Sale & Show rhodo draw for R. 'Vulcan's Flame' was Marlene Wilson of Courtenay. And the winner of our Garden Tour rhodo 'Alena' was Eileen Guimont, also of Courtenay.

Our elections chairperson, Pauline Thompson explained the need to fill positions on the executive for those whose terms have expired. Diana Scott, Brian Staton and Christine Aldred agreed to stand again for another two-year term and Paul Wurz accepted a nomination for election to the board. Hearing no further nominations, these four members were elected by acclamation. Also joining the executive committee this year is Helena Stewart as our new Publicity chair.

Tickets were sold and a raffle was held with Christine Aldred the lucky winner of the rhododendron 'Winsome'. Ross Munro had kindly donated a mason bee house as a door prize which was won by Arthur Ralfs.

As this is our last formal meeting until September, we can all relax for the summer months and enjoy our gardens. However, just so our members remember that the second Tuesday evening is our NIRS meeting nights, on the second Tuesday in June, July and August there will be a small cleanup work bee at our CVRG garden (7 PM).



As announced at the AGM, Harry Wright offered a hybridizing workshop on Saturday, May 15th. A small number of interested members attended to learn all about the sex life of plants. Time will tell if any offspring are produced.

Then on Sunday May 16th, Lynn and Paul Wurz opened their 'Hidden Acres' gardens in Campbell River for members to tour. Although the weather looked threatening at first, it clear to make a perfect day to view the beauty of their gardens.

On the May holiday weekend, six NIRS members (Gwen & Harry, Gloria & Bernie and Noni & I) attended the George Fraser Day celebrations on Saturday, May 22nd in Ucluelet. Sunday morning we had an opportunity to visit with Ken & Dot Gibson in Tofino while enroute to enjoy the afternoon at the open gardens on Clayoquot (Stubbs's) Island. Details of the weekend can be found in a separate article in this newsletter.

Our garden tour trip to Powell River on Thursday, May 27th was exciting and enjoyable for those in attendance. The day started early for the 30 members and two guests, departing Little River on the 6.30 ferry. Arriving in Powell River at 7.45 am, we were greeted by Janice Olfert, owner/operator of Heather Tours. Janice drove 21 members around to the various gardens in her bus, providing historic information about the Powell River area along the way. A rental van driven by Brian Staton took the remaining 10 members. NIRS member David Moore of Powell River also travelled with the group and introduced us to the hosts of the five gardens he had arranged on the tour. Thank you rhodos were presented to each garden host, and a special thank you was presented to David and Mary Lou for their gracious hospitality.

As plans were underway to hold our annual June picnic at the Bonney garden, word came that Pauline had taken a fall and fractured her hip. She is reportedly recovering comfortably at home, but unfortunately will not be able to host our picnic. Therefore, a call went out for any other members willing to host the event. Thankfully, Ross and Nancy Munro came forward and have offered their garden once again (they hosted two years ago.) Details will be forthcoming, but for now mark 4 pm – Saturday, June 12th on your calendars.

This will be our last newsletter for the summer, so as the song says... "See you in September!"



By Nadine Boudreau

With our two main fundraising events of the year behind us, we can sum it all up by saying... **Wow!!** Both these events were a huge success, thanks to all of you.

The sale on May 2nd went great, as there were tons of plants donated by our members, and we had a huge selection of beautiful Rhodos from our vendors. As a result, we profited more than \$1600.00

The truss show, which was spectacular, had 'Phyllis Korn' receiving the most votes for best truss in the "People's Choice" voting, with 'Firestorm' and 'Henry's Red' tying for second place. Congratulations to Marlene Wilson of Courtenay as the winner of 'Vulcan's Flame' the Rhodo draw prize for the sale. There were so many volunteers, that it really made the day go smoothly. Thanks to all who helped and donated plants.

Our Mother's Day Garden Tour on May 9th was also a great success, more than we could have imagined. The awesome weather, fabulous gardens, great advertising with that wonderful feature of Brian and Barb's garden in the newspaper brought double the people than last year. It was one of our most successful tours in recent years!

I would like to thank Brian for organizing the gardens on this year's tour, and all the garden owners (Brian and Barb Staton, Lois and Jim Clyde, Diana and John Scott, Lyall and Maureen Ashbaugh, Ron and Chris Toutant, Bob and Janice Lee, Shelley Hollingshead & Paul Barnett) for opening their beautiful gardens to us. Congratulations to Eileen Guimont winner of the tour draw for R. 'Alena'.

For those who worked behind the scenes, I'd like to thank Christine for advertising, Dave and Noni for making the tickets, plus all the e-mailing to members, notices, coaching, etc., Diana for organizing all the volunteers. Thanks to our set up guys, Don Law and Dave Crucq, and Marleen Crucq for organizing the goodies at the sale. And a special thank you to

Bernice Morrison for once again hosting the 'Bunwich' after the sale.

Also, I would like to especially thank the many members who worked as garden sitters. This year, with the most visitors and the most ticket sales at the gardens, your work was more than we anticipated. Thank you Ross & Nancy and Harry & Gwen who were at the forefront of the morning garden gate sales, and for taking the initiative of doing what was best for the visitors while some of us scrambled to find more tickets for you to sell. Thanks to Lois for making draw tickets, and to plant sellers Lois, Don and Dave Crucq.

Last year we received \$60.00 worth of gate sales. This year we sold \$949.50! WOW!! I would like everyone involved to give each other a pat on the back, as all of you were part of these great events. Thanks everyone!!!

Nadine Boudreau - Ways & Means Director

(Editor's note: And an extra special thank you to Nadine!)



YOUR 2010 - 2011 EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Executive Officers:

President:	Diana Scott
Vice President:	Paul Wurz
Secretary:	Pauline Thompson
Treasurer:	Dave Godfrey
Past President:	Harry Wright



Directors:

Ways & Means:	Nadine Boudreau
Library/Newsletter:	Noni Godfrey
Membership:	Brian Staton
Revenue Table:	Christine Aldred



Committees:

Social:	Louise Casson and Marleen Crucq
Rhodo Garden:	Dave Crucq
Sunshine Lady:	Pauline Bonney
Historian:	Lois Clyde
Facilities:	Don Law
Webmaster:	Dave Godfrey
Publicity:	Helena Stewart



A TRIP TO THE WEST COAST

By Dave Godfrey

This past May long weekend, NIRS members Harry & Gwen Wright and Bernie & Gloria Guyader, along with Noni and I, travelled to Ucluelet to attend the 10th annual "George Fraser Day and Heritage Fair." This year's event saw the dedication and opening of the "George Fraser Community Room" (council chambers) in the newly built Ucluelet Community Centre.

It was also a special occasion to honour Bill Dale who was instrumental in founding the George Fraser Project back in 1985. Bill passed away on May 4th this year at the age of 93. Along with several others, former BC Lieutenant Governor, Iona Campagnolo spoke words of remembrance and tribute to her friend, Bill.

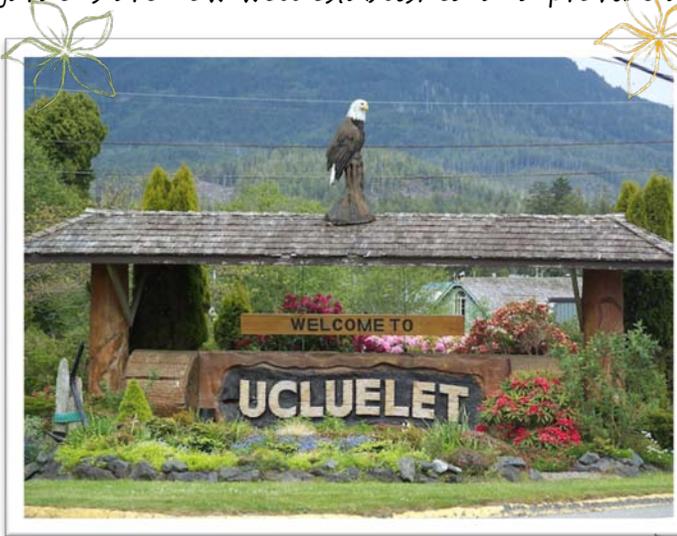


As a founding member of the George Fraser committee, I recalled the history of the project including first meeting Bill Dale when he came to Ucluelet with Dr. Stuart Holland to give a presentation to the Lions Club on their research of George Fraser's life and work. Thus began the committee for the project with financial support provided by the Ucluelet Lions Club.

George Fraser spent the last 50 years of his 90 year life in Ucluelet. He cleared 4 acres of his land by hand and built a nursery. He worked on new plant strains by crossing native west coast plants with some domestic types in hope of producing hardy species. He was most famous for his work with rhododendrons, but he also developed new azaleas, maples, heathers and fruits.

In 1991, 47 years after his death, George Fraser was awarded the ARS Pioneer Award, the only one given outside the USA. An article by Clive Justice relating to George Fraser can be found on page 99 of the latest ARS Journal (Spring 2010).

Over the past 25 years, Bill Dale provided a tremendous wealth of knowledge and support for the committee. He personally contacted all of the ARS chapters on Vancouver Island to solicit donations of rhododendrons to be planted along the highway leading into Ucluelet. These rhodo gardens are now well established and provide an incredible display of colour each spring.



In recognition of their contributions, special presentations were made to individuals for their contributions and to each ARS chapter that provided supported for the project. Harry Wright accepted a plaque on behalf of our NIRS chapter.

The evening dance was not your typical one. Music was provided by a Scottish group called "Celtic Chaos" and instructions were given to those who wished to learn some of the unusual dances of Scottish heritage. Bernie and Gloria took part in several dances, and, suffice to say, the "Chaos" part was more about what was happening on the dance floor than the musicians.

The following morning, the six of us traveled to Tofino for a visit with Ken and Dot Gibson and a tour of their garden. Dot was home from the hospital for the weekend, and it was wonderful to see the progress she is making in her recovery.

With a picnic lunch packed, we then travelled by boat to Clayoquot (Stubb's) Island for the annual open gardens. Back in the 1800's, Clayoquot Island was the original settlement in the Tofino area. The island preserve is now privately owned and only open to the public two days each year on the May long weekend. The weather remained dry and made for a lovely tour around the many gardens and old buildings on the island. The boat ride back was a little more bouncy but only took about 5 minutes, much to the thankful delight of Gloria and I who don't take kindly to rough seas.

With all the digital photos taken on and around the island, we are thinking of compiling a presentation for a future program at one of our meetings. In the meantime, here's just a sample of some of the beauty on the island.





Tidbits...

Milner Gardens Art & Photography in the Garden July 17th & 18th 10:00am to 5:00pm (last entry at 4:30pm) Meet, mingle and be inspired by local artists at work, painting, sketching, carving and photographing the beauty of this Artist's Garden. Bonsai artists, potters, and live music. Art work silent auction in support of the Gardens. Hand stamp allows re-entry Sunday.

Tea Room opens early from 11:00am to 4:00pm for homemade soups and scones.

FMI 250-752-6153 or www.milnergardens.org



Recipe Requests

Chocolate Chip Oatmeal Cookies

(Mary Lou MacMillan - Powell River)

(These were munched up by NIRS members on the Powell River tour of gardens last Thursday)

- 1 C butter, softened
- 2 eggs
- 2 C oatmeal
- 1 - 2 C chocolate chips
- 1 1/4 C brown sugar
- 2 C flour
- 1/2 tsp soda

Cream butter with sugar. Add eggs, flour, oatmeal & soda, then chocolate chips. Use ice cream scoop to measure dough on cookie sheet. Bake at 350°F for 12 to 15 minutes or until golden.



Chocolate Chip Pudding Cookies

Ingredients:

- 2 1/4 C flour
- 1 C butter
- 3/4 C brown sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 12-oz pkg choc chips
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/4 C sugar
- 1 pkg (4 serving size) vanilla instant pudding mix
- 2 eggs
- 1 C chopped nuts

Directions:

Mix flour with baking soda. Combine butter, the sugars, pudding mix and vanilla in large bowl. Beat until smooth and creamy. Beat in eggs, gradually add flour mixture; then stir in chips and nuts. Drop by rounded teaspoons onto ungreased baking sheets, about 2 inches apart.

Bake 375°F approx 8 to 10 minutes. Makes 7 dozen.



From the desk of...



EDITOR'S NOTE



Once again this is the last issue of *The N.I.R.S. Newsletter, The Rhodoteller*, until September. I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a pleasant and fruitful summer! A little rest from the computer is in order, however there is still time to enjoy and work in the garden, and of course the odd golf game. So I will leave you with this last verse or garden proverb:

*The kiss of the sun for pardon
 The song of the birds for mirth
 One is nearer God's heart in a garden
 Than anywhere else on earth*