



The Victoria Rhododendron Society Newsletter

4821 Townsend Drive, Victoria, BC V8Z 5P2

September 2017
tkmcmillan@telus.net

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

MEETING 7:30

MONDAY, September 4, 2017

Couvelier Pavilion at the HCP Gardens

505 Quayle Road, VICTORIA, B. C.

Gardens Open 6:00 p.m. - Doors Open 7:00 p.m.

CREATING NEW RHODODENDRONS THROUGH HYBRIDIZATION



Lois Blackmore will present a visual story of Jim Barlup's hybridizing process. It is the story of how, what and why certain plants are crossed with one another to create new rhododendron hybrids. Jim is an honorary member of the VRS and an ARS Gold Medal recipient. He has donated a large number of his registered hybrids to our club. His history of rhododendron hybridizing spans over 43 years. To say he is an expert is understating his story. Come and enjoy this story.

In This Issue

- ◇ Editor's Notes -----pg 2
- ◇ Our Picnics-2016/2017 pictures -----pg 3
- ◇ Notes from the Board -----pg 4
- ◇ Arts and Music - Volunteers -----pg 5
- ◇ Rhodo Donations and Volunteers-----pg 6
- ◇ Partings -----pg 7-8
- ◇ Upcoming Events -----pg 9

REFRESHMENTS

for the next meeting to be provided by:

Carmen Varcoe

Geoffrey Voss

Stan Warlow

Ken & Madeleine
Webb

Evelyn Weesjes

Ellen Wellborn

Please email Betty Gordon at

bbgordon@shaw.ca or (250.479.0210) if

you are coming with your wrapped good-
ies/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

President:

Lois Blackmore 250-478-6615

loisblackmore@gmail.com or
victoriarhododendron@gmail.com

Vice President:

Dean Goard 250-592-6915

deangoard@telus.net

Past President:

Norma Senn 250-595-7276

normasgarden@telus.net

Treasurer:

Bill Gordon

bbgordon@shaw.ca

Secretary:

Sharon Joseph 250-383-1756

undergroundca@yahoo.com

Membership:

Ellen Wellborn 250-479-1898

ekwellborn@shaw.ca

Members-at-Large:

Carol Dancer 250-721-5273

dancercarol00@gmail.com

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

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>

Editor's Notes

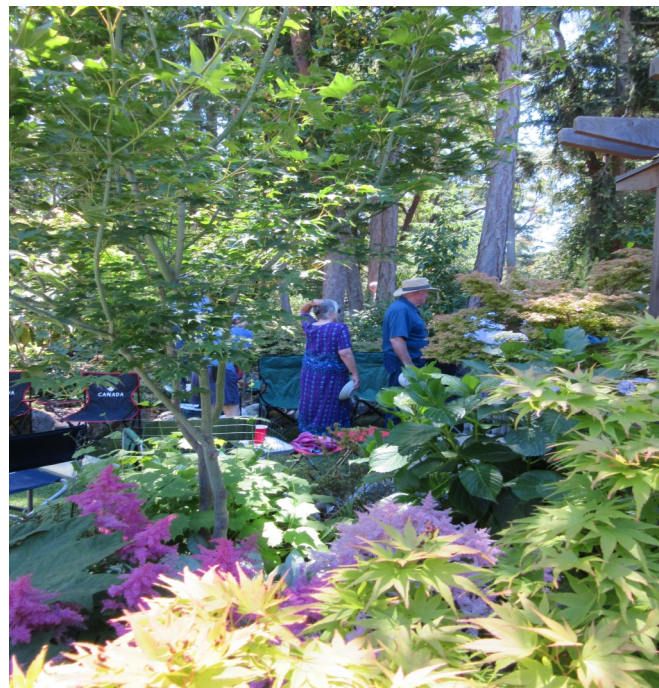
by Theresa McMillan

VicRS June Picnic

At noon, on June 18th, we had our traditional Salmon Barbeque and Pot Luck Picnic. Like last year, we had it at Tony and Caroline Marquardt's farm on the slopes of Mount Douglas.

However this year, the weather was SO different from last June's. Last year was warm and sunny. Members in summer clothes and hats sat out on lawn chairs in the garden and kept moving to get out of the sun. There were many flowers in bloom, including groups of astilbes of various colours.

This year was cool and consistently rainy. The tables with lemonade, tea and coffee and others with salads, casserole and dessert were all under cover from the eaves of the Marquardt's large home. There was a big tarpaulin fastened be-



Astilbes

tween roofs to protect most of the picnickers.

From time to time, members in rain jackets and rain hats went out to check the garden or numerous potted plants (mostly rhododendrons) for the raffle. Last year's astilbes were there and budded

(Continued on page 5)

Our Picnics



2016 & 2017
comparison





NOTES FROM THE BOARD

We had a productive August meeting in preparation for the coming VRS year. Overall, our finances and forthcoming year appear to be on track for another successful year.

Our annual fees were discussed and the board will continue to support ARS membership with additional funding to allow for the rate exchange of the Canadian/ US dollar. Full membership fees will be \$35. Friends fees will be \$25.

Our speaker list is completed for the 2017 year. Tentative speakers were discussed and will soon be forthcoming.

The opening Power Point presentations were reviewed and it was suggested that more information was needed to be included in the slides if this program part was to be continued.

The Mary Winspear Legacy Garden is now a part of the Sidney Parks Department. The irrigation system is in place, as is bark mulch, and the rose bushes have been removed. We will have a further planting program on Sunday morning, October 15. Donations as well as volunteers are needed for this project as we move forward. If you have plants that you are willing to donate, please contact Calvin Parsons. Further information will follow.

The VRS will have a table at the HCP on August 26 and 27 for the Art and Music in the Gardens

Event. Volunteers are in place for the two day extravaganza and we will have rhododendrons for sale, thanks to Ken and Madeleine. This colorful event is well attended and gives exposure to the VRS as part of the gardening scene in greater Victoria.

We are proceeding with our intent to have an area within the HCP for growing cuttings and storing of our rhododendrons. As we continue to advance and collect our gifts of Barlup hybrids, we soon will be needing this extra safe and secure venue. The board has approved Ian to present our application for such an area and as well, approved the monies needed for site preparation and irrigation, should this come about. The board also approved the application of an area within the grounds of the HCP to have a Barlup Walk. This particular proposal is just within the beginning stages and further information will be forthcoming in the next while. It is noted that the HCP is owned by the Parks and Recreation Department of Saanich.

The board will be asking for approval from the membership to donate \$1000 toward the Nepal Earthquake fund. A school has already been built and the monies will go towards teacher salaries and student supplies. The Nepal Earthquake Fund was established at the ARS Victoria

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Notes from the Board—cont'd

Convention in 2015.

A memorial/celebration service for Norm Todd will be held on September 23 from 2-4 pm at the HCP. As other events are being held in the gardens at the same time, please try to carpool with others, as parking is limited.

Under new regulations of the Societies Act, the VRS needs to review and revamp its operation policies to adhere to any new regulations that will be forthcoming. Bill Gordon and Linda Gilmore have taken on this task.

(Continued from page 2)

VicRS June Picnic cont'd

up, but not yet in bloom.

What a difference from a sunny day to a rainy one! However, as usual the food was excellent. Our chefs this year were Bill Gordon and Calvin Parsons.

The winner of the Abkhazia Award was Carrie George for her many many services to the club.

Tony and Caroline Marquardt received a Rhododendron magnificum to thank them for the use of their fine home and garden for our June BBQ and picnic.



R. magnificum

VicRS Members

-VOLUNTEERS NEEDED-

Volunteers are needed to sell rhodos at Horticulture Centre of the Pacific's annual **ARTS AND MUSIC in the GARDENS, August 26 & 27 from 10-4.**

Volunteers get free admission! You can volunteer for any part of the day(s), both days or any configuration that suits you.

If you are available, please contact Ian Duncan, duncani@telus.net, or [250-479-0820](tel:250-479-0820).

Check out HCP website for more info:

<http://hcp.ca/event/arts-music-gardens/2017-08-26/>

Rhodo Donations and Volunteers Needed

There has been much progress at the Mary Winspear Rhodo Garden over the summer. The irrigation system was repaired and updated. The rose bushes have been removed and mulch was added to the garden. The rhodos look very happy this summer.

We are now ready to continue our rhodo planting project. We would like volunteers to help plant donated rhodos on **Sunday, October 15, 2017**, from 9:30 am until noon. We will need diggers, planters, and recorders. Please email Calvin if you can help, cparsons937@gmail.com.

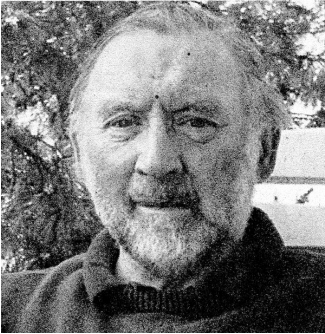
If you have rhodos to donate, please bring to October 2, 2017 monthly meeting or email Calvin for pickup.

The VicRS wish to thank the workers of the Township of Sidney for getting this work done during their many other commitments.

Calvin Parsons
Coordinator, Community Rhododendron Gardens



Partings



Mr. Rhododendron - Norm Todd

We are sad to announce the recent passing of our beloved Norm Todd, on Friday, July 21st.

Norm was well known on Vancouver Island as "Mr. Rhododendron". His love of and knowledge about rhododendrons was boundless. For years, during our meetings, Norm was the man who identified and commented on most of the rhododendrons on our raffle table.

Norm was the owner of Firwood Nurseries and was responsible for many members joining our Society. He was a respected member of the American Rhododendron Society and was awarded the Silver Medal for his contribution to the world of rhododendrons.

In 2011, Calvin Parsons and other members of the VicRS collected Norm's articles and printed them as "The Complete Wit and Wisdom of Norman Todd". They are so well written and often so humorous that the books have been very popular.

A service of remembrance will occur at the Horticultural Centre of the Pacific on Saturday, Sept. 23, between 2 and 4. No flowers (or trusses!) by request.

by Lois Blackmore and Theresa McMillan



Moe Massa

HE WILL BE MISSED...

We lost one of the most respected and well loved members of our Chapter with the passing of Moe Massa on June 21, 2017.

Moe was very energetic and always interested trying new and different plants. He was generous to a fault and his memory was incredible. If he had a copy of the plant, and someone expressed an interest in that particular plant, the next time a meeting happened, Moe would arrive with that plant in hand.

Last fall, his special interest was big leaved rhododendrons. This spring, even though he was ill, he was busy extending his vegetable garden. His positive attitude, enthusiasm and love of rhododendrons were an inspiration.

Moe was a stalwart of our organization. No matter when, who or why he always talked to friends or strangers and invited them to view his and Hannah's large and extended rhododendron garden at Bermuda Place near Sooke. To say he loved his garden was an understatement. In past years, he spent many hours extending his garden, creating a water feature, hand painting rocks with the plants' names and carefully placing

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

Moe Massa—cont'd

them underneath for readability by visitors.

Moe was a sentimentalist at heart. Many of his unregistered plants were named after particular friends and often they had a connection to the hybridizer who created them. He will be missed and always remembered as a force in our Chapter.

*by Lois Blackmore and more details by
Heather Dickman*



Nancy Thomson

A WONDERFUL LADY

Our Society is saddened by the passing of a longtime member of our club, Nancy Thomson on July 19, 2017. Nancy was a wonderful gardener and a rhododendron enthusiast and expert. Her gardens were lovingly and artfully created.

Her knowledge about the genus rhododendron was well founded.

Nancy attended the first overseas ARS Convention in Oban, Scotland in 1996, and was often seen escorting Margaret Buffam on the garden tours and boat excursions. In 2005, Nancy was an active member of our group that put together the “goody” stuffed Convention bags.

Her memory and love of rhododendrons will always be cherished. Nancy will be remembered for her gracious and loving manner in all aspects of life.



by Lois Blackmore

Upcoming Events

2017	Event	Place
Sept 4 7:30	General Meeting - The Couvelier Pavilion "The Birds and the Bees" with Lois Blackmore	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 "A Peek into 2018" with Jeff de Jong Reminder: Members can bring Mary Winspear small rhodo donations	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Oct 16 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Nov 6 7:30	General Meeting - The Couvelier Pavilion "Species Rhododendrons" with Sean Rafferty	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
2018	2018	2018
Jan 8 7:30	General Meeting - The Couvelier Pavilion	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Jan 22 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Feb 5 7:30	General Meeting - The Couvelier Pavilion	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Feb 19 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Mar 5 7:30	General Meeting - The Couvelier Pavilion	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Mar 19 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Apr 2 7:30	General Meeting - The Couvelier Pavilion	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Apr 13-15 7:30	Plant Sale at Marquardt's Farm Members Only - Friday, April 13	4640 Cordova Bay Road Victoria
Apr 16 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
May 4-6	Truss Show	Mary Winspear Centre Sidney, BC
May 7-30	ARS Convention - North America meets Europe - May 20-26 With optional Pre & Post-Tours ranging from ~ May 7 – May 30	Denmark, Finland, Germany, Netherlands and Sweden
May 21 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Jun 18 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Jun 24 Noon	VRS Summer Picnic	TBA
Sep 3 7:30	General Meeting - The Couvelier Pavilion	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Sep 17 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Oct 1 7:30	General Meeting - The Couvelier Pavilion	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Oct 15 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Nov 5 7:30	General Meeting - The Couvelier Pavilion	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Nov 19 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Dec 3 6:30	General Meeting - The Couvelier Pavilion	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road