



The Rhodoteller

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February

North Island Rhododendron Society

2012/2013 Executive

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Social Committee:

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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

5th February 2013 - Executive Meeting 2:00 pm

The executive meeting will be held at the home of Ross and Nancy Munro, 3700 Hilton Road, Royston. South along Island Highway turn left at Hilton Road (sign for Greystone Manor) opposite the Hiawatha Evergreen sign.

19th February 2013 - Regular Monthly Meeting

"Common Sense Fertilizing"



Join us on Tuesday, February, 19th, for a presentation by Terry Richmond from Port Alberni. Terry is a founding member of the MARS (Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society) chapter and an associate member of the NIRS. Terry will be our speaker at the meeting and has a mission—to sprinkle a little "common sense" onto the confusing subject of fertilizing rhododendrons, and plants in general. "The whole purpose of fertilizing is to eliminate the need to fertilize," he says. So be sure to attend the meeting on **February 19th** to learn more about "Common Sense Fertilizing."

EXECUTIVE VIEW

...by Paul Wurz

So what does a "rhodo nut" do in late January and February? Well, on Sunday (January 27th) I spent much of the day in Victoria with approximately 15 other rhodo people meeting to plan the 2015 Rhododendron Conference, which will be held in Sidney. If the initial plans are any indication, it is going to be a great conference. Tomorrow, (January 30th) I will be meeting with another group of rhododendron enthusiasts at Milner Gardens, where we will be assisting in the planning of a Rhodo Species garden at Milner - many of the same people will be there. At this time, there is not a formal species garden on Vancouver Island, so this will be a welcome addition.

Back at home, there is evidence that spring (hopefully) will soon be here. Even in the far north of Campbell River, there are a few snowdrops in bloom, a few hellebores showing colour and the first daffodils showing their shoots. I expect our Comox members, particularly Robert Argall, are probably far ahead.

If you still have leaves to be raked, it might be an opportune time to get this done before these plants continue to sprout. Using a leaf blower is a much easier and a safer way of exposing these young plants. Some rhododendrons might need a bit of attention; although without any amount of snow this winter, and no violent "southeasters", there has been very little damage to the plants.

For those rhodo gardeners that have time to pinch those growth buds on the taller, faster growing plants, now is a good time to start. We can also start thinking about fertilizing our rhododendron garden; although we might want to wait until we hear Terry Richmond's presentation at our next meeting.

In closing, please keep your fingers crossed, and perhaps say a little prayer, that our very mild gentle winter will continue and we will

have a great spring. The good news is - the days are getting longer: sunrise today was 7:48 AM and sunset at 5:03 PM - that's over 9 hours of sunlight! Did you see it?

Hope to see all of you on February 19thremember, we are having our meeting a week late due to a conflict at the church.



...by Diana Scott

Rhododendron 'English Roseum' (catawbiense x unknown) is thought to be a sport of R. 'Roseum Elegans'. It is attributed to Waterer, but different sites list different Waterers and various dates for its introduction! What is agreed upon however, is that this is a large growing vigorous plant tolerant of extremes in cold, heat and humidity - another of the Ironclad rhodos. Dense in habit, it has interesting leaves that are medium green, smooth and glossy, with a bit of rolling at the leaf margin. A late midseason bloomer, the soft rosy-pink flowers (with a bit of an orange blotch) can cover the plant in a lavender glow. A tried-and-true rhodo!



Happy Valentines Day



Rhododendron 'Dora Amateis' (minus var. minus carolinianum group x ciliatum) hybridized by Edmond Amateis, is a much loved plant in our area. Winner of the Award of Excellence of the American Rhododendron Society and the First Class Certificate from the Royal Horticultural Society, 'Dora Amateis' is a low growing bushy plant with deep green foliage and large white flowers (unusual for a lepidote) with a bit of green speckling in the throat. Its ciliatum parentage gives it a slightly spicy scent. This rhodo does well in sun and is quite stunning when planted en masse. A good example of this is the grouping of mature 'Dora Amateis' planted along the 5th Street retaining wall by the Sid Williams Theatre. Dora Amateis? Always room for one more!

BREAKING NEWS: Our February meeting scheduled for Tuesday the 12th has been postponed to Feb. 19th!

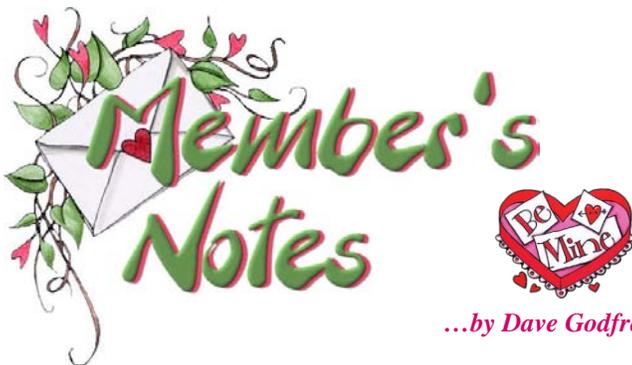
Although there was a mix of snow and rain falling on the afternoon of our January 8th meeting, it did not amount to any accumulations for most of the Courtenay/Comox area. Unlike Campbell River and Black Creek that received 3 to 5 inches, depending on specific areas, and Nanaimo which received accumulations of 6 to 8 inches, we dodged a bullet this time around. This brought back memories of our January 2011 meeting when **Steve Hootman** from the Rhododendron Species Foundation Botanical Garden (RSFBG) was scheduled to be our guest speaker. The heavy snowfall two years ago not only prevented Steve from travelling, it also resulted in the first-ever cancellation of one of our meetings.

However, 53 members and 6 guests attended our January meeting this year and we were delighted to welcome back **Bernice Morrison** as a returning member. We also welcome our newest member **Lynn Gray** who joined our chapter. As membership chair **Brian Staton** reported, this brings our membership totals to a record 70 – with 64 regular members and 6 associates.

During the business portion of the meeting, it was mentioned that a condolence card has been sent on behalf of all NIRS members to our long-standing associate member and friend, **Ken Gibson**, on the sudden tragic drowning death of his daughter Lana.

Members were also advised of a busy month of May coming again this year. In addition to our annual sale & show on Sunday, May 5th and Mother's Day Garden Tour on Sunday, May 12th, plans are in the works for a tour of NIRS gardens by members of the Salt Spring Garden Club on Thursday, May 16th. Also another exciting bus tour is in the planning stages for our members to visit gardens in the Cowichan Valley area on Thursday, May 23rd. Details of these events will be announced at meetings and in the newsletter as they become available in the coming months.

Diana Scott and **Adrienne McNabb** have agreed to spearhead a project to confirm 'Proven Performer' rhododendrons in our North Island area. They will be calling on members to find out which rhododendrons are growing well in their gardens and the growing conditions these plants enjoy. In addition, once this list is compiled, plants in the four major categories will then be nominated to the American Rhododendron Society (ARS) for consideration as 'Rhododendron of the Year' (ROY). As Diana explained to those in attendance, these ROY plants are announced three years in advance in order to allow growers time to propagate them and make them available to others through their nurseries.



...by **Dave Godfrey**

With the holiday season behind us, and despite the fact that the Mayan calendar had elapsed, the start of the New Year meant it was time to get back to business with our regular meetings.

For the meeting's 'Show & Tell', several members named some of the many winter plants that are showing colour around their gardens. This became a segway into our program for the evening when **Leslie Cox**, President of the Comox Valley Horticultural Society, presented her colourful "Horticultural Wonders" show.

As Leslie explained, their home and nursery business (*Growing Concerns*) in Black Creek basically has a front garden and a back garden. The front of their property has been designated as her garden, while the back garden is primarily husband John's responsibility. Leslie is also a well known garden columnist under the title "The Duchess of Dirt" to which she has affectionately dubbed John - "The Duke of Compost".



"The Duke of Compost."



"The Duchess of Dirt."

Leslie's presentation began with a Chinese proverb... "Life begins the day you start a garden." The colourful photos of the many varied flowers growing in their gardens were a welcome treat during this dark winter month. John's skilled photography captured some wonderful shots of hellebores ('Pink Frost' is highly recommended), pasque flowers, hostas, ligularia, primula, daphnes, peonies, grasses, and many more!



Helleborus
'Pink Frost'



Geranium psilostemon

In addition, Leslie has a great variety of geraniums, many small but some as tall as four feet. As she said, "If you only have room for one, I highly recommend Geranium 'psilostemon'." Her favourite clematis is 'Polish Spirit'. Again if you can only have one, this is the one. It grows 20 to 25 feet in one season and displays lush purple flowers profusely all season long.

Sedums and herbs also add a lot of character to any garden, while delphiniums, foxgloves and lupines are great for attracting ladybugs and bees. Leslie's presentation also showed a variety of snails and tree frogs which some become temporary 'pets' for her visiting grandchildren. Additional information and colourful photographs can be found on Leslie's website <http://duchessofdirt.ca/>

Immediately following Leslie's presentation draws were made for the evening's raffle prizes. Congratulations to **Ann Chevrier** winner of R. 'Hawaii' and **Claudia Ellis** winner of R. 'Very Berry'. The door prize of R. 'Cupcake', donated by **Ken Webb**, was eventually awarded to **Louise Casson**. Be sure to wear your NIRS name tag to the meetings for an extra 'free' ticket for the raffles!

Our new social convenor, **Claudia Ellis**, was delighted with the response for her request for goodies at the coming meetings. Many members volunteered to bring treats to the meetings for the remainder of the term. Thanks to **Peter Guertler**, **Isabel Petch**, **Helen Stefiuk** and **Louise Casson** for offering to bring goodies for our **February 19th** meeting. This meeting will feature NIRS associate member **Terry**

Richmond from Port Alberni who will be speaking on "Common Sense Fertilizing." Be sure to mark your calendars, **noting the change in the date**, for yet another interesting and informative meeting.

Also, don't forget to have your camera at the ready. As *Diana Scott* has requested, we would like members to take photos of their gardens throughout the different seasons. Many of these photos will be compiled into a PowerPoint presentation for a possible program next winter.



...by *Dave Godfrey*

As webmaster, I encourage you to check our NIRS website for new additions to the 'Photo Gallery' page. Pictures of the Christmas Party and the Nanaimo Conference have recently been added. To open an album, simply click on the small photo. Once the album is loaded, you can either manually view the photos with the "next or previous" buttons, or click on "start slideshow" at the bottom left. You can pause the slideshow at any time by clicking on this same button; but remember to click "stop slideshow" and the "CLOSE" button (lower right) when finished.

There are also a couple of new links added at the bottom of our 'Links' page. Be sure to check out the new webpage for the Comox Valley Horticultural Society and for the Kitty Coleman Woodland Gardens.

For those members who haven't already done so, you can now view and read the latest JARS magazine in full colour through the ARS Website. Simply go to <http://www.arsoffice.org/jars/toc.asp> to register or login. You will need your ARS membership number found in your NIRS Yearbook roster to register.



**HAPPY
GROUNDHOG
DAY
2013**



Horticultural Wonders

The Garden of
John and Leslie Cox



...by *Maureen Denny*

The guest speaker at last month's meeting was Leslie Cox who presented a fabulous talk and slide show of the garden she and her husband (the photographer) have created in Black Creek. Following is a brief highlight of the perennials shown that evening.

Helleborus "Pink Frost" - Leslie highly recommended this particular cultivar, stating if you only had room in your garden for one hellebore this would be the one to have. It is a cultivar in the Gold Collection Series.

Epimedium rubrum - A great semi evergreen drought tolerant perennial. Leslie pointed out that it is best to cut this plant back in late winter to view the newly emerging flowers and colorful red tinted foliage. The unique flowers are crimson with yellow spurs. This plant does well in shade or part shade.

Scrophularia variegata - A tall perennial usually grown in a damp area, however her husband planted one in a drier site and found it did fine there as well. This plant has insignificant red flowers; Leslie mentioned these small flowers were an amazing bee magnet!

Fragaria "Lipstick" - A hybrid of a native species, sweet and charming ground cover strawberry plant with wonderful pink flowers and sweet small berries. There were lovely photos of it spilling over the garden's edge.

Eryngium alpinum - I found a great description of this plant on the RHS website. "An erect herbaceous perennial to 90 cm with heart shaped glossy dark green basal leaves, large cone like purple flower heads surrounded by 6cm length vivid blue spiny bracts borne on blue stems."

Helenium "Moorheim Beauty" - Long blooming dark centered coppery red daisy-like flowers, beautiful as all stages of the flower's progression gives a different yet enchanting look.

Phlomis russeliana - This is a very interesting tall perennial with tall sturdy stems rising to 90cm tall. The yellow flowers are distinct whorls set in tiers up the stems. The foliage is large rough and sage-like. It likes full sun and well drained soil.

Veronica prostrata "Trehane" - A low ground cover veronica with golden foliage and blue flowers.

Eucomis or pineapple lily - This is a plant that is strange in that a tuft of green bracts grows on top of the flowers, thus the name pineapple lily. It is actually a member of the asparagus family. Leslie observed it was great for bees and also hardy.

Clematis "Polish Spirit" - A group "C" clematis which means it can be cut right back to new buds in early spring. Blue/Purple color.

Clematis "Niobe" - Rich dark red with white stamens. Can be treated as a Group C or B for pruning classification. If treated as group C then Leslie recommended cutting it down low every 2nd year.

Hardy Geraniums "Splish Splash" - Mauve blue splashes and flecks on pure white petals. Each flower is variable in its markings.

Geranium renardii - Worth growing just for the leaves which are textured with scalloped edges. It blooms with white flowers that are marked with fine violet lines on the petals.

"Phillipe Vapelle" - A hybrid with renardii as one of its parents. It has the same wonderful foliage but has blue flowers with purple veining.

"Anne Folkard" - Black eyed and veined magenta flowers.

"Johnsons Blue" - An old standby, one of the best.

"Samobo." - Medium sized leaves each boldly splashed with purple/black marks against a green background. The flowers are small nodding and maroon colored.

There were also some wonderful planting combinations in the garden. She had placed white **Veronicastrum** beside red Bee Balm. Rue was with **Agastache "Golden Jubilee"**. This was a great contrast with the rue's small blue/green rounded foliage beside the larger golden foliage and blue spiked flowers of the agastache.

Allium "Christophii" was peeking through beside the flowers of **"Stargazer" Lily**. This was a very nice contrast in flower form. The pink tones in the allium looked beautiful with the lush pink in "Stargazer." Thanks John and Leslie for your inspiration in the dark days of winter!

Note from Dick Bonney:

I have found A.R.S. (American Rhododendron Society) journals from 1985 to 1997 with one for 1998 and two for 2000. If anyone would like them please let me know. You can collect them from my place on Seabank road. My phone and address is in the members booklet. If there are no offers I will take them to the recycle bins.

Habitat for Humanity ReStore has a lot of 1-gallon pots, along with other interesting things. If anyone needs any pots for The Growing Season (which eventually will get here), they should check it out. The ReStore is at 13th and Edgett in Courtenay.

pHD Tester Pen

If you're experiencing trouble growing some plants, it might be the condition of your soil. There is no longer a rental fee for the use of the NIRS' pHD tester to check the conditions of your soil. The pen is available for one week at a time and can be picked up from and returned to Bernie Guyader.

Feb 2013 Goodie Guys and Gals:

Helen Stefiuk

Isabel Petch

Louise Casson

Peter Guertler

THE COMPUTER SWALLOWED GRANDMA

Yes, honestly it's true.
She pressed control and enter
and disappeared from view.
It devoured her completely,
the thought just makes me squirm.
She must of caught a virus,
or been eaten by a worm.
I've searched through the recycle bin,
and files of every kind,
and even used the internet,
but nothing did I find.
In desperation I asked Mr Google
my searches to refine.
The reply from him was negative,
not a thing was found on line.
So if inside your inbox,
my grandma you should see,
please copy, scan, and paste her,
and send her back to me!



Tidbits

"Rhododendrons, Then, Now and In Your Future"

67th Annual International Convention of the
AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

2nd to 5th May 2013

Seattle, Washington

Convention Website www.olympiachapterars.org



THE LODERI STORY PART 6

...by John M. Hammond. (continued from the January Rhodoteller)



Sir Gerald W. E. Loder

Sir Edmund Loder and Sir Gerald W.E. Loder provided other members of the family, and some of their fellow rhododendron friends with unnamed Loderi seedlings, some of which came from the 1901 cross. Many of these veterans, some around 35 ft tall, still light up the woodlands collections at Bodnant, Bulstrode Park, Colonsay House, Exbury, Muncaster Castle, Nymans, South Lodge, The High Beeches, Wakehurst Place & Windsor Great Park gardens.

Reports of visits to these gardens over many years suggests that individual unnamed clones still exist that are the equal of, if not better than, many named clones. 'Loderi Exbury', 'Loderi Venus' and 'Loderi Maximus' are the exceptions amongst the original named 1901 batch of seedlings. 'Loderi Venus' found its way to Exbury, along with another seedling that Lionel de Rothschild named 'Loderi Exbury', probably when Sir Edmund supplied plant material to Exbury around 1919, when the gardens were being laid out. 'Loderi Maximus' found its way to Compton's Brow and was named by John G. Millais. All 49 named clones are fragrant.

A total of 35 named clones are known to have been raised by Sir Edmund Loder.

REGISTERED CLONES:

Loderi Dairymaid, Loderi Fairyland, Loderi Fairy Queen, Loderi Gamechick, Loderi Georgette, Loderi Helen, Loderi King George, Loderi Patience, Loderi Pink Coral, Loderi Pink Diamond, Loderi Pink Topaz, Loderi Pretty Polly [The High Beeches], Loderi Princess Marina, Loderi Queen Mary, Loderi Sir Edmund, Loderi Sir Joseph Hooker, Loderi Spearmint [The High Beeches], Loderi Superlative [The High Beeches], Loderi Venus, Loderi White Diamond, Loderi White Pearl, Loderi Christopher Loder, Loderi Cream, Loderi Diamond, Loderi May Pink, Loderi Maximus [J.G. Millais], Loderi Millais Pink, Loderi Pearly Queen, Loderi Pink Glamour, Loderi Stag's Head, Loderi Woodland House.

UNREGISTERED CLONES:

Loderi Buckingham Palace, Loderi Exbury [L de Rothschild], Loderi South Lodge, Loderi Hammerkop [The High Beeches]



The following 14 named clones were not raised by Sir Edmund Loder, but by other hybridizers [whose names are in brackets, or are of doubtful origin]:



REGISTERED CLONES:

Cornish Loderi [J.C. Williams], Loderi Irene Stead [E.F. Stead], Loderi Julie [Lord Swaythling/F. Rose], Loderi Kunoo [origin unknown], Loderi Nertherfield Rose [H. Heal], Loderi Olga [L.E. Brandt], Loderi Pink Satin [J.M.J. Evans], Loderi Sue [D.W. James], Loderi Titan [G. Reuthe].

UNREGISTERED CLONES:

Loderi Astarte [L de Rothschild], Loderi Horsham [origin unknown], Loderi Pink Gleam [origin unknown], Loderi Peter Veitch [Veitch]. Loderi Saunder's White [Bowood].

Many commentators have noted that too many seedlings have been named, as there are often only minor differences in the volume, color or placement of the spotting in the throat to distinguish between named clones; or there may be an element of vein marking present; or there are slight tonal differences in the shades of pink, blush and white; or a particular plant may fade to white slower than others.

To completely complicate matters, the color of spots on the sunny side of a plant can be different on the side of the same plant that is out of the sun, or the color of the flowers change with differing light conditions. As the named seedlings flowered, Sir Edmund made a sequence of crosses between the various varieties of R.'Loderi' and a range of other species and hybrids. A cross with R.suctchuenense produced R.'Seagull' (AM 1938) and R.'Seamew' (AM 1940); the cross with R.irroratum produced R.'White Glory' (AM 1938) and R.'Pink Glory' (AM 1940); a cross with R. 'Queen Wilhelmina' produced 'R.'Sunset' (AM 1931); a cross with R.'Haloepanum' produced R.'Snow Queen' (AM 1934); and a cross with R.'Barclayi' produced R.'Cretonne' (AM 1940), to name just a few.

(...Continued next month)

RECIPE REQUESTS

Cadbury's Flake, Fruit and Nut Cake

(Chris Aldred)

This cake is beyond delicious. you have NO IDEA!! I would like to know if anyone tries it, and what they think. Christine.

You MUST use the Cadbury's chocolate and Flake Bars. (flake bars at London Drugs... not cheap to make, but you will NOT regret it.)



Ingredients:

3 Cadbury's flake bars	225 g butter or marg, softened
225 g white sugar	275 g self raising flour
25 g cocoa powder	4 eggs
150 g walnuts (or hazelnuts)	225 g raisins
200 g Cadbury's Dark chocolate (nuts and chocolate are chopped)	



Directions:

Grease and line an 8inch round, or a 7inch square cake tin. Cut all the flake bars into 3/4 inch pieces. Cream together the butter and sugar, add flour, cocoa powder and eggs beat until smooth. Set aside half of the flake pieces and 50 grams of the nuts and 50 grams of the dark chocolate. Fold in the remainder of flake, nuts, and dark chocolate into the mixture with the raisins. Turn into the prepared tin, and scatter the reserved items over the top.

Bake at 300°F for about 2 hours, or until a skewer into the centre comes out clean, leave to cool in the tin. If you wish, dust with cocoa powder or icing sugar.



Macadamia Nut and White Chocolate Chip Cookies

(Noni Godfrey)

Ingredients:

$\frac{1}{2}$ C shortening or vegetable oil	
$\frac{1}{2}$ C butter, softened	
1 C packed brown sugar	
$\frac{1}{2}$ C sugar	
$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp baking soda	
$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt	
2 eggs	
1 tsp vanilla	
$2\frac{3}{4}$ C flour	
1 12oz package (2C) white choc chips	
1 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce jar macadamia nuts, chopped	



Directions:

Preheat oven to 375°F. In a large bowl beat butter and shortening with an electric mixer on medium to high speed for 30 seconds. Beat in brown sugar, granulated sugar, baking soda, and salt until combined. Beat in eggs and vanilla until combined. Beat in as much of the flour as you can with the mixer. Stir in any remaining flour, the chocolate pieces, and nuts.

Drop dough by rounded teaspoons 2 inches apart onto ungreased cookie sheets. Bake for 8 to 9 minutes or just until edges are light brown. Cool on cookie sheets for 2 minutes. Transfer to wire racks; cool.



To Store:

Layer cookies between sheets of waxed paper in an airtight container; cover. Store in the refrigerator for up to 3 days or freeze for up to 3 months.

From the Test Kitchen Chocolate Chip Cookies:

Prepare as directed, except substitute semisweet chocolate pieces or miniature candy-coated semisweet chocolate pieces for the white baking pieces; omit macadamia nuts, and, if desired, stir in 1-1/2 cups toasted and chopped walnuts, pecans, or hazelnuts (filberts), with the chocolate pieces.

