



The Victoria Rhododendron Society Newsletter

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January 2017

tkmcmillan@telus.net

Thirty-Seventh Year of Publication

<http://victoriarhodo.ca>

MEETING 7:30

MONDAY, January 2, 2017

Couvelier Pavilion at the HCP Gardens

505 Quayle Road, VICTORIA, B. C.

Doors Open 7:00

Speaker: Brenda MacDonald

A Rhodo Twitcher in Asia, Bird Watching for Plants

Brenda MacDonald and her husband Sean have travelled to the Far East on plant hunting expeditions in the Himalayas. She will share her experiences from both China and India in this wonderful lifetime adventure.

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YOUR NEWSLETTER

Remember the **20th** of each month. It is the VRS newsletter deadline for submitting YOUR content, be it articles you have written, rhodo pictures or something you believe would be of interest to the Members of the Victoria Rhododendron Society. It's all about sharing and information - and having fun!

Please contact Theresa McMillan -
tkmcmillan@telus.net or Linda Gilmore -
gilmore2080@gmail.com

REFRESHMENTS

for the next meeting to be provided by:

Jack McNeill

Linda Miller

Nadine Minckler

Maureen Mitchell

Karen & Burns
Morrison

Justine Murdy

Please email Betty Gordon at

bbgordon@shaw.ca or (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 with the cleanup is really appreciated.

Lug your own mug.

VICTORIA RHODODENDRON SOCIETY BOARD

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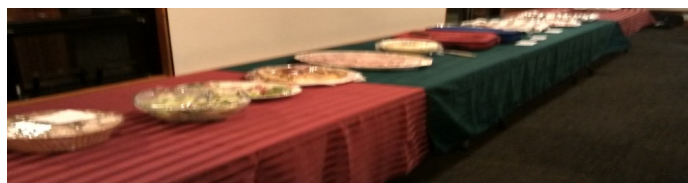
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Editor's Notes



by Theresa McMillan

I was happy to see so many members coming to our special dinner in spite of the weather forecast of snow.



The Couvelier Pavilion looked festive. There was a Christmas tree lit up with white lights in one corner. Several tables had white tablecloths, red and green napkins, and beautiful centerpieces of fresh



greens, a candle and well chosen decorations.

Several of our members had made the table centerpieces and the swags on the raffle tables that morning at the home of Jacq Bradbury.

The raffle tables themselves had other items made or grown by our members. Jams and jellies, hand knitted toques, pots containing a small evergreen, lit by tiny LED bulbs, a pink peony, some Himalayan lady ferns, and a large pot of early spring plantings, like a beautiful hellebore.

While waiting for the dinner, people walked around the raffle tables, and bought tickets for the prizes.

Our president, Lois Blackmore, had brought us

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Christmas word jumble puzzles. The first table to solve them would get first choice for all the savories, salads, vegetables, ham, and turkey that had been provided. The first table, including Sean Rafferty, Brenda McDonald, Joe and Linda Harvey, Norma Senn and Sharon Joseph were geniuses (or at least one of them!) at the puzzle and had a leisurely time choosing items from the feast.

The rest of us, often with kind help from Lois, formed a line along the raffle items for our share. There was a small line from time to time for the desserts on a table near the entrance door.

The food was excellent! Thank you everyone for bringing it all.

Lois and Ian Duncan then ran the raffle, Lois with a container of tickets, which various people chose. There were cries of surprise and delight at the items which were won.

At the end of the dinner meeting, many people helped with the clean up. Many white tablecloths were folded, chairs returned to the storage area. Dishes, cutlery, casserole dishes and raffle prizes were taken away.

And best of all for most of us, it snowed AFTER our dinner!



Wreaths and Centre Pieces

Special thanks go to our volunteers and Jacq Bradbury for her expert instruction, a place to create and all the materials needed.

Thank you



NOTES FROM THE BOARD DECEMBER 12, 2016

1. The Board is pleased to announce that Bill Gordon has accepted the position of Treasurer for the executive of the board. He is taking on the responsibility following Ann's passing. We are pleased to welcome him aboard in this capacity.
2. The speakers for 2017 are:
 - January Brenda MacDonald
 - February Bernie Dinter
 - March Lois Blackmore
 - April Interactive session with all members
 - May Truss Show
 - June Picnic at the Marquardt Garden



Thank You Volunteers !!!

Our members raised \$446.00 from raffle ticket sales and the Mustard Seed Food Bank received 121 pounds of foodstuffs donated by partygoers. This is a great time of year for giving but it is also a great time for appreciation. Therefore, we would like to give our appreciation to:

- all our volunteers (e.g. electronics, organization, refreshments, decorations, turkey & ham roasters)
- raffle table contributors
- contributors and delivery of food bank items
- buffet contributors

Thank you everyone for a fun and successful Christmas Party. **Well done!**



Ann Widdowson

There will be a celebration for Ann Widdowson on December 27th from 2 to 4:30 pm at the Fireside Grill on West Saanich Road. All VRS members are invited to attend.

THE RHODODENDRON WORLD WORKS IN MAGICAL WAYS

by Lois Blackmore



Windsong is a magic rhododendron that has reached well beyond a backyard in Bellevue, WA. I was introduced to that plant in 2003, in Olympia, WA where I attended my first ARS Convention as an active participant. Over the years since, my interest in collecting specific rhododendrons has increased dramatically. Along with that collecting, a cross border friendship with the hybrid-



izer grew quite dramatically, despite the distance between us. Of course, I am referring to the ARS gold medal winner, Jim Barlup. Jim was awarded this honor for his work in hybridizing the genus rhododendron, and his willingness to share materials worldwide. Thus, our VRS story.



Jim will turn 84 in 2017. Despite his age, he continues his passion of hybridizing rhododendrons. He and Judy have made a decision on his legacy and body of work. This legacy has been 40 plus



years in the making. The VRS is to be the recipient of these greatest of gifts. In January of 2017, several members of our club

are travelling to Bellevue to bring 45 full grown plants back to Victoria. These will be stored in the compound at Tony and Carolyn's



Cordova Bay property. The plan is for members to have access to cuttings for the benefit of the VRS. This is a first

step in the BARLUP LEGACY.



Upcoming Events

2017	Event	Place
HAPPY NEW YEAR		
Jan 2 7:30	General Meeting Brenda MacDonald, 'A Rhodo Twitcher in Asia, Bird Watching for Plants' 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 Bernie Dinter - The Changing Gardening World The Couvelier Pavilion	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Mar 6 7:30	General Meeting Lois Blackmore - The Birds and The Bees 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 Interactive Session with all Members 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	ARS Annual Convention for Conference registration Red Lion Hotel reservations separate from registration or 1-800-733-5466 Early booking is recommended.	Eureka, CA
Apr 29 10-2	Cowichan Valley Chapter Plant Sale Several rhodo growers, companion plants, garden furniture Contact Carrie Nelson, carrieonupthemountain@gmail.com	Cowichan Exhibit. Grounds Main Hall, Mays Rd & Island Hwy Duncan, BC
May 1 7:30	Truss Show 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 16 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