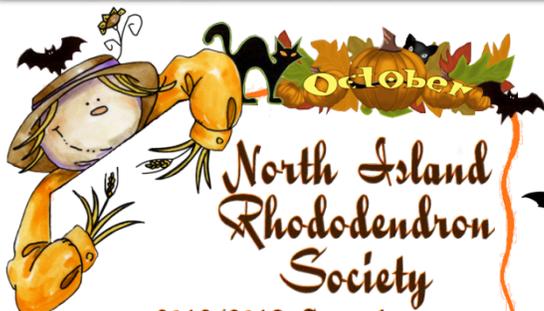




The Rhodoteller

www.nirs.rhodos.ca



North Island Rhododendron Society

2012/2013 Executive

President

Paul Wurz287-4301

Vice-President/ Secretary

Pauline Thompson339-3423

Past President:

Diana Scott338-0208

Treasurer

Dave Godfrey335-0717

Director: Ways & Means

Nadine Boudreau339-0909

Director: Membership

Brian Staton337-5228

Director: Revenue Table

Chris Aldred335-3221

Director: Newsletter

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

Social Committee:

Louise Casson334-2331

Publicity:

Helena Stewart339-1733

Sunshine Lady:

Nancy Munro334-3719

Library:

Ruth Fowler890-9448

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

Coming Events

2nd Oct 2012-Executive Meeting 2:00 pm



The executive meeting will be held at the home of Diana and John Scott, 6432 Eagles Drive Courtenay. Directions: Drive down Coleman road, turn left onto Left Road, and Eagles is close to the end. Left on Eagles, their house is on the right hand side and has a push button gate.

9th Oct 2012-Regular Monthly Meeting

A PowerPoint Presentation of....

"Road Trip-Oregon to Southern California"

Brian and Barb Staton, our members in profile in this month's newsletter, will be giving us a colourful PowerPoint presentation of their April/May road trip down the coast from central Oregon to southern California. It will feature the Florence garden owned by Mike Bones and the Mendocino Botanical Gardens in Fort Bragg, Northern California. I'm sure there will be some fantastic shots of the surrounding areas. The Oregon coast is well known for its sandy shores, scenic views over the Pacific, quaint towns and colourful gardens.





Executive View

...by Paul Wurz



Our wonderful summer weather continues! As much as we are enjoying it, I expect your garden is as dry as ours and we do need to continue our irrigating. Congratulations to the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society for the wonderful job they did on the recent Fall Regional Conference, it was a great success. NIRS was well represented and a thank-you to all our members that did assist in the conference.

For those gardeners that never got around to planting those beautiful rhododendrons they have been collecting over the Spring and Summer now is an excellent time to put them in the ground. Also if your rhododendrons are not showing their usual vigor, a light application of fertilizer will help carry them through the winter and give them an early push in the Spring. It is best to use a fertilizer low in the first number (Nitrogen) as you do not want to encourage any new growth on the leaves.

Lynn and I are off to Tofino this coming weekend to do our usual search of "cuttings" from the Gibson garden - we will be joined by the propagating group from Victoria - more socializing than cutting! Looking forward to seeing you at the October meeting and listening and watching the presentation from the Statons on their recent trips down the Washington - Oregon coast. Enjoy the great summer weather!

October Raffle Rhodos:

...by Diana Scott

October's Raffle Rhodos will be showstoppers in the years to come! Both, originally donated by Ken Webb and grown on by the club, will be big plants - one with a shock of colour; the other with a dazzling scent!

Our first Raffle prize is Rhododendron 'Fireman Jeff'. The blooms on Fireman Jeff -- as you can imagine -- are RED! This variety was hybridized by Brandt (parentage: Honourable Jean Marie de Montague x Grosclaude) and its blooms are a knock-your-socks-off red with some brown spotting on the three dorsal

lobes. A stunning feature is that the large calyces give it a deep red 'hose-in-hose' effect. It is an early to midseason bloomer, apparently growing somewhat wider than tall. It will be a blaze of colour in the garden!



Our second Raffle prize is Rhododendron 'Polar Bear'.

This magnificent hybrid is a vigorous grower and will ultimately form a small tree. Somewhat unusual for our gardens; its fragrant lily-like flowers will scent the garden in mid to late summer. Hybridized by Stevenson, it is a diaprepes x auriculatum cross which explains its large stature. The leaves are mid to dark green; heavily veined and oblong. The flowers have been described as sweetly scented, tubular and funnel-shaped; white with a flush of green at the throat. This is a wonderful plant for the woodland garden; preferring a shaded, somewhat sheltered location.



...by Dave Godfrey

WOW! What a great turn out (over 50 members and 6 guests) for our inaugural meeting of the new season! Membership chair **Brian Staton and wife Barb** were kept busy accepting membership renewals from 29 members and two associates. A warm welcome is extended to our newest members, **Robin Geary** and her husband **Colin Gablemann** from Campbell River, who took the opportunity to join our club at the meeting. It was also wonderful that associate members **Terry Richmond** from Port Alberni and **Allan & Liz Murray** of Cobble Hill joined us for the evening.

President **Paul Wurz** welcomed all back to our meetings and thanked those members of the executive that prepared the luncheon for the District 1 Presidents' meeting that our chapter hosted on August 21st. Following the business

portion of the meeting, our monthly Show & Tell had **Jill Gould** showing and explaining miniature roses that were in full bloom in her garden. Several members commented that there are various rhodos starting to break bloom in the garden following the warm sunny weather we have been enjoying.

The revenue table was loaded with a great assortment of plants, jams, plums, and magazines. **Chris Aldred** was delighted with the selection of donations provided and thanked members for their generosity. But she does ask if items are not sold by the end of the evening for those donating to please take them home until the following month, as she does not have the capacity to transport all the leftovers and tend for them herself.

Speaking of leftovers, new member **Dan Ryan** still has some mature boxwood plants that he needs removed from his property. These plants will be dug up sometime in October and discarded if no new owners are found. October is an ideal month to transplant any garden shrubs or trees as the fall rains help keep them well watered. So if anyone is interested in these plants please give Dan or Margaret a call at 250-331-0157 before they are gone.

President Paul not only chaired our September 11th meeting, he was also our guest speaker for the evening. Paul's presentation "*Some Help in Growing Rhododendrons*" provided a cross-section of information such as basic soil requirements, planting and moving, fertilizing, watering, pruning, diseases and cures, etc. His presentation was well received, with additional information provided by our other growing experts **Allan Murray** and **Terry Richmond**. There were lots of questions answered and lots of compliments on the program once it was over. Even Terry commented to me afterwards... "Of all the programs I've attended on this subject, this was by far the best all round presentation." Well done Paul!



Allan Murray donates door prizes

Congratulations to all our draw winners for the evening. For the raffle prizes 'Super Nova' – **Isabel Petch** and 'Anna Rose Whitney' – **Judy Murakami**. Also the door prize of a bottle of liquid Rhodo fertilizer won by **Noni Godfrey**; a magnolia tree and a 'Dove tree' (*Davidia involucreata*) ... also known as a 'handkerchief tree' – both donated by our associate members **Allan & Liz Murray**, won by **Adrienne McNabb** and **Louise Casson**, respectively. Congratulations once again to all our winners and thanks to Allan & Liz for their generous donations.

As announced at the meeting by garden director **Ross Munro**, a work party was called for the CVRG on Thursday morning, September 13th at 9 AM. The weather was fantastic and 14 members managed to get most of the BOVI bed weeded before mulch was spread for winter protection. In our continued partnership with the City of Courtenay, the materials were supplied by the city and the labour by our members. Another work party will be called for October, hopefully to get the remainder of the beds mulched and the gardens ready for the winter season. General cleanup always ensures that the *Comox Valley Rhododendron Garden* looks its best for both locals and visitors alike.

Twenty-two NIRS members were registered to attend the Western Region Fall Conference in Nanaimo on the weekend of Sept. 21-23rd, and what a fabulous time we had. Friday afternoon and evening afforded an opportunity to renew friendships, meet new rhodo friends, buy more plants, bid on hundreds of items in several draws and the silent auction. Our friend and NIRS associate member, **Garth Wedemire**, was the guest speaker at Friday's dinner with his presentation that highlighted five Vancouver Island gardens in all their glorious spring colours.



The Godfrey's at registration desk

Saturday was a full day with eight presentations to choose from during the morning hours. Two of our NIRS members, **Judy Walker** and **Paul Wurz**, provided their presentations on "Making the Connection: From a Continent to the Island" and "The Lofthouse Legacy" respectively. Then in the afternoon it was on to a four-hour

bus tour, which included lunch, to view several Nanaimo area gardens in their fall colours. Back at the hotel, there was another opportunity to buy or bid before the evening's banquet.



Glen Jamieson with Steve Hootman

The banquet's keynote speaker, *Steve Hootman*, provided an entertaining look at his most recent treks exploring for rhodos and other rare alpine plants in Papua New Guinea and Southern China. Steve's programs are always informative, humorous, and provide an opportunity for many to see parts of the world we would not otherwise experience.

The conference wrapped up Sunday morning with a hybridizers 'round table' discussion moderated by our own *Paul Wurz*. As many attendees commented, this conference was one of the best attended (nearly 250 registrants) and well organized conferences in recent years. Congratulations to all the conference committee members and their volunteers from the other island chapters on a job well done!

For our October 9th meeting, we look forward to enjoying *Barb & Brian Staton* provide the program. The Statons recently toured along the Washington and Oregon coast taking lots of wonderful photos. They have agreed to present some of the lovely rhododendron gardens they visited along the way. Be sure to attend... and don't forget to wear your name badge for that extra free ticket on the raffle draws!

We had 29 regular memberships and 2 associates renewed at the September meeting, and we encourage others to either bring their dues to our October meeting or mail them to the address listed at the bottom of the front page of each newsletter. Renewing early ensures you will not miss the January mailing of your *ARS Journal*.

Finally, a reminder that we appreciate any donations you can bring for our Revenue Table each month. As you prepare your gardens for the coming winter season and begin splitting up some plants, why not pop them into a pot and bring them along to share with other members. All donations of garden related items are always appreciated. Also, if anyone has some Christmas gift bags to donate, Christine would appreciate these to help wrap "your" gifts for the coming December party. See you at the meeting...

Member Profile

Brian & Barb Staton

Our latest recipient of the NIRS Bronze Medal award, Brian Staton was born and raised in New Westminster. His lovely wife, Barb, was born in East Berlin and immigrated to Canada to settle in Burnaby in 1956.

In 1970, Brian graduated from SFU with a BSc. in Kinesiology; while Barb graduated in 1975 with a BPE from UBC. Avid swimmers, they met while life guarding & teaching swimming lessons at the Canada Games pool in 1972. Brian moved to Campbell River to begin his teaching career in 1974, and Barb followed in 1976. Barb only planned to stay a year "to give the new community a chance", but ended up staying because they fell in love with the people, the places and the outdoor opportunities.

They moved to their Miracle beach home in 1986 which at the time the entire acre lot was home to more than twenty Douglas fir trees, lots of Ocean Spray, and plenty of native plants. There were three neglected Rhodos planted near the house and they brought 16 small to medium Rhodos with them from their former home in Campbell River. This is where their love of rhododendrons began and continued to flourish. In 2004, Brian and Barb were introduced to the wonderful world of the ARS by Paul Wurz and became members of the NIRS. They have been active members ever since.

Their rhodo passion began because of a mutual friend, Chris Round, whose parents, Gene & Ron Round, were growers and hybridizes on the lower mainland. As Barb recalls, "It was when Jean sold her Coquitlam home during the 1990's that we made our largest purchase of rhodos ever and trailered about \$400.00 worth home to our new location at Miracle Beach. We also give Chris credit for her idea to plant certain areas of our property, because they were already naturally raised." So, they spent countless hours digging holes in the gravel base, filling them with a good combination of mulch & soil, and then watering the new acquisitions well.

As Barb says, "the garden really began to expand as our daughters grew older and lawn badminton/volleyball courts

were sacrificed to be dug up, mounded and planted with rhodos. These fabulous plants seemed to become more and more of our focus as the neighborhood deer enjoyed most everything else that I planted. Over the years our good friend, Paul Wurz, always saved us some 'must have' rhodos, and of course we bought them to add to our collection. Now we've even planted the boulevard of our property, and we've just added nine rhodos to our neighbour's boulevard."

As both Brian and Barb are now retired, following over thirty years of teaching, they now have more time to tend to their gardens. They have move big rhodos that have outgrown their places, spread yards of mulch and Sky Rocket, pruned like they never thought they would have to, and deadhead thousands of blossoms each year. The garden has grown to become home to over 250 rhodos, and Brian continues to layer new ones from old stock to give away or to sell at the annual plant sales.

One of their most prized rhododendrons is a lovely creamy blossomed plant, hybridized by Gene & Ron Round, which was never named. The Statons have dubbed it 'SaraLis' after their daughters, and it is available at Hidden Acres.

GARRY OAK

...by Jill Gould

Garry Oaks (*Quercus garryana*) are the only native oaks of the BC coast. The Comox Valley is one of the most northerly areas of distribution. One hundred and fifty years ago, the Courtenay estuary and Tsolum river plain had a large number of Garry oaks. As the Valley came under cultivation, these oaks were removed. Because of crop-growing and grazing, very few were able to re-establish.

Today, the Garry Oak population is reduced to only 3% of its original numbers in the Comox Valley. The Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team (www.goert.ca), a non-profit organization, was established to try to save existing oaks and re-establish oaks and their attendant habitat. GOERT held a meeting last October at North Island College, offering information about Garry Oaks, which was very well attended. At the end of the evening, local acorns were handed out to anyone who wanted to try growing Garry Oaks. I took three, which sprouted this spring. I then had three healthy-looking potted seedlings.

The Comox Valley Naturalist Society (Comox Valley Nature) sponsored a Garry Oak Gardeners workshop in April at the Tsolum School. Ross Munro and I attended the day-long session. Loys Maingon, one of the presenters, is the current

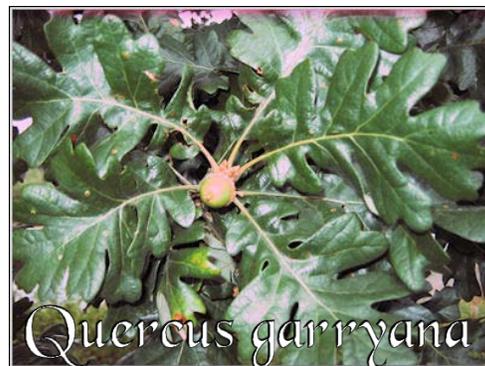
President of Comox Valley Nature, and describes himself as "passionate" about Garry Oaks.

Loys has been "farming out" containerized Garry Oaks to appropriate "homes" and mapping their location, as well as mapping existing trees as they are reported (many on private property). At the Garry Oak Gardener's workshop, he brought forward a big problem: There was a lot of confusion between Garry Oaks and English Oaks. Even some commercial establishments were offering oaks that were wrongly labelled. And, contrary to previous information, these oaks **do** hybridize, thus making hybrid acorns available. The genetic purity of Garry Oaks is at risk.

After last fall's acorn distribution, it was discovered that the well-meaning but misguided person who distributed the acorns got the wrong tree! A common error in the Valley is people thinking that if it's an oak, it must be a Garry Oak. Not so. As the Valley was settled, homesick British immigrants planted English Oaks (*Quercus robur*). A large number of oaks now growing in Courtenay and Comox are really (sorry folks) English Oaks. So, it happened, were the acorns handed out. I now had three healthy-looking English Oaks! Fortunately, Loys presented me with a real Garry Oak.

If you visually compare the Garry Oak leaf to the English Oak leaf, there is actually quite a difference. Garry Oak leaves have a petiole (stem), are shiny, and have distinctly rounded lobes. English Oak leaves have almost **no** petiole. (See photos) The acorns are also different. English Oak acorns are elongated, often occurring in clusters. Garry Oak acorns are single, shorter, rounder and **apical**.

All's well, my three English Oaks went to good homes in the Lower Mainland, The bona fide Garry Oak is now planted on my property, fenced off from deer, and being faithfully watered.



PEOPLE, PLACES & PLANTS: SIR EDMUND GILES LODER, 2nd BT

THE LODERI STORY PART 2

(By John M. Hammond)



Following an “attack of bricks and mortar”, which brought major changes to Whittlebury House, Robert Loder left The High Beeches in 1877 to live at Whittlebury, and resided there until his death in 1888. Edmund Loder was married on November 21st, 1876 to Marion, the third daughter of Wilham Egerton Hubbard of Leonardslee. Up to the time of Edmund Loder's marriage, The High Beeches had always been his home. However, at his insistence his father retained the estate, but having bought Whittlebury, it was natural that when his son married he should wish to provide him with a home in the same county of Northamptonshire. Sir Robert purchased a property of about 300 acres near Weedon called Floore, and there his son Edmund settled down with his wife in a not very large house.

Edmund Loder constructed a rock garden at Floore, filled his garden with interesting plants, and in spite of a bleak climate he contrived to establish a collection which became well known. He specialized in narcissus, and was very successful in raising hybrids. It was not long after his marriage that he first met James H. Mangles, who he referred to in his notes as “the Father of the Aucklandii (*R.griffithianum*) cult,” and other amateur rhododendron enthusiasts. He soon acquired sufficient of the best species and hybrids to form a representative collection to use for an experimental hybridisation programme, including a fine collection of the Himalayan species, together with the best Chinese species then available and, then following the progress already

made by Mangles, he began crossing them, as well as using their pollen on the best *R.catawbiense*, *caucasicum* and *arboreum* hybrids raised by other hybridizers.

Edmund Loder had now become thoroughly interested in certain branches of horticulture and botany, and had directed his studies and attention to the curious family of the Cacti. To see them in their native habitat and to collect them was a principal object of his 1878 plant-hunting expedition to America with Marion. They collected great quantities of cacti on the prairies in Colorado, along the Mexican border and elsewhere in the States, which they brought home to Floore and formed the nucleus of a marvellous collection. For his cacti he built, with his usual practical skill, a special house, so made of iron and glass, without wood, that the maximum amount of light and sun should reach the plants.

Many years can pass before a hybridizer is able to see the results of their work and judge the flowers and foliage, especially those of Himalayan parentage, as many of crosses do not flower until they have reached an average of 6 to 15 years of age, even then, the juvenile flowers often do not indicate the full potential of the cross until some years later when the plant has reached full maturity. Given the timeframe taken for the results of a cross to be determined, it was important to have taken every aspect into consideration when making the cross and Sir Edmund established a large reference library to use in his deliberations. After studying Sir Joseph Hooker's two-part monograph, *Rhododendrons of Sikkim-Himalaya*, published in 1849 and 1851, Edmund Loder went to India on a plant-hunting expedition in 1879 to see the rhododendron species in the wild for himself, then as time went on he became more and more interested in the results of hybridization. To him it opened his mind to a charming avenue of perpetual interest in his travels abroad and in each garden he visited.

He increased his knowledge not only by the study of the best books of which he was a collector, but was in constant touch with the English, Japanese, Dutch and other foreign nurserymen, and corresponded with the curators of Botanical Gardens at home and on the Continent. He would spend days at Kew, Edinburgh and Cambridge or travel to Geneva and even to Mexico to get something new in the way of information or plants. He made very complete tour of the beautiful gardens in Cornwall between Falmouth and Penzance, where he was a delighted at what could be achieved in that wild and sunny climate with sub-tropical plants and trees. He would go to see what his friend Mr. J. C. Williams at Caerhays Castle was doing, for he had similar hobbies, and like Sir Edmund had made a special study of rhododendrons and narcissi.

Early in his life at Floore his heart went wrong. He strained his heart whilst following a wounded bear when hunting in Cashmere in 1874, as he vehemently believed it was wrong to leave a wounded animal to suffer. At Floore, he became so ill with his heart's weak and irregular action, and consequent nervous depression, that for some months he was wheeled about in a Bath chair. That his heart recovered sufficiently to live a life of abnormal activity is true; but he was constantly liable to have symptoms of the old trouble is probably more accurate. He often complained to close friends about his heart, but he led so healthy, so regular and so temperate a life that his moral strength triumphed over this physical weakness until he was far advanced in years.

(Ed. Note: This long and intensive article will be continued over several monthly issues of the *Rhodoteller*)

Some help in Growing rhodos

Paul gave a wonderful presentation at our last meeting on growing rhododendrons. His PowerPoint slide presentation was divided into categories with several points in each. Paul has given us permission to print these highlights in the newsletter for your future reference in purchasing and maintaining rhodos.

Basic Requirements:

- Acidic soils – ph 5-7
- Adequate moisture – at least 1 inch per week
- Moderate temperatures -15°C to +30°C
- Well drained soils – 30% Of soil mass should be oxygen
- Partial shade

Planting medium:

- Garden compost
- Coarse bark or chips
- Fish compost (sea soil)
- Well rotted manure
- Very little soil
- Varies with local conditions

Rhodos in Shade:

- Leaves are greener, and often larger
- Less flowers
- Flowers last longer
- More weevil damage
- Plants are “leggy”
- Less snow damage
- Problem with mildew
- Flowers stand out
- Not much “deadheading”!

Rhodos in Sun:

- Plants more compact
- More flowers
- Less mildew
- Snow damage more likely
- Sun damage (larger leaves need more shade)
- More wind damage

Fertilization:

- Lots of variation – varies from once a year to every 2 months
- Small amount of dolomite
- Rhodos love epsom salts
- Rhodo & azalea food
- Foliage spray – liquid fish & epsom salts, miracid
- Organic – alfalfa, canola, fish compost, manure, etc

Irrigation:

- Recent study – 75% die of too much water – poor drainage
- Second cause of death – not enough water (1 to 2 inches a week.)
- Newly planted plants need lots of watering
- Overhead watering is best
- Mature gardens may require very little water

Mulching:

- Keeps out weeds
- Keeps in moisture
- Protects from rain
- Provides aeration
- Increases soil nutrients
- Keeps roots cool in summer, warmer in winter
- Avoid grass cuttings



Problems in Rhodos:

- Powdery mildew
- Phytophthora
- Marginal leaf necrosis
- Chlorosis
- Leaf senescence
- Deer damage



Pruning Rhodos:

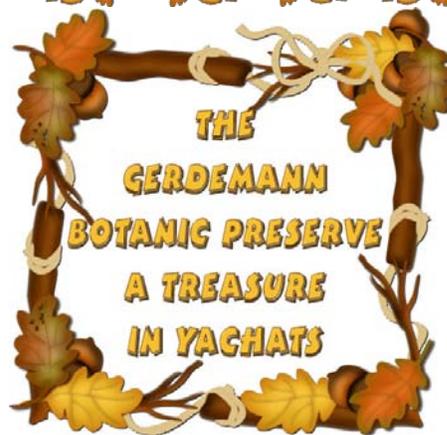
- May be pruned anytime, but best in early spring just before new growth starts
- Prune back just above a rosette of leaves
- On young plants pinching of single shoots is essential
- On older plants branches can be cut back to several inches above the ground (if a single stem plants may die)
- Less drastic approach is to cut back one third at a time over 3 years

Selecting Rhododendrons:

- Be aware of climatic conditions
- “gardener” or “collector”
- Talk to local gardeners
- Read about rhodos, join rhodo club
- Visit nurseries – find a knowledgeable sales person
- Consider: size, plant age, plant health (lift plant out of pot)
- Truss colour, foliage and shape
- Where will they be planted – size, colour, sun or shade, etc.
- Proven performers (rhododendron.org)

...by Diana Scott

John and I had the pleasure of spending a week along the Oregon Coast this fall, and enjoyed every minute! We drove through stunning coastal scenery, strolled along woodland paths, spent



countless hours on those gorgeous beaches, and checked out lighthouses, museums, aquariums and galleries. We particularly enjoyed Yachats, and while there had the opportunity to take the Public Footpath on the outskirts of the Gerdemann Botanical Preserve. What a delightful little walk – through a forest area planted with rhododendrons including a variety of big leaf species! What a surprise – and a real treat!



For those who might be in that area (perhaps while attending the ARS Western Regional Conference in Newport Oregon next September??) I thought I would share a little information gleaned from their website:

The Gerdemann Botanic Preserve was originally the property of Jim and Janice Gerdemann who moved to the central Oregon Coast in the 1980's. Jim was a retired plant pathology professor, and for almost 30 years he and Janice collected unusual plants and adapted them to the

microclimate of their 3.5 acre woodland property. Amongst the many rare plants growing along with Oregon natives are magnolias, camellias, and rhododendron species and hybrids including Jim's hand-crossed tropical vireyas. In October of 2008, Jerry and Kathleen Sand finalized purchase of the Gerdemann property, and a conservation easement has been established to ensure that the Gerdemann Botanical Garden remains intact as a living legacy.

John and I walked the 'Public Footpath' which is open all year and handily includes a little map to be picked up at the beginning of the trail and left at the end. This path is not very long, but has



steps, bridges, wetland boardwalks and BIG LEAF RHODOS all over the place! The Preserve itself is the private property and residence of the Sands, but is open for Guided Tours on certain days if arranged in advance. It must be just stunning in the spring! What a generous gift the Sands have provided for the public by allowing others to



enjoy this wonderful property! I would heartily recommend taking in this short walk at any time when in the area, and certainly plan a guided tour if you are there in the spring. Check out their website to find out more about the Gerdemann Botanic Preserve in Yachats, Oregon [http://gerdemanngarden.org/!](http://gerdemanngarden.org/)

TIDBITS...

West Coast Seeds have recently put out a Fall & Winter Gardening Guide with planting charts that is available on line. Address below for anyone interested.

http://www.westcoastseeds.com/catalogues/fallwinter_guide/allwinterguide2012/files/assets/basic-html/page1.html



Propagation Workshop Saturday, October 13, 2012

The Victoria Propagating Group will hold another Propagating Workshop on October 13, 2012 at the home of 

**Madeleine and Ken Webb
5008 Old West Saanich Road, Saanich, BC**

This will be a hands-on workshop where everyone will be able to choose cuttings to put in their propagator. We will be working mostly in the garden, so warm and weather-proof clothes will be necessary.

Talks and discussions will include most of the local propagators and hybridizers.

The cost is \$25 which includes a hot lunch and coffee breaks.

Start time is 9:30 am to give people from the mainland and up island time to get here.

We plan to finish with an early dinner at a local restaurant (not included) to give enough time for everyone to get home same day.

For registration and questions
email kenwebb@live.ca
or phone 250-744-1785

Please register early – space is limited.



The ARS is initiating a student membership program for the chapters to encourage horticulture students to become part of the Society – details to follow. Also the ARS journal will be available electronically soon, more details in the summer journal.



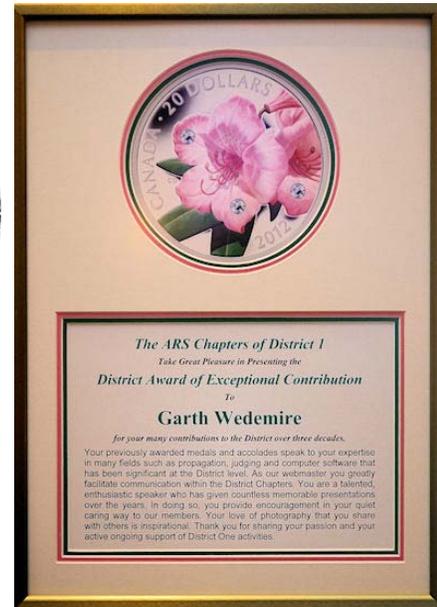
The next ARS Annual Convention will be hosted by District 3 at the SeaTac Marriot Hotel from Thursday, May 2nd to Sunday, May 5th, 2013.



The next ARS Western Regional Conference will be held at Best Western Agate Beach Inn, Newport, OR Friday, Sept 27th to Sunday, Sept 29th, 2013.

District Award Presented

At the ARS Western Regional Fall Conference in Nanaimo last weekend, Garth Wedemire was the keynote speaker at the



(Photos by Susan Lightburn)

Friday night dinner. Following Garth's colourful presentation highlighting five Vancouver Island gardens, District 1 Director Mary J. Parker took the opportunity to thank Garth for his many contributions to the district and the ARS. On behalf of the District 1 chapters, Mary presented him with a District Award for his exceptional contributions.

The award citation states: "The ARS Chapters of District 1 takes great pleasure in presenting the "District Award of Exceptional Contribution" to Garth Wedemire for your many contributions to the District over three decades.

Your previously awarded medals and accolades speak to your expertise in many fields, such as propagation, judging and computer software that has been significant at the District level. As our webmaster you greatly facilitate communications within the District Chapters. You are a talented, enthusiastic speaker who has given countless memorable presentations over the years. In doing so, you provide encouragement in your quiet caring way to our members. Your love of photography that you share with others is inspirational. Thank you for sharing your passion and your active ongoing support of District One activities."

The award is accompanied with a special \$20 pure silver coin from the Canadian mint that features rhododendron blooms with three Swarovski dew drop crystals. A large replica of the coin was the focal point of the framed award. Congratulations to our friend and NIRS associate member on receiving this well-deserved recognition.

FALL GARDEN CHORES

Labour Day has come and gone this year, and now it's time to think of all those Fall chores. Most we have been putting off in favor of golfing. Although we have had a beautiful continuation of summer in September I'm afraid the feel and smell of fall is most definitely in the air. There are a number of fall yard chores that gardeners should consider.

Perennials need to be cut back as they fade, and at the same time it's a good idea to scratch some super phosphate fertilizer into the soil around them. Around the garden remove leftover vegetation and put it in the compost pile. There is an excellent video presentation on building a compost system on one of the "How to Series" of DVDs from *Fine Gardening* now available through our NIRS library.

Cooler temperatures are perfect for planting or transplanting large trees or shrubs because roots settle in without getting parched. Try to complete all planting by mid-October. Fall is also an ideal time for pruning some of the trees or shrubs in your yard. If wind or heavy snow is a concern, wrap small trees and shrubs in several layers of burlap or shelter them under a simple plywood lean-to.

For those with a drip irrigation system now is the time to clear the water from the lines so it doesn't freeze and damage the pipes. If an air compressor is available, a hose attachment allows for a fast way to ensure all water is forced out of the lines. A simple way to drain your garden hose is to lay it on a downward slope and pull it slowly toward you, coiling it as you do so. Once they're coiled, tie and store them in your garage or shed.

Speaking of storing for the winter be sure to clean, sharpen and lubricate garden tools before putting them away, so that they are ready for use when next spring rolls around.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

ALL new or renewing NIRS members dues remain at \$35.00 Canadian. All Associate memberships are \$10.00 Canadian. Associates are members of another chapter who wish to also be affiliated with our North Island Rhododendron Society chapter. Bring payment to next meeting or mail cheques as soon as possible to:

NIRS

Attn: Brian Staton
P.O. Box 3183
Courtenay, BC
V9N 5N4



Once again, NIRS membership brings discounts at many garden nurseries and retailers. Those businesses providing discounts for 2012-2013 include:

Arrowsmith Nursery in 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. Comox
Growing Concern in Black Creek (seasonal opening)
Hidden Acres Nursery, Campbell River
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



If any member wishes to have other businesses considered for discounts to our members please bring them to the attention of our Ways & Means chair, Nadine Boudreau. Discounts can help save the price of your membership.

Winter is an etching
Spring a watercolour
Summer an oil painting
and
Autumn a mosaic of them all

Recipe Requests!

Zucchini Drops

(Noni Godfrey)

$\frac{3}{4}$ C Butter or marg, softened	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ C Sugar
2 Eggs	1 tsp Baking Powder
1 tsp Baking Soda	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp cinnamon
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ C Grated zucchini, unpeeled	$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt
1 tsp vanilla	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ C raisins
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ C Flour	1 C chopped walnuts

Cream butter and sugar well. Beat in eggs 1 at a time. Add zucchini and vanilla.

Stir remaining ingredients together and add. Mix well. Drop by spoonful onto greased baking sheet. Bake in 350°F oven for 12 to 15 minutes. Makes 5 dozen.

Rolo Cookies

(Chris Aldred)

1 C Butter	1 C brown sugar
1 C sugar	2 eggs
2 tsp vanilla	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ C flour
$\frac{3}{4}$ C cocoa	1 Tbsp Baking soda
1 C chopped pecans	5 rolls Rolo candy

Sugar for coating
Cream butter, sugars, eggs and vanilla. Mix together dry ingredients. Add to creamed mixture and blend well. Add nuts, mix. Wrap balls of dough around rolo candy, and roll in extra sugar. Mini rolo bagged candy works as well! Bake 8-10 min at 350°F. Cool on rack. Freezes well

Note. Try to use smaller rather than bigger amounts of dough around each candy for a more yummy cookie. Enjoy.

