



The Victoria Rhododendron Society

Newsletter

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

September 2016
tkmcmillan@telus.net

Thirty-Sixth Year of Publication
<http://victoriarhodo.ca>

"Garden Delights and Desserts" @ 6:00

MEETING 7:00

MONDAY, September 5, 2016

Couvelier Pavilion
HCP GARDENS
505 Quayle Road

Garden Delights and Desserts At the HCP



- **When:** Our first meeting of the fall season is Monday, September 5
- **Where:** HCP
- **Doors:** Open at 6 pm.
Grab a coffee & dessert and join in the delights of the garden with our members for a guided tour of the rhododendron garden.
- **Meeting:** 7pm
in the Couvelier Pavilion



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Editor's Notes



by Theresa McMillan

Our VRS Potluck Picnic - After several mixed sun/cloud cool days, when Sunday, June 26, dawned pleasantly warm and bright, we sighed with relief. Our VRS Potluck Picnic was going to have perfect conditions.

Tony and Carolyn Marquardt's garden at the forested edge of Mount Douglas Park in Saanich was beautiful and wild birds serenaded us. Several highlights for me were the astilbes, tall and colourful in the dappled shade. (Mine don't appreciate their dry sunny locations). There was a small pink rose, caged against the depredations of the deer and of course, our old friends the rhododendrons with different foliages and flowers. There were several unusual plants....



**VICTORIA RHODODENDRON
SOCIETY BOARD**

President:

Lois Blackmore 250-478-6615
loeyjane@icloud.com or
victoriarhododendron@gmail.com

Vice President:

Vacant

Past President:

Norma Senn 250-595-7276
normasgarden@telus.net

Treasurer:

Ann Widdowson 250-479-9167
awiddowson@shaw.ca

Secretary:

Sharon Joseph 250-383-1756
undergroundca@yahoo.com

Membership:

Carolyn Marquardt 250-477-8387
tonymarquardt@shaw.ca
Ellen Wellborn 250-479-1898
ekwellborn@sha.ca

Members-at-Large:

Carolyn Marquardt 250-477-8387
tonymarquardt@shaw.ca
Carrie George 250-642-3176
carrie.g@shaw.ca
Ian Duncan 250-479-0820
duncani@telus.net
Ken Webb 250-744-1785
kenwebb@shaw.ca
Linda Gilmore 250-642-2256
gilmore2080@gmail.com
Lloyd Gilmore 250-642-2256
ll.gilmore@shaw.ca
Madeleine Webb 250-744-1785
kenwebb@shaw.ca
Marjory Brice 250-658-1850
stephen.brice@richardsongmp.com
Paton Hetherington 778-433-9251
phetherington@gmail.com
Theresa McMillan 250-478-3515
tkmcmillan@telus.net

Newsletter Committee:

Bill McMillan 250-478-3515
Calvin Parsons 250-590-0489
Joyce Whittle 250-656-7313
Linda Gilmore 250-642-2256
Madeleine Webb 250-744-1785
Theresa McMillan 250-478-3515

Website:

Calvin Parsons 250-590-0489
cparsons937@gmail.com
<http://victoriarhodo.ca>

To further brighten the scene, women wore summer dresses or blouses and usually a hat. Men wore their best shirts and sun hats. As the dishes were put out on tables, we could see that (along with our fragrant barbequed salmon) we were going to have a feast.

After desserts and coffee/tea, we began the annual plant raffle which always leads to many difficult choices.

At the end of the picnic, Tony and Carolyn were given the very well deserved Abkhazi Trophy for service to the club.



NOTES FROM THE BOARD

by Lois Blackmore

We have had a very successful year as a group who work for the betterment of the Genus rhododendron.


We thank the many members of our society who put in time and effort throughout the year on a volunteer basis. This club could not be in existence if not for the volunteer efforts of so many people.



As a small token of appreciation, we continue to subsidize our membership fees for the upcoming year. Although the Canadian dollar is valued approximately 25% below the American dollar, we will continue for this year to subsidize membership. Membership this year is \$35. For less than 10 cents per day, you receive a monthly newsletter, the option of receiving the ARS journal, a Christmas dinner, a dessert party in September, the option of

joining the propagating group, access to the HCP on meeting evenings, free tea and coffee at each meeting, access to knowledgeable speakers about the genus rhododendron, the ability to vote on constitutional matters and to become a member of the board. As well, both members of a family receive these benefits. The board believes this to be an investment in our club.

When signing up for membership this year, you will be asked to give permission for your name, telephone number and email address to be listed and distributed to other club members. This has been a request from several members in order to make communication within the group possible.

We look forward to another successful year of fun, friendship and learning together. 

The American Rhododendron Society Presents...

34th Annual Western Regional Rhododendron Conference

**September 29-October 2,
2016**

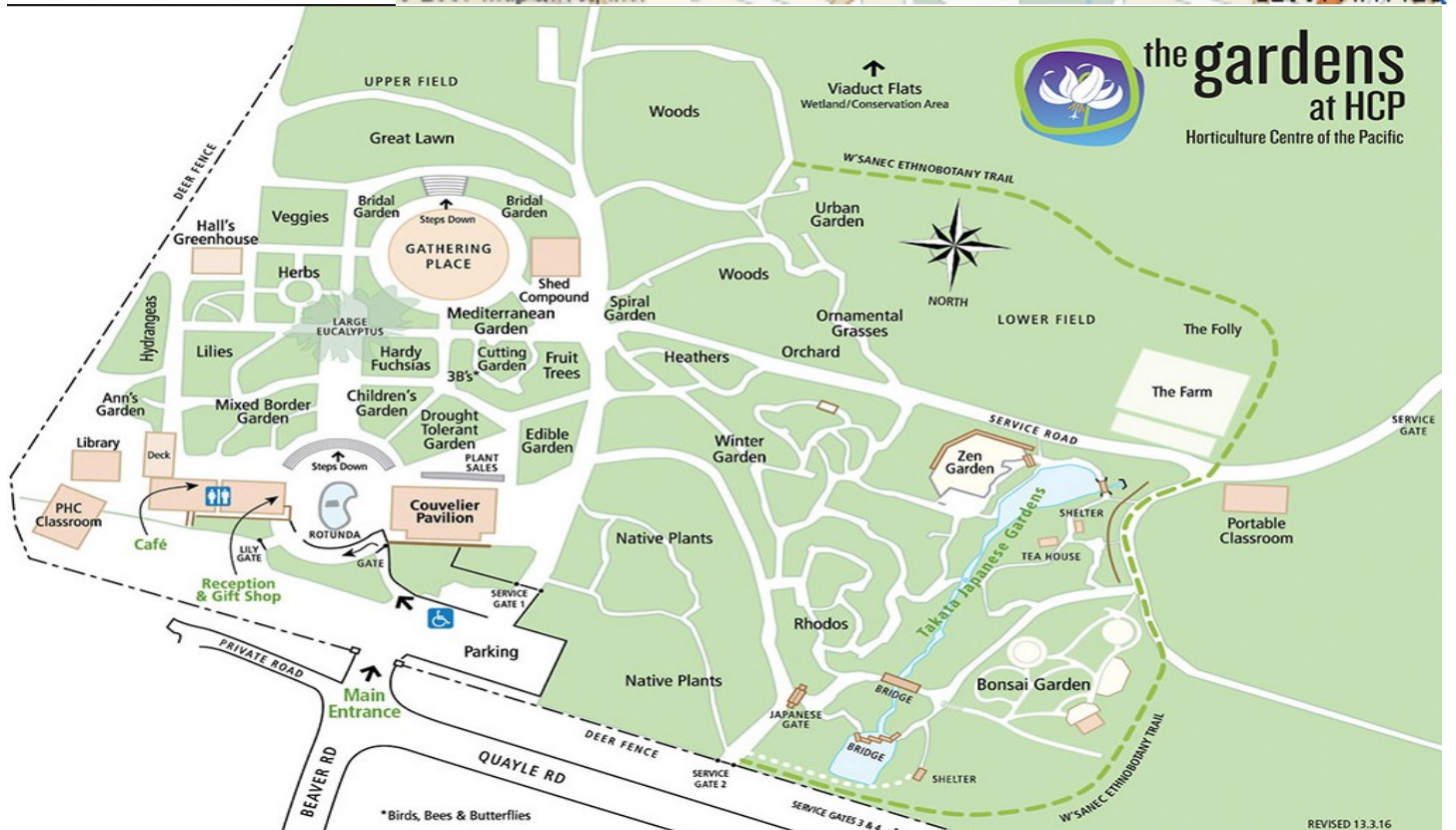
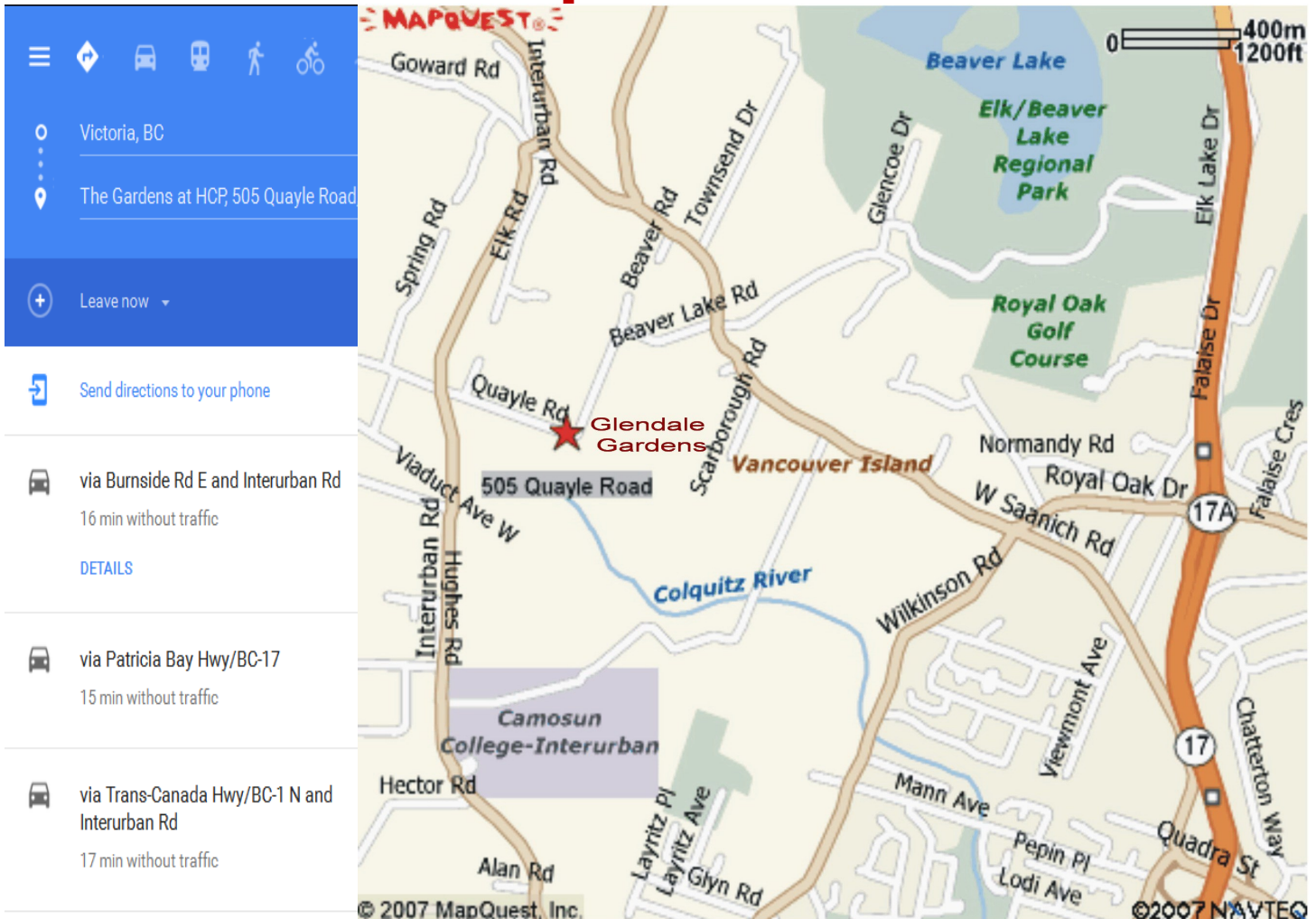
**For the Love of
Rhododendrons...
and Other Good Friends...**

**Canadians have a
special registration of
only \$35 due to the
exchange rate.**



**Come enjoy the conference
at a beautiful oceanside hotel
right on Highway 101 in
Newport, Oregon
Sponsored by District 4**

Map to HCP



2016 WINNERS OF THE VRS TRUSS & FLOWER SHOW

The George Fraser Memorial Trophy for Best Vancouver Island Hybrid	Bill and Betty Gordon
Herman and Hella Vaartnou Plate for Best Fragrant Rhododendron Truss or Spray (not an Azalea)	Anne Allen and Ian Duncan
Jean and Norman Todd Trophy for Best Lepidote Species In A Container	Norma Senn
Mary's Memorial Cup for Best Rhododendron Companion Plant	Anne Allen and Ian Duncan
The Jim Calder Memorial Trophy for Best Species Truss Or Spray	Ken and Madeleine Webb
The Mary Henderson Memorial Trophy for Best Hybrid Rhododendron	Anne Allen and Ian Duncan
The de Rothschild Challenge Trophy for Best In Show	Anne Allen and Ian Duncan
The Alex McCarter Bowl for Best NW Hybrid	Roy and Lois Blackmore
The Gibson Memorial Trophy for High Aggregate	Anne Allen and Ian Duncan
The Webb Trophy for People's Choice	Anne Allen and Ian Duncan
Angus and Mary Boyd Trophy for Best Entry By A Novice	Ian Back
The Abkhazi Plate for Service To The Club	Tony and Carolyn Marquardt



'Frank Galsworthy'
photo by Anne Allen

The VRS Potting Party



Our June Picnic



A Fairytale Plant

Part 1, How it got its name

by Joe Harvey

Once upon a time a beautiful young woman called Rose lived on a tropical island and married a gallant officer who swept her away to Paris where she was very happy. Unfortunately there was a revolution and a group of terrorists threw them into gaol and chopped off her husband's head in a public square in front of a cheering crowd.

Then a handsome general rode up on a grey horse called Marengo, asked for her hand in marriage and she lived happily ever after in a huge mansion with a garden where she grew roses.

Like all fairytales the above glosses over details. Both marriages were pretty rocky. Rose is Marie Josephe Rose Tascher de La Pagerie, born in 1763 on Martinique (one writer claims St Lucia), but she was brought up on the family sugar plantation, La Pagerie (remember this name), where eating sugar, a sign of great wealth at the time, rotted her teeth, so no portrait shows her smiling.

The handsome general was in fact very short, nickname 'Mon Petit General', and when Rose was formally introduced with her full name he said something like "I don't like the name Rose but I have a wonderful brother called Joseph so I shall call you Josephine".

As you may have guessed the general was Napoleon and when your name becomes Josephine Bonaparte you get to spend a lot of money (both husbands complained) and honours are showered on you – like having plants named for you. Josephine became the most famous woman in Europe and grew the world's largest collection of roses at Malmaison.

About this time two Spanish explorers, Ruiz and Pavel, brought a plant that the Chileans called copihue to Europe. For a scientific name they decided to honour Empress Josephine, taking the name of the estate La Pagerie, to coin the generic name *Lapageria* (la-pa-GEE-re-uh).

The binomial name is *Lapageria rosea*, English name Chilean bellflower and as copihue it is now

the national flower of Chile. Now *rosea* is a common epithet in plant names; it means pink. But this is a little unimaginative for such a startling



Lapageria rosea
courtesy of Wikipedia

plant. I like to indulge the thought that Ruiz and Pavel knew that the family always called Josephine Rose, and that consequently this is the source of the name *rosea*. Either way the flowers are usually deep pink, occasionally with white stripes and spots, or all white.



To digress, the shrubs we call roses received that name anciently and we use the adjective rose more or less interchangeably for the colour pink.

On the other hand the gilliflowers we now call 'pinks' do not get their name from their colour but from the unrelated verb 'to pink': they have the edges of the petals fimbriate, i.e. frilly or 'pinked' -

think of a tailor's pinking shears.

This article was stimulated by one of my plants producing about a dozen flowers in July 2016. It looked fantastic! There is a small coterie of Lapageria enthusiasts in Victoria. My plants were given to me as seedlings by Sue Lee and Judith McLauchlan. I have a batch of small seedlings raised from seeds that Carol Dancer gave me from a fruit off her large white-flowered plant. It had been cross-pollinated with pollen from a pink form so the offspring should be very interesting. I also have a fruit ripening on one of my plants. What this means is that there is the opportunity to spread around this unusual, rare and beautiful plant and make it a common sight in Victoria. I did this previously with the formerly rare Rock's tree peony and it would be nice to repeat the process.

Part 2 will explain how to grow Lapageria. There are problems but once they are overcome the reward is great.



As We Move Forward...

by Lois Blackmore

We welcome our members to another year of learning about and promoting the genus rhododendron. The 2015/2016 years were one of reflection, change and celebration. Thanks to the support of so many members, we were able to host an outstanding convention, with new ideas, a somewhat different format and some of the most recognized and knowledgeable rhododendron experts from around the world. Many, many members of our club contributed to this special event. The feedback we have received certainly supports this claim.

We also changed how we hold our sales. For the first time, we were able to sell our own plants that were started and grown by members of the propagating group. This trend is a positive one which we will continue and promote. The cooperation we received from this group is outstanding. We believe that we have started a new trend for chapters within the ARS. We will con-

tinue to grow and sell choice hybrids and species that for the most part, are not available in the Canadian market. We welcome other club members to join the propagating group as it heads in a new direction, and we will continue to grow and expand opportunities for this to occur.

Another change that happened was that we moved toward a less competitive, less formal truss show. Many new members joined in this celebration, entering trusses for the first time. We also learned some things along the way. The formal and structured entry system no longer supports the cooperative format that we want to achieve within our group. We will work towards a better system in which seasoned and new members will be able to enter trusses.

We are also trying to show and support members' gardens through a short presentation before each meeting. In this way, we will be able to view members' gardens and celebrate their successes with rhododendrons.

Our meetings this year will be on consistent days, the first Monday of every month. They will take place at the Mel Couvelier Building at the HCP, starting on Labor Day, 2016. Having consistent dates allows for better planning by the board and for members alike. We look forward to this change of venue and dates.

In addition, we invite new ideas from members within our association. If you know of an interesting speaker or have an idea that would add interest to our club, please approach any member of the board and let us know. None of us is as smart as all of us together. We look forward to another year of learning, friendship and celebrating the genus rhododendron.





VICTORIA RHODODENDRON SOCIETY CONSENT FORM

I agree to share my address, telephone number and email address
with other members of the Victoria Rhododendron Society.

Name: _____

Address: _____



Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

Dated: _____

Upcoming Events

2016	Event	Place
Sep 5 6:00	"Garden Delights and Desserts" at 6 pm Members are invited to tour the gardens before the meeting. New meeting place for the General Meeting is in The Couvelier Pavilion at the Horticultural Centre of the Pacific at 7 pm	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Sep 19 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting call Ken Webb 250-744-174	TBA
Sept 29- Oct 2	<u>34th Annual Western Regional Rhododendron Conference</u> For the Love of Rhododendrons... and Other Good Friends... Canadians have a special registration of only \$35 due to the exchange rate	Newport, Oregon
Oct 3 7:30	General Meeting The Couvelier Pavilion	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Oct 17 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Nov 1	Photos Due Final Day to submit photos for Photography Night November 7 General Meeting  Instructions on page 12 of June Newsletter	
Nov 7 7:30	General Meeting - Photography Night The Couvelier Pavilion	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Nov 21 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Dec 5 6:30	Potluck Dinner The Couvelier Pavilion	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
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
Feb 20 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
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 17 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
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	ARS Annual Convention	Eureka, CA
Apr 30 10-2	Cowichan Valley Chapter Plant Sale Several rhodo growers, companion plants, potter, garden furniture Contact Carrie Nelson, carrieonupthemountain@gmail.com	Cowichan Exhibition Grounds, Main Hall at corner of 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 25 Noon	Sunday BBQ Location: -TBA	TBA