



The Victoria Rhododendron Society

Newsletter

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

February 2015

e-mail: tkcmillan@telus.net

Thirty-Fifth Year of Publication

web page – <http://victoriarhodo.ca>

Meeting:

7:30

Monday, February 2, 2015

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

Rafe Mooney

"Plants with Winter Interest"

Rafe Mooney is curator of the Doris Page Winter Garden at the Gardens of the H.C.P. in Saanich. "While the rest of the country is busy shoveling snow, we in Victoria can have gardens awash in colour." Rafe is a Graduate of the HCP Horticultural College and volunteered in the Winter Garden before becoming curator. His talk will feature examples from the Winter Garden and will be great on a dismal winter evening!

REFRESHMENTS for the next meeting to be provided by:

Rhonda Rose

Ann and Mikkel Schau

George Schwarz

Nancy Searing

Norma Senn

Roger and Anne Slaby

Norm Thomas

Please Email Betty Gordon at bbgordon@shaw.ca (or phone 250.479.0210) if you are coming with your wrapped goodies/ snacks. Coffee and tea are supplied. Assistance in setting out the food, milk and sugar, napkins and helping Betty in the kitchen cleanup is really appreciated.

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January's Talk on Trilliums

By Theresa McMillan

Gord Murray talked to us about trilliums, which as well as being beautiful, make fine companion plants for rhododendrons.

He first became familiar with trilliums when the neighbor "plant lady", who didn't know what they were, gave him a clump of plants "from Asia". They flourished in dry shade and clayey soil.

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Trilliums are native to temperate zones in North America and Asia. Most varieties come from the south-eastern part of the U.S.A., although we do have native trilliums here.

After collecting a fine group of trilliums, Gord decided to start hybridizing them. It is a long-term process, taking seven years from seed to bloom.

Gord's talk was illustrated by the most beautiful photographs of trilliums, taken by two professionals at different dates. What the pictures had in common is that they were taken very early (6:30 AM or so) on spring days. The morning light and the freshness of the blooms were remarkable.



Trillium Kurabayashii, Gord's first trillium



Gord's trillium hybrid erectum x regalia



70th ARS CONVENTION May 6-10, 2015.

District #1, Victoria Rhododendron Society
Sidney-by-the-Sea: Vancouver Island's Hidden Little Treasure

Come join the spectacular seventieth celebration of the American Rhododendron Society, members worldwide, international speakers!

2015 Updates & Info:

1. Check out our website for more details at **www.2015rhodo.ca**
2. Registration is going at a frantic pace run now. Please be sure to register soon. Tours are filling up!
3. Volunteers: Please register for the convention first. We need time to see which tours will be conducted and which cancelled. We will place volunteers, especially bus captains, after most registrations are in. Consider signing up for many opportunities like: bus captain, greeter, hospitality desk, flower arrangements, info desk, rhodo selling, keynote speaker guide, and many, many more!

Travel Opportunity

There are **two seats** still available on the **Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society tour of Southwest England gardens from May 14 to 24, 2015.**

Included are 12 world class gardens plus the Royal Chelsea Garden Show. Cost is approximately Can\$3000 + airfare (double accommodation).

Contact W.E.Dumont 250 743 9882 or wedumont@hotmail.com

Enjoy our updated logo by Peter Barriscale



www.victoriarhodo.ca

Welcome New Members

Lynn Collicutt
Sandra Allin

ARS CONVENTION 2015

HOW? WHEN? WHY? WHERE?

By Lois Blackmore

It is March 2012. Three members of the Victoria Rhododendron Society have attended a District 1 meeting. There is talk of the 2015 ARS Convention. It is to be on the west coast. As they are driving to Victoria from up Vancouver Island, chatter begins amongst the three attendees. By the time they reach Victoria, it has been decided. District One will ask to host the 2015 Spring Convention, and the convention will be held in the Victoria area. The ARS readily embraced this idea. Word was received in September 2012 that district One was to host the ARS Spring Convention.

It is October, 2012. For their first meeting, the members of District 1 gather in Victoria. Much discussion about logistics takes place. Districts on the island agree that they will contribute their knowledge, expertise and volunteer hours to help create this event. Committees are formed, tasks distributed, and thus begins the 2015 ARS Convention to be held in Sidney By The Sea, May 6-10, 2015.

Our speakers represent the elite of the rhododendron world. Our theme, "Rhododendrons Around the World" will be represented by Jim Barlup and Harold Greer, USA; Marc Columbel, France; Kenneth Cox, Scotland; Guan Kai-yan, China; Lionel DeRothschild, England and Hartwig Schepker, Germany. Each will speak on his particular expertise providing interest and knowledge for the audience. The conference is arranged so that all attendees can hear all the speakers.

The garden tours. Never has there been such a choice, such a variety, or such an opportunity

to see how local members and the municipalities have succeeded in promoting rhododendrons. There will be a choice of 33 gardens to visit during the convention. Our climate on Vancouver Island is one of the best for growing these wonderful plants. There are short garden tours, all day garden tours and after the convention garden tours available for rhododendron lovers. Most gardens are readily accessible, while some require visitors to be "fleet of foot". We strongly recommend the Victoria Rhododendron Society members register early as numbers and spaces are limited.

Food and beverages will be provided by Island Culinary Services. As the program begins at 8 a.m. each day, it is recommended that members consider having their breakfast at the convention site. Choices will include a full breakfast for \$20 and a continental breakfast for \$10. A choice seat for early comers is a bonus. Lunches will be included in the price of each garden tour. The dinners are reasonably priced, with all items displayed on the menu included in each dinner. Costs range from \$26 to \$50.

This year we have included a speaker- only option. These guests will be allowed entrance after the dinner is served and the speaker is ready to begin. There will be no entrance during the dinner proceedings. Coffee and tea will be provided free of charge throughout the day as this service is included in your registration fee. As well, there will be an open bar serving wine and beer. A hospitality room is being set aside for meeting with friends and colleagues and will be open throughout the day and evening after the speaker has finished presenting.

Plant Sales. A virtual mecca of choice rhododendrons, maples and companion plants will

be available for purchase. It is a first come, first served type of plant sale. Already there have been requests for certain plants. We want to give all attendees the same opportunity to purchase plants and so sales will begin as displayed on the website.

The planning committee has reached far beyond the ordinary in planning this convention. There are many “firsts” for this event. For the first time, the convention site is separate from the accommodations. There is an opportunity to have all meals at the convention site at a reasonable price. There are no separate sessions and all attendees will be able to hear all speakers. Many Victoria Rhododendron Society members have offered accommodations for island and mainland volunteers to help defray costs of volunteering and attending the convention.

The garden tours offer many choices. For those less able, shorter garden tours are a possibility as they are less taxing. For the more robust, all day garden tours present an opportunity to see gardens both large and small, many gardens that are never open to the public and specialty gardens that are unique in their site and accommodation.

A large meeting area is set aside for meeting friends and colleagues. Several sponsors have added their support for this special rhododendron convention and have aided our efforts in bringing first-class, international speakers from six different countries to speak to convention attendees. Through our planning efforts, the town of Sidney and the business community of Sidney are wholeheartedly supporting this convention. They are working together with the planning committee to provide banners with the rhododen-

dron of the convention “Champagne Lace” embroidered on each one, and celebrating this special event in their town. These will be displayed throughout the town of Sidney all summer on the stanchions on Beacon Avenue, at the Mary Winspear Centre and at the Victoria International Airport. We are working with the Airport Authority to set up a welcoming center for those attendees who will be arriving by air.

We are always looking for volunteers to help during the setting up, during, and after the convention. We urge our members to sign up in helping to make this a most memorable event, one that will be remembered as a first class convention of major proportions..... friendly, welcoming, hospitable and accommodating.

....CANADA AND ARS 2015....

THE PLACE TO BE MAY 6- 10, 2015



The R. hybrid, “Mrs. T. H. Lowinsky”.
Note the wonderful blotch on the flowers.

ARS 2015 Convention—WE STILL NEED MORE HELP!!

Volunteer Sign-Up sheets will be available at all our meetings until the Spring.

Upcoming Events

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| February 2 (note: first Monday) | Rafe Mooney Plants with Winter Interest | Garth Homer Center |
| March 9, 2015 | Bob Zimmermann The Siren Song of the Species | Garth Homer Center |
| April 13, 2015 | Shannon Berch Influence of Mycorrhizae on Ericaceous Plants | Garth Homer Center |
| May 6-10 | 70th ARS Convention | Mary Winspear Community Centre, Sidney, BC (www.2015rhodo.ca) |
| June 28, 2015. Sunday | June BBQ | The Gardens at HCP |



R. “George’s Delight” an orange/yellow blend, and “Horizon Monarch”, pale yellow — both are very fine hybrid rhododendrons.