

The Victoria Rhododendron Society

Newsletter



Box 5562 Postal Station B, Victoria BC Canada V8R 6S4

June 2013 Thirty-Third Year of Publication

e-mail: wtmcmillan@telus.net

web page – <http://victoriarhodo.ca>

JUNE POTLUCK PICNIC

12 P.M. SUNDAY, JUNE 23

**At Moe and Johanna Massa's Rhododendron Garden
5024 Glintz Lake Road
Sooke**

VRS PICNIC JUNE 26

A picnic in a lovely garden on a summer day is not to be missed!

Our June picnic will be held at the Massas' on 5024 Glintz Lake Road on June 23 at noon. There is parking along the driveway and in the Massas' property.

For the Potluck, you are asked to bring a wrapped savory, salad or dessert. Tags labeling eggs, dairy, nuts or flour for people with allergies will be much appreciated.

A fruit punch, tea and coffee are provided.

Lunch will be served about 1 p.m. and will feature barbequed salmon

In This Issue

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| • May's talk | pg. 2 |
| • Botanical Evictions | pg. 3 |
| • People's Choice, April 2013 | pg. 5 |
| • Photos and notices | pgs. 6-8 |

grilled to perfection by our volunteer chefs.

Please bring your own cutlery, plates and mugs and don't forget chairs to sit on! There are benches in the Massas' garden as well.

A donation of a rhododendron, companion plant or other plant is welcome for our raffle. Each person will receive a plant.

VICTORIA RHODODENDRON SOCIETY BOARD

President:

Norma Senn 250-595-7276

normasgarden@telus.net

1st Vice President

Ev Van Eerden 250-479-4165

Ev.newgen@shaw.ca

Past President:

Calvin Parsons 250-590-0489

waterlily@shaw.ca

Treasurer:

Ann Widdowson 250-479-9167

awiddowson@shaw.ca

Secretary:

Sharon Joseph 250-383-1756

undergroundca@yahoo.com

Members-at-Large:

Lois Blackmore 250-478-6615

loisb@shaw.ca

Ian Duncan 250-479-0820

duncani@telus.net

Carrie George 250-642-3176

carrie.g@shaw.ca

Theresa McMillan 250-478-3515

wtmcmillan@telus.net

Bill McMillan 250-478-3515

wtmcmillan@telus.net

Carolyn Marquardt 250-477-8387

tonymarquardt@shaw.ca

Gareth Shearman 250-385-4302

shearman@victoria.tc.ca

Madeleine Webb 250-744-1785

kenwebb@shaw.ca

Ken Webb 250-744-1785

kenwebb@shaw.ca

Newsletter Committee:

Theresa McMillan 250-478-3515

Bill McMillan 250-478-3515

Linda Gilmore 250-642-2256

Joyce Whittle 250-656-7313

Madeleine Webb 250-744-1785

Calvin Parsons 250-590-0489

Website:

Calvin Parsons 250-590-0489

MAY'S TALK By Bill McMillan

Although raised on a wheat farm in Kansas, Jim Barlup did not find farming appealing as a career. After stints in Pennsylvania and the military, he studied photography in California. Upon graduation, he became a photographer for the Saturday Evening Post. He also has credits for photos on the cover of the first Beach Boys album. Sometime later, he and his wife, Judy, moved to Seattle so she would be able to complete a Masters degree. There, Jim became interested in the rhododendrons at the U of W. as a subject of his photography. He finished his working career at Wells Medina Nursery. His passion, meticulous record keeping, attention to detail, and the numerous crosses he has made have produced many striking hybrids. His willingness to share his knowledge and expertise with others was recognized by the ARS and in 2004 he was awarded the ARS gold medal.

Lois, who says she has a Black Belt in shopping, bought her first rhododendron at the ARS Convention in Victoria in 1989. It was Loft-house's One Thousand Butterflies. It was because of the name. At the 2003 ARS convention in Olympia she encountered her first Barlup hybrids. She fell in love with the names, like Windsong, Love Poem and Honey Butter. Her journey to hopeless addiction was underway. From 2003 to 2011, when she and Roy visited the Barlups' garden with Lloyd and Linda Gilmore, she had collected 43 of Jim's hybrids. She was lost! Friendship blossomed after the garden visit and now she has collected more than 120 of his registered hybrids.

The slide show, set to music, encompassed all of Jim's registered plants. They have magic names like Ivory Spice, Blue Tango, Coral Mist, Dancing Embers and, our 2015 ARS convention plant, Champagne Lace. As a spin-off of their friendship, Jim produced and named Rhododendron 'Lois Blackmore'. The photographs in the presentation were all taken by Jim. Thank you Lois.

Evicting Non-Paying Tenants

Written by Carol Proudlove of the Victoria Horticultural Society for the Newsletter, Gardenry, and reprinted with permission.

(From the editor: Considering on-going work being done to Victoria's malls, this is a very appropriate article.)

Think of your garden as a mall comprising a series of diverse areas each with its own specific requirements. Each of these garden areas has multiple tenants. The anchor tenants are usually large shrubs or trees used as foundation plantings and generally dictate the theme of a particular garden. There are also long standing mid-level tenants and, of course, franchises. Some tenants may be newcomers while others brashly came in unannounced and unwelcomed. Rent is commensurate with the plant's ability to enhance the over-all look of its garden. Each tenant is expected not only to pay rent but also to observe the mall rules. Failure to do either may result in relocation or complete eviction.

The analogy of the garden mall clearly came to mind during a recent upgrade of part of my front yard. I must admit that management was lax in that particular garden. Change was needed. The galling part was that many tenants were in that garden rent-free, sneaking in from who knows



A weeping Norway Spruce, PICEA ABIES "Pendulata"

where. The anchor tenants, a spectacular weeping Norway spruce (*PICEA abies* 'Pendula') at one end and a (miniature) *CEDRUS deodora* 'Silver Mist' at the other were all that remained. Since the garden was under construction, many tenants were forced to relocate temporarily and many permanently. Massive evictions were certainly in order.

There were some recurring reasons for evicting these particular tenants. The top reason was exceeding root space to the detriment of other tenants. The biggest culprit was a *EUPHORBIA* 'Great Dixter' whose root system resembled a multi-level freeway, followed closely by a number of *VERBASCUM* who were also evicted for sub-letting space to their offspring (rent-free). Another shock was the state of the *ACHILLEA* 'Cerise Queen' who breached the bylaw concerning number of tenants allocated to one space. Not only was the *ACHILLEA* full of a variety of weeds, there was also a layer of moss with a family of Sweet Woodruff (*GALIUM odoratum*) on top and a small fir tree sticking out like a chimney.



Euphorbia "Great Dixter"

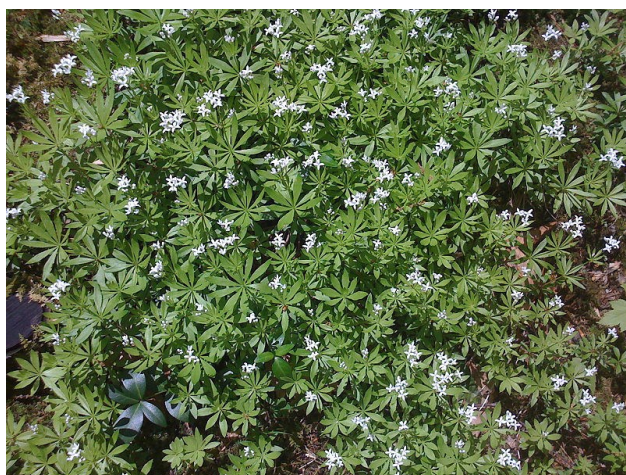
(Continued from page 3)



Verbascum thapsus



Achillea 'cerise Queen'



Galium odoratum

Other reasons for eviction might include disturbing your neighbors, mutiny, attracting the wrong kind of wildlife (the fate of the Tulip), causing harm to other tenants, attracting non-beneficial bugs, perpetual wilting, refusing to flower for a period of one year or more, and so on. Some tenants are trendy and work well in the garden until trends change and eviction and/or relocation becomes necessary for the good of the mall. Franchises come and go depending on demand. For example, say, *Hostas-R-Us* is a reliable long standing tenant in a well loved shade garden. And we all know that Hostas are strong, durable and an excellent asset to the garden. And then the deer arrive. The Hosta franchise regrettably can no longer remain in the same space because there is nothing beautiful about a chewed Hosta. Nothing.

The Cranesbill Geranium franchise became very popular because of the plant's durability and long lasting blooming season. But there were side effects. While some Cranesbills were and continue to be definite assets to the garden, others were a mutinous lot that should have come with the warning "**My desire is to take over your garden and you will never get rid of me.**" *EUPHORBIA* were a similar trendy franchise but remain popular only because of their adverse relationship with the deer population.

In general terms, a garden mall needs good management. As a plantlord, you are free to enter the tenant's space at any time. In fact, it is necessary to ensure that the tenant has enough water, fertilizer and other necessities in order to keep the tenant happy. However, digressions need to be handled promptly in order to avoid mass chaos in the orderly garden.

Hmm—sounds like a **CBC** documentary.



Perennial cranesbill, at its most attractive. Later, it is a mass of limp yellowing stems and leaves.



The People's Choice winner, R. 'Babylon'

PEOPLE'S CHOICE April 2013 By Theresa McMillan

The new People's Choice forms for the Show and Sale at Tillicum Mall on April 27 were a big success. Eighty-five ballots were filled out by the numbers of men, women and children who saw the rhododendrons.

The contest was scored by using three points for every number one choice, two for second choice and one for third choice.

John Hawkins' "Babylon" got 34 points, making it the leader. Tony and Carolyn Marquardt's Loderi "King George" got 22 points, making it second, and Roger Slaby's "Invitation" got 20 points, making it third.

There was a wonderful variety of choices, showing people looked very carefully at the plants. *Quinquifolium*, *spinuliferum*, *yunnanense*, and *augustinii* were some of the more unusual plants voted on.



Our Sale section at the Tillicum Mall



Vic Rhodo Soc display of rhododendron trusses at Tillicum Mall, April 27

Hello fellow gardeners!

The **Victoria Lily Society** and the **BC Iris Society** would like to extend an invitation to your group for a special road trip. Come and enjoy our fabulous, combined show of irises and lilies (plus lots more). There will be an opportunity to learn about iris judging in the morning. Unusual and hard-to-find irises and lilies will be for sale and if that isn't enough, a wonderful tea with home baking is available too.

Our new Victoria location, 4030 Douglas Street (just off the Pat Bay Highway at McKenzie), is conveniently located for you to take in a few of our local nurseries or to enjoy further ventures to some of our local gardens, especially Glendale Gardens for viewing specialty beds with lilies, hardy plants and an incredible Japanese garden.

We're letting you know well in advance to make your planning easier. The date is July 6th, from 10 until 4. Admission is by donation. We hope to see you there.

Thanks,



Wendy wj4man@shaw.ca



Judges Jo and Bob Wright came from North Vancouver



Two Tillicum Mall visitors, admiring the rhododendrons



Sandy Campbell, Norma Buckley and Madeleine Webb trying to decide on the winners, as Alan Campbell looks on.

A gorgeous red camellia



UPCOMING EVENTS

2013	Event	Place	Fee
Thurs, May 23 6:30-9:00 pm	<u>Pursuing the Wild: The Sichuan Botanical Expedition</u> with Sue Milliken and Kelly Dodson	UVIC, David Lam Auditorium, MacLaurin Bldg A144	Free
Sat, May 25 9:00 am – 4:00 pm	VRS Show	Westshore Mall, Victoria	
May 25-26-27	Open Garden days at Chimacum Woods, Port Ludlow, Washington	For details, check www.chimacumwoods.com	
Fri, May 31 9:30 am–9:00 pm Sat, June 1 9:30 am–5:30 pm	Victoria Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale	Tillicum Mall	
Sun, June 23 12:00 – 4:00 pm	VRS Potluck Picnic	The Massas' at 5024 Glintz Lake Road, Sooke	
Sat, July 6 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	Victoria Lily and B.C. Iris Society tours	4030 Douglas Street	By donation



The bounty at the end of the Victoria Rhododendron Society Show and Sale at Tillicum Mall, April 27. Two happy women and a little girl with donated trusses to take home.