

# The Victoria Rhododendron Society

## *Newsletter*



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

June 2012 Thirty-Second Year of Publication

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### June Potluck PICNIC

12 P.M. SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2012

At Madeleine and Ken Webb's Rhodo Garden  
5008 Old West Saanich Road

#### **VRS PICNIC JUNE 26**

**A picnic in a lovely garden on a summer day is not to be missed!**

**Our June picnic will be held at the Webbs' on 5008 Old West Saanich Road on June 24 at noon. There is parking along the long driveway to the Webb's house, and along Old West Saanich Road.**

**For the Potluck, you are asked to bring a wrapped savory, salad or dessert. Tags labeling eggs, dairy, nuts or flour for people with allergies will be much appreciated. A fruit punch, tea and coffee are provided. Lunch will be served about 1 p.m. and will feature barbequed salmon**

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**perfectly grilled by our volunteer chefs.**

**Please bring your own cutlery, plates and mugs and don't forget chairs to sit on!**

**A donation of a rhododendron, companion plant or other plant is welcome for our raffle. Each person should receive a plant.**

## VICTORIA RHODODENDRON SOCIETY BOARD

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## VRS and the University of Victoria Plant Sale

Once again Dean Goard organised the sale of rhododendrons at the University of Victoria plant sale on May 6<sup>th</sup>. The result was wonderful—every plant sold! Congratulations Dean.

As well, other members of the club were important in other areas of the sale. With apologies to anyone missed, Ann Schau, Gareth and Mae Shearman, Dorothy Griffin, Carol Dancer, Keiko Alkire, Bill McMillan, Karen Morrison and others also helped.

The sale raised more than \$50,000 to support Finnerty Gardens.



Karen, Ann and Dean during set-up May 5<sup>th</sup>



Before the sale opened



After the sale—and the ones on the table sold as well!

### **Report on our May visit to the Glendale Gardens of the H.C.P.**

By Theresa McMillan

On May 14, a group of over thirty members of the VRS gathered around the entrance to Glendale Gardens for a tour led by Bill McMillan, Calvin Parsons and Theresa McMillan.

Usually, in the spring there's a chilly wind arising from Viaduct Flats. We all appreciated the warm and sunny evening.

There are a number of fine rhododendron plants with interesting histories, like the ones that have been dug up and moved to a site with better drainage. The rhodos have also been placed in special soil above the level of the surrounding ground to further help the drainage on our clayey soil.

Among the plants were the spikes from the micro watering system.

Many of the rhododendrons are fragrant, like the Ioderis, and some azaleas. And the usual glowing colours of many blooming rhododendrons just added to the pleasure of the rhodoholics who admired them.

### **In Memoriam — Margaret DeWeese**

By Theresa McMillan

On April 13, Margaret DeWeese, a long time member of Victoria's gardening community, passed away.

She had been the editor of our Newsletter from September 2006 to November 2007, First Vice President, then VRS President from 2008 to January 2009, when she resigned for reasons of health.

Margaret wrote many articles on gardening which appeared in our Newsletter, the University of Victoria's Finnerty Garden Newsletter, and other garden magazines.

Margaret had a beautiful garden, Shibui, which surrounded the pond on her property in Genoa Bay near Duncan.

Her beautiful and artistic home and garden became a Bed and Breakfast. She gave garden tours, displaying fine vireya rhododendrons and many Japanese maples and rhododendrons.

Our thoughts go out to her family, her three children, and her six grandchildren.

## **VICTORIA RHODODENDRON SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE REPORT 2012**

It was an interesting year and a great learning experience for all who were involved in this year's shows and sales. After the show at Hillside Mall and sale at Abkhazi Gardens of 2011, the executive made a decision for the club to buy their own plants to sell at the show and sale for 2012. Three sales were decided on because then the later May rhododendrons, mostly hybrids, could be sold and displayed. This involved much discussion and input was received from many members with suggestions of what plants to choose for sale and where to buy them.

Many rhododendrons were purchased from Firwood Nurseries while others were purchased from Erica Nurseries on the lower mainland. Rhododendrons were delivered to Calvin Parson's yard and club members helped to unload, sort and organize the plants into some sense of order. When that was finished, club members were able to have first choice in purchasing plants and they received a 10% discount on them for being members of the club. Sales on April 20 went extremely well and club members were happy to have first choice of many beautiful rhododendrons, both species and hybrids. This venture was a huge success.

Our first venture into showing and selling plants at a mall was at the Westshore Town Centre on April 21. Many of the plants were species, which bloom earlier. (A more detailed report of this show and sale is in the May VRS Newsletter).

Many of the larger rhododendrons sold quickly and the smaller container plants sold steadily throughout the day. We were very appreciative of the Bentall-Kennedy Centre for providing tables, skirts, chairs and clean up for our club. Annabelle Suminski, the event's organizer, was

very easy to work with and very cooperative in doing everything to make this venture a success.

Many club members gave time and effort to help in one way or another. A special thank you goes to the judges and clerks who arrived at the mall at 7 a.m. on a Saturday morning.

Our second venture was a sale only, at Abkhazi Gardens on May 12. Club members picked up plants and delivered them to the Gardens and helped set up for the sale. The garden opened at 9 a.m. and sales were steady throughout the morning. We also had a silent auction where we were able to provide the public with the opportunity to bid on some beautiful container rhododendrons. Our thanks for this sale goes to Jeff de Jong who helped by promoting our sale on CFAX radio station in his program Gardening 101 on Sunday morning enabling us to use Abkhazi Garden as the site for this sale.

Our final show and sale was at the Tillicum Centre on May 26. There was a beautiful display of blooms, trusses and plants. Many of the trusses were able to be shown for the first time as this was the latest date we have had a show and sale in some time. Again, members brought tables, plants, table dressings and other materials to set up for this final show and sale. Sales were steady throughout the day. The only hitch was that there was a misunderstanding of when the venue was to be closed. Our thanks goes to Anna Haney who was able to provide the venue for this event.

The VRS would not be viable without the support of so many volunteers giving freely of their time and efforts. It is only when members support such efforts that these events can be the success that they are. So thank you everyone for all your help.

Lois Blackmore and Madeleine Webb

Westshore Town Center  
April 21<sup>st</sup>



Trewithen Orange  
Best In Show April 21, 2012  
*John Hawkins*

## Tillicum Mall May 26<sup>th</sup>



Lois Blackmore, Best in Show winner with  
Jim Barlup's R. 'Windsong'



Carolyn and Tony Marquardt's R. *excellens* co-  
winner of the People's Choice Award



Marjorie and Stephen Brice's R. 'Fantastica'  
won the Best Entry by a Novice Trophy



Mo and Johanna's R. 'Midnight Mystique' was the other  
winner of the People's Choice Award.

<b>Victoria Rhododendron Society Trophy Winners for April 21, 2012 at Westshore Town Centre</b>			
<b><u>George Fraser Memorial Trophy</u></b>	Best Vancouver Island Hybrid	<b>Ken and Madeleine Webb</b>	<b>Transit Gold</b>
<b><u>Herman and Hella Vaartnou Plate</u></b>	Best Fragrant rhododendron Truss or Spray	<b>Tony and Carolyn Marquardt</b>	<b><i>R. johnstoneanum</i></b>
<b><u>Jean and Norman Todd Trophy</u></b>	Best Lepidote Species in a Container	<b>Anne Allen</b>	<b>unknown maddenii</b>
<b><u>Mary's Memorial Cup</u></b>	Best Rhododendron Companion Plant	<b>Judy Gordon</b>	<b>trillium sessile</b>
<b><u>Jim Calder Memorial Trophy</u></b>	Best species spray or Truss	<b>John Hawkins</b>	<b><i>R. rigidum</i> Greers</b>
<b><u>De Rothschild Trophy</u></b>	Best Rhododendron in Show	<b>John Hawkins</b>	<b><i>R. Trewithen</i> Orange</b>
<b><u>Gibson Memorial Trophy</u></b>	High Aggregate	<b>Madeleine and Ken Webb</b>	
<b><u>Angus and Mary Boyd Trophy</u></b>	Best Entry by a Novice	<b>Ann Widdowson</b>	<b><i>R. Unique</i></b>
<b><u>Ken and Madeleine Webb Trophy</u></b>	Peoples' Choice Award	<b>Norma Senn</b>	<b><i>R. Razorbill</i></b>

<b>Victoria Rhododendron Society Trophy Winners for May 26, 2012 At Tillicum Mall</b>			
<b><u>George Fraser Memorial Trophy</u></b>	Best Vancouver Island Hybrid	<b>Johanna and Moe Massa</b>	<b><i>R. Courtenay</i> Duke</b>
<b><u>Herman and Hella Vaartnou Plate</u></b>	Best Fragrant rhododendron Truss or Spray	<b>Johanna and Moe Massa</b>	<b><i>R. Loderi</i> Pretty Baby</b>
<b><u>Jean and Norman Todd Trophy</u></b>	Best Lepidote Species in a Container	<b>Carolyn and Tony Marquardt</b>	<b><i>R. excellens</i></b>
<b><u>Mary's Memorial Cup</u></b>	Best Rhododendron Companion Plant	<b>Keiko Alkire</b>	<b>Arisaema</b>
<b><u>Jim Calder Memorial Trophy</u></b>	Best species spray or Truss	<b>Roy Blackmore</b>	<b><i>R. yakushmanum</i> <i>Koichiro</i> Wada</b>
<b><u>De Rothschild Trophy</u></b>	Best Rhododendron in Show	<b>Lois Blackmore</b>	<b><i>R. Windsong</i></b>
<b><u>Gibson Memorial Trophy</u></b>	High Aggregate	<b>Moe and Johanna Massa</b>	
<b><u>Angus and Mary Boyd Trophy</u></b>	Best Entry by a Novice	<b>Marjorie and Stephen Brice</b>	<b><i>R. Fantastica</i></b>
<b><u>Ken and Madeleine Webb Trophy</u></b>	Peoples' Choice Award	<b>Johanna and Moe Massa</b>	<b><i>R. Midnight</i> Mystique</b>
	<b>Tied with</b>	<b>Carolyn and Tony Marquardt</b>	<b><i>R. excellens</i></b>

## Upcoming Events

2012	Event	Place	Fee
Fri – Sat, June 22 – 23	BC Blooms at Government House	1401 Rockland Avenue, Victoria	Free
Sat – Sun, June 23 – 24	Gardens in Bloom” tour 10:00 - 4:00pm Comox Valley Horticultural Society Astrid - daveastrid@shaw.ca	10 gardens to visit - a Map is supplied with the ticket	\$15
Sat – Sun, June 23 – 24	Quadra Island Quilt and Garden Tour 10 am - 4pm Tickets are available from the Tourist Bu- reau in Campbell River and on Quadra Is- land. For info contact Joy Bird 250-285- 3300 or quadrabirds@gmail.com	Quadra Island	\$12
Sun, June 24	VRS Picnic 12 pm	Webb’s Rhododendron Garden 5008 Old West Saanich Rd, Victoria	Free
Tue, June 26	Orchid Auction 7 pm @ Victoria Orchid Society regular meeting	Garth Homer Centre 813 Darwin Ave.	Free
Sat, Oct 13	Propagating Workshop 9:30 am kenwebb@live.ca or phone 250-744-1785	Madeleine & Ken’s house 5008 Old West Saanich Road, Saanich	\$25