



The Rhodoteller

www.nirs.rhodos.ca



North Island Rhododendron Society

2013-2014 Executive

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Paul Wurz287-4301

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Jake Ellis337-8516

Past President/Director:

Diana Scott338-0208

Secretary

Adrienne McNabb898-8712

Treasurer

Dave Godfrey335-0717

Director: Ways & Means

Dick Bonney339-7594

Director: Membership

Brian Staton337-5228

Director: Revenue Table

Chris Aldred335-3221

Newsletter

Noni Godfrey335-0717

..... nonigod@shaw.ca

Social Committee:

Claudia Ellis337-8516

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.



1st Oct 2013- Executive Meeting 2:00 pm

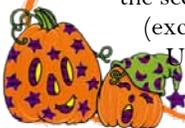
The executive meeting will be held at the home Claudia and Jake Ellis. Driving north along the Old Island highway (past the Hamm Rd. intersection) turn left onto Catherwood Road, just before crossing the Oyster River. Turn left on to Oakes Road at the end of Catherwood and you will find the Ellis home (2436 Oakes) on the right-hand side surrounded by a large wood fence.

8th Oct 2013- Regular Monthly Meeting

A PowerPoint Presentation on.....
"Meerkirk Gardens"

Located in Greenbank on Whidbey Island, WA, Meerkerk Rhododendron Gardens is a peaceful woodland garden encompassing ten acres of rhododendron display gardens surrounded by 43 acres of woodland preserve. Originally founded by Ann and Max Meerkerk in the early 1960's, the property has since been bequeathed to the Seattle Rhododendron Society to care for as a "peaceful woodland garden with an emphasis on rhododendrons and companion plants."

We are pleased to welcome Susan (Susie) Reynolds as our guest speaker for our meeting on Oct. 8th. As the Meerkerk Rhododendron Gardens manager and nursery manager, Susie is affectionately known as Meerkerk's resident Rhodie godmother. Susie will be providing a brief history and overview of the gardens highlighting some of the magnificent colours and photos throughout her PowerPoint presentation. This is one meeting you won't want to miss!



President's View

...by Paul Wurz

What's happening in the rhodo garden in late September? We've just arrived home from a 6-day trip to Victoria and the Okanagan, and I took a morning walk around the garden. The things that I found interesting and significant will be mentioned in my following comments.

A concern for many rhodo gardeners always seems to be the numbers of yellow leaves that occur in early fall. This is a normal process called senescence, which is a coloring and dropping of leaves. All evergreen rhododendrons will eventually lose their older leaves - some much more readily than others. This should not be a concern, unless it is excessive.

It is very surprising to see how much the plants have grown during the summer, which is a reminder that some rhodos are quickly outgrowing their particular place in the garden. Some can be size corrected by pruning (but wait until spring), while others may have to be moved. This time of the year is probably the best time to make the move; although in the spring you can do a major prune and move at the same time. We moved a half dozen rhodos last week.

Usually this time of the year, on one of my garden walks, I carry a bucket of Rhodo & Azalea fertilizer and another with Epsom salts and chelate of iron. Those rhododendron plants that look a bit needy may get a fall treatment. At this time of the year fertilizing will not initiate growth, but will often green up the leaves.

Another more exciting issue in the garden is observing which plants have "budded up" for spring flowering. Each year we do have plants that will flower for the first time. Do not get discouraged if you do not see rhodo buds at this time, as some plants tend to bud up a little later. Also remember that larger growing rhododendrons do take a longer time to start blooming. There are various ways to increase flowering of rhododendrons - but that's for another time. It looks like next spring should be a good year for flowers. Let's hope we get another mild winter!

I would like to thank our members for participating in the brief questionnaire last meeting; also to Jake Ellis for compiling the results and passing them on to Glen Jamieson, our JARS editor. We are getting excited about the Rhododendron Conference at the end of September in Newport Oregon. I will provide a brief report next month. Hopefully, we will see most of you at our October general meeting when Susie Reynolds, the coordinator of Meerkerk Gardens on Whidbey Island, will be our speaker. I am certainly looking forward to her presentation.

Raffle Rhodos

...by Nadine Boudreau

"Well they've got a new dance it goes like this, yeah the name of the dance is the peppermint twist" yes most of us remember the song by Joey Bee and the Starlites that hit the nation in 1961. The twist dance caused such a commotion that US President Eisenhower questioned the morality of the nation in a national speech! With all that twisting it's no wonder there is such a demand for hip replacements nowadays!

Well the rhododendron 'Peppermint Twist' might not have attracted the attention of the president of the US, but it was the 'Rhododendron of the Year' in 2007. Peppermint Twist is a Thorton hybrid, a cross of hyperythrum x princess Elizabeth. The flowers are funnel shaped in trusses of 12 with five wavy-edged lobes beginning as red buds opening to pink with a white throat and red spotting on the dorsal lobe. Bloom time is early mid-season. The plant itself has a rounded dense plant habit with oblong de-curved 4 1/2 inches glossy green leaves. The typical size in 10 years is 4 feet.

The plant would look great planted beside a Dora Amateis or White Surprise to bring out the white. You could also intensify the white with a Mount Everest growing taller behind. The pink and red would look good



with purple such as Purple Gem in front, or Crater Lake behind. If you really wanted to accent the red buds a Grace Seabrook would make a show stopper.

After Robert's inspirational presentation of his garden in spring, Dick and I thought it only fitting to have a selection of bulbs for a raffle prize this month. We couldn't possibly offer all that Robert featured, but we do have a small grouping of beauties for our second raffle prize.

- Botanical Tulip-Pulchella Eastern Star-6"** bright pink flowers in mid spring
- Snow Crocus-Botanical Mix-4"** mixed purple, yellow, striped flowers in early spring
- Muscari-Latifolium-6"** deep blue base fading to light blue tips in mid spring
- Dutch Iris-Spring Mix-22"** deep purple, yellow, white mix flowering in late spring
- Narcissus-Thalia-14"** early spring white daffodil that is lightly scented
- Hyacinths-Marie-10"** deep purple fragrant hyacinths that is a new introduction

Good Luck and remember to wear your name tag to get an extra raffle ticket!





...by Dave Godfrey

Member's Notes

It is now officially the autumn season and our summer, as with the flowers, is a fading memory. Well, with some exceptions! The weather has been so warm and dry all summer, and now that a wet spell is upon us some rhodos are confused. In our garden, we have blossoms showing on 'Cunningham's *Blush*', 'Hansel', 'Fabia x Bureavii' and 'Snow Lady.' As charming as it is to see these breaking open in mid-September, it means there will be fewer buds for showing come the spring.

Each year at this time, we remind our members that it is time to renew their memberships for the coming year. It is important that renewals be completed by mid-December at the latest in order to notify the ARS office before the beginning of the New Year.

It is equally as important for our chapter so that we can compile the list of members for our local Member Yearbooks. I must have the booklet completed and to the printers by the end of December. So, if you intend to continue your membership with the NIRS, and ARS, please be sure to bring your \$35 cheque or cash to Membership Chair **Brian Staton** at either the October or November meetings.

Alternatively, you can mail your dues cheque to the address at the bottom of the front page of each newsletter. Sorry, but if dues are not received by mid-December you won't be listed in the booklet!

Many of the 50 plus members in attendance at our sultry September meeting came prepared and have already paid their memberships. This is great! We also welcomed two new members at this meeting - **Mary Ashton** and **Jennifer Gordon**, both from Comox. We look forward to learning more about you, and your garden interests, as you learn more about our chapter and activities.

Due to personal reasons, **Nadine Boudreau** has had to step down as a director from the board. **Dick Bonney** has been appointed by the executive to fill her term until 2015. He has agreed to take over the duties of Ways & Means. Nadine has agreed to continue to help with the selling of tickets for the raffle draws each month and provide information on the wonderful Rhododendron prizes.

For those of you who had fun at last year's Christmas party, now is the time to step up to the plate. Your executive is seeking members willing to help organize and arrange this year's party in December. Not a lot of time until then, so if you wish to help in any way please contact a member of your executive.

The call is also out to find a suitable replacement sound system for our meetings. The executive is prepared to fund a new system, but wants to hear from anyone with expertise in audio/video equipment that can make recommendations on a system suitable for our needs. Any member willing to scope out a new system to recommend to the executive, please contact **President Paul** as soon as possible.

Our "Sunshine Lady" **Nancy Munro** reports that she has had a quiet summer this year, which is a good thing. If you know of a member who is in hospital or lost a family member, please give Nancy a call and she will send an appropriate card on the club's behalf.

At the conclusion of the business portion of the meeting, **Diana Scott** led off the 'Show & Tell' with some unusual items - tent caterpillar egg carcasses! These crusty little sacs were found growing around leaf stems and branches on many of her trees and shrubs. Instead of cutting off the infected branches (too many on some trees) Diana found that they can be simply peeled off intact and placed in a Ziploc baggie for disposal in the garbage; one of which she brought to pass around as an example.

Continuing with more pleasant items from member's gardens, **Jill Gould** showed and explained about a unique plant from her garden called "*Turtlehead*" (*Chelone oblique*) which is native to eastern North America; while **Dick Bonney** had a colourful bouquet of various flowers currently in bloom in his garden. For the Revenue table, **Bob Smith** had brought in a couple of potted *Windsor Oaks* that, as he explained, were seeded from a tree that was originally planted by Prince Edward in 1924 - thus the name. **Paul Wurz** rounded out the displays by showing a couple of Rhodo blooms that he'd brought from his garden.

To kick off a new season of interesting programs, long-time NIRS member **Robert Argall** provided an overview of the types of plants to begin growing now for colour in the spring. Robert began by thanking **John Heinz** and **Diana Scott** for providing the many photos of his garden as seen in the March through May period. He also thanked **Carol Sheehan** for compiling them in a PowerPoint presentation.

As Robert explained, although he plants several thousand new bulbs each fall, they are planted at various times from mid-October until late November. This allows bulbs of the same variety to appear at later times during the spring. Shaded areas also help prolong spring colours. For example, primroses, pansies and wind anemones planted beneath the rhododendrons provide a lovely carpet of colour while waiting for the rhodos to bloom.

Great varieties of tulips, wallflowers and peonies keep the colours "moving" throughout the spring season. Having various heights of rhododendrons and other shrubs provides levels of colour and foliage which, with a selection of narcissus, daffodils and tête-à-têtes,



can give lovely combinations of colour throughout the spring and summer season.

Robert also offers these buying and planting tips. When buying bulbs always check the information on the package for the time they bloom in the spring. If early or even medium bloom times, you can extend the spring season by planting some in late September or early October, and then the same type as late as November or early December. This trick will only happen once, however, as the next year all the bulbs in the ground will have adjusted themselves to bloom when they are supposed to do so.

For daffodils of regular height the best one to buy is '*Dutch Master*', the sturdiest of them all and a great bloom. For the best white, Robert recommends '*Mt. Hood*'. Smaller ones that are very good are '*Tete a Tete*', '*Jetfire*', '*Golden Echo*' (Robert's favourite) and '*Sailboat*' (fragrant). And for narcissus, Robert recommends '*Geranium*', '*Thalia*' or '*Martinette*'.

As for tulips, Robert recommends '*Princess Irene*' as one of the oldest and best; also '*Sweetheart*', '*Shirley*' and '*Beauty of Appledorn*'. These tulips have kept their names over the years, while so many other keep getting their names changed - with no idea why (except perhaps as a marketing ploy.) So choose a tulip that you like the looks of and plant them. They probably won't last longer than two years anyway, and by then the name is likely to have been changed!

When Robert's presentation ended, there was an extensive question and answer period which was educational for the 55 members and guests in attendance. Thank you, Robert, for providing such a colourful and informative program.

Our evening's raffle winners were **Isabel Petch** (R. Mardi Gras) and **Arlene Hooper** (R. montroseanum), while the door prizes were won by **Amie Anderson** (a red gerbera potted plant) and **Lily Vanderhorst** (the gardening book "Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul.") Congratulations to all our lucky winners!

On the Thursday morning following our meeting, a work party was held at the *Comox Valley Rhodo Garden* (CVRG). Although the weather couldn't have been nicer, there were only eleven members showed up, including our newest member, **Mary Ashton**. These energetic members worked as a team tackling one area at a time. As such, we managed to pull most of the weeds in all the beds and pathways, rake the paths and sweep the edges in less than two hours. This left the gardens in neat and tidy shape for the fall season.

During the time spent at the gardens, we often receive many compliments on the work we are doing, with some visitors even stopping to ask questions about rhododendrons.



Diana and Noni giving out rhodo info to visitors.

Another work party will likely be called for 9 am on October 10th for a fall cleanup in preparation for the approaching winter months. We encourage all members, especially those new to the club, to drop around and lend a hand. We realize that many members have garden work of their own to attend to, but a couple of hours on a Thursday morning once a month is not asking too much. It is a chance to help out the club and get to know other members during the work or at the social gathering afterwards. Did I mention 'goodies'?

It seems the '*Comox Valley Ornamental Concrete*' store on Knight Road in Comox has gone out of business. However, a new addition to our list of garden centers and nurseries offering discounts to our NIRS members is '*North Courtenay Landscape Supplies*' behind the Courtenay Country Market on the North Island Highway (19A). Although they can't discount the product prices, they are willing to provide a discount on any delivery charges. Be sure to show your membership card and enquire about the discount when ordering.

As announced by **President Paul** at the meeting, a propagation workshop was held on Saturday, Sept. 21st (the last official full day of summer) at his 'Hidden Acres' nursery in Campbell River. A dozen members, including our newest member **Jennifer Gordon**, attended on a beautiful sunny morning to learn the do's and don'ts of propagating rhodo cuttings. Lynn had the coffee ready and muffins made which were appreciated by all in attendance.

After Paul reviewed his method of propagating by cuttings and showed us his growing shop, it was time for a tour around their beautiful gardens with snipers in hand learning and taking cuttings from rhodos to pot up. As Paul explained, "Now is the best time to take cuttings and begin the propagation process. It is best to collect the cutting first thing in the morning or after a light rain as it is best that the cuttings be moist." Although most rhodos can be grown by cuttings, the miniature ones and the large leaf ones are difficult to attempt due to their sizes.



During the garden tour, **Brian Staton** took the opportunity to briefly explain his method of propagating – layering. A branch that lies low to the ground can be encouraged to propagate by making a small trench in the mulch, then weighting the branch down with a rock. Some speed up the rooting process by scoring the underside of the branch and rubbing on some rooting hormone before burying it in the trench for about a year. Otherwise, this method can prove very successful; at least it has been for the Statons.

Back at the greenhouse, Paul was kind enough to provide the growing medium, rooting compound and the labels, and after a short demonstration of the correct procedure, it was hands-on for most in attendance to try their luck in growing the cuttings collect. In some cases it may only be a matter of days or weeks to know if there was any success; but in others it could take upwards of a year to know. Patience is a key factor!

Thanks to **Lynn and Paul** for being such gracious and helpful hosts in allowing some of us to try our hand at propagating. *(Editor's note: photos of the workshop are posted to our website.)*

Our October program is sure to please, as **Susie Reynolds** of Whidbey Island, WA, will be joining us. Susie's PowerPoint program on Meerkerk Rhododendron Gardens will provide a brief history of the gardens and their massive variety of colourful plants and scenery. A member of the Whidbey Island ARS chapter, Susie enjoyed the Comox Valley last year during the club's exchange visit and she is delighted to return.

As the current Garden Manager and Nursery Manager (two hats most days) for Meerkerk Gardens, we are very fortunate to have Susie take time out from her busy schedule to promote the gardens – not only at our chapter, but also at the Victoria, Mount Arrowsmith and Nanaimo chapters on consecutive evenings. Be sure to mark your calendars so as not to miss this exiting program on the Rhododendrons of Meerkerk at 7 pm on Tuesday, Oct. 8th.

In closing, remember... Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad. Until next month, take care and happy gardening!



By pumkins fat and witches lean...
By coal black cats with eyes of green,
By all the magic ever seen...
I wish you luck this Halloween!!!

American Rhododendron Society (ARS) ...by Diana Scott

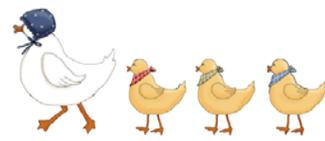


As a member of the North Island Rhododendron Society, you are part of a notable international organization called "The American Rhododendron Society." The ARS is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to encourage interest in and to disseminate information about the genus Rhododendron. Members' experience ranges from novice to expert. Society activities include public education, flower shows, seed exchanges, scientific studies, and communication through publications and local and national meetings. ARS chapters are located throughout the United States and Canada with others in Denmark, Holland, Scotland, Sweden and Sikkim.

NIRS is one of 7 Chapters in District 1 comprised of the Cowichan Valley, Fraser South, Mt Arrowsmith (our sister chapter), Nanaimo, North Island, Vancouver, and Victoria chapters. We have a District Director, Ken Webb (from Victoria) and an Alternate District Director, Chris Hodgson (from Langley), who represent our district at the regional and national levels.

As members of the ARS each of us receives a Journal 4 times a year which provides a wealth of information on Rhododendrons from tips for beginners, reports on treks to rhododendron areas, articles on specific members of the genus, highlights of gardens, information on pests and diseases, society news, publications and much more. As a journal rather than a newsletter, it is also a vehicle for sharing new and scientific information. It has something for every level of rhodophile! The ARS Journal is only one of the many benefits of belonging to this respected organization.

Be sure to check out the ARS website <http://www.rhododendron.org/> for information on the Society, its Chapters, Plant Care and Data, Resources and Activities!



Membership Fees

Our 2014 membership drive is on again, so a quick review of where our monies go is in order. Again, as a member of the North Island Rhododendron Society, you are part of the larger organization called the American Rhododendron Society. Membership fees are set by the ARS and are paid in US funds by NIRS to the parent organization. The ARS membership fee is \$40US; \$30 of which is retained by the ARS and \$10 credited back to the club. NIRS charges \$35 as our membership fee which typically covers the fee paid back to the ARS with some leeway for the exchange rate. Sometimes club funds subsidize the membership; sometimes we retain a few dollars! The \$35 fee is for one ARS 'membership' and membership number (and technically one



vote - if a vote is required). In practical terms, many of us have joined NIRS as a 'couple' despite holding only one membership in the ARS. In recent years, the ARS has recognized this practice at the Chapter level and the fee of \$40 US now includes 2 family members. This change does not make any difference at our local level and as a single or couple you will still receive only one Journal per household.

As a club, our fundraising efforts go toward the upkeep of the CV Rhodo Garden, the rental of the church hall, paying for our speakers, purchasing equipment (e.g. our projector and microphone systems, club laptop, etc), and for the general expenses incurred in running a club. We continue to work hard at these fundraising initiatives, and have been frugal in our spending. The executive feels that it is appropriate at this time to maintain our local membership fee of \$35, and subsidize the remainder of the membership fee when required.

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



As webmaster, I encourage members to check our NIRS website for new additions to the 'Photo Gallery' page. I have all summer albums added to the gallery page, included the latest additions to the 'Work Party' album.

To open an album, simply click on the small thumbnail photo. Once the album is loaded, you can either manually view the photos by clicking on the first one, then selecting other 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 viewing the album.

On our 'Links' page, there are a number of Rhododendron and garden related links to other web pages. One of particular interest to our members would be the link to our 'District One' website. There is a lot of valuable information posted by Garth Wedemire on this site, including links to other chapters.

For our newer members, there is a link to the American Rhododendron Society's website. Here you will find all kinds of information on various facets of the society. You will also find a link for the on-line version of the Journal magazine (www.arsoffice.org/jars/toc.asp). To log in or to register, you will need your ARS membership number found in your NIRS Yearbook roster. If you can't find the number send me an email and I will get it for you.

There is also a link to an interesting and informative Rhododendron database called "Hirsutum" based in the Netherlands. On this website, you can search for photos and data information on various rhododendrons that may be of interest.Happy searching and discovering!

FASCINATING FASCIATED PLANTS

Have you ever seen a plant with unusual, distorted growth - especially in a flower or flower stem - and wondered what that was? This mistake in plant growth is a phenomenon called "fasciation" that causes flattened, ribbon-like growth.

At our most recent work party, Gwen brought along some very good examples of this distorted growth. Delving through the internet I came up with some information on fasciations along with pictures.



Nature makes "mistakes" all the time, producing animals and plants that are different from typical members of their species. Many of these "mistakes" are called mutations, and have a genetic basis that can be passed on to future generations. Mutations that provide a favorable adaptation can become incorporated over time into most, if not all, of the members of a species. Unfavorable or non-adaptive mutations are often eliminated from a population. This natural selection process by nature is the driving force behind evolution.

One of the more interesting types of fasciation is a crested growth form. It is usually the result of a growing point

changing from a round dome of cells into a crescent shape. Subsequent growth produces a flat stem. In some cases fasciation is the result of several embryonic growing points fusing together, with the same flat-stem appearance. It may appear like several stems have been fused so that the stem looks like a wide, ribbed ribbon (fasciation comes from the Latin word *fascia* which means "a band" and refers to anything which resembles a wide band in shape); stems may be bent or coiled in abnormal directions; numerous



growing points may develop to produce a witches'-broom effect; flowers and leaves may appear at odd angles to the stems and the leaves growing from distorted stems are usually smaller and more numerous than normal; or flower heads may be elongated, deformed, or misshapen with more flowers than normal. There is also a much rarer type, ring fasciation, with a ring-shaped growing point, which produces a hollow shoot. Although this condition is not common, it has been recorded in hundreds of different plant species, including ferns, woody plants, herbaceous annuals and perennials, and fruits and vegetables. Most coniferous and broad-leaved trees and shrubs can bear fasciated branches, but some are far more susceptible than others to malformations. It is most common in the plant families Cactaceae, Compositae, Leguminosae, Onagraceae and Rosaceae, and among species that have indeterminate growth.



Fasciated stems look strange. Leaves, flowers, and fruits often develop unusual shapes and appear at odd angles to the stem. Some, looking like hand-held fans, have led to the descriptive term "crested". Nature usually eliminates fasciated tissues. Branches or even whole plants with this condition are overshadowed by normal branches or plants of the species, and do not last long.

Humans are fascinated by fasciated plants. Their unusual shapes make them prized by many in horticulture. Most can be perpetuated by vegetative propagation, and are designated as cultivars of the species. Some noteworthy examples are: crested saguaro cactus, fasciated Japanese cedar, and fantail willow.

Less frequently, the fasciation is carried from generation to generation by seed, with the fasciation only manifesting itself in the flowers and subsequent fruit. Some examples would include crested cockscomb celosias and beefsteak tomatoes. (If you have ever wondered why beefsteak tomatoes have such unusual shapes, look at their flowers and you will readily see why).

What causes plants to produce fasciated stems? For the most part, we just don't know. In some cases this irregular growth is apparently triggered by infection (by bacteria, viruses or phytoplasmas), feeding by insects or other animals, chemicals or mechanical damage and environmental causes such as extreme weather have also been implicated. Fasciation has been induced experimentally by applications of plant hormones, severe pruning, wounding, and atypical day lengths. Most, however, appear by chance with no obvious cause.

TIDBITS...



MILNER GARDENS

FOREST FANTASIES

September 5th - October 14th

"A celebration of the magic and mystery of the Woodland at Milner Gardens".

Presented by: Milner Gardens & Woodland and the Mid Island Floral Art Club

Artists from the Mid Island Floral Art Club unveil their forest creations along Milner Garden's forest trails.

Garden admission is \$8.25 for adults and \$4.25 for students. Free entry to Milner Gardens' members, and children 12 and under accompanied by an adult.

Commencing Sep 28th, Garden admission is \$5.25 for adults, students \$3.35 including tax.

FALL PLANT SALE

September 28th - 29th from 10am to 4pm; gardens open 10am to 5pm, with last entry at 4:30pm

Great discounts on heritage trees, shrubs and perennials propagated on site. Master Gardeners will be on hand to offer advice. Tea, soup and scones will be available in the Tearoom. Garden admission is \$5.25 for adults and \$3.15 for students. Free entry to Milner Gardens members, and children 12 and under accompanied by an adult.

Milner members only early access from 5:00 to 7:00pm Sep 27th. Milner Gardens' membership card required for entry to the early access sale.

MAD HATTER TEA

Saturday, October 5th at 1:00pm, gardens open 10am to 5pm, with last entry at 4:30pm

Special High Tea - \$18.95 + GST per person.

Wear a Wonderland character or period costume, a Mad Hat, or come as you are.....but do not be late for this very important date.



RECIPE Requests



SPICY PINEAPPLE ZUCCHINI LOAF

(Noni Godfrey)

Beat:3 eggs

Add:1C Oil

2C Sugar

2 tsp vanilla

Stir in:2 C Shredded unpeeled zucchini

1x14 oz can crushed, well drained Pineapple

Stir in:3 C Flour..... 2 tsp soda

1 tsp salt ½ tsp BP

1 ½ tsp cinnamon..... ¾ tsp Nutmeg

1 C Raisins, nuts or dates

Pour into 2 loaf pans

Bake 1 hr @ 350° F



ZUCCHINI SPONGE CAKE WITH ALMOND GLAZE

(Lynn Wurz)

3C Flour

2 tsp BP

1 tsp BS

1 tsp salt

4 eggs

3 C White sugar

1 ¼ C Mazola oil

1tsp almond extract

3 C grated zucchini

1 C Ground almonds

Grease and flour an angel food or tube pan.

Beat eggs, add sugar gradually. Stir in oil and almond extract. Blend in all dry ingredients, with grated zucchini and almonds. Pour batter into greased floured pan. Bake 350°F 1¼ hrs or until tester comes out clean. Cool 15 mins then remove from pan and cool completely. Spread with glaze:

Almond Glaze:

1 ½ C icing sugar

2 Tbsp milk

¼ tsp almond extract

Mix and drizzle over cake then lay ¼ C toasted sliced almonds on top of cake. (very moist and yummy)

(Editor Note: This makes a very tall bundt cake... so I split into a regular bundt pan and a small size bundt pan.)

GOOD NEIGHBOUR MUFFINS

(Noni Godfrey)



Topping:

2 Tbsp sugar

2 Tsp cinnamon

Combine and set aside

Dry Ingredients for Batter:

2 C flour

1 ¼ C Sugar

2 tsp Baking soda

2 tsp cinnamon

2 C grated carrots

½ tsp Salt

(about 4 medium)

1 C grated apple (1 large)

½ C finely chopped hazelnuts

½ C dried currants or raisins or whatever you have hanging around

½ C flaked sweetened coconut



Wet Ingredients for Batter:

1 C vegetable oil

3 large eggs

2 tsp vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 400°F. Spray muffin tins with Pam. Combine dry ingredients. Stir in carrots, apple, hazelnuts, currants or raisins and coconut. In a separate bowl, whisk the wet ingredients together. Add to the dry ingredients and fold until just evenly moistened. Do not over mix.

Fill muffin tins, sprinkle with topping and bake until tops are golden and a toothpick inserted comes out clean 20 - 25 minutes is about right for the Texas size muffin tins. Makes 6 Texas muffins or 12 regular sized.



October Goodies:

Louise Casson Ruth Fowler
Margaret Griffith-Cochrane Dan Ryan



Until Next Month
Noni