



# The Victoria Rhododendron Society

## Newsletter

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

**November 2015**

e-mail: tkmcmillan@telus.net

**Thirty-Fifth Year of Publication**

web page – <http://victoriarhodo.ca>

Doors open 7:00  
Talk and meeting: 7:30

**Monday, November 9, 2015**  
**GARTH HOMER CENTRE, 811 DARWIN AVENUE, VICTORIA, B. C.**

**Photography Night (See p. 5)**

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**REFRESHMENTS for the next meeting to be provided by:**

- Jan Dammell**
- Carol and Bill Dancer**
- Robin and Betsy Dening**
- Heather and Meredith Dickman**
- Anne Allen and Ian Duncan**
- Milius Douglas**

Please let Betty Gordon (bbgordon@shaw.ca or phone 250.479.0210) know 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.

**October’s Talk**  
**by Lois Blackmore**

Linda Gilkeson presented an informative, interesting and illustrated talk on the some of the issues that affect the growing of rhododendrons in our area on Vancouver Island.

Root weevils cause damage to leaves by chewing on the edges of the leaves. She noted that the more curly edged leaves on some rhododendron plants are usually weevil-free as the insect cannot find a spot on the edge of the

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**Website:**

leaf to begin chewing. Root weevils over winter in the roots of rhododendrons and emerge in the spring to again begin their life cycle. An organic way of controlling these pests is to lay a sheet or an upside down umbrella beneath the plants during the day. Then at night when the weevils emerge, just give the plant a shake and they will fall onto the covering and be collected and drowned in soapy water.

Lace bugs are the one flying insect that can cause damage to our favorite plants. These emerge in the summer and damage the plant by attacking and sucking the juices found in the leaf. These are most notable in the latter part of the summer and can be identified by the excrement they leave on the underside of the leaf. A natural and organic solution to this pest is to thoroughly spray the underside of the leaves in July and August with a good blast of water. She also noted that lace bugs attack the plants that are most exposed to the sun.

Most other rhododendron damage is done if plants are not placed in ideal growing conditions. Sun scald and bud blast are often caused by the weather conditions of the growing season.

Powdery mildew is another condition affecting rhododendrons. Some plants seem to be more affected than others. Again, placement of plants and growing conditions are often the cause of this plant disease. Relocating the plant to another spot in the garden is often a remedy to this situation.

Other damage to rhododendrons can occur from chemical damage, nutrient deficiencies and extreme weather conditions. This past summer has presented many challenges to rhododendron growers because of the extreme drought that has affected the Pacific Northwest. Climate change is upon us and we must learn as we go.

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## A NEW EXCITING FORMAT FOR OUR SHOW AND SALES

By Lois Blackmore

Our executive has been working on simplifying our annual truss show and sale as each year it is becoming more difficult to find a suitable location. The shopping centers require much stricter rules for public displays and sales, requiring us to find alternative locations.

For 2016, we are going to try a new format. At our May meeting at the Garth Homer Center, we will have our competitive truss show. Each category that has a trophy will be on a separate table. Members who wish to enter a truss will bring those trusses to the meeting. A readily available vase with water will be ready and members can put their trusses directly into a waiting vase. A container will be placed by each entry.

The judging will be by the other members of our chapter. Each member will be given beads to match the number of categories. The members will vote for their favorite truss in each category. At the end of the meeting, the votes will be counted, and the winners will take home their awarded trophy. The usual celebration of winners will be held at our annual picnic.

This year, we have been honoured by having our truss show at the Mary Winspear Centre, free of charge. It will be held on the second weekend in May, 2016. We would like to make this an annual tradition. We would expect members to donate trusses to make this show spectacular in every way. Again, vases will be ready for members in which to place their trusses. We invite floral displays extraordinaire. Names of those bringing trusses or displays will be on prominent display. Any open gardens from members will also be welcomed.

This show will be advertised widely through the Mary Winspear Center, the local newspapers, and local garden clubs, as well through the Times Colonist. Our funds for rental space at other places will be used to advertise this event. We will also be advertising our spectacular plant sale, to be held at the compound at Tony and Carolyn's home on Saturday, April 30, 2016, from 9-3 pm.

Our propagation club continues to be an essential part of our organization. We will have wonderful, hard to find, and unique plants for sale that are not available anywhere else. We will continue with this special opportunity for rare and special rhododendrons. Our club has been given the right to receive Jim Barlup registered cuttings to root and sell. This opportunity has expanded this growing season, with the Webb's and the

Blackmore's receiving cuttings of unregistered plants, that in the coming years, will be registered and be available only through our club sales. These plants will be unique, not only to our club, but in all of Canada. A huge thank you goes to Jim Barlup for this wonderful opportunity.

**FOR CHRISTMAS AND OTHER GIFT-GIVING, IF YOU ARE SHOPPING ON THE INTERNET PLEASE HELP SUPPORT THE AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY BY SIMPLY LOGGING ONTO THE ARSSTORE (<http://arsstore.org>). THE LINK TO AMAZON.CA ON THE WEBSITE ([Click for Canadian ARS Amazon](#)) for example WILL CONNECT YOU TO AMAZON.CA.**

**SIMPLY USING THIS LINK DIRECTS FUNDS TO THE ARS and AMAZON HAS A GREAT SELECTION OF GIFTS!!**

**SHOP. CONNECT. ENJOY.**

SIGN ON TO: <http://arsstore.org>



**SUPPORT THE ARS**

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## Photography Evening November 9, 2015

### 1. Prints

All entries to be 5" x 7" mounted on a black mat, no frame. Two categories, black & white and colour prints. Mounted pictures are to be entered November 9, the night of the show.

### 2. Digital Entries

Email your digital photos to Calvin at victoriarhododendron@gmail.com. Calvin will prepare a PowerPoint presentation with all entries.

On the subject line, please enter the category the photo is intended for and the name of the rhododendron or plant or scene.

#### Categories:

1. Single Rhododendron Truss
2. Whole Rhododendron Plant
3. Foliage Rhododendron
4. Companion Plant
5. Garden Scene
6. Creative/Artistic photos –photos altered by technology

**NOTE: Please enter only two photos per category. Deadline for digital photos is November 1, 2015**

### Mary Winspear Legacy Rhododendron Garden

by Calvin Parsons

While cleaning up from the very successful 2015 ARS 70<sup>th</sup> Convention this May at Mary Winspear Centre, we noticed a large grassy area between the highway and the building that seemed perfect for a rhodo garden. At the same time, we were talking about how well we were treated by the staff at Mary Winspear. They were spectacular in supporting our many efforts and changes we inflicted on them. We approached the Executive Director, Brad Edgett and our fabulous planner, Patti Sanders, about the possibility of donating rhodos for a legacy garden at Mary Winspear. They were very keen on the idea as it coincides with 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II which is observed yearly by the organization that operates Mary Winspear.

We are now ready to proceed with planning a Legacy Rhodo Garden. We have a planning committee in place to develop and implement our plans. We already have 42 rhodos that the presidents of District #1 donated to this project after the May convention. We are initially wishing to have up to 70 rhodos donated for the Legacy Garden.

#### Costs to VicRS

1. Volunteer time for design and implementation.
2. Donation of rhodos for the garden.

### **Costs to Mary Winspear**

Mary Winspear Centre will provide and maintain irrigation .

### **Community**

Will seek community donations of 15 yards of bark mulch.

### **Donations**

We will be looking for donations of rhodos, large and small, that you may have surplus to your needs or rhodos that may be too big for your garden. We will have volunteers to dig out your donated rhodos if necessary. Please inform Lois or Calvin if you have a rhodo to donate. We will collect the donations once the rhodo bed has been prepared by Mary Winspear.

## **Location of the Legacy Gardens to be planted at the Mary Winspear centre in Sidney**



## Membership Renewal Reminder

**FEES ARE NOW DUE!!!**

IF YOU ARE ALREADY A MEMBER BUT THERE ARE CHANGES TO REPORT OR IF YOU ARE A NEW MEMBER, PLEASE FILL IN THE FORM BELOW AND MAIL IT WITH THE FEES, OR SIMPLY BRING IT TO THE NEXT MEETING.

Mail to: The Victoria Rhododendron Society, P.O. Box 5562 Station B, Victoria, B.C., V8R 6S4

### Newsletters available by email only

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City and Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle one of the following:

Regular (Full) Membership: \$30 ; Local Membership: \$25 ; Associate (with other ARS chapters) : \$10 ; Commercial-Corporate: \$90; Sustaining: \$75; Sponsoring: \$150 ; Life, single: \$1,000 (Payable over 3 years); Life, family: \$1,500 (Payable over 3 years).

Pay by:                      Cash                       Cheque

## UPCOMING EVENTS

General Meeting November 9, 2015	Members' Photography Evening	
General Meeting December 14, 2015	Christmas Potluck Dinner 6:30 pm	

### Want the electronic version of the ARS Journal?

We encourage our members to register for the electronic version of the JARS. Journal production and mailing costs are a significant part of the ARS budget. We would like to promote the idea of reducing costs by having members receive the electronic version instead. Please check it out and try it!

#### Login Procedure for Electronic Version of the ARS Journal

1. Go to [www.arsoffice.org](http://www.arsoffice.org)
2. Click on 'Register for personal login.'
3. Click on 'Register Now'
4. Fill in the fields with your information. Your ARS Member Number is on the mailing wrapper when you receive your Journal **or** at the meeting you can ask Calvin Parsons or another Board Member for your number (we have it in the membership database) **or** e-mail [victoriarhododendron@gmail.com](mailto:victoriarhododendron@gmail.com) for it.

# OARS

Office of the American Rhododendron Society

### ARS Registration

\* Required Field

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Last Name\*

Email\*

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Username\*

Password\*

Confirm Password\*

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Human Verification\*

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**American Rhododendron Society**

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