



The Rhodoteller

www.nirs.rhodos.ca

September

North Island Rhododendron Society

2010/2011 Executive

President

Diana Scott338-0208

Vice-President

Paul Wurz287-4301

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: Revenue Table

Chris Aldred335-3221

Director: Newsletter/Library

Noni Godfrey335-0717
..... nonigod@shaw.ca

Social Committee:

Louise Casson.....334-2331

Publicity:

Helena Stewart.....339-1733

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

7th Sept 2010 - Executive Meeting 2:00 pm

The executive meeting will be held at the home of Paul and Lynn Wurz, 4367 Gordon Road, Campbell River. North of Campbell River on the Pt. Hardy Highway, go about 4 miles past the pulp mill, turn LEFT on Duncan Bay Rd. (past cranes), 2 miles, it turns into Gordon Rd.; They are half-way down on the left (can't miss the Hidden Acres sign)

14th Sept 2010 - Regular Monthly Meeting



A POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

September kicks off the start of our regular monthly meetings with an interesting PowerPoint presentation. Our guest speakers and presenters this month will be Becci & Keith Russell of Stone Tree Nursery. They will be showing pictures of the Bodnant Gardens in North Wales, UK.

Becci and Keith spent the Month of May traveling throughout England when all the Rhododendrons, Azaleas, and Magnolias were in full bloom. Many pictures of mature specimens are part of their presentation.

Be sure not to miss this first meeting of the season, reacquaint with new and old friends and socialize with all.





President's View

...by Diana Scott

Welcome back everyone! The summer has zipped by and I am looking forward to our upcoming year with the club. Since our picnic in June, many of us have touched base at informal social gatherings, open gardens, Rhodo Garden work parties, and chance meetings throughout the Valley. Along with tales of watering gardens through the hot and windy weeks of July and August, folks have shared travel adventures and chatted about the various visitors they have hosted over the past few months. Once again, it's evident that we do indeed live in 'Paradise.'

Our Executive is up and running and we look forward to serving the membership over the coming year. The program has been organized and we will be working on the various events and activities as the year progresses. As always, we welcome any ideas and suggestions that might help to make the club more enjoyable. Of course many hands make light work, so we encourage all our members to get as involved as time and energy permits.

We do need someone to head up the Rhodo Garden which typically includes setting up the work parties. There are lots of folks who know the ropes and would be very supportive. This could be a 'team' position. Please let us know if you'd be willing to help out as Chair/Co-Chair!

Long-time members Dave and Marleen Crucq moved to Calgary in August. They have been active contributors to the club, key people at our Sale and Tour, and great folks to be around! Over the years Dave has been Membership Chair, Vice President and Rhodo Garden Chair, and he frequently represented us at the District meetings. Marleen was Secretary for the club and handed that portfolio over to me when I first joined the Executive; she has worked in the Library and been the Social Chair. We are sad to see them go, but happy that their plans to be closer to family have worked out for them. If they miss

getting their hands on Rhodos - they are always welcome to help out at the Rhodo Garden when they are in the neighbourhood!

Our first meeting of the new executive was in June, and we voted to keep our membership dues at \$35.00, even though the ARS (American Rhododendron Society) dues are now \$40 US. The ARS formula for membership pays back to each club a small portion of the fee, and if the US exchange rates are favourable the club will not have to subsidize each membership by much. As in the past, a 'membership' in NIRS may include two people in a partnership; however, each 'membership' will have only one ARS vote. Brian will be accepting renewals as well as new memberships at our September meeting, so bring your cheque book!

Our September guest speakers, Becci and Keith Russell, will be pulling our thoughts forward to May as they tell us about their tour of gardens in Britain last spring. The Russell's have extensive garden experience and we are delighted to have them share highlights of their trip.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting!



Member's Notes



...by Dave Godfrey

There was a large gathering of members and guests at the home and garden of Nancy and Ross Munro on Saturday, June 12th for the annual NIRS summer potluck picnic. It was wonderful to have Alan and Sandy Campbell from Lake Cowichan and Susan and Art Lightburn from Parksville join us for the day. The weather was warm and sunny, the food was fabulous and a fun time was had by all.

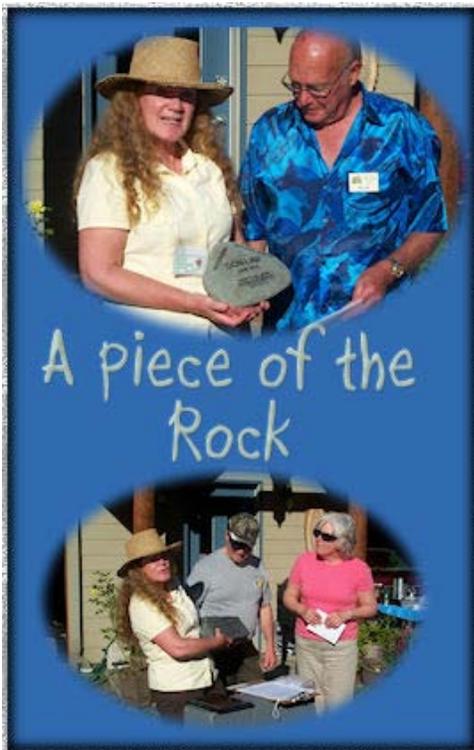
As members were arriving before dinner, Ross had organized a "Name the Native Plants" game, where members teamed up to try to identify various plants in the Munro's many garden areas. In the end, there were two teams tied for first place with all plants correctly identified. Congratulations to Sandy Campbell & Dave Crucq, and Diana Scott & Don Law.

Kalmia bouquet by Debbie McLaren



Special presentations of engraved garden rocks as "Outstanding Service Awards" were made by President Diana to Don

Law and Dave & Marleen Crucq in recognition of their long standing dedication as members of our club's executive. It was a bitter sweet moment for the Crucq's, as they were leaving the Comox Valley for their new home in Calgary. However, they have promised to come back for visits in the future, particularly on the second Saturday in June (our annual picnic date.)



fun

children

school

During the fun and games that followed dinner, most took part in the bean bag toss, as well as a golf toss game provided by Barb & Brian Staton. Although there were no prizes awarded to winners this year, everyone participating and watching had an entertaining and enjoyable time. Our thanks once again to Nancy and Ross for providing their garden for this year's event. Photos of all the day's activities can be found in the photo gallery on our NIRS website.

www.nirs.rhodos.ca

During the summer hiatus from meetings, we had several cleanup work parties at the Comox Valley Rhododendron Garden. In keeping with our meeting nights on "the second Tuesday of the month", the work parties were held at 7 PM on June 8th and July 13th. The August 10th work party was postponed and eventually cancelled until September.



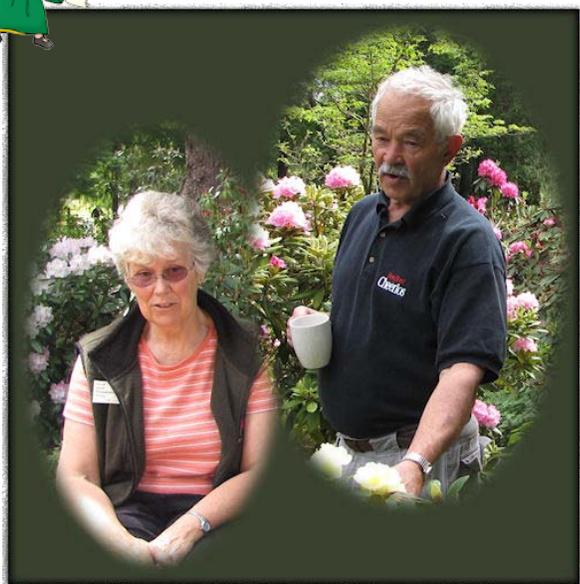
Twenty-eight members and guests enjoyed an open garden hosted by the Godfrey's on August 18th. Ross Munro was kind enough to provide a mason bee house as a door prize which was won by Harry Wright. This gathering provided an opportunity for members to reunite after the long summer hiatus.

We resume our regularly scheduled meetings at our next 'indoor' meeting on September 14th with Becci and Keith Russell as our guest speakers. We look forward to their presentation and hope to see all members attend. As summer comes to a close, it's time for fall harvests. Don't forget to bring along some of the bounty from your gardens to share with other members by making a small donation to our Revenue table. For those who have one, don't forget to wear your name tag! See you at the meeting.



Member Profile

Paul & Lynn Wurz



Paul Wurz is currently Vice-President for our North Island chapter. Paul has been President twice before (2000-2002 and 2004-2006). In the spring of 2004, he was awarded the American Rhododendron Society (ARS) Bronze Medal in recognition of his years of dedication to the chapter. Paul and Lynn have both been active members in our club since joining approximately 15 years ago.

Paul was born in Penticton, and spent his first 20 plus years on a fruit orchard in Keremeos. Following graduation from high school, Paul attended the University of British Columbia where he received a degree in Physical Education. Then 20 years later he earned a Masters degree in Educational Psychology at the University of Victoria. It was while attending UVic that Paul and Lynn met. Lynn was born and raised in Victoria and after graduating from High School, attended UVic completing a degree in Marine Biology. They were married in 1972.

While Paul worked as a high school teacher for 32 years in the Campbell River secondary school system, Lynn chose to be a home maker keeping busy raising 3 children, gardening, and countless hobbies while tending to their hobby farm.

Prior to retirement, Paul's interest in rhododendrons grew, and Lynn's interest in other garden plants also became obsessive. Approximately 15 years ago, Paul started to propagate and sell rhododendrons and began a small nursery – Hidden Acres Rhododendrons. Their small garden and nursery continues to grow, and they now have several thousand rhododendrons planted on their 8.5 acre property just north of Campbell River.

Lynn's interest in garden plants also continues to grow. Their small nursery is open much of the year, particularly during blooming season. When not tending the garden they always find time to sit with visitors, enjoy a coffee and tea break, and make new gardening friends.



American Rhododendron Society News



Membership News:



As a member of the North Island Rhododendron Society, you are part of a larger organization called the American Rhododendron Society. Membership fees are set by the ARS and are paid in US funds by NIRS to the parent organization. Although the membership fee has been increased to \$40 US (\$30 of which will be retained by the ARS and \$10 credited back to the club), your executive has decided to keep our membership dues at \$35 Canadian.

In the past, the fee was for one ARS membership. In practical terms, many of us have joined NIRS as a 'couple' despite holding only one membership in the ARS. The fee of \$40 US will include 2 family members, which recognizes the common practice at the Chapter level. This change will not make any difference at our local level and you will still receive only one Journal per household.

As a club, our fundraising efforts go towards the upkeep of the Comox Valley Rhodo Garden, the rental of the church hall, paying for our guest speakers, purchasing equipment, and for general expenses incurred in running the club. We continue to work hard at these fundraising initiatives, and have been frugal in our spending

The ARS would be delighted to have any of our members increase their financial contribution by becoming a Sustaining or Sponsoring Member. In addition, we have a number of Associate members who belong to a different 'home' chapter, but have decided to be part of our group as well. For a small fee (approximately \$10 per chapter), you can be an Associate member of any other Chapter in the ARS. Several of our members belong to MARS, our sister chapter in Parksville, and attend meetings and functions there from time to time. If any of these membership alternatives are of interest, please see Membership Chair Brian Staton for more details.

In order to continue receiving your ARS Journal without interruption please pay your annual fees to Membership Chair Brian before the November 1st deadline. Brian will be accepting memberships and renewals at the meetings in the next couple of months. So let's make his work easier by all paying on time!



Fall Western Regional ARS Conference



Conference News:

FRIDAY 8TH OCT TO SUNDAY 10TH OCT , 2010

This year's conference will be held on the scenic Central Oregon Coast in "The City of Rhododendrons" – Florence Oregon – at the Three Rivers Hotel & Native American Casino. Rate: \$79 a night plus tax.

Phone 877-374-8377 Don't forget to mention the Fall 2010 ARS Western Regional Rhododendron Conference.

See the ARS Summer Journal for programs, information and registration form. Or check the conference website <http://web.me.com/siuslawars/WRC2010/> for a PDF registration form, information on lodging, transportation, schedule, speakers, and tours.

This is the "10-10-10 Conference" for the Siuslaw Chapter – tenth ARS Western Region Conference on October 10, 2010! With that experience, they know how to plan a conference that's educational (bonsai class), entertaining (Harold Greer Program), and all very reasonably priced. Golf courses, dune buggy bus rides, fresh sea food, wineries – all on the beautiful Oregon Coast. Plan to vacation and explore all of the Oregon Coast, before or after the conference...nothing better in the fall!





"It is about 25 ft high and 30 ft wide found in down town Ladysmith Vancouver Island, B.C."

That 125 Year Old Rhododendron...Not quite!

This picture along with an accompanying article appeared in several e-mails and in a few rhododendron newsletters in the spring of this year. The sheer size of this rhododendron and the acclaimed age begged to be researched. After speaking to a few knowledgeable people and checking out the information on the internet this is what I have concluded.

According to a well know source, the oldest known Rhododendrons on Vancouver Island are a couple of 'Cynthia's' growing in Beacon Hill Park planted by George Fraser in 1889 when he was working as foreman for John Blair building the park; before he settled in the Ucluelet area. So, that makes these George Fraser plants 121 years old!

This rhodo in Ladysmith is a 'Cynthia', and the present owner of the property has only ever stated that it was "...over 100 years old."

Now, a little history of the town of Ladysmith, (from their web site) to help verify the age of this mammoth rhodo. Located on the 49th parallel, Ladysmith is a picturesque town built on the hillside overlooking the glistening waters of Ladysmith Harbour. One of the oldest settlements on Vancouver Island, the community known as Oyster Harbour was established in 1899 by James

Dunsmuir, son of Vancouver Island's prosperous coal-mining family. The community was designed as a recreation and dormitory complex for miners, serving as a shipping port for coal from Nanaimo. Dunsmuir moved many buildings by rail to this peaceful spot he had chosen.

So, that makes the town of Ladysmith 111 years old. One can assume from this information that the rhodo in question couldn't possibly be 125 years old. Perhaps the garden clubs or the Heritage Societies are pushing the age of their 'Cynthia' to promote tourism or 'beat a record'. Not necessary in this writer's opinion...just look at the photo and they will come!



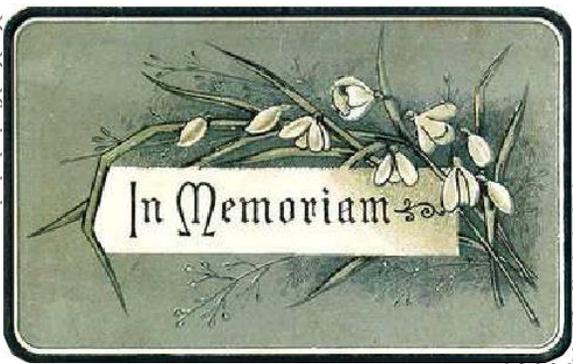
Noni here...once again putting on my Librarian cap for a few minutes to pass on some library news.

We are fortunate to have an extensive library of research books available to all members that can be signed out for normally one month at a time. To ensure that our members have adequate access to our books during the busiest of gardening times we've allowed books to remain signed out over the summer months. I'd like to remind those that did keep their loaners to please return them to the library for the September meeting. Magazines as well!!

Other news regarding reading material for the library this year is all about magazines again. As most members are aware we have subscribed to "Garden Wise", "Fine Gardening", "Gardens Illustrated", and the Royal Horticultural Society's "The Gardener". This year we have added "Canadian Gardening" to our monthly subscriptions.

This year's sign out procedure for magazines older than one month will be first come, first serve. The new magazines sign-out will remain the same. (put name on the list and the first on list will pass on to others during the month)





Over the spring and summer months, we sadly said goodbye to two of our NIRS associate members. On May 4th, long time member of the Victoria Chapter Bill Dale passed away quietly at the age of 93 years. Bill was an authority on the life of George Fraser of Ucluelet, one of the pioneers of rhododendron hybridizers in British Columbia. Bill was instrumental in founding the annual "George Fraser Day" to give recognition to his efforts.

Then in June, much to the shock of many NIRS members, we suddenly lost our dear friend Dot Gibson following a long stay in hospital. Dot, along with husband Ken, were members of the MARS chapter and received the ARS Silver Medal Award in recognition of their many years working for District 1 in the promotion of the genus Rhododendron.

We will miss both of our friends who we knew well over the many years of their association with our chapter.



Web site information for the Western Fall
Regional ARS Conference in Florence,

<http://web.me.com/siuslawars/WRC2010/>

Milner Gardens Fall Plant Sale,

Sep 25 and 26--10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Milner Gardens & Woodland, 2179 West Island Highway, Qualicum Beach

Great discounts on heritage trees, shrubs and perennials propagated on site. Master Gardeners will be on hand for advice. Afternoon tea in the Tearoom, outdoor refreshments & hot dogs. Admission by donation. All proceeds support the Garden.

Members only early access Sep 24th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. -membership card required for entry to the early access sale.

Milner Gardens fundraiser... Des Kennedy Presents Eminent English Gardens, September 28th, 7:00 p.m., at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre.

Des Kennedy has been able to reschedule his missed spring presentation: A look at some of Britain's greatest gardens, both private and public, including many estates of the National Trust and such internationally-acclaimed gardens as Sissinghurst, Great Dixter and the Lost Gardens of Heligan.

Tickets are now available (\$10) at Milner Gardens or at the door.

Milner Gardens Fall Colour Days Oct. 30 and 31, 2010
10:00 am – 3:00 pm Oct 30th and 31st

Bring the children for a Jack O'Lantern search and scarecrow trails. Admission by donation. Enjoy soup and scones in the tearoom from 11 am to 2:30 pm.

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



Rhododendron Propagation:

I have been asked by Ken & Madeleine Webb of the Victoria propagation group to inform the members of the Mid-Island & North Island rhodo clubs that the Victoria propagation group is planning a 1 day propagation workshop in Victoria, around the middle to end of October. If you are interested in attending or need more information, please contact Art Lightburn Ph #: 250-468-7516 ASAP.

Glendale Gardens is the new name of the Horticultural Centre for the Pacific (the Hort Garden of the Pacific). Web link for more history of the garden:

<http://www.glendalegardens.ca/aboutglendalegardens.php>



Recipe Requests

Blondies

(Noni Godfrey)

1 1/2 sticks butter
1 1/2 C all-purpose flour
1 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp salt
1 C light brown sugar
1/2 C dark brown sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp vanilla extract

*Nutella - optional

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease an 9x9" baking dish. (Line with foil, wax or parchment paper if desired. Grease the lining too.)

Melt butter in a saucepan medium heat; add both sugars and whisk until combined and sugar is melted, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat to cool slightly.

Meanwhile, whisk together the flour, baking powder and salt in a medium bowl.

Next, in a large bowl, whisk together eggs and vanilla until combined. Slowly drizzle in the butter and sugar while whisking constantly. Then add flour and whisk until just incorporated.

*Now, at this point you could fold in your favorite add-ins: chocolate chips, or milk chocolate chunks, nuts, coconut etc. Me? I like mine 1 C Chipits, 1/2 C nuts, 1/2 C coconut & 1/4 C toffee chips.

*To make Nutella Swirl Blondies: Pour the batter into the prepared dish, then drop

spoonfuls of Nutella over the surface. (I did probably 9-10 spoonfuls) Swirl the batter in the pan making "S" shapes with a butter knife.

Bake for 25-30 minutes or until the top cracks slightly and is firm to the touch and a toothpick inserted into the center comes out with moist pieces clinging to it. Remove to a wire rack and let cool completely. Or until you can't stand it any more and have to dig in!



Tex Mex Taco Dip

(Noni Godfrey)

Bottom - 1 Can refried beans, spread over bottom of dish. I use a large 10" platter about 1" deep.

Middle - 250 ml tub sour cream mixed with equal amount of mayonnaise. (or miracle whip) Add 1 pkg Taco seasoning mix (I only use about 1/2 mix, go by color and taste of the mixture as it's quite spicy)

Middle layer additions - Cut up into small pieces these following ingredients, spread over sour cream mixture and 'push into' the mix. Remember they are to be scooped onto tacos so cut up the pieces accordingly. 2-3 tomatoes, 1 small tin sliced black olives, 1/2 to 1 C chopped green onions. (all to taste and eye appeal)

Top - Finely grate cheddar cheese to cover the whole mixture. Takes approximately 4-6 ozs of cheese. (Again by taste and eye appeal.)

Note from Noni: Both of these recipes were used at our open garden party in August and there were several requests for both-so here you are!

Until Next Month
Noni

