



The Rhodoteller

www.nirs.rhodos.ca



JUNE

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:

Nancy Munro.....334-3719

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 June 2011- Executive Meeting 2:00 pm

The executive meeting will be held at the home of Nadine Boudreau, 1817 Preston Rd. Comox. Going up on Ryan Road, turn left onto Anderton, right on Greenwood Cres. (turns into Preston Road) Nadine's house is at the very end of Preston.

18th June 2011- Wrap Up Picnic Pot-Luck

Picnic Protocols! The season's finale beckons!

This year the gathering will be held at the home of Helena and Roy Stewart, 2431 Seabank Road, Courtenay, BC. Just down the road from Dick Bonney.

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 tantalizing appetizers, seductive savories, luxurious breads, crispy salads, succulent fruits, or decadent 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, knives, forks, spoons, etc or whatever is needed to partake of the food. (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)



PRESIDENT'S VIEW

...by Diana Scott

As we move into June, this is a time to really enjoy the work done to get our gardens ready and to take a breather from our very hectic May schedule! We are always very pleased to have The City of Courtenay proclaimed "May as Rhododendron Month", and we know that the Public have enjoyed the glorious display put on by the Comox Valley Rhododendron Garden. Thanks to everyone for their efforts to help the garden look its best. Special thanks to Ross Munro for keeping a close watch on the garden!

Our Rhodo Sale and Truss Display went very well. Thanks to Nadine Boudreau for heading up the sale, to our vendors and members who brought such fine plants, and to everyone who helped out. What a team! Thanks to Bernice Morrison who prepared our bunwich event - what a GREAT way to end the day.

Thanks to Nadine and Christine Aldred who did an outstanding job organizing our Annual Mother's Day Garden Tour this year. Special thanks to our garden hosts who opened their beautiful gardens for us: Robert Argall, Ann Chevrier, Louise and Roger Casson, Bev and Ron Johnston, Antje and Peter Guertler, Bob and Adela Smith and Maggie Warren. The gardens were a delight and much appreciated by all the tour visitors. Thanks to our gate sitters for welcoming the public, and to all who helped out behind the scenes. Bravo!

Thank you to Gwen and Harry Wright for opening their garden for our AGM. It is always a treat to be invited to walk through their garden at any time, but it is just incredible in May! It was lovely to meet Herman and Marjo van Ree and tour some of our lovely gardens with them.

The club was in high gear during the month of May, but there is much going on throughout the year. Many thanks to the Executive who work diligently to organize the various aspects of all our events, and to the members who

volunteer their time in so many ways. It's an honour to work with all of you!

Your Executive and Committee Chairs for the 2011-2012 term are as follows:

Executive Officers:

President:	Diana Scott
Vice President:	Paul Wurz
Secretary:	Pauline Thompson
Treasurer:	Dave Godfrey
Directors:	
Ways & Means:	Nadine Boudreau
Library/Newsletter:	Noni Godfrey
Membership:	Brian Staton
Revenue Table:	Christine Aldred
Past President:	Harry Wright

Committees:

Social:	Louise Casson
Publicity:	Helena Stewart
Webmaster:	Dave Godfrey
Rhodo Garden:	Ross Munro
Sunshine Lady:	Nancy Munro
Historian:	Lois Clyde
Facilities:	Don Law

We are a casual and close-knit club. Please don't hesitate to talk with us about ideas and suggestions you might have. We would love to have someone team up with one of us to head up the Garden Tours. Please contact me if you would be interested in helping out in this area!

To top off the month, we had our Members' Bus Tour to Port Alberni and the Qualicum/Parksville area. What fabulous gardens! Thanks to Brian Staton, Terry Richmond and Marilyn Dawson for organizing the day, and to all the MARS folks who opened their gardens to our club! All in all, it was a very special day!

A special Garden Tea in remembrance of our dear Pauline Bonney was held on May 21st in the beautiful Bonney Garden. Thank you to everyone who contributed and joined us on that special day.

Our Pot Luck this year will be on June 18th at Helena and Roy Stewart's garden at 2431 Seabank Rd. Thanks Helena and Roy! Please check out the details in the newsletter!

If we don't connect over the summer - we look forward to seeing you at our first meeting on September 13th!

Member's Notes
...by Dave Godfrey

Another busy month of May has come and gone! As they traditionally do, most available members came out to lend a hand on May 1st for our annual sale and show. Although initially it did not seem as busy as in previous years, our income totals were very close to last year. Thanks to the generosity of the many members who donated plants and items, the NIRS companion plant table brought in over \$750 towards the net total of \$1624. This once again sets us on the right path for the beginning of another fiscal year.

Then on Mother's Day, Sunday May 8th, we once again had a great deal of support from many members towards the success of our 16th annual garden tour. Our thanks to members, *Robert Argall, Bob & Adela Smith, Louise Casson, Ann Chevrier* and *Peter & Antje Guertler*, along with *Bev Johnston* and *Maggie Warren* for opening their gardens to nearly 200 visitors throughout the gorgeous Sunday. Special thanks to *Nadine Boudreau* and her team for all the work that goes into these fund raising events.

Congratulations to Sharon Beedle of Fanny Bay as the winner of the draw for 'Scarlet Wonder' at the sale and to Tress Austenson of Courtenay who won the garden tour draw for 'Cosmopolitan'. Of the 46 ballots cast at the sale display, this year's 'People's Choice' award went to the Rhododendron 'Twinkler' with 'Ink Spot' and 'Mi Amor' coming in tied for a close second.

Following the sale, many members enjoyed the now traditional "Bunwich" gathering at *Bernice Morrison's* garden. It was great to relax, enjoy some great food and drink, and to partake in some fun games which Bernice had prepared. It is also exciting to hear that Bernice's schedule change will permit her to join us once again as a member next September.



At the AGM held in the garden of *Gwen and Harry Wright*, members heard reports of the past year's activities and saw *Nadine Boudreau, Pauline Thompson* and *Noni & Dave Godfrey* re-elected by acclamation. Congratulations to *Ann Chevrier* winner of the raffle prize 'Percy Wiseman', and to *Linda Billings* and *Louise Casson* as winners of *R. scabrifolium* (originally donated by *Alan Campbell*) and *R. 'Sonata'* (donated by *Brian Staton*) respectively.

Our guest speaker for the meeting was *Herman van Ree* of the Netherlands, who gave an overview of his founding 6 years ago of the 'Hirsutum' website. Herman and Marjo, holidaying on Vancouver Island, spent 3 days in Tofino before travelling to the Comox Valley Tuesday afternoon.

On the day after the AGM, we took the opportunity to visit several member gardens including those of *Bob & Adela Smith, Dick Bonney, Barb & Brian Staton*, and finally *Paul & Lynn Wurz* in Campbell River. A whirlwind tour on a showery day, but the van Rees very much appreciated the opportunity to visit and photograph some of the many beautiful gardens in our part of the world.



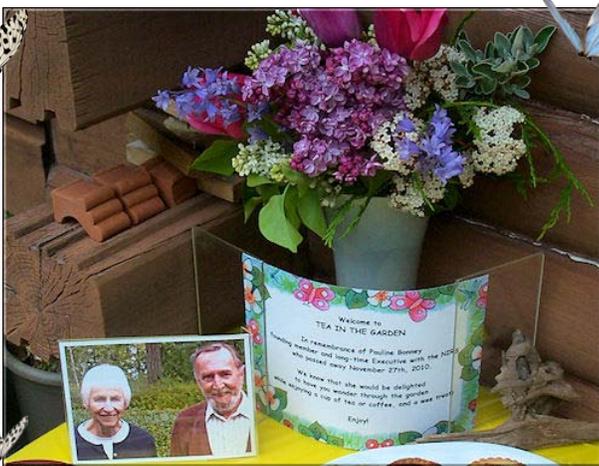
Our spring bus tour, organized by *Brian Staton*, to visit member gardens of the MARS chapter in Port Alberni and Qualicum Beach was well attended on Tuesday May 17th. The charter bus departed the Wright's at 8 AM with 37 members and guests on board and arrived in Port Alberni at 9:15. We were met by *Terry Richmond* who became our tour guide for the morning. Hosts *Don Bridgen, Claudia Romaniuk* and *Betty Lawson*, all had very different and marvelous gardens. We arrived at Verna and Terry's patio garden in time for lunch, where we were treated with desserts and drinks of tea or coffee.

Then it was back on the bus and off to Nanoose to visit four more fabulous gardens. Our guide for this leg of the tour was *Linda Derkach* of MARS. The sun was shining for the most part which made for a very comfortable day. Again we saw some very interesting and different gardens hosted by *Wolfgang Ruff, Mike & Joan Rich* and *Mark & Patty Nixon*. Arriving at *Al and Maria Bieberstein's* garden at 4:30, those

on our tour were treated to a buffet of finger foods, desserts and a glass of wine. This capped off a fabulous day arranged by our sister chapter. All the garden hosts were thanked with a small Rhodo gift for sharing their gardens with us.



On Saturday, May 21st, the skies were overcast but remained dry during the "Tea in the Garden" in memory of NIRS founding member **Pauline Bonney**. About 3 dozen friends and fellow members gathered to enjoy the gardens which Pauline designed and worked many years to establish; one of the many loves of her life. It was wonderful to see so many members reminiscing about days past and enjoying the refreshments and many treats provided by the executive committee. Pauline would have been honoured and humbled by the outpouring of attention. Thanks to **Dick Bonney** for inviting us to their home and gardens, with special thanks to one and all that helped with the occasion.



Many of us are also looking forward to the gathering at our annual season wrap-up June potluck picnic to be held this year in the garden of **Helena and Roy Stewart**. The Stewarts garden is just two driveways past the Bonney's and the event promises to be another fun time, rain or shine. Hopefully by June 18th summer-like temperatures and skies will prevail.

Photos of all the spring events will be posted to our website's 'Photo Gallery' page in the near future; But not likely until the end of June and our holidays down south. We hope to see all our members and special friends at the picnic. For those who can't make it, enjoy your summer and we'll "See you in September!"

International Collaboration: Creating The Rhododendron Species Foundation - Part 5

...by Joe Ronsley

As in the history of all organizations, there have been both advances and setbacks. Over the years, there has been a mixed history of international outreach and inward looking provincialism. Fortunately, however, in recent years the former of these attitudes has been in the ascendancy, and has essentially prevailed. There is considerably more work to do, but the international membership has increased significantly and the benefits of this increase have, both tangibly and intangibly, accrued to the RSF.

Human relationships and friendships among people with common interests, though perhaps with different personal backgrounds, provide not only a benefit to a larger entity, but also enriched lives for the individuals themselves. Knowledge is the principal beneficiary of input from the widest possible sources of ideas and perspectives. It is important to the real meaning and purpose of the RSF that there be a wide range of members ready to contribute divergent accounts of their own botanical and horticultural experiences. As in any endeavour, out of the polemics of debate and disagreement, out of the exchange of differences in experience and perspectives, a greater wisdom evolves. It is in this spirit that the RSF was founded, and that it continues to seek as wide a participating membership as possible.

This spirit, too, enables the RSF best to realize its own 'Mission Statement': 'The Rhododendron Species Foundation is dedicated to the conservation, research, acquisition, evaluation, cultivation, public display, and distribution of Rhododendron species; provides education relating to the genus;

and serves as a unique resource to scientific, horticultural, and educational communities worldwide'. The means of achieving this mission are: 'To acquire and maintain a comprehensive collection of Rhododendron species; to conserve Rhododendron species through the cultivation and distribution of selected forms and documented wild collected material; to support the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, a living museum, for the display and cultivation of Rhododendron species; and to provide information and education, and to support research for persons interested in the genus Rhododendron'.

The larger and more internationally diverse the RSF membership, the greater are both its human and its financial resources. The gathering and exchange of plant material, crucial as it is, is only the beginning. Contributions to the RSF have come in the form of financial aid and in the correspondence and exchange of ideas, suggestions and advice, from places both near and far from the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, in Federal Way, Washington.



R. erosum new growth

Currently, and more specifically, not only is extensive volunteer garden and nursery work done, necessarily, by members living in the immediate Seattle area, but major contributions are made from more distant places, through leadership of the Photography Committee by a member in Oregon, for instance; creating and managing the website, electronic expertise and assistance, and plant distribution by members in British Columbia; and participation in plant expeditions, sharing of perspectives among professionals, serving on the Board of Directors and on the editorial Board, and writing articles for the yearbook, Rhododendron Species, by members in many American states and in other countries. I have the honour of having been the first President of the RSF from outside the United States. The RSF today occupies more firmly than ever its rightful place among the premier botanical and the basic

horticultural organizations in the world.



R. solitarium

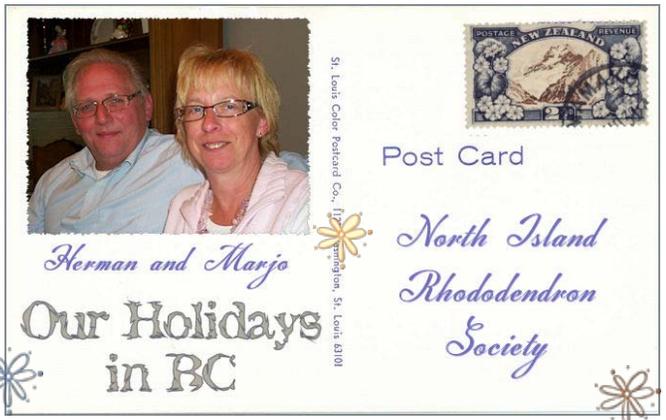
It goes without saying, then (but I will say it anyway) that anyone with an interest in rhodos should be a member of the Rhododendron Species Foundation. The basic dues are modest indeed, though it must also be said that

immodest contributions and levels of membership are also welcome! The benefits include free admission to the RSBG—though admittedly this only benefits people living in the Pacific Northwest or travelers from further away—the yearbook Rhododendron Species, and the opportunity to purchase very special species rhododendrons not generally found in garden centres or even most nurseries, and with perhaps a better likelihood than just about anywhere else (no one is perfect) that they are authentic as labelled. (In my own garden I have changed from telling people what a plant is, to what I acquired it as!) And then, for those of you inclined to take the 'high road', you will be supporting a cause that involves conservation and the consequent protection of the environment, in the form of your interest in a plant genus that in beauty and diversity leads all others. Along with this is the advancement of education on the subject, and in its own way a real contribution toward a more civilized world.

This concludes our 5-part series on the History of the RSF. For more details, including directions to the RSBG, pictures of species rhododendrons, history of the organization, general information, etc, check the RSF website at www.rhodygarden.org, or Google 'Rhododendron Species Foundation'. You can also telephone at 253-838-4646 either to ask questions or to join the RSF.



(Note: All photographs are provided by Steve Hootman, Executive Director of the RSF.)



their ideas very well.

After a very nice salmon dinner our day ended with the annual general meeting of your North Island chapter. Harry and Gwen were great hosts (with a wedding anniversary cake on top of it) and we enjoyed Harry's tour through their lovely garden. I was very impressed with the maturity of some of the plants and how well they were pruned and organized in beds, with all the pathways across them.

President Diana did a great job at keeping the meeting to the point, so it never got boring, not even when you're like me and not involved in any such activities. Also, I hope Herman gave you in his speech a bit of background to his "Hirsutum" project. Everybody I talked with was so nice and I could speak Dutch with Lily and John, which is very relaxing for a change as well. I had a really nice day all along, and then there was more to come

The next day, after a good night's sleep and a big breakfast, we set out for Bob and Adela's garden. Although garden is not really a word I would use, estate is more like it. In essence it is very similar to what we have at home (partly lawn surrounded by beds, partly forest/woodland with rhodos) but the size here was amazing. And thanks no doubt with help of their gardener Charlie, all so very well kept. Again a great tour and visit.

On our way to lunch at the Blackfin Pub in Comox, we spotted some deer on the side of the road, which we appreciated very much as they are so rarely seen in Holland. After lunch, we visited Dick's garden. A bit of a drizzle did not keep us from a great walk in a garden that to me seemed to radiate tranquillity and rest, with beautiful mature rhododendrons all very naturally integrated with the other plants.

After coffee with Dick, we were on our way to Campbell River. Along the way, we stopped by at Brian and Barb's place, who, although not at home, had given permission for us to walk through their garden. Again, a lovely garden and Herman came up with yet another great idea: Let's have an ocean on the other end of our own garden! And you know, if global warming speeds up a little we could, since 60 % of Holland is below sea-level anyway; but our home is high enough not to be flooded right away.

Arriving in Campbell River, Paul's Hidden Acres premises turned out to be a great finale. So many rhododendrons, so beautifully arranged and an owner who knows all their names almost all by heart! Sure, you may have to know a bit more if you're making a living out of it, but we were very impressed. But for all of you who, like Herman, do not remember all of the names, there's a website you can look them up :-).

The final supper at Painter's Lodge with Dave, Noni and Paul

Sometime in May of last year, Herman started talking to me about visiting Vancouver Island in 2011, caused no doubt by the beautiful pictures of rhododendrons sent at that time by Dave Godfrey and other members of the NIRS chapter.

We had been to Canada a year before in August and both enjoyed it very much, so I was not at all opposed to the idea. Although I must admit that rhododendrons, in fact gardening as such, is not really my cup-of-tea. So please don't expect any comments on specific plants or special species from me. I will give you my impressions of our visit as someone who just enjoys walking around in gardens and looking at the flowers and new foliage on plants, whatever their nature.

Arriving in Calgary, we took a two-day Rocky Mountaineer train trip to Vancouver (highly recommended) where we rented a car and travelled to Tofino. We revisited Ken Gibson's garden, this time seeing it in bloom. Although the cold weather on the normally mild coast had also caused a delay in the number of plants flowering there as well, it was still spectacular. While in Tofino, we also took a bear watching charter boat ride and saw a female with 2 cubs and a solitary male. Very exciting for us as we do not see such wildlife in Holland.

On Tuesday, May 10th, we arrived at Royston House (Ross and Nancy's place) early in the afternoon and were warmly received with a quick lunch and a great walk around their natural habitat estate and gardens. It is beautiful to see how you can integrate rhododendrons within the natural surroundings. This is certainly an example for us as well, as we have a piece of forest at home where Herman had been planting some of his rhododendrons.

Then Dave and Noni, who were so kind as to plan our itinerary for these days, picked us up to show us the NIRS garden in Courtenay and their own garden. What a great idea of having working parties and sharing the work with the pleasure of each others company. I personally liked the pond in Dave and Noni's garden very much. We have our own pond renovated at the moment and I can use some of

with a nice view on the waterfront completed two wonderful days of enjoying your great rhododendrons on Vancouver Island. The crowning touch was a rainbow across to April Point!

Thanks so much to all of you who made this possible. We may be back some day (although Herman missed his own garden) but in the meantime, if any of you come to Holland, give us notice and you are very welcome to visit us at our place.

May 2011, Nunspeet, Netherlands

TIDBITS

Note from Harry Wright:

Don't forget Gwen and I will be hosting our annual Kalmia Kruiise sometime in June, as soon as the bloom decides to appear. Members will be notified by e-mail as soon as the date and particulars are decided. For new members, the Kalmias are Mountain Laurels, almost as beautiful as our Rhododendrons. They bloom a little later than most rhodos and put on quite a stunning and unique show.

Comox Valley Horticultural Society

"Gardens In Bloom" Garden Tour

Saturday June 25 & Sunday June 26, 2011-10:00 - 4:00

Tickets: \$15.00, on sale

Courtenay: Art Knapp Plantland and Home & Garden Gate

Comox: The Plant Collector, Blue Heron Books, Video's 'n More, The Cottage Gardener.

Cumberland: Home & Garden Gate

Campbell River: Sticks and Stones Nursery

Qualicum Beach: Arrowsmith Greenhouses.

For more info contact Mardy Bodie-Atkin at 250 898-8340 or mardy@shaw.ca

Cowichan Valley Garden Tour-

Sunday, June 5th, 2011-10:00 to 5:00-Tickets: \$18

A self guided tour of six outstanding yet diverse private gardens in the Mill Bay and Duncan area. Gardener columnist Helen Chesnut will be in attendance at one garden. Tea and refreshments available.

For Ticket locations please call: 250 748-8281

Gabriola Home & Garden Tour



People for a healthy community invites you to the 13th Annual Home and Garden Tour. A self-guided tour of Island homes and gardens. Tickets \$20, available on the Island or in Nanaimo at: **Buckerfield's** (Southgate Mall), or **Dig This** on Rutherford Road.

For more information contact Kathryn 250-247-7311 info@phc-gabriola.org, Web: phc-gabriola.org

Garden Supply Discount Offers

Discounts at many garden retailers. Those businesses now providing discounts for 2011 include:

Arrowsmith Greenhouses - Alberni Hwy, Qualicum

Art Knapp's Plantland, Courtenay

Bees and Blooms Nursery in Courtenay

Black Creek Farm & Feed Supply

Campbell River Garden Center (not seeds or bulbs)

CV Ornamental Concrete on Knight Rd. in Comox

Hidden Acres Nursery in Campbell River

Just 'n Tyme Greenhouse Supplies, Courtenay

Paradise Plants, Courtenay

River Meadows Farms, Courtenay

Serendipity, Campbell River (garden ornaments only)

Shar-Kare - both Courtenay and Campbell River

The Plant Collector Nursery and Gardens

Remember to show your North Island Rhododendron Society membership card when purchasing to qualify for the discount at the retailers listed above. With so many garden centers offering a discount you can have your membership paid for in no time!

Happy Fathers Day
Tee time!



RECIPE REQUESTS

Coffee Cake Ring

(Lois Clyde)

Heat:

1 C sour cream and add 1 tsp. baking soda
Let stand 30 mins.

Ingredients:

- 1/2 C butter or marg
- 1 C brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 3/4 C flour
- 1 1/2 tsp baking powder

Cream butter with brown sugar, add eggs and vanilla. Sift flour with baking powder, then add to butter mixture alternately with sour cream. Grease ring mold, (or bundt) pour in 1/2 batter, 1/2 filling, last half of batter then top with the remainder of filling.

Bake in 350° F for 35-45 mins.

Filling:

- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. cocoa
- 1/2 C chopped walnuts
- 1/2 C brown sugar



Rhubarb Pudding Cake

(Noni Godfrey)

- 4 C chopped rhubarb
- 1/2 C sugar
- 1 pkg (85 gr) Strawberry Jello powder
- 1 C Water
- 1 white cake mix (2 layer size)
- 1/3 C butter, melted
- 1 C thawed Cool Whip, or real whip crème

Oven to 350°F. Place rhubarb in a 13 x 9 baking dish sprayed with cooking spray. Sprinkle with sugar and the dry jello powder. Stir the cake mix (white or yellow), water, and butter with fork just until cake mix is moistened. Do not over mix. Pour over the rhubarb, spread to completely cover the rhubarb. Bake 45 minutes or until golden brown. Serve warm topped with cool whip or real whip crème.



Crabapple Cheese Squares

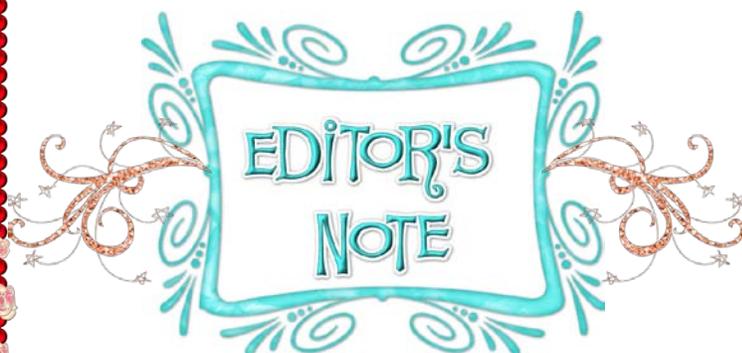
(Chris Aldred)

- 3/4 C butter
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 1/2 C flour
- pinch salt
- 1 C shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 C crabapple jelly
- 1/2 C finely chopped pecans



In a medium bowl cream butter and sugar, mix in flour and salt to combine, add cheese and nuts. (Mix will be crumbly) press half into 9" square baking pan, spread with jelly, sprinkle remaining mix over top.

Bake at 350° F (180c) for about 30mins until golden brown. Cool well -cut into squares.



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*



Noni

