



The Victoria Rhododendron Society

Newsletter

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

December 2016

tkmcmillan@telus.net

Thirty-Sixth Year of Publication

<http://victoriarhodo.ca>



Dinner starts at 6:30

MONDAY, December 5, 2016

Horticultural Centre of the Pacific
505 Quayle Road
Victoria, BC



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Editor's Notes

by Theresa McMillan



On the evening of Nov. 7, 2016, we met at the Couvelier Pavilion at the Horticultural Centre of the Pacific. The Pavilion is an attractive circular building, with glass windows around two thirds of it. It opens into a room with round tables for seating, a table with several plants for the raffle, an excellent screen for viewing photos and at the side, a long table with urns for tea, coffee, cups, and plates of refreshments.

We began with the Photo Contest, which featured many brightly coloured rhododendrons, interesting leaves, garden scenes and artistic shots. Then there was the raffle



(Continued on page 2)

VICTORIA RHODODENDRON SOCIETY BOARD

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with a good variety of healthy looking plants. We broke for refreshments and chat before finishing with a demonstration of the cleaning and sharpening of garden tools by a representative, Shannon, from Lee Valley Tools in Colwood.

The result of the workshop was several members with their gardening tools clean and sharp, ready to go to work pruning during our unseasonably mild fall/winter.



Courtesy of
Sundance Photo Archive Services



Lug-A-Mug

A plea for everyone to lug their own mug if they wish to partake of the hot beverages after meetings. This makes clean up so much easier for Bill and Betty Gordon.



LOST AND FOUND

Found – Black Quilted Vest at our October meeting. Please contact Bill and Betty Gordon.



NOTES FROM THE BOARD November 2016

The board met on Tuesday, November 15, at Calvin's home. There was much to discuss and make plans for, following our treasurer Ann Widdowson's passing earlier in the month. One of our most pressing matters is to fill Ann's position on the board, as her valuable experience as treasurer for our group will be a difficult challenge to overcome. Some names have been discussed and they will be contacted as to their response to fill this position.

The board moved to eliminate the photography night for 2017. There were only eight people entering photographs this year. This decision will be revisited in 2017.

An update on the Mary Winspear Center rhododendron garden was discussed. At this time, the Township of Sidney is being proposed to become the caretaker of the garden. Calvin will head up a Public Gardens committee, and is the contact person as this plan begins to unfold in the coming months.

Bill Gordon announced that he would very much appreciate returning to the custom of members bringing their own mugs to the meetings. It seems that without this happening, he and Betty are often left waiting up to 40 minutes for the dishwasher to be finished. It is a small favor to ask and would be very much appreciated.

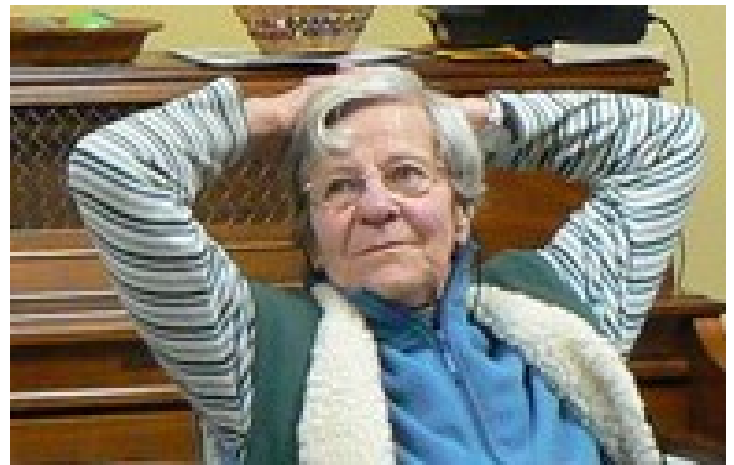
The speaker for January is Brenda MacDonald. Her topic is "A Rhododendron Twitcher in Asia... it's like Birdwatching for Plants". Brenda and Sean have made several plant-hunting trips to the Himalayas. We will be able to see Brenda's perspective in photo form. This removes hiking for our members. We get to have this experience without boots and climbing gear.

Another topic discussed was having more hands-on activities at our meetings. The tool sharpening addition to the photography was very well received. Some suggestions included seed planting,

propagating cuttings, flower arranging with rhododendrons, pruning and hanging basket making. If any of our members have other suggestions, please contact any member of the board. We welcome all suggestions.

December 5th is our Christmas party. Dinner begins at 6:30. Turkey and baked ham will be provided. Club members will bring side dishes and desserts; A-M members are to provide savories and N-Z members, desserts. Please remember to bring Mustard Seed contributions as well as raffle items. REMEMBER...Jacq Bradbury will be hosting a centerpiece making workshop on the morning of our Christmas dinner, December 5. It starts at 9 am. at her home at 2959 Irma Street. Please bring your cutters and any materials you have that could add to the making of the centerpieces. As well, volunteers would be appreciated to help with clean up afterwards. Carpooling with other members would ease any parking issues.

Remembering -



Ann Widdowson

Our friend and outstanding treasurer.

Ann and I worked together on many projects, from the Board and Garden of HCP to numerous VRS Boards, 2005 convention, several VRS Show and Sales that I chaired, and elsewhere. Ann was always there and willing when you needed help. Ann and Tom became valued friends. I will really miss Ann's insight, advice and company.

Bill McMillan

Invasive *R. ponticum* -

Couple in their 50s rescued from rhododendron forest in Tipperary

The experienced hill walkers became stranded in a treacherous area of steep ground.

Jun 17th 2014

Courtesy of The Journal, Dublin, Ireland



The area at the Knockmealdown Mountains

Image: [South Eastern Mountain Rescue Association](#).

A COUPLE IN their 50s have been rescued in a five-hour operation after becoming stranded in a treacherous area of steep ground in Tipperary.

The two experienced hill walkers got stuck in what rescuers described as a very dense rhododendron forest.

The two had been walking in the Knockmealdown Mountains overlooking Bay Lough when they got into trouble.

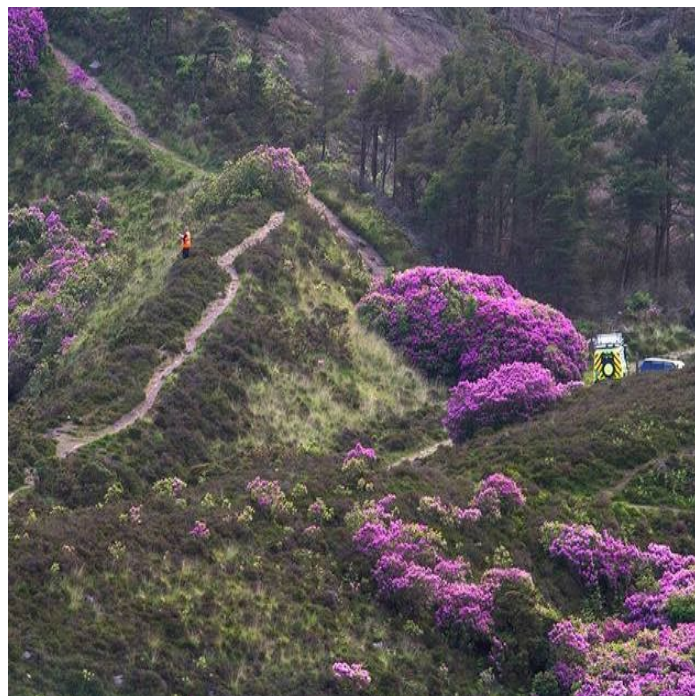
Mountain rescue workers were able to spot the couple and guided rescuers in by radio to the location.

The groups involved in the rescue made the decision to bring the two to safety by taking a boat across Bay Lough rather than take the risky trek up

the slopes of a nearby mountain.

South Eastern Mountain Rescue Association, which led the operation, praised the work of all the groups involved in the rescue.

Rhododendrons can form very dense thickets which prevent access by the sheer size of the plant.



Source: [South Eastern Mountain Rescue Association](#)



R. Ponticum, an invasive weed?

by Bill & Theresa McMillan

R. ponticum is responsible for the destruction of many native habitats and the abandonment of land throughout the British Isles. The reason for this is simple. Where conditions are suitable, ponticum will outcompete most native plants.

It will grow to many times the height of a person, allowing very little light to penetrate through its thick leaf canopy. This effectively eliminates other competing native plant species which are unable to grow due to insufficient light. This in turn leads to the consequent loss of the associated native animals. The preceding article illustrates this problem in Ireland.

Here in British Columbia old gardens such as Hatley Park in Colwood show how R. ponticum (purple) which had been used as root stock for different coloured rhodos (pink, white) has completely taken over the grafts. There are suckers and small rhodos around them, but dense cover from conifers has stopped further spread. R. ponticum has been better behaved here, at least so far, and has not gained 'Weed' status.



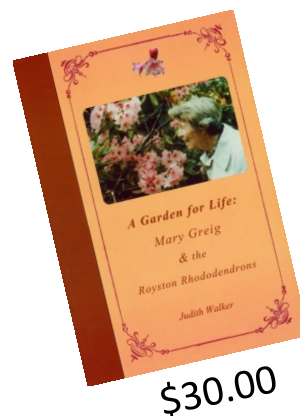
R. ponticum Scotland
Courtesy of Bill McMillan



A GARDEN FOR LIFE: MARY GREIG AND THE ROYSTON RHODODENDRONS

Author: Judith Walker

This book tells the story of the adventures of Mary Greig, her love of plants and the establishment of the famous Royston Rhododendron Nursery and Garden. Judith Walker worked with Mary and believed this story was an exceptional tale of garden pioneering in B. C. It is available from Pam Harrison. If you wish to order this outstanding garden history book, please call Pam at 250 479 1107 or email polowich@gmail.com.



\$30.00



Invitation

The Victoria Rhododendron Society's Annual Christmas Pot Luck Dinner Couvelier Pavilion, HCP

Monday, December 5 @ 6:30 p.m.

*Members A - L, please bring a savory
or a salad*

Members M - Z, please bring a dessert

*The Club will provide a cooked ham & turkey,
punch, serviettes, tea, coffee, sugar, milk & cream.*

Please bring your own dishes, cutlery and cups.

*Raffle donations of
crafts and plants would
be much appreciated.*

*All proceeds and
non-perishable foods will
be donated to the
Mustard Seed Food Bank.*



2016 Photography Night Results

Single Truss

1st Place

Anne Allen, R. Loderi King George and
Susan Lightburn, R. hodgsonii

2nd Place:

Peter Barriscale, R. Trewithen Orange

Whole Rhodo

1st Place:

Carrie Nelson, Arnesom Gem

2nd Place:

Anne Allen, R. PJM

Foliage

1st Place:

Anne Allen, R. Pachysanthum

2nd Place:

Susan Lightburn, R. mallotum

Companion Plants

1st Place:

Anne Allen, Tree Peony

2nd Place:

Susan Lightburn, Hellebores and
Susan Lightburn, Hostas

Garden Scene

1st Place:

Peter Lewis, Pond and Fountain

2nd Place:

Anne Allen, Betty's Garden and
Jacqueline Walker, Garden Scene

Artistic

1st Place:

Norma Senn, Allium

2nd Place:

Jacqueline Walker, Lem's Cameo

Best in Show

1st Place:

Anne Allen, Pachysanthum and
Carrie Nelson, Arnesom Gem

2nd Place:

Anne Allen, Loderi King George and
Susan Lightburn, R. mallotum

(***see pictures on next three pages)

2016 Photography Night Results

Single Truss 1st Place



Anne Allen - R. Loderi King George



Susan Lightburn - R. hodgsonii

2nd Place



Peter Barriscale - R. Trewithen Orange

Whole Rhodo 1st Place



Carrie Nelson - Arnesom Gem

2nd Place



Anne Allen - R. PJM

Foliage 1st Place



Anne Allen - R. Pachysanthum

2nd Place



Susan Lightburn - R. mallotum

2016 Photography Night

Companion Plants

1st Place



Anne Allen - Tree Peony

2nd Place



Susan Lightburn - Hellebores



Susan Lightburn - Hostas

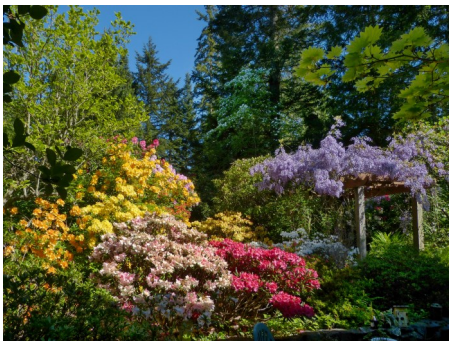
Garden Scene

1st Place

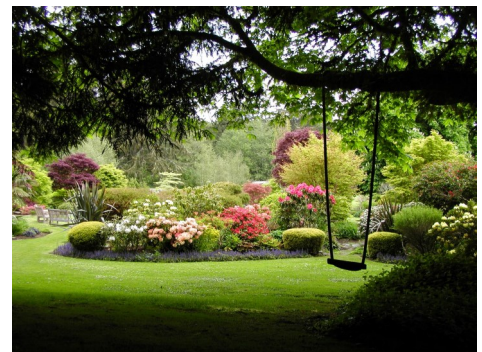


Peter Lewis, Pond and Fountain

2nd Place



Anne Allen - Betty's Garden



Jacqueline Walker, Garden Scene

2016 Photography Night Results

Artistic

1st Place



Norma Senn - Allium

2nd Place



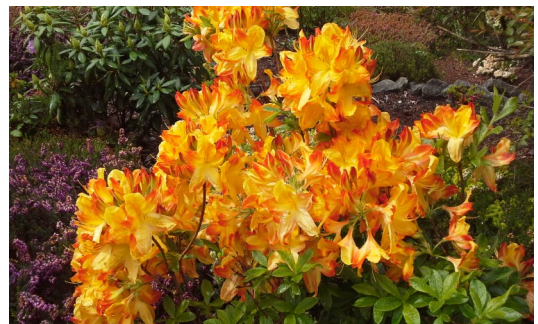
Jacqueline Walker, Lem's Cameo

Best in Show

1st Place



Anne Allen - R. Pachysanthum



Carrie Nelson - Arnesom Gem

2nd Place



Anne Allen - R. Loderi King George



Susan Lightburn - R. mallotum



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VRS 2017 Calendar

Key to the Symbols

General Meetings
Gardens at HCP
505 Quayle Road
Victoria BC V9E 2L7

Propagation Group

Meetings every 2 months
(contact Ken Webb
to be added to the email list)

ARS Convention

April 27 - 30

Activities

Plant sale at Marquardt's
April 29, 2017

Truss Show, Mary Winspear
May 6, 2017

Summer Picnic
See May Newsletter for
details



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January

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

February

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

March

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

April

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

Sale

May

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

Show

June

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

SUMMER BREAK

September

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

October

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

November

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

December

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

Upcoming Events

2016	Event	Place
Dec 5 6:30 		Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road 
2017	HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!	
Jan 2 7:30	General Meeting The Couvelier Pavilion	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Jan 16 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Feb 6 7:30	General Meeting The Couvelier Pavilion	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Mar 6 7:30	General Meeting The Couvelier Pavilion	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Mar 20 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Apr 3 7:30	General Meeting The Couvelier Pavilion	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Apr 23 10-2	Mount Arrowsmith Chapter Show and Plant Sale Contact Ray Walker, 250-228-8683	Parksville Curling Club 193 Island Highway East Parksville, BC
Apr 27-30	<u>ARS Annual Convention</u> for Conference registration <u>Red Lion Hotel</u> reservations separate from registration or <u>1-800-733-5466</u> Early booking is recommended.	Eureka, CA
Apr 29 10-2	Cowichan Valley Chapter Plant Sale Several rhodo growers, companion plants, potter, garden furniture Contact Carrie Nelson, carrieonupthemountain@gmail.com	Cowichan Exhibit. Grounds Main Hall, Mays Rd & Island Hwy Duncan, BC
May 1 7:30	General Meeting The Couvelier Pavilion	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
May 1 10-3	Nanaimo Chapter Spring Show and Plant Sale	Beban Park 2300 Bowen Rd Nanaimo, BC
May 15 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Jun 18 Noon	Sunday BBQ Location: Marquardt's Farm	4640 Cordova Bay Road Victoria
Sept 4 7:30	General Meeting The Couvelier Pavilion	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Sept 18 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Oct 2 7:30	General Meeting The Couvelier Pavilion	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Nov 6 7:30	General Meeting The Couvelier Pavilion	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Nov 20 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Dec 4 6:30	Christmas Potluck Dinner The Couvelier Pavilion	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road