



The Victoria Rhododendron Society Newsletter

4821 Townsend Drive, Victoria, BC V8Z 5P2

November 2020
tkmcmillan@telus.net

Fortieth Year of Publication
<http://victoriarhodo.ca>

General Meeting

also with Virtual Meeting Option

MONDAY, November 2, 2020 starts at **7:30 pm**

Couvelier Pavilion at the HCP Gardens

505 Quayle Road, VICTORIA, B. C.

With **Jeff deJong**

“Perennials for Your Garden”

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**MEETING ATTENDANCE IS
ON A FIRST COME FIRST
SERVED BASIS**

For the time being - when you
are planning to attend any
VicRS meeting, **PLEASE** call or
email Lois at **250-478-6615**
or

loisjblackmore@gmail.com

and indicate the number of
people that will be attending.
You will be notified that you
are scheduled to attend.

Upcoming Events

2020	Event	Details
Nov 2 7:30	General Meeting -by limited attendance or Zoom 'Beauty and the Beasts' Jeff deJong will talk about perennials	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Nov 16 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Dec 7	Christmas Potluck Dinner unfortunately has been CANCELLED Donations to <u>Mustard Seed</u> are gratefully accepted.	Cancelled
		
Jan 4	General Meeting — CANCELLED	Cancelled
Jan 18 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Feb 1 7:30	General Meeting by limited attendance or Zoom "Wild Flowers of Newfoundland" Anne Allen and Ian Duncan	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Feb 15 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Mar 1 7:30	General Meeting & AGM - Election of Board Members	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Mar 15 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA

Footnote 1 <https://www.canstockphoto.com/illustration/2021.html>

CONDITIONS FOR INDOOR MEETINGS AT THE HCP

With the impact of the corona virus continuing, the HCP has established rules and regulations for clubs using the HCP indoor Couvelier Center for their meetings.

- Social distancing is a must. 6' or 2 meters distance between members is mandated.
- Masks are mandatory.
- Couples from the same household must sit together.
- This means that if only single folks attend, the number of seats is limited to 22.
- If couples come, and they are coupled, then 40 is the maximum number that can attend a meeting.
- If the board decides to continue with the set agenda of meetings for the 20-21 year, it will be on a first come first served basis. This means that when the newsletter is sent out, members will be required to send the number from their family who will be attending. Please send an email to Lois Blackmore at loisjblackmore@gmail.com to advise of your attendance.

President's Remarks, November 2020

The time has come, the Walrus said, to talk of many things

Well, it wasn't a triumph, but it wasn't a disaster either. Our first ever actual/virtual meeting did, in fact, take place. There were a couple of technical glitches, and I understand that the sound quality varied, but I am confident that these things can be taken care of.

For November the format will be the same. There is lots of socially-distanced room available at our usual meeting place at the Horticultural Centre of the Pacific, but we will also transmit the meeting by Zoom for those who feel more comfortable at home. At our next meeting, Jeff deJong will speak on "Perennials for Your Garden". As our gardens close down for the winter this is a good time to think about what additions/changes can be made during the next growing season.

Don't forget to advise Lois Blackmore at loisjblackmore@gmail.com if you are planning to attend in person. We need to know numbers, but more importantly as part of the COVID regulations for the HCP we need to provide them with a list of all attendees. I will be sending out the Zoom invitation one week before the November 2nd meeting.

And what would Words From the President be if there was no mild hectoring to the membership? Don't forget that this is the time for renewing your membership. Now, more than ever, we need our membership dues in order to manage a year in which our other income streams are so constrained. A Membership form for mailing in your dues will be included with the newsletter.

We did, however, manage to squeeze in another plant sale. It was fairly low key but still moderately financially successful. And as we all know, many a mickle makes a muckle. And as usual, we owe a great deal to the continued support of Ken and Madeleine Webb in these endeavours. Many of us front up on the day before and

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the day of the sale to help, but there has been a great deal of grunt work and organization done before we even get there. These members' efforts are prodigious and continuous, and we owe them recognition and our profound gratefulness.

Every year the Victoria Rhododendron Society struggles with our schedule of the first Monday in the month when it comes to January. Sometimes we are unlucky enough that the first Monday is only the day after New Year's, in addition to which the weather is often uncooperative. This year the first Monday falls fairly early, on the 4th, and the Board has decided that we will not schedule a regular meeting for that month. Since we are also not able to host our annual Christmas Potluck fête it means our upcoming November meeting will be the last until February. Hopefully, by that time we will be able to see at least a glimmer of light at the end of this COVID tunnel.

During this time of restricted social interaction, it has become apparent that we could be using our website to a far greater extent and frequency than is currently the case. The Board is undertaking a complete redesign, refurbishment, and renewal of our website. It is our hope that once we get this organized we will be able to use it as a focal point and source of information and entertainment. But we cannot do a good job without knowing what our membership would like to have on their website. Take a few minutes to think about what you would like to see, what would make you visit the site and participate in our group in this manner. I know that other chapters have been managing to keep in touch over the late spring and summer when all the meetings were shut down by participating in virtual photography shows, or even just sending in photos of "what's in bloom now", similar to the virtual Truss Show many of you contributed to last spring. What are your thoughts? Send them to macdobr@shaw.ca and I can promise they will be gladly received.

And finally, I say, if you are like me you look upon "fall clean-up" as something Head Gardeners thought up to keep the minions busy during the late season. My contribution so far has been to scuffle away all the rhododendron leaves and general forest duff from the marvelous cyclamen displays – all the better to see them. That might be all I can manage this year.

Stay healthy, stay safe, and happy gardening to all.

Brenda Macdonald

The Trials and Tribulations of a ZOOM-meister



Now, I am not a Luddite or a Flatlander. I do not own a television, so am not familiar with the operation of a remote. My cell is a flip phone. Just a phone, not one of those do-everything devices. Up until recently, when various board meetings required that I learn ZOOM, both the camera and microphone function on my computer had tape over them.

I do, somehow, manage to mostly get the VicRS computer to function reasonably correctly at our meetings. Most times.

BUT!!! ZOOM has me flummoxed.

Knowing we were to do our meetings both with people attending and by ZOOM for those at home, I spent a swack of time trying to follow the online tutorials on ZOOMing. It did not stick with me.

On the Sunday prior to the last meeting, my nephew, age about 35, born with a keyboard in his hands, spent two hours at HCP in the pavilion teaching me. We ran a test meeting: full on-screen presentation with sound and ZOOMed to a few volunteers at home attendees. It ran perfectly.

Monday at the meeting, something glitched, and those at home could not get to see the presentation. I fumbled for a while, and don't know what I did, but voilà, the show was on for all.

Who knows what surprises await for the November meeting?

If anyone out there knows how to run a ZOOM meeting, the club sure could use you. In other words, HELP! I'M DROWNING!

Respectfully submitted,

Ian Duncan

Pictures of VicRS October 5th General Meeting and first ZOOM meeting.

Courtesy of Nadine Minckler



Chionodoxa - Glory of the Snow

- High alpine plant from the eastern Mediterranean, Crete, Cypress and Turkey
- Flowers as the snow melts in its habitat
- Blooms in February - March
- Taxonomy is confusing and some place it in the Scilla

Kew Gardens in September

Unwelcome Guest From Canada



Nerine bowdenii

- Floral Firework that brightens a fall garden
- Thrives in hot summers, poor soil, low nitrogen with no disturbance
- Height about 12-20"
- Slowly forms clumps
- Plant in spring, leaves to mid-summer
- From Amaryllis family in South Africa

Allium

- Bloom late May to June
- Tall ones for borders, short one for rockeries
- Height range from 4" to 4'
- Not popular as they bloom late when other colour is blooming
- Grow in full sun

How to zoom

A brief guide to help you get started.

To join a meeting, click on the link you'll receive from the Chapter.

Select **open**, when prompted, to join the meeting. If you have not already downloaded the software, click on **"download and run Zoom"**

If nothing prompts from browser, [download & run Zoom](#).

You'll be prompted to input your name, which is what will appear on screen:

Then click **"Join Meeting"** and turn your volume up to listen and watch. If prompted, select **"Join with Video"** You'll see all other participants who are attending the meeting. If your device doesn't have a camera, only your name will be displayed.



The layout of the meeting on your screen will vary depending on your device. It will look slightly different on an iPad vs. a PC or Smart Phone. The control options (icons), however, are the same.

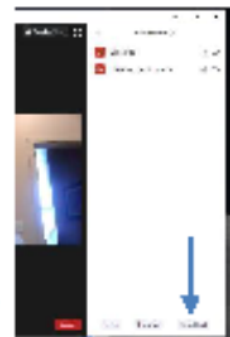


Turn on the **Participants** button to see a list of attendees on your screen.

The **Video** button turns your camera on and off. Video should be turned on so other attendees can see you.

The **Mute** button turns on and off your computer's microphone. You'll be asked to Mute yourself when the speaker is making a presentation. You can unmute yourself when asking a question or making a comment.

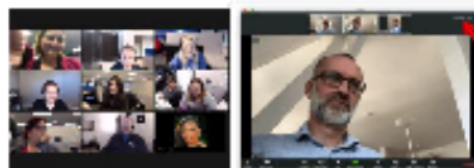
Click on **Raise Hand** if you wish to ask a question or make a comment. You can also Mute or unmute yourself here.



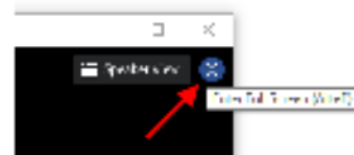
At the top right of your screen, you will see the words – **Gallery View** or **Speaker View**

- **Gallery view** – your screen will be filled with the participants at the meeting
- **Speaker view** – your screen will be filled by the person who is presenting

Gallery View



Speaker View



The **Chat** option allows you to write a note to the Host or to everyone. It will likely be disabled during the meeting.

The **Share Screen** icon will be limited to the Speaker whose presentation will be displayed full-screen.

Couvelier Pavilion Rental Rate Changes

Ian Duncan, VichadaVicRS board rep to HCP

Since October 2013, when the HCP opened the Couvelier Pavilion, the rental rate for garden clubs has not changed. It is \$150.00 per event, with no time limit. A one-hour meeting costs the same as an all-evening event of 6 hours or more.



Couvelier Pavilion
Courtesy of <https://hcp.ca/>

At our meetings, the doors are open to members at 7 pm and we are usually done by 9 pm. However, the setup crew of 4 to 6 board members arrive at 6:30 and leave at 9:30, most nights. Our time is usually about 3 hours.

Starting in January, all rentals are now by the hour. General rental is \$100.00 per hour, with garden clubs receiving a 25% discount to \$75.00.

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For the duration of COVID-19 restrictions, the pavilion is set up for the college classroom with twenty 4-foot tables with chairs, set 6 feet apart. This will reduce the advance time the setup crew needs to arrive at, as we only need to have additional chairs for couples.

There are also no tea/coffee/goodies or raffle to prepare or clean up after.

So our hope is, starting in January, to maintain about a 2-hour time frame for as long as COVID-19 lasts. This will keep our rental to the same \$150.00

Bear in mind that when we were at Garth Homer, we paid \$300.00 per night. HCP has been 50% less, so if we need to be over 2 hours and pay for 3 hours, the extra \$75.00 is still a savings over the Garth Homer rate.



VICTORIA RHODODENDRON SOCIETY BOARD

President

Brenda Macdonald 778-528-3647
victoriarhododendron@gmail.com

Vice President

Lloyd Gilmore 250-642-2256

Past President

Lois Blackmore 250-478-6615

Treasurer

Bill Gordon 250-479-0210

Secretary:

Sharon Joseph 250-383-1756

Members-at-Large

Carrie George 250-642-3176
Ian Duncan 250-479-0820
Linda Gilmore 250-642-2256
Lynne Ferrie 250-478-1100
Theresa McMillan 250-478-3515

KEY CONTRIBUTORS

Audio & Video Equipment & HCP Meeting Room Steward

Ian Duncan 250-479-0820
Robert Burke

Librarian

Ellen Wellborn

Membership

Brenda Macdonald 778-528-3647
Carrie George 250-642-3176

Newsletter Committee

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Bill McMillan 250-478-3515
Joyce Whittle 250-415-9245
Linda Gilmore, Production
Madeleine Webb 250-744-1785

Refreshments Organizer

Betty Gordon 250-479-0210

Website

Calvin Parsons 250-590-0489
<http://victoriarhodo.ca>



www.victoriarhodo.ca

VICTORIA RHODODENDRON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FOR 2021

Name(s) of person or couple _____

Type of membership	Full Member	\$35.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Local Member	\$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Associate Member	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>

Make cheques out to: Victoria Rhododendron Society

Mail to: Victoria Rhododendron Society
4821 Townsend Drive
Victoria BC V8Z 5P2

For New Members or Changes:

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

EMAIL
