



Membership News

December 2010

Vol 1, No 8

Greetings VRS Members



As another year draws to a close, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year ... and since you will all, doubtless, be making long lists of New Year's resolutions, may we suggest that you add one more – to plan to get out to more club events, and to participate to the fullest extent possible. We have found that our enjoyment of rhododendrons, and our knowledge level, increased dramatically when we became more involved in club activities ... the inevitable result of associating with our many members who possess a truly astounding aggregate knowledge of the subject.

Through the *Membership News*, we have tried to share some of this newly-acquired knowledge and experience with the membership ... we hope that you will continue to share our journey of discovery, and to share *your* experience with your fellow members. In the New Year, we have plans for additional features in the newsletter, and we hope for your enthusiastic support, and participation, in this venture ... remember, this is *your* newsletter ... we are merely the facilitators ...

On a more sombre note, the membership renewal period has finished for another year, and we see that there has been a substantial reduction in membership levels ... this is a trend that is occurring in many chapters in District 1, and, we suspect, elsewhere in the ARS. It is all the more important, therefore, that we redouble our efforts to introduce friends to our club, as guest members, and to make every effort to welcome these visitors, so that they may wish to join us on our journey ...

See you all in 2011 ...

Category	2010	2011 to date
ARS/VRS Members	37	32
Chapter Members	49	37
Associate Members	21	17
Life Members	8	8
Totals	115	94

Upcoming VRS Meeting

There will be no meeting of the club this month, due to the Christmas holiday season.

Other Chapters

Guests are always welcome at these other chapters, and, as a member of the VRS, you can get a year's associate membership for \$ 10 or 15 ... a bargain !



- ❖ **Fraser South** ... Wednesday, December 15 ... **6:30 pm** ... NOTE TIME
United Church Hall, 5673 – 200th Street, Langley
Event ... **Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner** and Festive Frolic



- ❖ **Fraser Valley** ... No meeting, due to Christmas holidays
St. Andrew's Heritage Hall, 22279 - 116th Avenue, Maple Ridge



- ❖ **Peace Arch** ... No meeting, due to Christmas holidays
Cranley Hall, 2141 Cranley Drive, White Rock



Conferences

The 2011 ARS National Convention will be held in Vancouver, Washington, from May 11 to 15, at the Heathman Lodge, a luxurious inn, modelled after the national park lodges. May 11th, a Wednesday, is reserved for directors' meetings, the 12th and 13th will be tours of gardens in the Vancouver-Portland area, and the weekend will feature talks by notable speakers, a banquet, and plant sales [*phytocertificates will be available*]. We will bring you more details as

they become available ... apparently, space is limited, so early booking is recommended ... contact the Lodge directly, at ... www.heathmanlodge.com, or phone ... (360) 254-3100 ... or mail ...



The Heathman Lodge, 801 NE Greenwood Drive, Vancouver, Washington 98662



Proven Performers List

The executive discussed the proven performers list at the last meeting, and decided that reducing the thousands of available rhodos to a manageable list of perhaps 30 or 40, would require considerably more deliberation ... the process continues ... we will keep you posted.

Proven Non-performers List

Since no one was very enthusiastic about recommending the plants that do well in their garden, we thought that an alternate approach might be in order. Everyone has had plants that were decidedly not great performers, ie they died ... such information is probably as useful to someone wanting to take up gardening, and avoid temperamental plants. With that in mind, we offer a (thankfully) short list of plants that we have managed to kill in the last couple of years, in the firm belief that it was the plant, and not us, that was at fault ... feel free to add your own not-so-great plant picks.

Unless you like a challenge, don't try

- R campylocarpum caloxanthum*
- R cephalanthum*
- R oreotrephes*
- R _Apicot Fantasy'*



To these could be added plants, which we have not managed to kill ... yet ... but which are reputed to be more _difficult'

- R cinnabarinum*, and its hybrids ... root rot
- R _Virginia Richards'* ... powdery mildew

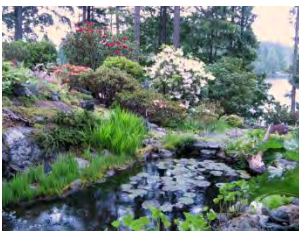
2011 Membership Directory

We are busy assembling the names of all members who have renewed for 2011, and will be distributing the new directory early in January. If you have not yet renewed, and plan to do so, we would be pleased to add you to the list.

Once the new directory is distributed, we do not plan to issue any updates until after the April Show and Sale. Any new members will be introduced in this newsletter, and if anyone wants to contact them, we would be pleased to give out their contact information, by phone or email.

Member's Garden Tours

We had one (!?!?) response to October's mystery garden photo ...

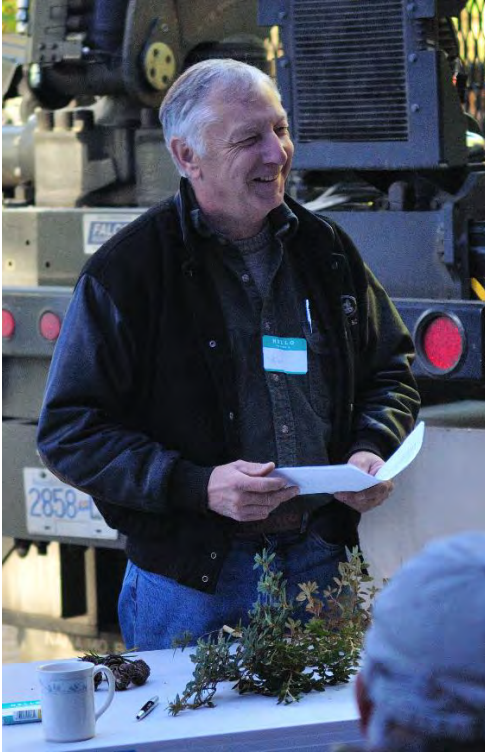


Jill Newby correctly stated that it was Caron Gardens, in Pender Harbour, created by Ron and Carla Knight. This garden was featured in Gardens West magazine, last year

This month's mystery garden features the world's tallest gazebo, plus a few other things ... no hints this time, as it's too easy ... yes, that's Jo, for scale ...
[You know, we don't report wrong answers ... so what have you got to lose? ... of course, since there are no prizes, what have you got to win? ... but that's a different question]



Victoria Propagator's Workshop



Ken Webb

Ken and Madeleine Webb, and the Victoria Propagator's Group, hosted a very successful workshop on Saturday, October 30th, which we attended, along with other VRS members, Garth Wedemire and Bill McMillan ... there were about 30 people in attendance, mostly from the other Island chapters, plus a number of presenters from the Propagator's Group, which meets monthly throughout the year. Although everything was made ready for inclement weather, which was predicted for all day Saturday, in the end, the sun rose on a beautiful crisp, clear fall morning ... the sort of day that makes one think of gardening.

A series of presenters, including Ken Webb, Al Campbell, Bill McMillan, Dean Goard, Lloyd Gilmore, and others, gave us lots of useful ideas about creating new plants from seed, from cuttings,

and from grafts. Many of the talks were illustrated with pictures from the speaker's own garden and propagation setup, many procedures were simply, expertly, demonstrated ...



Garth Wedemire

After a quick open-air lunch of homemade chilli, and some tasty dessert items, Ken and Madeleine generously opened their garden, for attendees to take selected cuttings, and try their hand at preparing the cuttings ... these were then placed in their propagator, hopefully to be retrieved in the spring as rooted plants ... we selected cuttings from a Little Joe (a cross of *forrestii repens*,





haematodes and *griersonianum*) and *pachysanthum* 'Buckskin', a selected form with a particularly fine brown indumentum ... we plan to return in April or May ...

As usual, we got so absorbed in the talks, that we forgot to take pictures ... these were generously provided by Susan Lightburn.



One of the consequences of being so enthusiastic about plant propagation, is the number of plants that are generated. Ken and Madeleine have thousands of plants, in half gallon and one gallon pots, all created from ARS and RSF seed, or from cuttings. They have very generously donated a truck load of plants to the VRS, for the raffle table ... these began to appear in November. Among this assortment, there are many species, like *augustinii*, *pachysanthum*, *pseudochrysanthum*, *makinoi*, *lanigerum*, *fulvum*, *schlippenbachii*, *macrophyllum* 'Mt Elphinstone', and more ... as well as less-common hybrids, like Topsvoort Pearl, Blaney's Blue, Creole Belle, Biskra, Lady Rosebery, Silver Skies (Fujioka), Lem's Pennant, and Lillian Hodgson ... look for these over the coming months.



...photos by Ken & Madeleine Webb

The November Bouquet ... by Douglas Justice

... notes by Don Haslam

1. ***Berberis darwinii*** – Vigorous, good upright shrub (grows 20 feet high in Tofino) but tender in the GVRD above Upper Level Highway levels. Dark evergreen leaves. Doug showed a protected branch with pendant fruit which followed flowering racemes in spring. The branch was hanging down at the UBC BG. Racemes with small dark orange flowers in mid or late spring – in fall, blue black fruit. Native to Chile and Argentina.
2. ***Camellia sasanqua* „Setsugekka“** – shrub or small tree. Bears semi-double, pure white, cup-shaped white flowers (3 - 8 cm); leaves to 8 cm long, dark green above and paler below. Flowers October to January.
3. ***Epilobium canum* (*Zauschneria mexicana* or *Zauschneria californica canum*)** Olbrich Silver – clump-forming, woody-based, deciduous rhizomatous perennial. Gray woolly to white silky hairs on leaves. Racemes of funnel shaped, brilliant long flowering (presently for 3 months) scarlet flowers (2.5 to 4 cm). Native to California and Mexico.
4. ***Euonymus carnosus*** – In fall leaf turns fresh brilliant red or purple wild shrub to 8 feet tall. (In Eastern North America) it will grow into a small tree. At UBC BG a mature specimen is 5 meters wide.
5. ***Fuchsia regia*** – red flowered, strong vining hardy garden plant. Can be trained to tree, fence or trellis. Native to Brazil, but hardy in the GVRD. Requires rich moist soil and sunlight. Semi evergreen to the end of winter. Flowers (small, red, –wild” fuchsia flowers with red tubes and sepals). Flowers most strongly in autumn.
6. ***Gaultheria mucronata*** – compact (1.2 meters) bushy, suckering shrub with glossy dark green leaves. Nodding urn-shaped solitary white (sometimes pink-flushed) flowers appear in late spring and early summer. Fruit is variously coloured from purple-red to white. Must grow male and female plants together.
7. ***Hebe* „BlueMist“ („Bwis Castle Blue“) or “Country Park“** – most reliable of *Hebe* in Vancouver area. A wide-spreading decumbent shrub (suitable as a ground cover) with ovate, red margined grey-green leaves (1.5 cm long), small violet flowers in early and mid-summer.
8. ***Hesperantha* (*Schizostylis*) *coccinea*** – *Hesperantha* are cormous perennials and members of the Lily family from rocky and sandy areas of Africa. In Vancouver it can become aggressive in fertile soil. *Hesperantha* are very tender in the GVRD. Linear to lance shaped basal leaves. Keep plants dry while dormant. Prefers drained soil in full sun and protection of dry mulch in winter. This species starts blooming at UBC in October and continues until early spring as long as there is not heavy frost.



Berberis darwinii



Epilobium canum



Gaultheria (*Pernettya*)



Hesperantha coccinea

9. ***Ilex verticillata*** (“Winter Berry”) suckering shrub or small tree. Lance-shaped, toothed bright green leaves (4 x 10 cm) long with sharp tipped leaves softly hairy underneath. White flowers appear in mid spring followed by stalkless, spherical dark red or orange or yellow fruit. Native to Eastern North America.

10. ***Leptospermum lanigerum*** – (“Woody tea tree”) Hardest of the *Leptospermum*, but still only marginally hardy in the GVRD. Freely-branching erect shrub or tree (3 to 5 m) with softly hairy and often red-flushed green stems. Leaves often have recurved points and are usually silky-hairy underneath. From late spring to summer bears solitary, shallowly cup shaped white flowers (1.5 cm) with prominent red brown calyces. A second clutch of flowers was blooming at UBC BG at the time of our November meeting. Native to Australia, NSW and Tasmania.



11. ***Magnolia virginiana*** – (Sweet Bay Magnolia) native to eastern USA (Mass. to Florida) a deciduous or evergreen shrub to small (9 metre) multi-stemmed tree found in the wild on wet sandy (often acidic) soil to moist, rich deep soils. Aromatic, rather pungent bark. This species suckers easily – for strong growth seems to need hot, ripening summers of eastern US. Small white beautifully sweetly-scented flowers (melon when first opens) appear in August and September. It was still flowering at UBC at the date of our November meeting. Fruiting cones are crimson with bright red seeds.

12. ***Osmanthus heterophyllus*** „Goshiki” - resembles holly. —“Goshiki” is compact (usually 1 to 1.5 m) mound but at UBC BG after 20 years one shrub was 8 feet tall. The plant has leathery pink-tinged young foliage turning creamy yellow blotched and dark green leaves when mature. Tubular, fragrant white flowers in small auxiliary clusters are exhibited from late summer to mid-fall, followed by blue-black fruit. Native to Japan and Taiwan.



Osmanthus

13. ***Prostanthera cuneata*** – (“Mountain Mint Bush”) grow in well-drained soil in full sun; erect to spreading shrub. Glossy mid to dark green leaves with wedge-shaped bases. Strongly aromatic when crushed. In summer, 20 cm long racemes of broadly tubular flowers with purple and yellow markings. From Australia and New Zealand (Zone 9 to 10).

14. ***Rhododendron mucronulatum*** – a Lepidote (member of the Rhodorastra Subsection, of which *dauricum* is the only other member), to 2 meters tall; an erect sometimes sprawling, weedy shrub with deciduous leaves (*dauricum* sometimes maintains some). Usually pink single flowers (often from multiple buds). Flowers early in Vancouver. Very hardy and suitable for the coldest areas. Native to Korea.



In the November Garden

Still a few late bloomers, to add a bit of colour to the garden on those short, rainy days ... between showers, we popped out for a quick look around, and this is what we found.



Ceratostigma plumbaginoides



Abelia x grandiflora

This typical Fall weather came to an abrupt halt in mid-November, with a -10° C cold snap, followed by 15 to 30 cm of snow ... many of our rhodos had not hardened off for the winter, so it will be interesting to see what damage has been done, in the Spring ...



R. neriiflorum „Rosevallon“



Daboecia cantabrica



Daboecia cantabrica



Rhododendron „Party Orange“



Heuchera 'Green Spice'



**Mr Edgeworth ...
... (*R edgeworthii* behind)**

Joe & Joanne's Enhanced Woodland ... Part 2 ... by Joe Ronsley

Last month I wrote about preserving trees. But preserving the trees does not necessarily mean leaving them alone.

After the thinning, we learned that we could let in more light and air by limbing up the larger conifers, that is, removing the lower branches, sometimes to a considerable height. I think two thirds of the total height is the generally accepted maximum, though most of ours are not limbed up that far. Limbing up two cedars, and the complete removal of a smaller one nearby, opened up a whole new area for planting, and brought sunshine to the rhododendrons already in place as they had never seen it before. The trees themselves were now more beautiful (except for the one removed of course!) and we transplanted six large-growing rhododendrons into the area newly-provided ... and only one relatively small and unattractive cedar had been eliminated. In addition to letting in more light and air to the plantings below, the branchless trunks, most straight but the odd one curved, provide strong vertical lines in contrast to the softer foliage of those plantings and of the smaller trees, thereby creating a most pleasing composition. We could also now see more of that view which is so special from Lions Bay, and the vertical lines of the trunks in the foreground gave the view itself a stronger quality of depth and framing. Of course the view into the





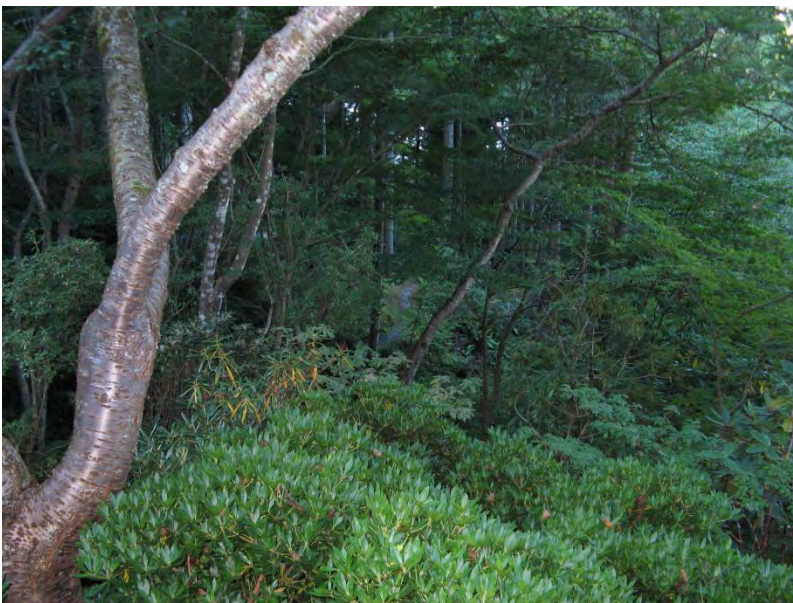
Douglas Fir

woods, too, acquired more depth and interest. Moreover, the tree trunks themselves are beautiful, in colour and in texture - no tree outdoes the mature Douglas Fir in the beauty of its thick, furrowed, corky bark. Finally, limbing up these conifers replicates to a certain extent nature's own process. As the tree grows in the forest the lower branches lose the light and die, eventually falling off. Our limbing up merely accelerates the process, and does a neater job of it.

Limbing up the trees is not the end of it. We learned that, in addition to limbing up the large conifers, we could also thin their branches, which procedure let in still more light and air, and also made the trees more wind-firm by the puncturing of their sails. Our most nervous

hours are during wind storms, when we watch the tallest trees swaying back and forth. It is well known that trees standing together

are more able to resist the wind than those standing alone or on the edges of such stands. My own observation, which it must be said I have nowhere seen officially verified, is that trees on the edges of banks or growing out of what are called 'nursing' logs or stumps, can actually be more wind-firm than those growing in flat ground. It appears to me that this is because they are forced to put out extensive strong roots in order to hang on, whereas the root system in ordinary flat ground is often a relatively small 'pancake', even on a very large tree. The wind storms do a certain amount of tree pruning of their own, of course, but they leave the fallen branches for me to clean up, and then the wind's pruning tends to be rather capricious.



While most tree workers can cut down and limb up trees satisfactorily, thinning the branches requires more skill and sensitivity. Beware the 'specialist', specializing in 'treetopping', 'lawn mowing', 'window washing', etc. The large conifers, limbed up and with their branches skilfully thinned, often become more beautiful in themselves through the opening up of natural architectural shapes in place of dark green masses. There is at least something of Japanese manipulation in the process, with the intention of bringing out what might be

called the essence of the tree's natural form. Then, too, thinning the branches opens up more of that view without sacrificing the tree. It should be noted that this thinning of branches works more satisfactorily on the hemlocks and cedars than it does on the Douglas Firs, which tend to be more open-branched anyway. The only drawback to thinning the branches is that the procedure is slow, and therefore expensive, unless you are a tree climber yourself, which I unquestionably am not.

We learned too, the hard way, but before serious damage was done, that smooth-barked deciduous trees should not be climbed with spikes. Scars on the trunks of dogwoods and cherries never disappear, and some of our trees attest to that fact. Recently, moreover, we have been told by premier arborists Bob van Pelt from Washington and Ron Brightman from northern California, and by others, that even the native conifers should not be climbed with spikes, that the spikes penetrate the bark into the cambium and provide access for infection. But this introduces new problems with which we have not yet come to terms. It is difficult to find tree climbers who climb trees without spikes, and the job becomes even more expensive. So far we have not noticed any ill effects on mature native conifers climbed with spikes. We may find it in the future, but I hope not. An uneasy compromise is sometimes necessary.



Topping trees, really a form of simple mutilation, has always been strictly taboo in our woodland. We never do it ... never! No respectable arborist advocates it. The practice is vile and revolting, and should be a capital offence! Des Kennedy has called tree topping the tree surgeon's version of lobotomy', though I think, despite the appropriate analogy with an obsolete medical practice performed only by quacks, that he is still a little too kind to the tree surgeon' who performs this operation. The trees are made unspeakably ugly in the process, they are made susceptible to disease, and in the end they form several leaders in the place of one, thereby exacerbating the original problems. A graceful spire in the foreground against a distant view,

actually contributing to its depth and composition, is replaced by a heavy, obscuring screen. So the tree must be topped again, and eventually will probably have to be removed entirely. And while the topping may make the tree more wind-firm initially, in a few years the tree is more vulnerable than ever because of being top-heavy. The practice is unacceptable for deciduous trees as well as for conifers, as discussed more scientifically, and a little less emotionally perhaps, in an article by Andi Clevely in the Royal Horticulture Society journal, *The Garden* (Vol 129, Part 1, January, 2004), where he records a conversation with Tony Kirkham, Head Arborist at Kew. Topping or topping earns [Tony Kirkham's] strongest disapproval', says Clevely, and is

How *not* to limb and top a tree ►



roundly condemned in the ANSI [American National Standards Institute] guide to pruning.' This is only one of many commentaries on the odious practice of tree topping. All informed commentators speak with one voice, but the nasty habit dies hard among some tree cutters of the old school'. On the brighter side, I understand from more qualified younger arborists that the practice is diminishing, and some arborists, taking their professionalism seriously, refuse to do it at all. In case the point is not quite clear because of my subtle nuance of expression, tree topping is unequivocally bad!

Aside from never topping the trees and not climbing smooth barked ones with spikes, two universal rules should be to observe any tree about to be cut or pruned from more than one angle, from as many perspectives as is practical for that matter, and, most important, to move slowly in all aspects of the treatment of native trees. Once cut, it is extremely difficult to put anything back! It is also a good idea to take several walks in the real woods, over a long period of time and with eyes wide open. Not everything that Nature arranges will be suitable for copying of course—in the arbitrariness and extravagance of nature not everything works'. But nature has plenty of space and time to make corrections and to discard failures. We have much less of both time and space. Any kind of garden is a controlled landscape. But there are many small insights to be had during a walk in the woods, into the way trees and other plants grow in relation to each other, and in relation to other natural features, enhancing not only their health, but also their aesthetic effect. In the end there are more successes than failures in the woods, but while we originally wanted to keep everything natural', we learned over the years that to do anything at all is to do a considerable amount in the way of ameliorating nature. At the same time it is important not to do too much. One of my most valued compliments has been one that commended me not for what I have done, but for what I have not done.



Our ongoing, overall challenge is to keep the woodland setting while still getting enough light and air for the flowering plantings below, and also to open up and maintain at least some of that pœtic' view. The forms of the trees themselves, too, should be if anything improved, not spoiled. The layered effect that has emerged in our garden over the years is what we have been seeking, or what we eventually learned that we were seeking. The large conifers provide the upper story, smaller trees and large rhododendrons the next, then shrubs, and finally herbaceous and ground-covering plants just above the ground itself. As a matter of fact, the ground itself, the forest floor, also counts. So we have what may be considered by many people to be a woodland garden, but overdone, or, in the current parlance, an extreme woodland garden', because we have retained so many trees. Some avid gardeners have found this practice difficult to appreciate, but our friend Joan Bunn has

commented to the effect that our woods must be very happy', in that we have taken a beautiful, natural woodland and simply made it even more beautiful. Another close friend, Jennifer Tunner, has said that we are good stewards of the land. We are very fond of Joan and Jennifer ... both women of exquisite taste! While in most woodland gardens the trees are adjunct to the plantings,

we have taken this a step further, making the plantings adjunct to the trees. Perhaps this idea can serve as a kind of definition. I have often said, perhaps a touch pompously, that our garden is not really a garden at all, but an enhanced woodland. But whether or not it is a real garden or simply, as one hostile observer once called it, the bush, this enhanced woodland is, in the end, our garden.

... to be continued

We recently received the following request from Harry Wright, of the North Island Chapter, which we are pleased to pass along ...

RHODODENDRON VARIETIES & LOCATIONS WITHIN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Many years ago I started a project which included collecting Rhododendron names and their location in BC gardens. So far, I have 125 gardens listed with an inventory of over 4000 varieties.

I would like to update my list for the Western Regional Conference in Nanaimo in 2012.

At this time I would like to ask those who have sent me their inventory, to update it ... and those who haven't, please consider doing so.

I will accept garden inventories during all of 2011, this will give me time to compile the information before the conference in September 2012 ... Thank you

Harry Wright ... phone (250) 338-8345 ... email ... haidaau@shaw.ca

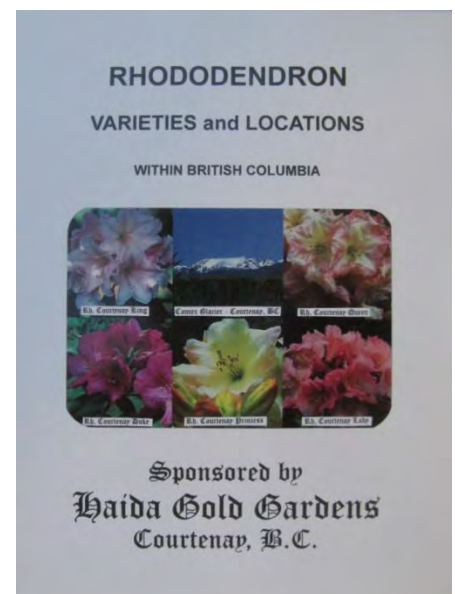
FYI ... *we include the following ...*

Book Review ... *by Margaret Hodgson, modified by the editor*

Rhododendron Varieties and Locations within British Columbia ... by Harry Wright

North Island Rhododendron Society, a chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. Sponsored by Haida Gold Gardens, Courtney, BC Fourth Edition, April 2005.

Harry Wright is past-president of North Island Rhododendron Society in Courtenay, BC, and proprietor of Haida Gold Gardens, a nursery, also in Courtenay. ***Rhododendron Varieties and Locations Within British Columbia*** is a compilation of all rhododendron hybrids, rhododendron species, azaleodendrons, azalea hybrid or azalea species. He requested that members of Rhododendron Societies as well as other gardeners report information to him about their rhododendrons and azaleas that they were growing in their gardens throughout British Columbia. From this information, he set up a data base, giving each person who reported an identification code number, entered their address and postal code. From there, he listed all reported rhododendrons and azaleas, noting whether they were hybrids or species. He then cross-referenced all this material, allowing anyone to find out where they might be able to locate a particular rhododendron or azalea. For example, if a rhododendron enthusiast is hoping to track down *R* Black Satin, he would look up the name in Harry's book to find the code number 101, who turns out to be Les Clay,



address given. The disadvantage of the book obviously is that it is not updated on a yearly basis, but one can assume that much of the material is still relevant.

Book Review ... by Margaret Hodgson

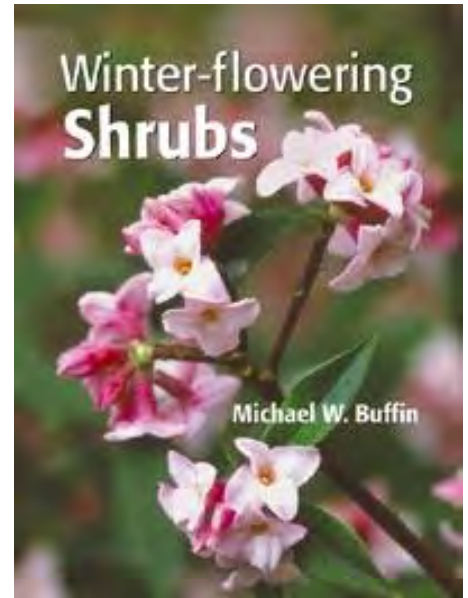
Winter-flowering Shrubs ... by Michael W Buffin

Timber Press Inc, Portland, Oregon, 2005 ... 232 pages, approx. 138 colour photos, 1 Hardiness zone map, Bibliography, Index. Hardbound, \$54.95

This book by Michael Buffin seems to be the perfect selection for a book review at this time of year. Buffin presently advises on 70 historical gardens and parks in southern England for the National Trust. His biography reveals that he spent several years as Curator of Living Collections at The Harold Hillier Gardens in Hampshire where, among other responsibilities, he designed the planting of the Winter Garden. He trained at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and spent time at the Morris Arboretum at the University of Pennsylvania.

In the Introduction, Buffin describes how he was very much influenced by Graham Stuart Thomas's *Colour of the Winter Garden* which Buffin read as a young student. This book was to shape his passion for winter gardening in the years to come.

The book is well organized with a preface, a brief introduction, followed by a chapter entitled 'Designing for Winter', which gives tips on such topics as the importance of winter sunlight, stem and bark effects, evergreen companion plants along with many other basic elements.



Descaisnea fargesii

Following this very informative material, Buffin has organized his material alphabetically, A to Z of Winter-flowering Shrubs with the colour photos closely aligned with the written description of the shrubs. The writer gives the reader many aspects to consider in the winter garden, ranging from unusual or colourful bark on trees, ornamental grasses, delicate foliage on frosty mornings, winter flowers, bright berries, to the weird fruits of *Descaisnea fargesii* which attract attention in a winter garden.

Winter-flowering Shrubs is a particularly useful book in our part of the country.

This book is not available from the VRS library, but can be found on the Timber Press website ... www.timberpress.com ... or can be ordered from Amazon ... www.amazon.ca ... as a used book, at a fraction of the dealer's list price.

Link Share ... a new feature



For the majority of our members who are now on-line (90%), we offer the following feature, in which we propose to share interesting website addresses with other members. If you have a few particular favourites, especially obscure ones that are not easily accessed through links from popular sites, then send them to us, and we will share them with the club. Simply copy and paste the address line from the web browser into the body of an email, with a few words of explanation, and we will do the rest.

If this works as expected, you should have a hyperlink, in [blue](#), which you can simply click (or control+click), and you will arrive at the website ... if that doesn't work, you can copy and paste the address into the address line of the web browser, right after the http:// ...

A disclaimer ... the management is not responsible for neglected children/grandchildren, skipped meals, wasted(?) hours, weed-filled gardens, or any other consequences of browsing the web.

To start things rolling, here are a few of our favourites ... in no particular order ... enjoy

❖ Societies

Vancouver Rhododendron Society ...	www.rhodo.citymax.com
American Rhododendron Society ... lots of photos ...	www.rhododendron.org
District 1, ARS ... Garth's website ...	www.rhodos.ca
The Rhododendron Species Foundation ...	www.rhodygarden.org
Fraser South Chapter ... lots of photos	www.flounder.ca/FraserSouth
Royal Horticultural Society, UK ...	www.rhodogroup-rhs.org
Australian Rhododendron Society ... the other ARS ...	http://members.iimetro.com.au
Scottish Rhododendron Society ...	http://scottishrhodos.co.uk

❖ Gardens

UBC Botanical Garden ... lots of photos ...	www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org
VanDusen Botanical Garden ...	http://vancouver.ca/parks/parks/vandusen/website/
Ted & Mary Grieg Garden, Stanley Park ...	http://vancouver.ca/parks/parks/stanley/rhodos.htm
Caron Gardens ... the Knights ...	http://www3.telus.net/rcknight/Caron_Gardens
Milner Gardens and Woodland, Qualicum Beach	www.viu.ca/MilnerGardens/index.asp
Bellevue Botanical Garden ... worth a visit ... the garden, I mean	www.bellevuebotanical.org
Washington Park Arboretum, Seattle	http://depts.washington.edu/uwbq/gardens/wpa.shtml
University of California Botanical Garden, Berkeley	http://botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu
San Francisco Botanical Garden	www.sfbotanicalgarden.org
Royal Botanical Gardens, Burlington, Ontario	www.rbg.ca
Devonian Botanic Garden, Edmonton	www.ales.ualberta.ca/devonian
Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh	www.rbge.org.uk
Kew Gardens, London, England ...	www.kew.org
Bodnant Garden, North Wales ...	www.bodnant-garden.co.uk

Glendoick Gardens, Scotland ... the Coxes' nursery ...

www.glendoick.com

Exbury Gardens, England ... the Rothschilds ...

www.exbury.co.uk

❖ Nurseries

Tanglebank Gardens, Abbotsford ... future home of Garth's rhodos ...

<http://tanglebank.com>

Fearing's Farm Nursery ... Harold & Ginny ... lots of species rhodos ...

www.fearing.ca

Hidden Acres Rhododendrons, Campbell River ... Paul & Lynn Wurz ...

<http://hiddenacresrhodos.com>

Dover Nursery, Sandy, Oregon ... Mike & Maria Stewart ...

<http://dovernursery.com>

Whitney Gardens and Nursery, Washington ...

www.whitneygardens.com

Heritage Perennials, Abbotsford ...

www.perennials.com

Free Spirit Nursery, Langley ...

www.freespiritnursery.ca

Secret Garden Growers, Canby, Oregon ... companion plants

www.secretgardengrowers.com

Mendocino Maples Nursery ... lots of photos ...

<http://mendocinomaples.com>

❖ Miscellaneous

Hirsutum website ... reviewed by Garth Wedemire a few months ago ...

www.hirsutum.info

Dave's Garden ... great source of information

<http://davesgarden.com>

Timber Press ... books on gardening ...

www.timberpress.com

Great Plant Picks ... recommended plants for the BC garden

www.greatplantpicks.org

Hardy Fern Foundation ...

www.hardyferns.org

North American Heather Society ...

www.northamericanheathersoc.org

Alpine Garden Club of BC ...

www.agc-bc.ca

Top 100 Gardening Sites ... some interesting info

www.top100gardeningites.com

Henning's ... lots more info and links

www.rhodyman.net

One site to avoid, for the moment, is the Bovees Nursery in Portland ... We were viewing this recently when we came under attack from a Trojan virus ... a fake Windows popup box appeared, informing us that we were infected with many viruses, and that a quick scan would solve the problem ... we closed all links immediately, and ran our own MacAfee scans, which were clean ... According to my techie advisor, Jonathan, some websites contain these viruses, usually in unscreened advertising links ... they declare that there are problems on your computer, then offer to fix them, with your approval ... which, of course, is when they infect your system ... if you encounter this problem with any site that we rhodophiles are likely to visit, please let us know, so that we can spread the word ...

If we get enough contributions, we will put together a directory, to be distributed by email, to all on-line club members



MEMBERS' FORUM

During a recent visit to the garden of John Deniseger and June Bouchard, from the Nanaimo Chapter, we encountered this specimen of *R. Naselle*, with a peculiar deformation of its leaves ... presumably due to a genetic defect. Otherwise, the plant seems to be perfectly healthy ...



On a recent visit to Chris and Margaret Hodgson's place in White Rock, we encountered this *Euphorbia wulfenii*, growing out of a crack at the edge of the driveway. According to Margaret, pictured, it just appeared, a few years ago, apparently from a seed that settled in the millimetre-wide crack between the foundation and the driveway ... one can only speculate what it is rooted in. We have one in our garden, that we have coddled and fussed over, and it is not nearly as robust and healthy as this specimen ... clearly, there is a lesson here ...



... no ... not 'move to White Rock'

Jo, with VRS members Eleanore and Peter Dempster, on a rhodo-hunting expedition in Osoyoos ... we didn't find any ...



... no reason, just needed a space filler

Thanks to the following, for contributing to the Membership News:

Don Haslam, Margaret Hodgson, Douglas Justice, Susan Lightburn, Jill Newby, Joe Ronsley, Ken & Madeleine Webb, Harry Wright

Photo Credits	<i>Decaisnea fargesii</i>	www.rhodoneumann.com
	<i>Berberis darwinii</i>	www.findmeplants.co.uk
	<i>Rhododendron mucronulatum</i>	www.hirsutum.info/rhododendron/species
	<i>Leptospermum lanigerum</i>	www.anbg.gov.au/leptospermum
	<i>Epilobium canum</i>	www.calflora.net/bloomingplants

Please send your contributions to: rj_wright@telus.net

or by mail to Box 266, Lions Bay, BC V0N 2E0 ...

or by phone to (604) 921-9370

Attribution will be given for all contributions, which may be edited for spelling, grammar, and length.

Bob & Jo Wright



Rhododendron proteoides