

The Victoria Rhododendron Society

Newsletter



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

September 2012

Thirty-Second Year of Publication

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web page – <http://victoriarhodo.ca>

MEETING 7:30
MONDAY, September 10,
GARTH HOMER CENTRE, 811 DARWIN STREET, VICTORIA, B. C.

Speaker: Dick Beamish, “The Rhododendron Year on Hammond Bay”

Dick Beamish is a distinguished biologist with the Pacific Biological Center in Hammond Bay in Nanaimo. But what is important to us is that he is also an avid gardener and he will be telling us about gardens in Hammond Bay!

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REFRESHMENT LIST

Would the following members please let Betty Gordon know at 250-479-0210 if you are coming to September’s meeting and if you are able to bring goodies.

Joan B. Gibb, Lloyd and Linda Gilmore, Dean Goard, Bill and Betty Gordon, Dorothy Griffin, Radojka and Les Harris.

Please wrap your cookies or snacks. Coffee and tea are supplied. Assistance in setting out the food, and helping Betty in the kitchen cleanup afterward is really appreciated.

From the Board, by Calvin Parsons

At the September 10 monthly meeting the VRS Board will present motions to the membership regarding subsidizing memberships for 2013, and about the size of grants to Abkhazi Garden and Horticulture Centre of the Pacific.

We would also like to discuss the future of the Show trophies.

Note from the Editor: An excellent listing of our trophies, what they are for, dates and the recipients is on our Website (victoriarhodo.ca) under **Show Awards**.

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NEW: The Rhodo Exchange :NEW

Have a rhodo that you no longer want or have room for? Are you looking for that special rhodo that nobody seems to have?

Post it here at The Rhodo Exchange! We will list rhodos in each newsletter. Trade, sell or donate, all are accepted.

Please Email Theresa (tkmcmillan@gmail.com) or Calvin (waterlily@shaw.ca) if you have a Posting for the Exchange.

Important message from Norm Todd:

For the month of September, all 2 gal and larger rhodos at Firwood Nursery will be FREE to VRS members. Come to Norm's home/office on Batu Drive for information.

Some choice small species plants are available for sale at \$5 each.

UPCOMING TALK October 14, 3 pm.

The Victoria Hardy Plant group is thrilled to host James Alexander-Sinclair for an entertaining lecture – Dancing with Borders.

Mr. Alexander-Sinclair was elected to the Council of the Royal Horticulture Society in 2011. He writes for England's best garden magazines and has designed show gardens for the Chelsea Flower Show, the Westonbirt International Festival of the Garden and has designed gardens, large and small, from the South of France to the Western isles.

Join us for a very entertaining lecture on October 14th, 2012, at 3 pm at the Salvation Army Citadel, 4030 Douglas St., Victoria, BC. Tickets are available at all Dig This Stores in Victoria and at the door at a cost of \$15.00.

The June Pot-Luck Picnic at the Webb's house and garden, June 24

By Theresa McMillan

To most members' surprise, considering the cool and unsettled spring this year, on the Picnic day, Sunday, June 24, about noon, the skies cleared and the wind died down. So we had a beautiful sunny day for the picnic at the Webb's house and garden in Saanich!

The trophies were on display, accompanied by trusses of later flowering rhododendrons.

Several tables were set up, so VRS members could put down their dishes and cutlery, then pull up their chairs.

The pot luck consisted of many bowls of salads, plates of cheese or cold cuts and other snacks, desserts, buns... They waited in a shaded area for the salmon barbeque to be finished.

After the delicious feast, we had the annual trophies awards. This year we had two shows, one for earlier blooming rhododendrons in April at Westshore Community Centre and the other at Tillicum Mall for the rhododendrons blooming in May .

As a result we had winners for each trophy, from both the earlier show and the later one. The sun continued to shine, and the winners smiled as they showed off their glass or metal awards. And lastly, a large group of plants awaited the raffle. As usual, they had been looked over by members keen to get special rhododendrons and companion plants.

Later, a number of people stayed behind to follow Ken on his tour of his garden, compete with his propagator at the rear of the house, and areas in the back yard where cuttings are being grown.

The VRS members left, hoping that spring/summer had finally arrived.

As we know now, it hadn't. Not until August in fact did we get dependable summer weather.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, October 13

Propagating Workshop 9:30 am at Madeleine and Ken's house, 5008 Old West Saanich Road, Saanich, cost \$25. Contact Ken at kenwebb@live.ca or phone 250-744-1785

November 5 (regular VRS Meeting-moved to first Monday)

Photography Night at Garth Homer Centre. Start labelling your digital pictures soon before you forget which rhododendrons you were taking pictures of!





A display of the VRS trophies at the pot-luck picnic



The Herman and Hella Vaartnou Plate, awarded to the best fragrant rhododendron truss or spray.



A group of VRS members discussing the plants brought in for the raffle.



Keiko Alkire and Judy Gordon sharing Mary's Memorial Cup for best Rhododendron Companion Plant, and Calvin Parsons, President, and Peter Barriscale, Vice President



Peter Barriscale, Carolyn and Tony Marquardt, co-winners with Ann Allen (who was absent) of the Jean and Norman Todd Trophy for best lepidote species in a container.



Ann Widdowson, and Marjorie and Stephen Brice, co-winners of the Angus and Mary Boyd Trophy for best entry by a novice.



Calvin Parsons, President, Johanna Massa, Madeleine Webb, Ken Webb, and Moe Massa, co-winners of the George Fraser Memorial Trophy for Best Vancouver Island Hybrid.



Johanna Massa, Madeleine Webb, Moe Massa and Ken Webb, co-winners of the Gibson Memorial Trophy for High Aggregates at the April and May Shows.



Peter and Calvin with Madeleine Webb and Lois Blackmore, co-winners of the **Abkhazi Trophy** for contributions to the Victoria Rhododendron Society.

The **Abkhazi Tray or Trophy** is awarded each year to a member who has made an exceptional contribution to the VRS. Last year (2011) the Trophy was shared by Lois and Roy Blackmore for their work on holding our Show at Hillside Mall, and all the changes that resulted from moving from the United Church on Arbutus Road, and also relocation of the sale to Abkhazi Garden.

This year, the tray was initially awarded to Madeleine Webb, but she felt her work on two Shows at two Malls, as well as the sales would not have been possible without Lois Blackmore's help, so again Lois shared the Abkhazi Tray.

The list of Abkhazi Tray recipients is long and distinguished. Among former winners are the Widdowsons, the Massas, the Whittles, the Fullers, and the Harveys. The first winner, in 1985, was Norman Todd! Take a look at our website, victoriarhodo.ca, and renew memories of so many people who have volunteered their time and efforts to make our Society a success for all these years.



Trewithen Orange
Best In Show April 21, 2012

John Hawkins