

# The Victoria Rhododendron Society

## Newsletter



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

October 2011 Thirty-First Year of Publication

e-mail: wtmcmillan@telus.net

web page – <http://victoriarhodo.ca>

### MEETING 7:30

MONDAY, October 3, 2011

GARTH HOMER CENTRE, 811 DARWIN STREET, VICTORIA, B. C.

**Speaker: Stephan Cranz** will discuss soil amendments, fertilizers, drainage and related issues.

Then, our own **Lois Blackmore** will tell us how she and Roy manage their beautiful containers of rhododendrons.

**Speaker: Stephan Cranz** of Peninsula Landscape Supplies. If you have questions about the myths of muck and magic, come ask Stephan. Stephan taught at the HCP for 15 years, ran his own landscaping company for many years and sat on the Board of Directors for the BC Landscape Nursery Association. **Lois and Roy Blackmore** have a large rhododendron garden on Triangle Mountain in Langford.

### REFRESHMENTS

VRS members listed below are asked to help at our meeting by providing refreshments. Please let Betty Gordon know at 250-479-0210 if you are coming to the meeting and bringing something to eat. We provide the coffee or tea.

Herb and Iris Thornton, Teresa and Bernard Turgeon, William and Christina Vandermale, Evert Van Eerden, and Elizabeth and Patrick Von Aderkas.

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**Please wrap your cookies or snacks. Assistance in setting out the food, milk and sugar, cups, napkins and helping Betty in the kitchen cleanup is really appreciated.**

### REMINDERS:

1. Propagation Group meets third Monday every month, contact Ken 250-744-1785 for meeting location.
2. **Membership dues NEEDED by November 14 meeting.**
3. Volunteer at Glendale Gardens, contact Bill 250-478-3515

## VICTORIA RHODODENDRON SOCIETY BOARD

President:

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Bill McMillan 250-478-3515

Linda Gilmore 250-642-2256

Joyce Whittle 250-656-7313

Calvin Parsons, distribution, 250-385-1970

### Website:

Bill McMillan 250-478-3515

Calvin Parsons 250-385-1970

## 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 to those who haven't please consider doing it.

I will accept garden inventories during all of 2011. This will give me time to compile the information before the conference in Sept. 2012.

Harry Wright

250-338-8345

Email haidaau@shaw.c

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## September's Talk

### By Theresa McMillan

On September 12, Bill McMillan gave us a Power Point presentation on the "Birds and Gardens of Southern England". The hoped for songs weren't heard but there were many pictures of English birds such as the English Robin, the Chaffinch, and Coal Tit. Gardens such as Kew, Leonardslee, the Lost Gardens of Heligan and the Abbey Gardens of Tresco provided a colourful evening for members coming back to fall meetings after our summer break.

## **NINE NIGHT HOSTED DELUXE ENGLISH GARDEN TOUR**

**May 23 – June 2, 2012**

This fully hosted tour will take you through many of the spectacular gardens of Southern England, plus enjoying a sightseeing day at St. Ives, Land's End and the impressive St. Michael's Mount.

### **Itinerary:**

- 24 May – Arrive in London
- 25 May – Chelsea Flower Show
- 26 May – Savill Garden/Kew Gardens
- 27 May – Pashley Manor/Sissinghurst Gardens
- 28 May – Train to Cornwall/Trebah Gardens
- 29 May – Eden Project/Free Time
- 30 May – St. Ives & Land's End
- 31 May – Caerhays/Lost Gardens of Heligan
- 1 June – Pine Lodge Gardens/Train to London
- 2 June – Depart London

### **What's Included?**

- 11 Garden Tours
- Sightseeing in Lands End & St Ives including a visit to Barbara Hepworth Museum & Sculpture Garden
- Entrance fees to ALL gardens.
- Local Guides every day
- Air conditioned Coach Transportation Daily
- Train transportation between London & Cornwall
- 4 Star Hotel Accommodation
- Breakfast every day.
- 5 Evening meals & 1 afternoon tea
- All taxes

\$3299.00 CAD per person\*

\*based on double occupancy – minimum number required

\*Land Only

\*Please note for comparison purposes this is a 9 Night Tour (most are 7) and includes: 4 Star Hotels with breakfast, 5 evening meals, entrance fees to all gardens, train between London & Cornwall and taxes

### **For More Information Please Visit:**

[www.cruiseplus.ca](http://www.cruiseplus.ca) or call Liz:

Cruiseplus Management Ltd, Lantzville, BC

250-390-0220 or 1-800 854-9664 e-mail: [info@cruiseplus.ca](mailto:info@cruiseplus.ca)

To contact Liz Higgins: P.O. Box 442, Lantzville, BC V0R 2H0 Telephone: 250 390 9340  
|Fax: 250 390 9341 Email: [decases@shaw.ca](mailto:decases@shaw.ca)

## People's Choice Rhododendron Photography Evening Nov. 14

By Peter Barriscale

### BACKGROUND

Because our April flower show was moved to Hillside Mall, the executive decided to pull the photography component from the show and give photography its own special night in the winter, when the flowers are not blooming. In pictures it's always spring, so we invite you to submit your entries.

The entries will fall into **TWO** categories, PHOTOGRAPHS and DIGITAL.

### Hard Copy (Standard printed photographs)

Photographs will be in the same format as was used in the past shows, namely either black and white or colored photos. All entries are to be **5"x7"** and **mounted on a black mat, no frame. These pictures are to be entered on the night of the show, for the November 14 meeting.**

The subjects can be rhododendrons or garden scenes in color or black and white. Place a sticker on the mat with your phone number and title of the photo.

These photos may be taken home at the end of the evening.

### Digital Color Entries

Details

Electronic entries will have a 2 megabyte size limit in the jpeg format. Most pictures shown at our club meetings don't exceed 1 megabyte. If your photos are larger than 2 megabytes they will take a long time to upload and they would use up too much data space. The limit is 2 pictures per category. We would like electronic entries in as early as possible, and the entry deadline is November 12.

HOW to ENTER THE DIGITAL PHOTOS on line:

ONE WAY is to be found on the first page of the club website ([www.victoriarhodo.ca](http://www.victoriarhodo.ca)) on the Speaker Table under November 14 Photography Night. There is a link to the tool, Plogger, for uploading your photos. Click on it to get to the Plogger website.

ANOTHER WAY is to

Log directly onto Plogger at:

<http://victoriarhodo.ca/plogger/plog-admin/plog-upload.php>

under username type: vicrhodo

under password type: uploader1

Then click on the Login Button.

\* Ensure that you are on the Upload screen then:

Go to Filename and click on the 'Browse' Button

Find the photo you want in your files, click on the specific photo and then click 'Open'

- Click on 'Picture Caption' box and enter your 7 digit phone number
- Click on 'Description' and enter a title e.g. Haida Gold, Butcherts Garden
- Click on Upload Button and your picture and data should upload. You should receive a confirmation message that your upload was successful.

• Go to 'Existing Album' and highlight one of the categories listed below that best describes your entry:

- Plogger Test Collection Single Truss Rhodo
- Plogger Test Collection Whole Plant Rhodo
- Plogger Test Collection Foliage Rhodo
- Plogger Test Collection Companion Plant
- Plogger Test Collection Garden Scene

To see your entry or the entries of others click on 'View' and then click on a portfolio.

**Please do not try and delete pictures. Let Peter know if you need to delete a picture. Peter Barriscale is at pbarris@shaw.ca**

### Judging

Judging will be done by the whole membership with a People's Choice format using the Excel form below. The name of the photographer will be hidden as it was in the flower show. You will judge the photos at the November 14, 2011, regular club meeting.

Vote for one picture in each category. First, second, and third place ribbons will be awarded as well as an aggregate winner rosette ribbon based on a total point format, and a best in show rosette.

Ribbons will be awarded at the Christmas Pot Luck Meeting.

If you want to, clip out this ballot and view the gallery before the meeting you can start making your choices for the best digital pictures in advance.

<b>Digital Slides</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>Title</b>
<b>1. Single truss</b>		
<b>2. Whole plant</b>		
<b>3. Foliage</b>		
<b>4. Companion plant</b>		
<b>5. Garden scene</b>		
<b>Mounted 5x7 Black Matte</b>		
<b>Color</b>		
<b>Black and White</b>		
<b>Best In Show</b>		

# The Lazy Gardener-4

## Perennials and Conclusions

By Joe Harvey

(reprinted from the University Finnerty Garden Friends, July 2011 Newsletter and from the author, Joe Harvey)

(Note from the editor: Joe has written a series of articles for the Finnerty Garden Friends Newsletter on how to be a lazy gardener. This section is on types of perennial gardens that can be seen in Victoria and area in public spaces.)

The aim of the lazy gardener is to have a stable mixture of plants and hardscaping that does not change dramatically from year to year. That much is obvious but in practice it is a hard state to achieve. I was intending to end this series with a long list of well-behaved perennials, i.e. those that are tidy, noncreeping and nonseeding, but then I thought no, that would be boring and you can get it on the internet anyway--or so I assume, not having a computer. So here are a few thoughts uninfluenced by Wikipedia, beginning with a survey of various types of stable gardens.

### 'Natural' Gardens

One method of achieving stability is to plant tough, local species that look after themselves. In more shady areas of Vancouver Island, a closely planted array of our native sword fern, *Polystichum munitum*, *Mahonia aquifolium*, flowering currant and snowberry will fill the bill and this approach is being taken by some municipalities for landscaping roadside banks. It certainly works, but to keen gardeners it is really, really boring.

### Meadow Gardens

An alternative local approach to the above is the 'meadow', which in British Columbia can be an alternative form of native species garden since we have been blessed with some world-admired indigenous plants. A few municipalities use this to preserve

some of our local sites which naturally have a spring flora of bulbs and herbs in our low-rainfall southern island areas. Garry oak meadow is the local name for this habitat. Examples of this use of the native flora are the higher part of Beacon Hill Park, and Costain Green--a triangular area at the intersection of Beach Drive and Midland Road. In addition the graveyard of the old St. Mary's Church on Metchosin Road just before the intersection with Happy Valley Road has a phenomenal spring display of shooting star, fawn lily and camas.

The invasion of introduced plants is largely controlled by never watering and mowing everything off once the native plants have seeded. The result of this management system is an utterly charming couple of months followed by a brown, desiccated patch of land for the summer drought period. This is fine for gardeners with large gardens where a portion can be so put aside, but for most people with small lots to have nothing in flower during the summer is not an option.

### Command Gardens

Yet another style of gardening is the pseudo-equilibrium planting. These never change from year to year but only because they are replanted twice a year. I call these command gardens (borrowing the term from the economists).

Included in command gardens are the carpet beds of my youth which consisted of closely planted dwarf herbs of contrasting foliage colours often spelling out the name of the town or some motto. They reached their peak in the 'floral clock', complete with hidden mechanism to move the hands. They were a specialty along now long abandoned British seaside promenades--swept away by the blast from jet planes.

Locally we have many municipalities planting command gardens along roads and at intersections for reasons of civic pride and for

traffic calming. Bulbs and hardy annuals are used for the spring display and a bizarre mixture of species including banana plants, angels' trumpets, cannas, *Tibouchina*, salvias and snapdragons for summer. These are of course unstable associations but since they only have to last a few months that is not a consideration.

Don't get me wrong--I love seeing brilliant displays along our roads; they cheer everyone up and a great deal of creative thought goes into their design. But they take a lot of work or, in other words, they are expensive, and just about the opposite of our desired lazy garden



*Gardens at the corner of Wilkinson and Interurban Roads*



**THE  
VICTORIA  
RHODODENDRON  
SOCIETY**

Website:  
<http://www.victoriarhodo.ca/>

All meetings of the society are open to the public and visitors are always welcome.

Of particular interest to gardeners is our Annual **Show and Sale**, held in April or May. The show has spectacular displays of flowers, and there is a great variety of Rhododendrons and other plants for sale.

Monthly meetings are held on the **second Monday** of the month at 7:30 pm from September until May (we meet on the first Monday if the second is a Statutory Holiday).

**The usual meeting place is the**

**Garth Homer Centre  
811 Darwin Street  
Victoria, B.C.**

Visits to superb local gardens are an annual Club spring activity.

**OUR AIMS**

The aims of the Victoria Rhododendron Society are to promote the cultivation, propagation and breeding of Rhododendrons, and also to foster knowledge, fellowship, friendship and enthusiasm concerning Rhododendrons and allied plants.

While the focus is on Rhododendrons, the interests of members as a group are wide. Talks on other shrubs, trees and herbs suitable for over- or under-planting are included, as are landscaping techniques.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Full membership** includes membership in the VRS and the American Rhododendron Society of which we are an affiliated Chapter. This brings the ARS quarterly journal with expert articles and colour photographs. Also included is the right to participate in the ARS annual conventions, and the ARS seed exchange and pollen bank. Members also receive the Newsletter of the VRS.

**Local Membership** includes the Newsletter and participation in local events, but does not include membership in the ARS.

**Associate Membership** enables members of other Chapters to participate in the activities of the Victoria Chapter.

cut along dotted line

Mail to: The Victoria Rhododendron Society, P.O. Box 5562 Station B, Victoria, B.C., V8R 6S4

I wish to received my Newsletter by E-mail  Agree to be on the circulated club membership list

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City and Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one of the following: Regular Member \$50    Local: \$25    Associate \$10

If Associate, which chapter do you belong to? \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Paid by Cash \_\_\_\_\_ or Cheque \_\_\_\_\_