

The Victoria Rhododendron Society

Newsletter



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January 2014 Thirty-third Year of Publication

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web page – <http://victoriarhodo.ca>

Meeting 7:30

Monday, January 13, 2014

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

John Lucas “The Gardens of Oak Bay”

John Lucas is a Shakespearean scholar, and a gardener. He is involved with the Rithets Bog Conservation Society and has written a number of articles about the Bog. He has a fine garden in Royal Oak where he lives.

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REFRESHMENTS

Please let Betty Gordon know at 250-479-0210 if you are coming to the meeting and bringing goodies.

Maureen Adams, Keiko and William Alkire, David Ballantyne, Peter Barriscale and Joan Bekius

Please wrap your cookies or snacks. Coffee and tea are supplied. Assistance in setting out the food, and helping Betty in the kitchen cleanup is really appreciated.

The Christmas Pot-luck Dinner

Theresa McMillan

On a cold cloudy December night a goodly number of VRS members met for our traditional Christmas Pot-Luck dinner and raffle. Lois Blackmore made the punch, and people chatted and checked out the numerous raffle items to decide which ones to get tickets for.

The next activity was Peter Barriscale's Rhododendron puzzle, with the first table to complete it getting first in line for a long table with appetizers, salads, casseroles, breads, sliced ham and turkey displayed along it. Another group of tables had a number of tasty desserts, including shortbread and mince tarts. Betty Gordon provided the coffee and tea.

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After the dinner, ribbons for the winners of November's Photo evening were presented.

Then there was the raffle.

The number of entries for the raffle this year was more than I have seen before. There were swatches made from choice plant material by Jacqui Bradbury and her crew which are always popular. There were several samples of Joe Harvey's fruit jams and pickled herring, crocheted scarves, plants, wines, and others.

All proceeds from the raffle went to the Mustard Seed Food Bank. This year, almost \$500 was given to it.

There was so much non-perishable food donated to the Mustard Seed that it almost filled up the trunk of Bill McMillan's station wagon when he drove it to the food bank the next morning.



One of the decorative swatches made by Jacqui Bradbury and her crew who also made the table centerpieces



Bill McMillan and our master raffle ticket salesman, Bill Gordon

WINNERS OF OUR NOVEMBER'S PHOTOGRAPHY NIGHT, ribbons awarded on Dec. 9



Kathy McKay, Anne Allen, Norma Senn, Peter Barriscale, Sue Lightburn, and Bill McMillan



Members of the Victoria Rhododendron Society at our dinner, with the unbelievably generous raffle tables in the center—thank you donors!



Heather Dickman working with Moe and Johanna Massa, Jan Dammel, Nadine Minckler, Ann and Tom Widdowson trying to solve the cross word puzzle, before the dinner.



The long raffle table, covered with many choice entries.

Getting Ready for ARS Convention 2015 in Sidney

From Ken Webb, ARS District 1 Director

In preparation for the 2015 ARS Convention in Sidney, the District 1 organizing committee is asking for submissions to the ARS journal from writers in this area. The committee welcomes articles on gardens and tourist attractions to advertise the convention to the world, and let people know about our beautiful Vancouver Island.

To all the writers out there, this is your chance to be published in a worldwide publication. This is the 70th anniversary of the ARS and we want to make this convention extra special by letting folks know about the spectacular gardens and other points of interest here in BC.

The ARS Board has just voted to increase the colour pages in the Journal from 16 up to 36, so there should be lots of room for beautiful color pictures with your articles. Anything that promotes our beautiful District 1 will be considered. Articles should be submitted as soon as possible over the next few months so that they can be worked into the next few editions of JARS.

So please select a favourite garden or attraction, write a brief article with photos and submit to Glen Jamieson at ars.editor@gmail.com.



Three examples of early-blooming rhododendrons in Victoria:

1. R. dauricum (bud) - about to bloom January 5th at home
2. R. "Lee's Scarlet" - usually starts to bloom in December
3. R. "Lucy Lou" - a bit later—March



Mark your calendars—please be ready to volunteer to help—it will be a great fun event!

2015 ARS CONVENTION

Sidney, BC, Canada

May 6 – 10, 2015



'Champagne Lace', the official convention rhododendron is a magnificent hybrid donated by Jim Barlup.

Location: Mary Winspear

Come join us at the convenient Mary Winspear Community Centre, 2243 Beacon Ave. in spectacular Sidney-by-the-Sea, BC, Canada.



Keynote Speakers

Our world-class line-up of speakers:

Jim Barlup, Washington State

Marc Colombel, France

Kennt Cox, Scotland

Harold Greer, Oregon

Guan Kaiyun, China

Lionel de Rothschild, England

Hartwig Schepker, Germany

Check website, www.2015rhodo.ca for updates.

Garden Tours

Large selection of the finest rhododendron gardens in the Greater Victoria area.

Accommodation

Get list of approved accommodations at website.

Things to Do

Website has links to the vast array of activities in the Greater Victoria area.

