



The Rhodoteller

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September

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

4th Sept 2012-Executive Meeting 2:00 pm

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

11th Sept 2012-Regular Monthly Meeting

A powerpoint presentation

"Some Help in Growing Rhododendrons"



Join us on Tuesday, September 11th, for another informative PowerPoint presentation from Paul Wurz. Have you ever wondered when to fertilize, prune, deadhead, move or water? What about selecting and buying or how to look for telltale signs of stress and disease. All your questions will be answered when our resident expert, Paul Wurz will cover the basic requirements of growing rhododendrons.

Executive View

...by Paul Wurz

As we enter another year, it is time to welcome in a new executive and to thank the old executive for the wonderful job they did in the past year. It seems that it was just yesterday that I sat in the President's chair, and now looking forward to another 2 years in that position. It is a pleasure being the President with such a great hardworking and conscientious group and, of equal importance, to have such an enthusiastic membership. It seems that every activity that the club participates in receives full support.

My how time flies! A walk in the garden will show lots of rhododendrons developing bloom buds already for next spring – with our excellent weather it should be another good year. It will be difficult to match last spring's flowering which seemed to be the best ever, huge flowers that seemed to last forever.

At Hidden Acres we are blessed with a wonderful source of water for our garden, and hopefully the rest of you were able to keep your rhododendrons well watered. It is kind of convenient being a rhodo grower as you cannot really go wrong with the weather. If it is warm and dry, a great time to go fishing or holidaying; and if the rain falls and it is cool, the rhododendrons are happy!

Half of our executive did themselves proud on August 21st by hosting the District 1 meeting at the church hall – a first for our club! Thanks to Dave, Noni, Chris, Lois and Diana for providing a wonderful lunch for representatives of chapters from the Island and the Lower Mainland.

Just a last minute reminder for our members, if you have not yet registered for the Nanaimo Conference in September it is a great opportunity to widen your knowledge of rhododendrons and to meet new friends. It sounds like it is going to be an excellent Conference. You can get information from the latest ARS Journal or the web page, which is: <http://arsnanaimo2012.ca/>.

We still have a few weeks left of summer, so enjoy and hope to see all of you in September.

SEPTEMBER RAFFLE RHODOS:

(by Diana Scott)

A strong, vigorous grower, our first raffle rhodo is 'Super Nova', a mid-season bloomer introduced by Briggs Nursery. Sporting large, wavy, deep green leaves, 'Super Nova' has conical rose-red trusses and will grow into a large upright shrub. Briggs Nursery developed it in 1987-- in a test tube. Taking the popular red 'Nova Zembla', Briggs

doubled the chromosomes and created a 'Nova Zembla' polyploidy. This resulted in a great looking, but thicker and more compact plant (Super Nova) than the upright and open growing 'Nova Zembla'. Relatively sun-hardy, 'Super Nova' will be a stunning shrub in someone's garden!

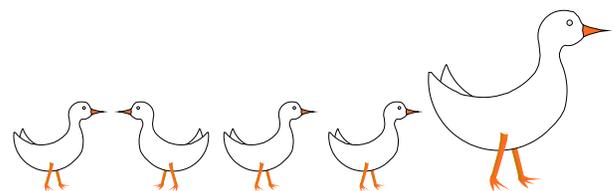


Super Nova



Anna Rose Whitney

The second rhodo is 'Anna Rose Whitney'. Developed by Washington State hybridizer William Whitney, 'Anna Rose Whitney' (griersonianum x Countess of Derby) also grows into a tall, well-shaped shrub. Named after William's mother, it has been a garden favourite since introduced in 1954. With the Catawbiense parentage of the Countess of Derby, 'Anna Rose Whitney' is part of the 'Iron Clad' Catawba Hybrids. These tend to be both heat resistant and cold hardy with great colour and large blooms; many have been used for further hybridizing. 'Anna Rose Whitney' is a late midseason bloomer. Ball shaped trusses are made up of large funnel shaped rose pink flowers with some brown spotting in the throat. A show-stopper in any yard, this is a vigorous grower that needs plenty of room to grow.



From The Membership Chairman

NIRS dues for 2013 are coming due. To ensure continued membership, and to receive your January (Winter) issue of the ARS Journal, please make your payment of \$35 for a regular membership (single or couple) to our membership chair, Brian Staton. A new membership card will be issued upon payment.

Once again, NIRS membership brings discounts at many garden nurseries and retailers. Please continue to support the many businesses that support us.

Members' Notes

...by *Dave Godfrey*

Looking back over the past few months, June seems so long ago now, so time to recap the many summer activities. On June 7th, Garden Director *Ross Munro* called for a cleanup work party at our Comox Valley Rhodo Garden. However, as this was one of those wet days, very few members showed up and those who did (*Ross, Ruth Fowler* and *Jim Clyde*) didn't stick around to get drenched. There are always other opportunities to deadhead and weed.

Speaking of deadheading, a group of 25 NIRS members attended a work party at 'Haida Gold Gardens' on Thursday morning, June 14th. Thanks to the many helpers, *Gwen Wright's* garden got a much needed boost to the cleanup of her many rhodos and garden beds.

Another attempt at a work party was called for the CVRG on Thursday morning, June 21st, fortunately, this time the weather cooperated and a dozen or so members managed to get most of the rhododendrons deadheaded. The task is always a big chore following the spring bloom season, but one that is necessary in order to keep the gardens looking presentable to the hundreds of public visitors who pass through the gardens each day throughout the summer months.

Between the work parties, there was an opportunity for some fun and fellowship. On the afternoon of Saturday, June 16th, over 40 members and guests gathered at the garden of *Robert Argall* at Cape Lazo to enjoy our annual year-end wrap up potluck picnic. In addition to the delicious meal, the highlight of the day was the presentation of two Bronze medals. In appreciation of their dedication to their duties as directors on the executive committee and for their continued contributions, *President Diana Scott* presented framed bronze medals to *Christine Aldred* and *Brian Staton*. (See article in this newsletter)

A special presentation was also made by Social Committee chair, *Louise Casson* to *Peter Guertler*. For his ongoing delicious contributions to our monthly meetings, Peter was presented with a lovely glass serving dish; no doubt in expectation of some future delights.

Following the presentations, draws were made for the rhododendron 'Hansel' won by yours truly and a secondary prize (kindly donated by *Art & Susan Lightburn*) of the species *r. Coeloneuron* won by *Noni Godfrey*. There were three additional prizes of potted trilliums, also donated by Art & Susan. Congratulations to all the winners.

Barb & Brian Staton once again organized various games enjoyed by most in attendance. Random teams of four players, rotated through game stations of bocce, bola-golf, Frisbee toss and 'chicken-ducking' (tossing a rubber chicken or duck into an inner tube.) About ten minutes were given at each station with 'ends won' recorded for each team. After all teams had an opportunity to play each game, the ultimate winners were calculated. Novelty prizes were then awarded to each team member of all the teams. For the many photos of the day and all other summer activities, check out the photo gallery on our club's website (a small sampling here of the picnic, and the NIRS web address can be found on the front banner of each newsletter.)



July 1st was the official start of the new NIRS term for elected executive members. *Diana Scott* became Past President when *Paul Wurz* officially became President. I remain on as the club's Treasurer, while *Pauline Thompson* has agreed to continue as our secretary. In addition, Pauline has agreed to fill the position of Vice President... "in name only!" - meaning we will need to find a member willing to take over as Vice President with the intention of becoming President when Paul's term is completed in two years time. So please give this some serious thought with the understanding that our club can only function if members are willing to step up to become members of the executive.

In the meantime, in July and August more work parties at the CV Rhodo Garden were held to coincide with our usual Tuesday evening meetings. At 7 PM on Tuesday, July 10th, only 6 members attended, but we did manage to weed the BOVI bed which was becoming overrun with tall and numerous weeds. Following the hour or so of pulling weeds, the group gathered for cool drinks. Being such a hot evening, we had contemplated going around the corner to the Whistle Stop pub, but elected to go to McDonald's for iced coffees instead.

Then again, at 7 PM on Tuesday, August 14th over a dozen members came out with weed pulling tools in hand to help tackle the many weeds, once again! It seems a monthly attack on the weeds helps keep most under control and the garden beds looking superb for public viewing. We receive lots of compliments from those walking by whenever we are working in the garden. (Photos on our website.)

The following Tuesday, August 21st, NIRS hosted the semi-annual District 1 Presidents' meeting. This is the first time that our chapter has taken the opportunity to host one of these important meetings. *District Director Mary Parker* of Nanaimo explained that due to the closure of two of the four chapters on the lower mainland, the meetings will be held twice on Vancouver Island and once on the mainland (previously they alternated between the island and the mainland.)



In addition to District Director Mary, *Alternate Director Ken Webb* of Victoria along with presidents and representatives from five other chapters attended the meeting held at our church hall. Business discussions focused on activities by the chapters, upcoming conference preparations and

provide an opportunity to learn from others how each chapter operates. The meetings are held twice each year with the next meeting scheduled to be hosted by the Fraser South chapter on March 20th, 2013.

Following the meeting, the delegates were provided an opportunity to tour the beautiful garden of *Roberts and Adela Smith*. By all reports, the luncheon and tour were very much appreciated by all.

And now it is time to get back to business! With the summer behind us and a feeling of fall in the air, we begin our monthly meetings starting on September 11th. Our new president, *Paul Wurz*, will not only chair the meeting, but will also be our presenter for the evening. Paul will provide lots of advice and tips on growing rhododendrons with his program - "Some Help in Growing Rhododendrons". Be sure to mark your calendars and try to attend this informative meeting.

Western Regional Conference

A Note from the conference co-chairs.

The Western Regional Conference of the ARS, hosted by the Nanaimo Chapter of the ARS is almost here! As of August 26th we have 26 days to go before it begins. The Conference Committee is getting excited and looking forward to meeting new friends and greeting "old" ones. We have over 200 people registered and know that it will be a success - thanks to the many people who have so willingly volunteered their time and talents.

The Committee would like to encourage those of you who haven't yet registered for the conference to do so ASAP. The Conference hotel, the Coast Bastion Inn is filling up - but there are also reasonable rooms in close proximity as well.

The Plant Sale will be open to Conference attendees and ARS members only on Friday, the 21st of September (between 2 and 6 pm - downstairs in the Benson Room). On Saturday, the plant sale will be open from 10am until 6pm and on Sunday from 10 am until 1:00 pm. We have both Canadian and American growers and they will all have delicious plants for sale, both species and hybrids that you just can't purchase in any of our local nurseries. One gallon plants will be \$12 and two gallon plants will be \$24, with the exception of the Rhodo Species Foundation plants (over 200 of them) which will vary in price. Remind your friends that September is a great time to buy rhododendrons and fall is one of the best times to plant them. Terry Richmond and a number of outstanding growers and gardeners will be on hand to give advice and help you find those perfect plants for your gardens. Phyto certificates will not be available for our US guests.

The lineup of speakers is impressive and we know that we'll

all learn something new. Both tours are showcasing some fantastic gardens where you'll pick up ideas you can use in your own gardens. The food and venue are both great - no matter if you're just participating in some of the conference or taking it all in. We have some excellent items available for the silent auction and door prize draw and the collector's prints, photo contest and the foliage display will all be well worth seeing.

We are looking forward to welcoming keen gardeners from across North America and sharing our gardening paradise! See you soon!

Chris Southwick and Gayle McRae
Conference Co-chairs



BRONZE MEDAL

It was with great pleasure that President Diana Scott presented the American Rhododendron Society Bronze Medal to Christine Aldred and Brian Staton on June 16th 2012. The ARS Bronze Medal is awarded for outstanding contributions to a Chapter and is the highest commendation

awarded by a local Chapter in the Society.

Christine has served on the Executive since 2006 first as Publicity Chair and then heading up our Revenue Table. Christine has been part of the Garden Tour Fundraising Committee, taken a lead role in making our Christmas Socials a success, coordinated our community charity program, been a regular at our work parties, and has been available whenever needed. We congratulate Christine on being awarded the ARS Bronze Medal by the North Island Rhododendron Society.

Brian has served on the Executive as Membership Chair since 2006, coordinated a number of bus tours for both the Executive and Members, planned several Garden Tour fundraisers, been a vendor at our Rhodo

Sale, a regular at our work parties, and has been available whenever needed. We congratulate Brian on being awarded the ARS Bronze Medal by the North Island Rhododendron Society.

The Bronze Medal was presented as part of a framed certificate stating: "North Island Rhododendron Society recognizes Christine Aldred (Brian Staton) for the ARS Bronze Award for her (his) many years of service and continued dedication to the Society."

CONGRATULATIONS Congratulations
Congratulations **congratulations**
CONGRATULATIONS Congratulations

Garden Supply Discount Offers

Just a reminder that NIRS membership brings discounts at many garden retailers. Those businesses now providing discounts for 2013 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
Growing Concern in Black Creek (seasonal opening)
Hidden Acres Nursery in 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

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 the value of your membership returned in no time.



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

THE DEVELOPMENT OF LEONARDSLEE GARDEN AND THE RAISING OF RHODODENDRON 'LODERI'

(By John M. Hammond)

"It has been my good fortune to know nearly all the most brilliant students and writers who have specialized both in outdoor and museum natural history during the past forty years, and whilst many have done more in writing standard works on various subjects than Sir Edmund Loder, none of them brought to the task more brilliant gifts or were more accurate either in the observations or the conclusions from the works of previous writers. Whilst I have known Sir Edmund for nearly thirty years and have constantly discussed with him questions relating to zoology and botany I have never known him to make a single error."—Lieut.-Commander John Guille Millais

INTRODUCTION:

There will be very few rhododendron enthusiasts of all persuasions who do not recognize the name of Sir Edmund Giles Loder (1849-1920), or the garden he developed at Leonardslee in Sussex, or the extremely attractive R. 'Loderi' crosses he created, which grace gardens in many corners of the globe. And yet, most enthusiasts know little of this remarkable hybridizer, who excelled in many walks of life and was an inspiration, father-figure and a kindly mentor to many of his friends and associates. The words of his close friend and neighbour, John Guille Millais, taken from *The Times* notice of Sir Edmund's death in 1920, provide an insight to this reserved gentleman, who could be somewhat abrupt and did not suffer fools gladly; but this natural shyness, when in the company of strangers, vanished as soon as he became comfortable with those around him and he became delightful company who was completely at home discussing a vast array of subjects.

Sir Edmund was something of a latter-day Renaissance man, who understood optics and optical instruments, he was an expert photographer, a great zoologist, a practical naturalist, botanist, a great horticulturist and arboriculturist, he understood ballistics, and was a skilled mechanic and armourer. In addition, he was a thoroughly equipped and experienced sportsman, a hard rider to hounds, a good shot with a gun and one of the best with a rifle, and a good fisherman; he had been a fine athlete, and till quite late in life was an energetic dancer. Sir Edmund could draw well and knew more than most people guessed about art, music, gems, jade, carving and curios. He knew the insides of countless books and had great powers of discrimination as to their intrinsic merits; he was a good judge too of the accessories to literature, illustrations, processes and the like.

Whilst this article is aimed at providing an insight into the life of Sir Edmund Loder, the garden he laid out on the Leonardslee Estate and the development of the world renowned rhododendron hybrid that bears his name, it is inevitable that some strands of his wider interests and activities need to be woven into the story as a means of establishing a chronological order of events and placing various aspects in context. The introduction of the 'Group' epithet in relatively recent years has in some cases resulted in the 'lumping-together' of early hybrids whose full parentage and historical background are subjective and in some cases unknown, and whose leaf and flower characteristics are not exactly the same, or in some cases are unknown; thus sometimes leading to an incorrect historical attribution. This article does not use the 'Group' epithet, as the present methodology of its application to crosses made by the early hybridizers is erroneous, and counter-productive to historical research work.

EDMUND GILES LODER'S FORMATIVE YEARS :

In 1847, at the age of 24 years, Robert Loder (1823-1888) had married Maria Georgiana, the fourth daughter of Mr. Hans Busk. On August 7th, 1849, Edmund Giles Loder, the eldest of ten children and known as 'Eddie' within the family, was born at 16 Montagu Street, Portman Square, the home of his aunt, Julia Clara, Mrs. William Pitt Byrne, his mother's sister. Queen Victoria was but 30 years old and Edmund was to live through 52 years of her reign. The Loder Family originated from Haselbury Bryan in Dorset, where they had become established by the mid-16th Century, and had ample means at their disposal that came from merchant trading in Russia. Robert Loder inherited the bulk of the large fortune accumulated by his father, being the only surviving son of his father's first marriage; his brother Edmund died at an early age and, acknowledging the gap it left in his life, he called his first son Edmund. In 1847 Robert Loder bought The High Beeches estate, near Crawley in Sussex, and commenced rebuilding the House in 1856; he was MP for Shoreham in 1887, and was created a 1st Baronet in the same year.

Edmund Loder, when not either at Eton College or Trinity, Cambridge, followed in the family tradition in terms of hunting wild game and until the very last years of his life he never missed a season's deer-stalking, except when abroad; and on every occasion when he was abroad in the deer-stalking season, he was stalking chamois or other game. The Forest of Amat and Corriemulzie, in the Northern Highlands of Scotland, was the selection of Edmund and his brother Wilfrid, who went off to find one to their taste and made a selection that the family never regretted. Amat and Corriemulzie were rented from Mr. George Ross of Pitcalnie from 1872 to 1885 (inclusive of both seasons) ; and in 1876 Mr. Loder took in addition Glen Diebidale, north of Ullapool, from Sir Alexander Matheson and remained the tenant till 1885.





In 1873 Robert Loder purchased the highly-regarded Whittlebury estate in Northamptonshire, with its 600 acres of parkland and large red deer herd, from the Trustees of Lord Southampton. On reaching 24 years of age, in June 1874, Edmund Loder left England to see the World and returned home for Christmas in December 1875. He spent a considerable period hunting in various parts of India and on February 16th, 1875 wrote to his brother Wilfrid from "a hut in the west of the Neilgherry Hills"

"The Neilgherry Hills are very curious, they rise quite abruptly from the surrounding country on the western side; there is nothing but immense rocky precipices, reminding one more of those of the Yosemite Valley than anything else I have seen. The plateau is not by any means level ; sometimes on the bottoms of the valleys it cannot be more than 4,500 ft. above the sea, while some of the highest hills are 8,500 ft. The western Neilgherries are much like the South Downs about doubled in scale, green grassy hills; but the peculiarity is that the bottoms of a great many of the valleys and a large number of the slacks and small corries running up the hillsides are filled with shrubberies or Sholahs as they are called here. These are of all sizes from hundreds of acres to only an acre. These shrubberies are composed of shrubs the names of which I do not know, but they look much like box, bay, laurestinus, etc., but the principal tree is the rhododendron, which grows here to a very large size—I have measured some whose trunks were 11 ft. in circumference. They are now all in bloom and look very fine."

(This is a very long and intensive article so it will be continued over several months issues of the Rhodoteller)

Editor's note: *By way of Frances Burns, editor of the Eugene Chapter newsletter, we have been given permission to reprint this series authored by John Hammond, one of Britain's foremost activists in the preservation of rhododendron gardens and their history. His subject of Sir Edmond Giles Loder should be of great interest to anyone who has seen or grown any of the Loderi Group rhododendrons; those tree-like giant beauties with stunning white and pastel blooms.*



Water feature at Leonardslee, West Sussex



R. Loderi – White Diamond



R. Loderi – King George



Magnificent colours of Leonardslee Gardens



Recipe Requests

Matrimonial Cake

(aka Date Squares) (Lois Clyde)

1 $\frac{3}{4}$ C rolled oats 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ C flour
 1 C brown sugar 1 C butter or marg
 1 tsp salt 1 tsp baking soda

Date Filling:

2 C chopped dates (500 grams)
 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ C water



Boil until thick (may need to add a little more water)

Add 1 tsp. vanilla and Let cool.

Place dry ingredients in large bowl & mix well. Add butter or margarine & rub into crumbs.

Place half of the crumbs in a 9 x 11 pan.

Spread with cooled dates & rest of crumbs on top.

Bake @ 350 deg. until done (35 mins.)

Shortbread Tarts from "Best of Bridge" (Lois Clyde)

Use tiny muffin tins- approximately 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter.
 This will make about 3 dozen.

1 C butter $\frac{1}{2}$ C icing sugar
 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ C flour 1 Tbsp Cornstarch



Mix ingredients in mix master. Don't roll but pat into muffin tins with your fingers to form shell. Prick the bottoms with a fork & bake 20 mins. At 300 to 325 deg (I bake @ 325 deg) During baking time prick bottoms again if the shells puff up. These may be made in large quantity & frozen.

Lemon Cheese Filling

2 eggs (beat well) 2 Tbsp. Butter

1 C sugar

Juice of 2 lemons & a bit of peel

Combine all ingredients in a pan & bring to boil. Heat & cook, stirring constantly for 15 mins. Cover & cool in refrigerator. This filling will keep for a long time. Only fill the shells as they are required.

Mini Chocolate Cupcake Cookies

(Diana Scott)

1/2 C. butter 1 C brown sugar
 1 C half and half 2 C crushed graham crackers
 2 C chopped nuts 12 oz. mini chocolate chips

FROSTING:

4 oz. milk chocolate bar
 Cream sugar and butter and half and half. Add all remaining ingredients. Spray mini muffin pan with Pam or grease with butter. Fill muffin pan almost full and bake 12 minutes at 375 degrees. Let cool before taking out of tin. Turn upside down and frost with melted chocolate bar. Makes about 44-48 muffins.



Cheese Apple Squares

(Chris Aldred)

1 C cheddar grated 1/2 C marg
 1 1/2 C flour 1 tsp B powder
 2 Tbsp sugar
 1 C crab apple jelly or apple pie filling

DELICIOUS

Crumble cheese and margarine together, add flour, baking powder and sugar. Crumble well. Place more than half of mixture in a 8" square pan, spread with jelly, then press remaining mix on top. Bake at 350 for about 25 mins. While still warm, spread more jelly, which has been heated to soften.. Voila.

I found it impossible to "crumble" the cheese and margarine, so I just blended it all together by hand. But when you add the dry ingredients, it crumbles well. I also made it in a bit larger pan, so it only took 15 min in oven. It's really nice, and in fact, I think you could add even more cheese, to make it more savoury. And it's dead quick to make....Chris



Until Next Month
 Noni