

The Victoria Rhododendron Society

Newsletter



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December 2014

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Thirty-Fourth Year of Publication

web page – <http://victoriarhodo.ca>

Meeting:
Christmas Pot-Luck Dinner,
Raffle, and Winners of Photography Night
6:30

MONDAY, December 8, 2014

**GARTH HOMER CENTRE, 811 DARWIN AVENUE,
VICTORIA, B. C.**

**Details of the Christmas Pot-Luck Dinner are on
page two.**

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Our Christmas Decorations from Fresh Greenery



by Theresa McMillan

For many Christmases, the Victoria Rhododendron Society's meeting room have had several decorations made out of plant material. We have had wreaths and swags on the raffle tables, and centerpieces on the tables where we have our dinners.

Jacq Bradbury and her crew of volunteers gather at Jacqi's home on 2959 Irma Street. Irma Street is off Gorge Road East, and to the north, a right turn from the town side and a left turn from the western communities. At the side of her driveway, there will be a

pile of branches of different textures and colours of greenery, twigs of interesting looking seed heads or berries and pieces of winter flowering plants.



The Victoria Rhododendron Society's Annual Pot Luck Christmas dinner

Will be on Monday, December 8 at the Garth Homer Center

At 6:30 p.m.

Members A to G, please bring a dessert

Members H to Z, please bring a savory

Or a salad

The Club will provide a cooked ham, & turkey

Punch, serviettes, tea and coffee, sugar,

milk & cream.

Please bring your own dishes, cutlery and cups.

*Raffle donations of crafts and plants would
be much appreciated, as well as non-
perishable foods. All proceeds
will be donated to the Mustard Seed Food
Bank.*



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(Continued from page 1)

With materials from Jacq's business, "Garden Art", and with Jacq's expertise, the volunteers create our wonderful decorations.

When you are pruning or tidying up your garden this fall and winter, consider adding your branches to Jacq's pile. She is interested in getting more variety in the pile of foliage for this Christmas.

If you are interested in learning more about foliage decorations by helping Jacq and her crew, phone her at 250-389-1379. Thank you.



GOLDEN YEW

By Joe Harvey

Our first garden in BC was nearly 11 acres in Sooke. I wanted to have a neat avenue of small bushes along the barn path and after buying a narrowly upright (fastigate) golden yew I thought, yes, a row of these would be just right, so I ordered more. What I got was one plant of 'Standishii' and the rest 'Aureo-marginata'.

These differ in that the leaves of 'Standishii' are a solid gold colour, while 'Aureo-marginata', as the name implies, has leaves with a green mid-rib and



golden edges. 'Standishii' is the finer form but grows slightly slower.

So I crossed one with the other. Actually I didn't have to do anything:

" taxus baccata 'aureo-marginata' 'Standishii' is female, 'Aureo-marginata' is male, and yew pollen blows.

For several years I gathered the red berries and sowed the seeds. The offspring segregated in colour, some solid green (Irish yew), some golden and others margined. All were fastigate. (narrowly upright).

The degree of golden-ness varied and being seedlings the golden ones could not be called 'Standishii', since that is a clone.

Then, one year, a single golden seedling grew non-fastigiate. It forms a bush about as wide as tall and has a very good colour which changes with the season.

Young growth in the spring sprouts as an extraordinary orange colour, more intense than either parent. By midsummer the leaves are a



Taxus baccata 'Standishii'

good yellow and over the fall and winter the leaves regress to a mid-green, not quite as dark as the common Irish yew.

John Standish I might mention formed Sunningdale Nursery with Charles Noble in

1846 to supply new and unusual plants to

the gentry. In 1848 Joseph D. Hooker, one of the famous Hookers of Kew (there is a book with that name) arrived back from Sikkim with the seeds of 26 hitherto unknown species of Rhododendron. It was these species and their hybrids which started modern Rhododendron breeding as we know it.

Sunningdale rapidly became famous for their Rhododendrons which include 'Nobleanum' which flowers in the winter, and 'Cynthia', a row of which borders the upper lake at Hatley Park in Colwood.

After the second world war James Russell restored the derelict Sunningdale Nursery and a young New Zealand lad, Alleyne Cook went to work there, later emigrating to BC. Cook is one of our famous garden experts and was in charge of installing the Rhododendrons in Stanley Park. Here in Victoria we have rock gardener Rex Murfitt who also got his start at Sunningdale.

Is my new bushy golden yew worth propagating? The world is full of golden yews, most not available, but I like to think this one has a colour intensity which is a little special so I have named it 'Golden Hinde'.

The name is for the highest mountain on Vancouver Island which in turn is named for Drake's ship the Golden Hinde which might have made it to

Vancouver Island on his secret voyage up the West Coast to find the Northwest Passage. We will never know.

Photography Contest Results from the meeting, November 10.

Single Truss

First Place: Peter Barriscale, 'Ruth Lyons'

Second Place: Susan Lightburn, 'Etta Burrows'

Second Place: Norma Senn, R. wardii

Whole Rhodo

First Place: Anne Allen, R. linearifolium

Second Place: Keiko Alkire, R. cephalatum

Third Place: Peter Barriscale, R. medusa

Foliage

First Place: Bill McMillan, R. strigillosum

Second Place: Anne Allen, R. Sir Charles Lemon

Third Place: Peter Barriscale, Glendale

Companion

First Place: Anne Allen, Snake Bark Maple

Second Place: Teresa Turgeon, Tricyrtis

Third Place: Anne Allen, crinodendron

Garden Scene

First Place: Kathy McKay, Mother Hummingbird

Second Place: Madeleine Webb, Garden Scene

Third Place: a three way tie:

Nadine Minckler, Tree, Madeleine Webb, German

Street Scene, Teresa Turgeon, Garden Scene

Altered/Creative

First Place: Susan Lightburn, Babino

Second Place: Bill McMillan, Sempervivum

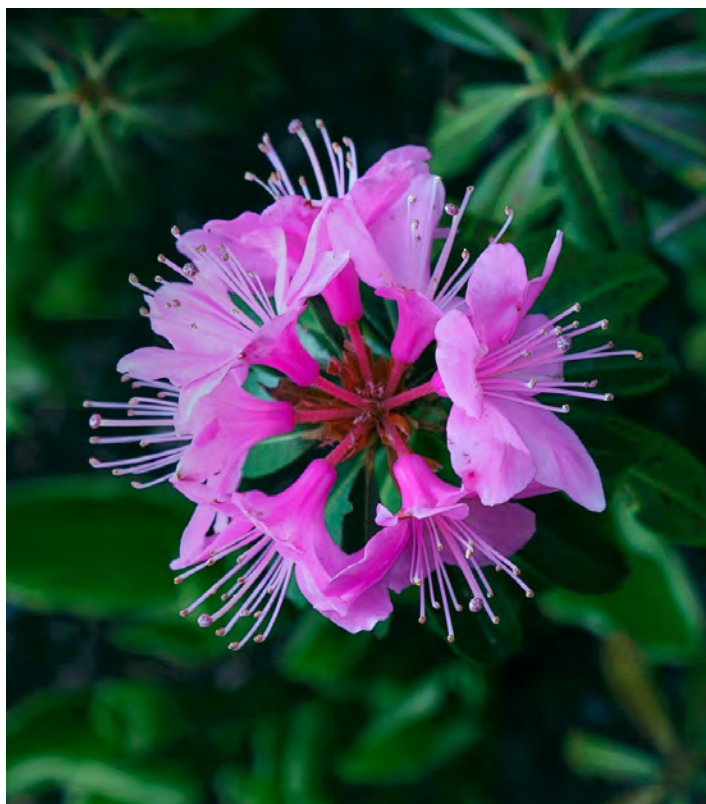
Third Place: Bill McMillan, Katsura Colours

Best In Show

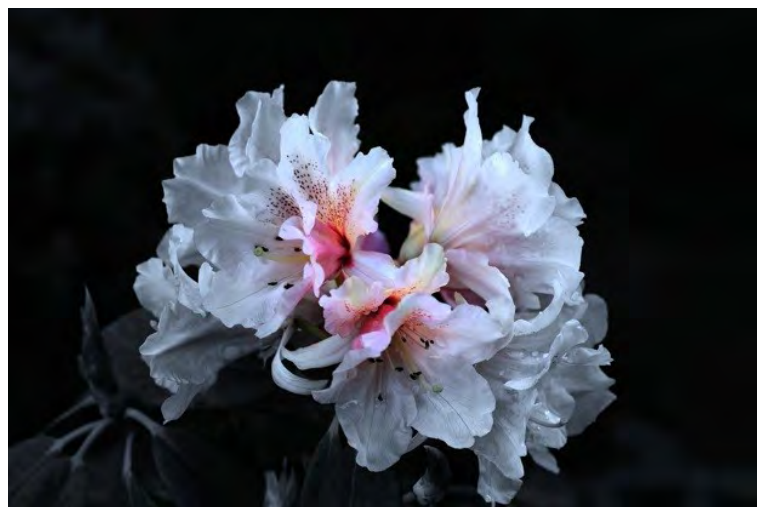
First Place: Peter Barriscale, R. 'Ruth Lyons'

Second Place: Anne Allen, R. 'Sir Charles Lemon'

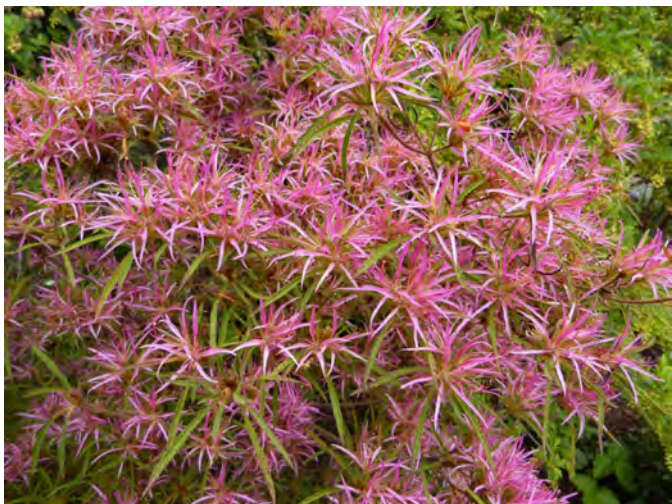
Third Place: Kathy McKay, Mother Hummingbird



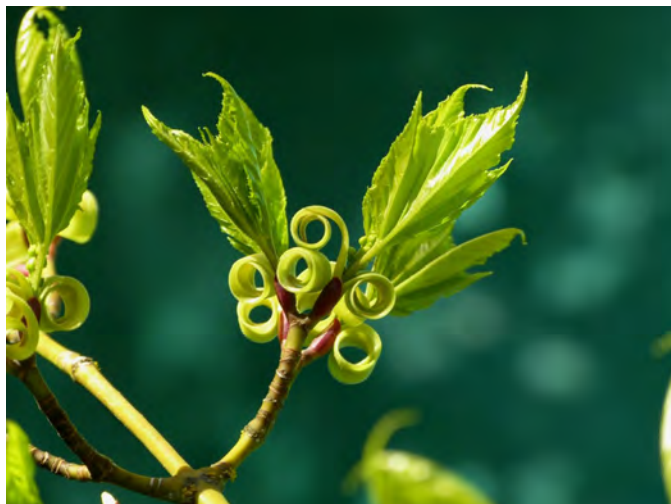
"Ruth Lyons", Best in Show, Peter Barriscale



Bambino, First in Altered/Creative, Susan Lightburn



Linearfolium, first in Whole Rhodo,
Anne Allen



Snake Bark Maple, first in Companion Plant, Anne
Allen



Strigillosum, first in Foliage, Bill McMillan



Mother Hummingbird, first in Garden Scene, Kathy McKay

A New Book For the Library

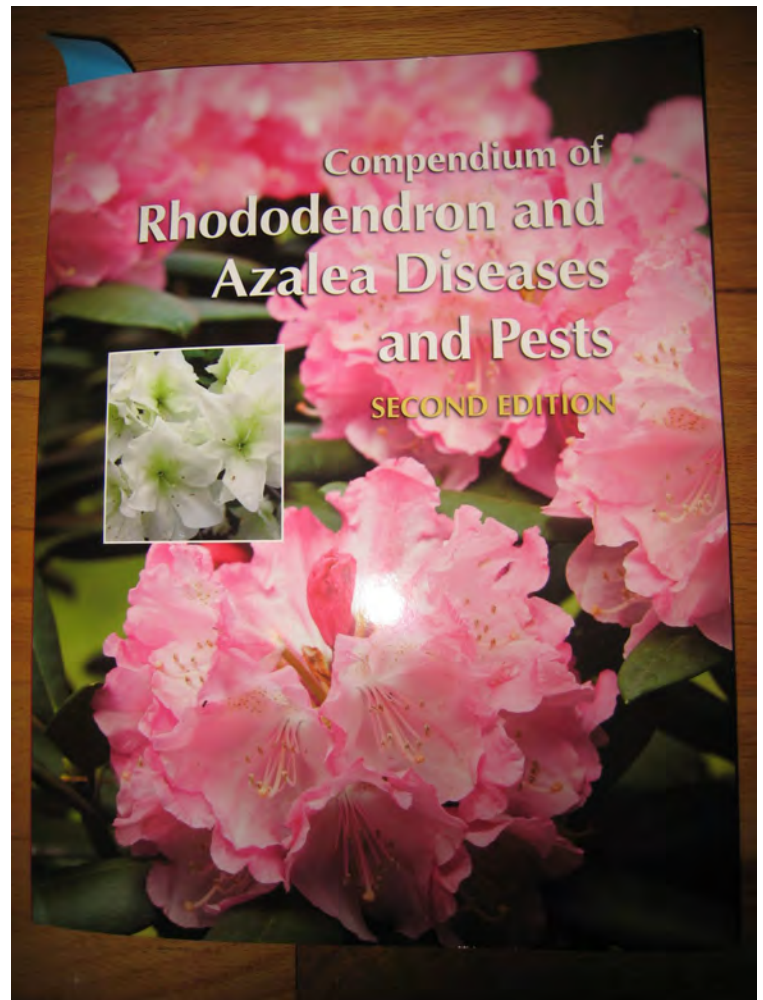
Compendium of Rhododendron and Azalea Disease and Pests, second edition

(review by Steve Henning from the Journal of the American Society, Fall 2014)

This book will prove invaluable to nurseries and major gardens where they need a reference their employees can use to diagnose, solve, and prevent problems. It will also be of great importance to “rhodoholics” who have a great deal invested in their passion.

In conclusion, the new PAS (American Phytopathological Society’s) compendium delivers. It helps identify problems, their treatment, and how to prevent those problems. Since it is very complete, it may have more details than the casual reader can digest. However, for those that need the facts, this book is for you. This new 2nd edition is long overdue.

NOTE: for a possible Christmas gift, the publisher of the book has worked out a deal with ARS-Store.org, where you can get it for \$79, \$20 off the regular price. Click on the link at <http://arsstore.org>.



Welcome New Members

**Jackie Ralph
Lynne Ferrie
Sean Rafferty**

VRS 2015 Calendar




www.victoriarhodo.ca

Key to the Symbols

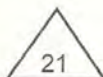
General Meetings
Garth Homer Center
813 Darwin Street
Saanich


Propagation Group Meetings
(contact Ken Webb
to be added to the email list)










 **ARS Convention**
May 6-10











 **Summer Picnic**
See May Newsletter for
details on location and time

 **ARS Conferences**











 **Conflicting Statutory Holiday**

January							February							March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	1		3	4	5	6	7	1		3	4	5	6	7
4		6	7	8	9	10	8		10	11	12	13	14	8		10	11	12	13	14
11		13	14	15	16	17	15		17	18	19	20	21	15		17	18	19	20	21
18		20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31								29	30	31				

April							May							June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5					7		9	10	11	12	13
12		14	15	16	17	18		11	12	13	14	15	16	14		16	17	18	19	20
19		21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30		29	30				
							31													

SUMMER BREAK

September							October							November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4		6	7	8	9	10	8		10	11	12	13	14
13		15	16	17	18	19	11		13	14	15	16	17	15		17	18	19	20	21
20		22	23	24	25	26	18		20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13		15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		