

The Victoria Rhododendron Society

Newsletter March 2014



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

March 2014

e-mail: tkmcmillan@gmail.com

Thirty-Fourth Year of Publication

web page – <http://victoriarhodo.ca>

NEXT MEETING at 7:30

MONDAY, March 10, 2014

**GARTH HOMER CENTRE, 813 DARWIN AVENUE,
VICTORIA, B. C.**

**Speaker: Carol Dancer
"Winter Interest in Gardens"**

Carol is a VRS member who volunteers at Government House where she's creating a special interest bed featuring dogwoods and azaleas. Her own garden is always a treat to see at any time of the year, but in February and March, her snowdrops and Hellebores are especially lovely. After the presentation, we will have our Annual General Meeting, followed by the usual raffle and sales of some of our own plants.

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REFRESHMENTS provided by:

Caren Cameron
Ison

Carol & Bill Dancer

Robin & Betsy
Denning

Heather Dickman

Anne Allen & Ian
Duncan

Please email Betty Gordon at
bbgordon@shaw.ca (250.479.0210) if you are
coming with your wrapped goodies/snacks.
Coffee and tea are supplied. Assistance in set-
ting out the food, milk and sugar, napkins and

Review of February's Talk

by Theresa McMillan

Agnes Lynn's talk on February 3 dealt with Ericaceous plants, or the heather family. This group of plants includes our favorite genus rhododendrons.

Some of the ericaceous plants such as arbutus and salal are common in forests around Victoria. Others, like red huckleberry are often found growing in the rotting wood of old stumps, and some, like evergreen huckleberries, can be found at the fringes of beaches.

Agnes and her husband Dave's natural history tours of Vancouver Island and the Olympics also provided hundreds of examples of more unusual



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
tkmcmillan@telus.net

Bill McMillan 250-478-3515
wtmcmillan@telus.net

Carolyn Marquardt 250-477-8387
tonymarquardt@shaw.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

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plants . Dave took many pictures of small alpine plants like heathers and vacciniums with their pink/white urn-shaped flowers (popular with hummingbirds), which develop into blue, red or purple edible berries. On dry slopes, hairy manzanita bushes and crawling kinnikinnick can be found. In boggy areas, there are the beautiful flowered western bog laurel or kalmia and Labrador tea or ledum (now *R. groenlandicum*).

Some of the ericaceous plants have been placed in the wintergreen family, and include the fragrant white-flowered moneses uniflora (One-flowered Wintergreen). Others were placed in the Oddballs Section or saprophytic (any organism that lives on dead organic matter, as certain fungi and bacteria) wintergreen family (See Pojar and Mackinnon, Plants of Coastal British Columbia). This group, with names such as candystick, gnome plant, pine drops indicate the exotic shapes and colours of these ericaceous relatives of rhododendrons. Indian pipe on the other hand is a member of the wintergreen family that is mycorrhizal (where the fungus colonizes the host plant's roots.) Not all botanists agree and the debate continues. The world of plants has many curiosities and anomalies, one of the many reasons that they fascinate us!



Moneses uniflora—One
flowered wintergreen or
single delight



Cassiope mertensiana—white mountain
heather



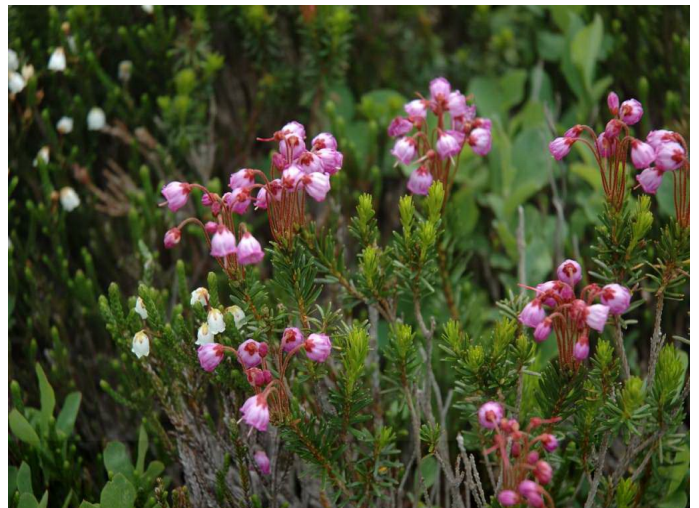
Kalmia microphylla— western bog-laurel



Ledum / Rhododendron groenlandicum /
Labrador tea



Rhododendron albiflorum



Phyllodoce empetriformis— pink mountain—
heather



Rhododendron macrophyllum



Monotropa uniflora- indian pipe

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Progress by the May 2015 ARS Convention Planning Committee

by Theresa McMillan

On February 18, there was a planning meeting at Lois and Roy Blackmore's home on Triangle Mountain. So far, 18 out of 22 positions have volunteer coordinators.

- A. Plant Sale: Ian Efford
- B. Audio Visual: Ian Duncan
- C. Greeter/Social: Keiko Alkire
- D. Registration: Garth Wedemire
- E. Catering/Beverages: Lois Blackmore and Madeleine Webb
- F. Accommodation: Ev van Eerden
- G. Corporate Sponsorship: Ian Duncan
- H. Garden Tours: Bill McMillan and Ken Webb
- I. Transportation, Busing: Ken Webb
- J. Budget: Ann Widdowson
- K. Guest Speakers: Norma Senn
- L. Advertising: Peter Lewis
- M. Truss and Leaves Display: Roy Blackmore
- N. Attendees' Package: TBA
- O. Entertainment: TBA
- P. Digital Photo Display/Contest: Glen Jamieson
- Q. Silent Auction: Marilyn Dawson
- R. Book Sale: TBA
- S. Phytosanitary Certificates: Art Lightburn
- T. Memorabilia: Ian Duncan
- U. Health: TBA
- V. Volunteer Coordinator: Calvin

Why not join us and help us prepare for the convention?

ELEMENT DEFICIENCY Symptoms for Rhododendrons

Nitrogen	Foliage light green, dwarfed growth
Phosphorus	Leaves smaller and darker green than normal, plants stunted, tips of leaves dead (necrotic)
Potassium	Orange mottling along leaf margins, later becoming (necrotic)
Manganese	Interveneal yellowing in centers of leaves, mostly on older foliage
**Iron	Young leaves pale, older leaves show distinct interveneal chlorosis, entire plant becomes chlorotic
Calcium	New shoot growth stunted, tips of leaves scorched and shriveled with basal portion remaining dark green
Boron	Stunted and contorted multiple shoots, marginal yellowing and tip scorching

With permission from ARS Journal, v. 64, no. 1, Winter 2010, by R.A. McNiell

**This symptom often is associated with soils where calcium from building operations, old foundations, sidewalks, or brick walls has leached into the soil over a long period of time and has made iron unavailable to the plant. In cases such as this, apply sulfur or other acidifying elements to counteract the calcium.



Chlorosis on new growth, iron or manganese problem

Upcoming Events

2014	Event	Place	Fee
April 25 – 26	<u>Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden</u> (RSBG) 50 th Anniversary Celebration RhodyGarden.org Garden & Nursery Tours, Reception & Banquet @ Hampton Inn & Suites & Weyerhaeuser Corporate HQ	Rhododendron Spe- cies Foundation 2525 S. 336 th St, Federal Way, WA	Early Reg. \$65 US After Mar. 1 st \$75 US
May 7 – 12	California and Oregon Garden Tour Redwoods, rhodos, wine and west coast All inclusive tour. Details, February's Newsletter Or Bill Dumont, 1-250-743-9882, wedumont@hotmail.com		\$1000 US/PP



R. "Blue Boy" x "Blue Pacific"