



The Victoria Rhododendron Society Newsletter

4821 Townsend Drive, Victoria, BC V8Z 5P2

October 2020
tkmcmillan@telus.net

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

General Meeting

MONDAY, October 5, 2020 starts at **7:30 pm**

Couvelier Pavilion at the HCP Gardens

505 Quayle Road, VICTORIA, B. C.

presenting

Bernie Dinter—‘Spring Bulbs 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
Oct 5 7:30	General Meeting 'Spring Bulbs for Your Garden' with Bernie Dinter. Bernie will also bring bulbs for sale, but asks for assistance.	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Oct 17 10-2 pm	Rhododendron Plant Sale at Ken and Madeleine Webb's	5008 Old W. Saanich Rd
Oct 19 7:30	Propagation Group Meeting Call Ken Webb 250-744-1745	TBA
Oct 20	Newsletter Cut-off for submissions you wish to include in the next issue of the newsletter.	
Nov 2 7:30	General Meeting '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	Cancelled
2021		
Jan 4 7:30	"Wild Flowers of Newfoundland" Anne Allen and Ian Duncan	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road
Feb 1 7:30	"Rhododendrons with the Pros" ...a panel of experts on topics of interest regarding the growing of our favourite plant	Gardens at HCP 505 Quayle Road



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 (loisjblackmore@gmail.com) to advise of your attendance.

President's Remarks, October 2020

by Brenda Macdonald

Club Business

Well, we managed our first meeting in the “new normal” and a very enjoyable thing it was. Meeting outdoors in the “Gathering Place” at the HCP with DIY picnics allowed for a welcome and long-awaited get together rendered safe and acceptable by appropriate social distancing. AND many members were able to get a good look and better understanding of the essentially completed Norm Todd Propagation Centre; what they call in business circles a win-win.

Hopefully, everyone will have received an email request via Survey Monkey for feedback on how we are to continue our meetings for the rest of the 2020-2021 year. Clearly, by the October meeting, an outside venue is not practicable. Which means we either meet in our usual room at the HCP, in reduced numbers with face masks mandatory and no tea/coffee happy hour after the meeting, or we facilitate a virtual meeting using a programme like Zoom which would allow members to view and hear the presentation on their own desktops/laptops/tablets/smartphones – tea, coffee, or glass of wine at the viewers’ discretion.

If you have not already responded I urge you to do so, so we can ascertain whether, in fact, we will be able to accommodate all those who would like to attend the physical meeting at the HCP.

However, based on the initial response it looks as if we will be providing both formats. Those who wish to come to the HCP will be able to do so, but at the same time, we will transmit the programme via Zoom to those who would like to stay home.

The Zoom programme is dead easy. The week before the meeting we will send out another copy of the “How to Zoom” page which is included in this month’s newsletter, but essentially if you have an internet connection you have Zoom. You do not even need a camera or microphone in your device since audience participation is not essential, but you will require speakers so you can hear the presentation as well as see it.

The October meeting will be presented by Bernie Dinter, of Dinter Nursery in Duncan, He will be speaking on Spring Bulbs, and will be bringing some of his bulbs for sale. Bernie has spoken to us in the past and his talks are always as informative and thoughtful as they are visually appealing, and we are deeply grateful that he has agreed to speak to us despite these unusual circumstances.

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This is also the time of year when we renew our memberships. For many years the Victoria Chapter has subsidized the cost of a full membership to our club so that no one needs to go without all the benefits of being an ARS member, including the quarterly ARS Journal. The annual fee for full membership remains at \$35.00. (Should you not wish to receive the Journal you can choose Local membership at \$25.00.) There is also a category of Associate member for those who are already a member of another ARS chapter. The fee for an Associate is \$10.00.

Since we are anticipating that some members would prefer not to attend the physical meetings at the HCP we encourage all to send in their membership dues by mail. An enrollment form is included with this month's newsletter. (We need to collect the dues by December to ensure that all members are registered in time for the first ARS Journal of 2021.)

It is somewhat embarrassing to be touting for money in this, the year of curtailed activities and cancelled events. But of course, that is the very reason why we need to support the club with our membership fees more than ever. Our usual sources of revenue (plant sales, monthly raffle table proceeds) have been almost entirely eliminated; however, our expenses continue. We, like all our local businesses, need the support of our members/customers more than ever.

As I write this out the rain is finally pouring down outside, bringing to an end a summer which few of us will forget; it may not have been hot, but it was certainly dry, there was smoke, there was COVID – all in all not much went right. But the world turns, the rains come, the smoke dissipates, and even COVID too shall pass. And speaking personally, I had my first ever bumper year of Dierama (Angel's Fishing Rod) amongst the rhododendrons, so if anybody would like seed, let me know.

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

Brenda Macdonald



Dierama pendulum
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dierama_pendulum

A funny thing happened on the way from the library

by Ian Duncan

A long, long time ago, in a life far, far away in a pre-COVID-19 land, that is, mid-March, just the day before Bonnie Henry's batten down the hatches edict, Anne and I each took a bookbag full of reading material out of our local library.

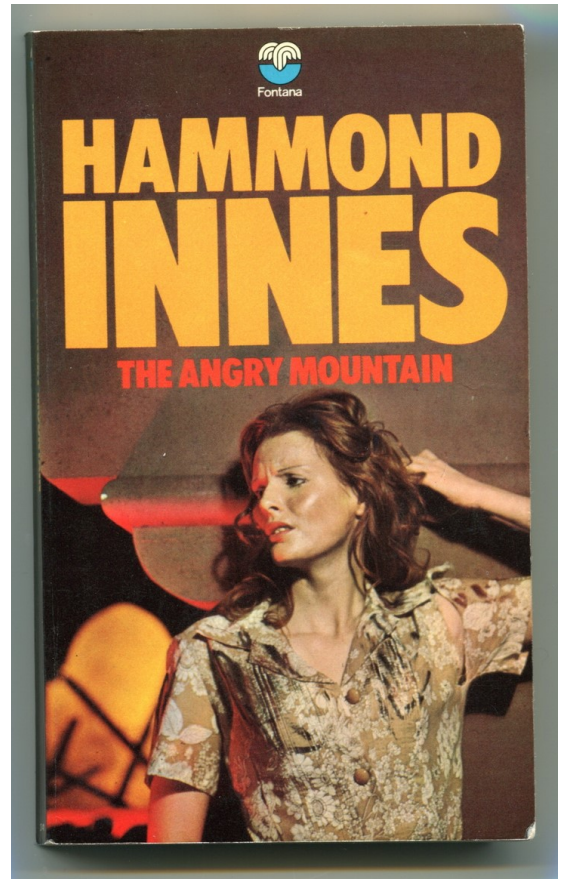
After we had each read our way through both book bags, and the library system shut down, we dove into our own walls of books, looking for something we hadn't read for a while. I found something that I did not recall ever reading, a novel by Hammond Innes 'The Angry Mountain'.

I have no idea how we came to acquire it, first published in 1950, with this edition, the 15th, from September 1972. Originally owned by L. Hopkins, according to the ink signature on the inside page.

On turning to page 12, I find a piece of paper that had been used as a bookmark by whichever one of us last attempted to read it and gave it up, it appears, on page 12-hence the book being in the far back corner of a bookshelf.

This is where the title of the article comes from. The bookmark is one of the little 4" by 3" promotional flyers made to promote the 1999 show and sale. So, my guess is it was about then that the book reading had been last attempted. I, however, persevered to the end.

That got me wondering about what was happening in our Rhodo



Society in 1999. Here we go, a year in the life of The Victoria Rhododendron Society.

January speaker was Richard Hebda; Global Warming-Climate change and gardening.

Ted Irving wrote about his team's work in renovating the HJCP Rhodo Garden, a 4-year project.

Alec McCarter retired after ten years as newsletter editor. James and Pat Fuller took over.

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Norma Buckley was president. Past pres.-Betty Kennedy.
First-Vice.-Judith Asmundson
Second-Vice -John Gordon. Treasurer- Bruce Maycock Secretary – Karen Morrison
Members at large – Dean Goard, Gary Hadfield, David Mackas, Ian Duncan, Norman Todd.

February program was Clint Smith -Gardens of New Zealand

March program was Joe Harvey -Magnolias
and officer elections with a few leaving and new folk coming on board.

April we had garden visits to; Nick and Evelyn Weejes, Norm and Brenda Thomas, Playfair Park, HCP,
Dave Dougan, Alan and Liz Murray, Alan and Sandy Campbell

May program was Robin Harper; Developing My Garden
and our show and sale on May 15th

The trophy winners were:

de Rothschild Challenge Cup – Joan McMurray for 'Point Defiance'

Gibson Memorial Trophy for most points – Joan McMurray

Fraser Memorial Trophy best Vancouver Island Hybrid – Ian IZard for 'Rita'

Jim Calder Memorial Trophy best species -John Dickman for Macrophyllum album

Jean and Norman Todd Trophy for best lepidote species in a container – Hamish Robertson for
Trichostomum radinum

Angus and Mary Boyd Trophy for best novice entry – John Dickman for Macrophyllum album

Mary Henderson Trophy for best hybrid -Joan McMurray for 'Point Defiance'

Herman and Hella Vartnou Plate for fragrance – Bob and Joan Peet for Loderi King George

Mary's Memorial Cup for best companion plant – Lindsay Mackas-Burns for Cornus nuttai

June was the annual picnic at Ted and Sheila Irving's

September program was Harold Greer – Rhodos and the West – A love Affair
and his new 1999 edition of Greer Gardens Catalogue.

October program was Brian Russell – Japanese Maples
and the propagating group made a cuttings tour to Ken Gibson in Tofino

November program was Harry Wright – Four Seasons at Haida Gold Gardens

December program was Lynn Milnes- In a Victoria Garden
and the Christmas pot-luck dinner

At the stroke of midnight on December 31st a new millennium was upon us.

Phew, all that from discovering a bookmark in an unremarkable novel. Thankfully we can
now put books on hold for pick-up at our local library.

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.

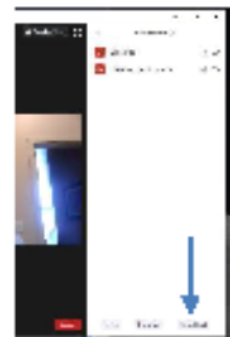


Turn on the **Participants** button to see a list of attendees on your screen.

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.

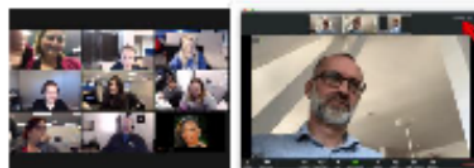
Click on **Raise Hand** if you wish to ask a question or make a comment. You can also Mute or unmute yourself here.



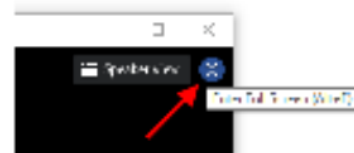
At the top right of your screen, you will see the words – **Gallery View** or **Speaker View**

- **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.



Announcements

1. **Deadline for all submissions for the newsletter is the 20th of each month before a General Meeting.**

2. **Positions are open to all VicRS members ... Opportunities Abound...**

You are especially invited to come observe the executive board meetings, maybe become a Board member, learn about propagating or join the newsletter committee. There is something of interest for everyone.

March is the Annual General Meeting where the VicRS Board members are elected. Some members will be stepping aside. New members are especially important, bringing new ideas and energy for the betterment of the Society, its members and above all the sharing of the rhododendron community and education.

Come and check it out. Contact [Brenda Macdonald](#), (778-528-3647) or any [Board member](#).



FOR OUR NEIGHBOURS TO THE SOUTH

By Lois Blackmore

As it happens to be an election year, I am thinking that perhaps the rhododendron world would help with the very difficult decision voters are faced with in November. A brief history of the candidates may help the citizens to make a choice between the two nominees.

As many know, the current president has put forth his name for re-election. This **"RED WALLOPER"** was elected four years ago, giving a somewhat dirty name to Halfdan Lem who hybridized this big red glowing beauty. Only big and red can be used to describe this candidate. Many citizens are worried that this **"R. agastum"** (foliage large, oblong with filmy layers of hairs underneath) will be elected again. His supporters believe he is **"ANGELO"** or a **"BIG DEAL"**.



[Red Walloper](#)

Courtesy of https://www.singtree.com/sites/singtree.com/files/styles/shopify_product_thumbnail/public/shopify_images/RedWalloper22.jpg?itok=KXLxBKlc

The second candidate **"R. strigiosum"** (upright and open) and the eldest of two, has been described as **"R. charitopes"** (of a graceful appearance) and (often will flower in the fall). These choices present a **"R. paradoxum"** for the voters. Many want him past the **"WINNING POST"**.

We will have to wait until November 3 to see the results. Will the current president **"ACCLAIM"** the presidency, or will the **"PSYCHE"** of the American people think that perhaps a change is needed and elect **"R. strigiosum"**?

Let us hope that **"RASPUTIN"** does not interfere, or there is no **"WITCHERY"** taking place or the citizens become **"BEWITCHED"** again, giving a **"BLACK EYE"** around the world to our southern neighbours. Will the result be **"BAD ZWISCHENAHN"** or will it be **"ALICE IN WONDERLAND"**? It would nice to have a **"PEEPING TOM"** to know if **"VOODOO"** is taking place once more.

Our wish is that the result would not be once again be a **"QUALA-A WA-LOO"**. Then, they would need to call in **"GENERAL ANTHONY WAYNE"**, **"THE DUKE OF YORK"**, or even **"QUEEN OF SHEBA"** to settle this **"RAZZLE DAZZLE"** of an election. Will the Covid 19 virus, or as one candidate calls it, the **"R. chionanthum"** virus have any influence on the peoples' decision?

Stay tuned!

HELP WANTED...

By Ian Duncan
with Lois Blackmore and Calvin Parsons

Do you want to earn an easy 5 bucks, or even as much as \$200, with no or minimal investment? We'll even train you and provide you with needed ongoing supplies. Why wait? Apply now.

Does this sound like those ads you saw in the back pages of the comic books you read as a youngster?

Well, it isn't. It is a legitimate offer from your VRS board and the propagating group.

As many of you got the opportunity to see at our September picnic meeting, the Norman Todd Propagation Centre is now up and running.

We have several hundred of the Barlup unproven new hybrids planted. They will be grown on for several years to see which ones are worth registering and naming, which ones are duds and go to the compost heap, and which ones are good enough to sell as un-named mystery plants.

We have plants destined for the Milner Gardens Greig Species Garden, and plants for the new sewage treatment plant in Esquimalt.

We have last fall's propagated cuttings from Ken Webb, Heather Dickman and a few other society members.

Our goal is to propagate from cuttings or seed, enough plants each year to support our annual sale, our monthly raffle, and additional society needs. It takes about three years to go from putting a cutting transplanted from the propagator into one-gallon pots, to a stage where it can be sold. We need about 400 new plants each year.

Here is where your help is wanted, not to mention the opportunity to earn cash that you can then spend on buying more rhodos.

For several years now, Sean Rafferty has been successfully propagating rhodos and other plants in an inexpensive, mini-greenhouse called a Sunblaster Nanodome, made by a BC company in Langley.

It comes with a solid bottom tray, that is 4 times thicker than a normal tray, a seven inch high, clear nanodome with adjustable vents, and a light bar strip with a reflector that clips into the top. The cost is \$63.95 plus taxes. If needed to help heat the nanodome, heat pads are \$35.00, less if we order in bulk.



Vic Rhodo Soc will provide the 2" mini pots – 36 for each tray, the growing medium, the hormone dip, the label spikes, the cuttings (unless you have a source, i.e. your own garden, and a socially distanced training, planting session.)

Your job is to look after the cuttings until they take root and are ready to be taken to the Norman Todd

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Propagation Centre to be transplanted into one-gallon pots.
Repeat next season, and the seasons after.

Oh, yeah, the payback to you: the plants become the property of Vic Rhodo Soc. We will pay the same rate we paid our commercial growers, \$5.00 for each hybrid. A tray of 36 would pay \$180.00, assuming they are easy-to-start plants. Some are not, and take longer or have a lower success rate. We would pay more for those. We are also very interested in species rhododendrons and feel they should be also worth more. Of course, we would also accept donations of your efforts, or pay at a lower rate established by yourself.

And the final sales pitch: hurry, this is a time-limited offer. Cutting season is almost upon us, October and early November. We would like commitments of interest by our October meeting on the 5th.

Help your society grow, learn a new-to-you aspect of the enjoyment of rhododendrons and consider getting your kids or grandchildren interested in a hobby you can share with them.

For more information or to get involved and order, contact Ian Duncan @ duncani@telus.net or Calvin Parsons @ sinogrande50@gmail.com. Note: If you would be interested in taking on the coordination of this aspect of the NTPC project, we want to hear from you.

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

Theresa McMillan, Editor 250-478-3515
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 | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$35.00 |
| Local Member | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$25.00 |
| Associate Member | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$10.00 |

Make cheques out to Victoria Rhododendron Society

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