

VICTORIA RHODODENDRON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER APRIL 2023



VICTORIA RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Our purpose is to promote and
educate the the public about the
genus
RHODODENDRON

We meet at the Couvelier Center
on the grounds of the
HCP Gardens
505 Quayle Street
Victoria B. C.

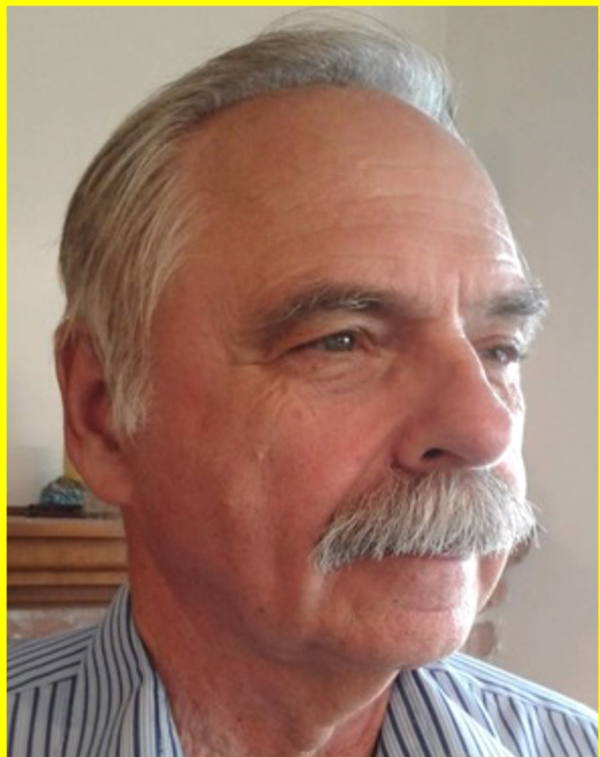
For further information:
www.victoriarhodo.ca



Meetings are held on the first
THURSDAY of each month
SEPTEMBER through MAY
beginning at 7:30 pm with a social
gathering after



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello Victoria Rhododendron Society Members!

I hope your gardening days are increasing as the weather gradually improves and we officially approach spring. The weather has been typical March weather as we know it....a bit of everything. We are still seeing frost on roofs, but not necessarily on the ground. Increasing numbers of lambs have been seen frolicking in the fields. I heard my first frog recently and saw a pair of geese with five little golden goslings. They may have been Toulouse Geese as they were the correct color and were unfenced. As a child, our family raised a lot of birds. Just know that finches and canaries take fourteen days to hatch, quail take eighteen days, chickens and bantams take twenty-one days and geese take twenty-eight days. Geese are almost equivalent to seeds germinating, depending on what seeds one is planting.

The pussy willows are already finishing and the alder trees are covered in catkins. Maple buds are starting to swell. Many rhododendrons are showing color but with the occasional frost many early flowering trusses have been damaged. I have been repotting many seedling rhododendrons to give them more spacing and have noticed active root growth. My larger rhododendrons in one and two gallon pots received their first fertilizer feed of the season. It seems that spring will a bit later this year.

At the Norm Todd Propagating Center all the rhododendrons received a foliage feed of iron chelate and fish fertilizer to green up the leaves. Our Society needs to propagate 400 cutting per year and grow them for three to four years for eventual sale. The roof is coming along nicely and we will soon have a covered area to protect our soil, pots and carts. The block for our container garden area has been delivered and work has begun on this project.

Please note that the HCP Garden will be opening at 6:30pm for our first VicRS Sale of 2023. One must be a current (2023) member to receive a 20% reduction per plant. I was pleased to see the increase in persons attending our last meeting. As we move onward from the COVID issue and with better driving conditions that Daylight Savings Time allows, we hope to see you in person at our April meeting. Remember to bring your own mugs for tea and coffee and cookies will be provided for your pleasure. Hand sanitizer will also be available. A plant raffle will be held at this meeting. Hope to see you there.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2023 - 2024



DAN SYROID ... MEMBER AT LARGE

KEN WEBB ... MEMBER AT LARGE

BRENDA MACDONALD ... PAST PRESIDENT

FRANK BUFFAM ... VICE-PRESIDENT

BILL GORDON ... TREASURER

SHARON JOSEPH ... SECRETARY

IAN DUNCAN ... MEMBER AT LARGE

CALVIN PARSONS ... MEMBER AT LARGE

LOIS BLACKMORE ... NEWSLETTER



CARRIE GEORGE ... MEMBER AT LARGE

A RHODODENDRON EXPEDITION

QBARS- v1n1 A... Looking back at history of the American Rhododendron Society
This is from the first ARS journal published, April 1947

At the meeting of the American Rhododendron Society in Portland on January 30, 1947, action was taken to proceed with a plant hunting expedition for new rhododendron species by F. Kingdom Ward, famous plant hunter and explorer, in Northern Burma. Many individuals and organizations from all over the world have offered to aid the venture. Details of the proposed expedition are outlined in full in the following letter recently received by the Society from F. Kingdom Ward.

Would you be willing to undertake such an expedition?

Provisionally, yes, if funds are forth coming and I am given a reasonably free hand as regards territory, time to be spent in the field, and the collecting of other plants.

What territory would you suggest?

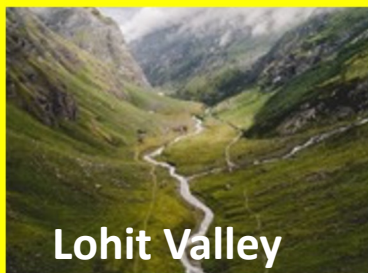
Probably the only accessible territory at the moment is the Naga Hills – Manipur Area of North Eastern Assam. North Burma is the least explored and most promising area, but it is still disturbed. The Northeast ranges also are very little explored and the 10,000/12,000 ft. peaks on the Assam-Burman frontier if they can be reached (and I think they can) promise new species. So far, *R. elliottii*, *R. macabeanum*, *R. manipurense* and a new species I found at 8000 ft. early this year are the only ones collected from that region. There must be many more. North Burma, between the two branches of the Irrawaddy, with its 11,000 ft. peaks, promises even better results. I have myself collected nearly 100 specimens in North Burma, most of them new. The dwarf alpinines of all colors from these mountains are particularly fine.

The mid-Irrawaddy country, where I have not been, might be accessible before very long, even if one had to do the long way via Sadiya and the Lohit Valley to reach it. I would willingly try. I have explored a small bit of the Assam Himalaya east of Bhutan. There are many fine rhododendrons there, trees, bushes, dwarf under shrubs, but not so many new species as in the regions further east, beyond Sadiya.

At the moment I think the Naga Hills area offers the best chance, especially the high isolated peaks along the Burma frontier above the Chindwin River, which I think could reach. But the exploration of North Burma should be continued as soon as practicable. It may be safe in a few months.

When would I suggest starting? And finishing?

At present, I am engaged on some explorations in the Khasi Hills (Assam) for the Indian Tea Assoc'n, but I expect to be through with that early in December. It would be possible to get going about March or April, 1947, in, which I should carry on 'til about Christmas. Or starting in October 1947, I should carry on 'til about June 1948. If I could reach North Burma it would be worthwhile to spend a full year in the field.



Lohit Valley



Naga Hills



Sadiya today

An approximate estimate of the cost?

This is a difficult question to answer. Everything out here is at least twice pre war cost, and many essential things are still almost unobtainable and hence prohibitive. However, on any mountain expedition off the map, the main expense items are (when gaps in equipment have been made good): road/rail/steamer transport to starting point; coolie transport (mule, etc. if used) in the mountains; servants, including guides, interpreters, and temporary assistants as required; rations, presents and bribes to village headmen, tribal chiefs, etc.

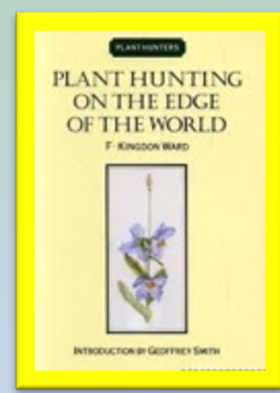
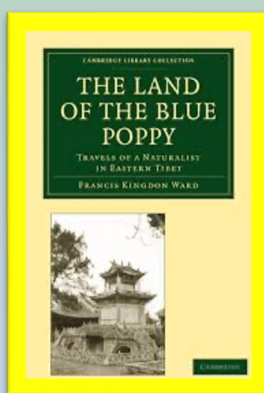
I estimate the cost of an expedition lasting about eight months, possibly ten months, at Rupees 9000 / or roughly \$3000.00 at present

Knowing the flora of these regions as well as I do, I think the best plan is to cover as much ground as possible and I should plan a fairly ambitious tour of the area chosen. It is no longer necessary for me to see a rhododendron in flower in order to assess its value with some accuracy, although naturally it is an advantage to see it in flower.

I think that is all I can say at the present. I take it that plants probably hardy in the British Isles are likewise probably hardy in Oregon, Washington and other North western States?

Yours sincerely,
F. Kingdom Ward

\$3000.00 in US currency today is \$40,247.09
CPI Inflation Calculator



DO YOU HAVE A DRY SPOT IN YOUR GARDEN AND WANT SOME ANNUAL COLOR?

Adapted from the National Gardening Association Learning Library

No matter where your garden is located, many of us have a few spots within our gardens that despite our best efforts, do not receive equal amounts of water either by irrigation system or by hand watering. None of us would willingly waste water. Thus, planting some drought-tolerant annuals in dry sunny spots may be the news you are looking for. Here are four excellent annuals that will thrive in dry growing conditions.



Cleome or spider flower is an excellent choice for a dry spot that needs height. This annual can grow 4-5 feet tall and 2 feet wide in a season, and may need staking. Stems branch without pinching. Cleomes are sun lovers and come in colors of white, pink, lavender and magenta. The foliage will turn yellow and will not thrive in moist soils.



Ice plant is a succulent with daisy-shaped flowers that come in yellow, white and magenta. The foliage is narrow, smooth and grayish green. Some varieties spread to provide excellent ground cover, while others are more clumping. Sandy soils and full sun is needed and they do well in containers.



Licorice plant comes in several shapes and colors and all are drought tolerant. The leaves and stems are woolly and are often grown for their foliage as opposed to the flowers. Leaves may be gray-blue, chartreuse or multi-colored. Full sun is a must. Pinching tips will encourage branching.



Lantana tolerates poor soils and blooms best in full sun. Flowers may be pastel (lavender, cream), vibrant (yellow, vermillion) or multi-colored. Its flowers are irresistible to butterflies. It will bloom steadily until frost whether you deadhead or not. Most are upright growers. Full sun and sandy soils.

THERE'S NO BUSINESS LIKE SHOW BUSINESS OR ADVICE ON ENTERING YOUR TRUSS IN A TRUSS SHOW

Adapted from Enchanted Gardens

- 1. PERFECT CONDITION IS ESSENTIAL.** This means healthy, unblemished foliage. Use the leaves as a frame. A perfect circle picture is ideal when viewing the truss.
- 2. BLOSSOMS SHOULD BE OPEN, BUT NOT OVER-MATURE.** One with a still-closed bud is preferable to one with drooping florets.
- 3. TRUSSES WILL BENEFIT FOR A 24 HOUR HARDENING OFF PERIOD TO PREVENT WILTING DURING THE SHOW.** Cut the stem and place in a draft-free, cold room for 24 hours after placing in luke-warm water. If rain is expected extend this process for a few days.
- 4 BEFORE THE TRUSS IS PLACED IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO RE-CUT THE STEM BASE.**
- 5. VERY EARLY VARIETIES CAN BEEN KEPT IN DRY SEALED PLASTIC BAGS IN THE REFRIGERATOR.** Place truss in a dry sealed plastic bag until the day of the show. Blow into the bag to inflate so the tissue of the flower will not be damaged.
- 6. TAKING YOUR TRUSSES TO THE SHOW ALSO MATTERS. FOR A SHORT DRIVE, LAY THEM IN A SHALLOW BOX..** For longer drives it is better to put them upright in water in pop bottles or cans, that are braced to prevent tipping.
- 7. BE BRAVE.** If your truss is unusual, rare, difficult to grow and even if the foliage is not in the best condition, enter it anyway. Many times the newest plants have been attacked by weevils. We have a category for such beauties.





HEAR YE HEAR YE HEAR YE

ANNOUNCING THE CATEGORIES AND RULES FOR THE 2023 TRUSS
SHOW: THURSDAY MAY 4, 2023

THE CATEGORIES

- 1) **RED** Truss
 - 2) **ORANGE** Truss
 - 3) **YELLOW or CREAM** Truss
 - 4) **WHITE - Large** Truss
 - 5) **WHITE - Small** Truss
 - 6) **MAUVE or PURPLE** Truss
 - 7) **PINK - Large** Truss
 - 8) **PINK - Small** Truss
 - 9) **BLOTCHED** Truss
 - 10) **SPECKLED** Truss
 - 11) **PENDULOUS TRUSS**
 - 12) **MINIATURE (Rhodo)** Truss
 - 13) **SCENTED (Rhodo or Az)** Truss
 - 14) **SPRAY (Azalea)** Truss
 - 15) **BEST INDUMENTUM** Leaf
 - 16) **BEST WEEVIL-NOTCHED** Leaf
 - 17) **BEST COMPANION PLANT**
 - 18) **BEST NOVICE ENTRY**
- 1) **"Small"** is under 6"
 - 2) **"Large"** is 6" and over
 - 3) **"Blotch"** has a solid colour mark on the upper lobe(s), distinctly different from the base colour of the flower
 - 4) **"Speckled"** has a non-solid colour different from the base colour of the flower, sprinkles or spots, either around the entire flower or just on upper lobe(s)
 - 5) **"Hammerhead"** is an inflorescence which arises from more than a single bud, that is, it looks like a single truss but is actually two or more jammed together

The Great *Victoria Rhodo Society* Show-Off

THE RULES - "Entrants"

- any rhododendron truss is eligible, somewhere
- you cannot win if you do not enter – valuable prizes abound!
- enter early! enter often! but one entry per category per entrant (extra entries can be placed on the Display table)
- the club will provide a ready receptacle for the truss, but if you prefer to provide your own it must be heavy enough to support the truss without tipping over, and relatively inconspicuous (such as an old ginger beer bottle)
- each truss must be "show ready" – no prepping of trusses on site.
- pick up and complete a registration card for each of your entries. Fold the card over so your name is hidden and only the name of the truss is visible
- pick up small cup to hold voters' beads
- place container with truss on top of card and place cup for beads in front of your entry

THE RULES - "Judges"

- each club member who attends the show is a 'Judge'
- pick up your bag of beads from the registration table
- place one bead in the cup of the entry you feel best exemplifies the category
- sit down, have a cup of tea, await the results
- Prizes will be presented at the Annual Picnic

Hints for entrants:

- try to pick your truss from the top of the plant. It will be straighter and better formed than a truss from the side of the plant
- there should be a nice whorl of leaves below the truss, remove any superfluous leaves
- spruce the entry up a bit by wiping down the leaves with a damp cloth to remove dirt and pollen
- tidy the truss by removing bud scales (the petal-like appendages that enclose the bud before the blossom opens) and other foreign objects
- sometimes crushing the stem of the truss will help prevent the blossoms from wilting

OUR APRIL SPEAKER ... NORMA SENN

AN ARMCHAIR VISIT TO SOME OF IRELAND'S LOVELY GARDENS

ZOOM is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6693779324?pwd=YkNTZXkwTjVKaDd4c0luNWJBZEs5dz09>

Meeting ID: 669 377 9324

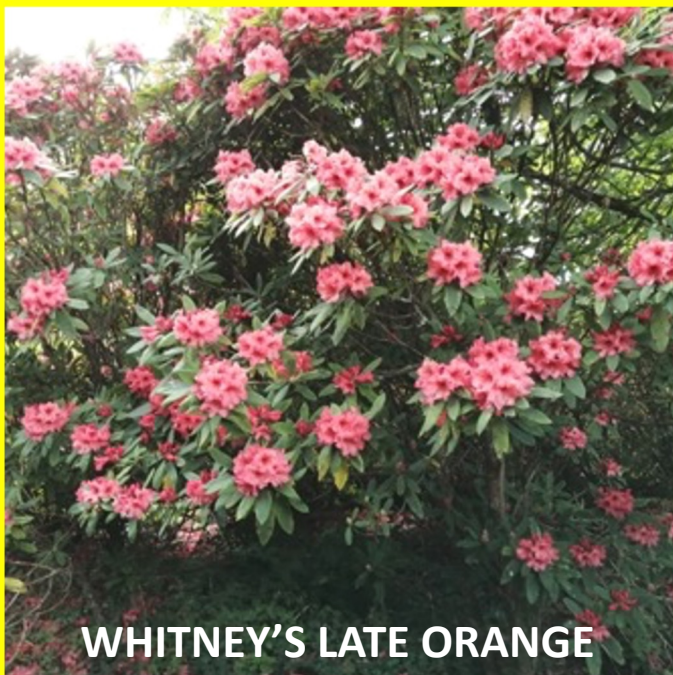
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This is a hassle-free visit....no canceled or delayed flights, no computer glitches at any airport where seats can't be assigned, baggage tags issued and passports checked, and NO lost luggage. That was the travelling part of my trip last June to Dublin, UGH!

However, once there, the gardens, people and food were wonderful. Many of the gardens we visited were established decades to centuries ago, but we also saw modern plantings rich in color and texture. The herbaceous borders and rose gardens were at their peak of bloom. Plant-wise, the big surprise for me was the wealth of South American flora to be found, especially in the large estates.

Many gardens had lots of rhododendrons, but the flowering season had largely passed. The most common plant saying was "you should have been here last month to see the really good "rhodies".

I haven't decided on all of the gardens I'll be talking about, but my talk will definitely include mention of Jimi and June Blake's gardens, Garnish Island, Powerscourt and my favorite of all, Hillsborough House.



WHITNEY'S LATE ORANGE



LISMORE CASTLE



Grows to 6 ft
Hardy to 0 F
Small dark green leaves
Strong grower
Flowers in abundance
Radiant blue color



Grows to about 2 feet
Does well in the sun
Fairly early flowering
Flower buds up the stem
Multiple flowers at end of stem



Grows to 6 ft
Dull green to bronzy
Red leaves
Sunny yellow flowers
Open and upright
Very sun tolerant



Grows to 1 ft
Tight compact habit
Silver gray foliage
Blue-purple flowers
Planted at 15" apart will
make ground cover



Grows to 6 ft
Later than R. augustinii
Widely funnel shape flowers
Leaves can be deciduous
Excellent sun tolerance



Grows to 6 ft
Native N. American shrub
Hardy to _10F
Clove scented flowers
Deciduous
Scarlet, Orange or yellow
flowers
Known as flame azalea



Hardy to _2C, _20F
Will withstand frost even
when in flower
Tolerant of sun and
swampy conditions



Grows to 30 "
Small tubular flowers
Flowers are clear light pink
Best in a sunny location
Resembles a daphne

SUN TOLERANT RHODODENDRON SPECIES

Adapted from HENNING'S RHODY PAGES

RYAN BARRY... EXPERT IN ALL THINGS DAHLIA

Our March speaker, Ryan Barry gave an interesting, and knowledgeable presentation on all things "DAHLIA". Ryan is an expert on dahlias and his presentation was light-hearted and kept everyone's attention with his many delightful photographs of dahlias. Please enjoy the photographs of Ryan's presentation taken by our camera expert, Nadine Minkler.

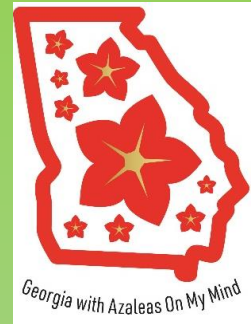






The American Rhododendron Society

Azalea Society of America



It's time for the **annual ARS convention**,
this year held jointly with the Azalea Society.

Come to Atlanta!

...for spectacular public and private blooming gardens, banquets, keynote speakers, and supporting sessions! This is a once-a-year chance to mingle with fellow rhododendron members while making new friends and lasting memories.

April 19-23

(deadline for discount hotel rates: March 31!)



THE CONTINUING SAGA OF THE JIM BARLUP HYBRIDS

BY FRANK BUFFAM

Vancouver Island has been famous around the world for more than a century as a prime rhododendron growing and hybridizing area. George Fraser was perhaps the first major rhododendron grower on the island when he moved to Ucluelet from Victoria in 1894 and carved his nursery from the 296 acres of land he bought two years previously for \$296. Since that time many famous rhododendron gardens have been developed on the island, several of them here in Victoria by members of the Victoria Rhododendron Society.



RECITAL



LOON'S CALL



WINDSONG



PALOUSE



APOLLO'S TOUCH

In 2003 one of our members, Lois Blackmore, became enchanted with some hybrids created by a Mr. Jim Barlup that she saw at an Olympia ARS Convention in 2003. She purchased five plants, and over the ensuing years she and her husband Roy collected and grew 26 more. They met Jim in 2011 and invited him north to see his plants in their Langford Garden. He was amazed when he saw them in their beautiful mountain top garden as he thought none existed outside the US.

The Blackmores and the Barlups became good friends. After some time, Ken and Madeleine Webb were introduced to the Barlups. Since that meeting, the Webbs have propagated several thousand cuttings from the 255 hybrids that Jim created and registered from his 1/3 acre back yard garden. In the ensuing years Jim gave many of his plants to our club which Tony and Carolyn kindly stored for the club in their own garden nursery. In 2018, the Barlups were forced to move to a retirement community. This culminated in Jim giving his entire remaining collection of plants to the Victoria Rhododendron Society.

Calvin Parsons, realizing what a significant collection we had, persuaded the township of Esquimalt to dedicate land in the Gorge Park to house these plants in a "Jim Barlup Legacy Garden". The garden broke ground in 2019 with club members helping the Township's gardeners plant an initial 72 hybrids. Since that time another 67 have been planted and another 30 are ready to be planted in the fall.

Rhododendronforeningen

Danish Chapter of the ARS
www.rhododendron.dk



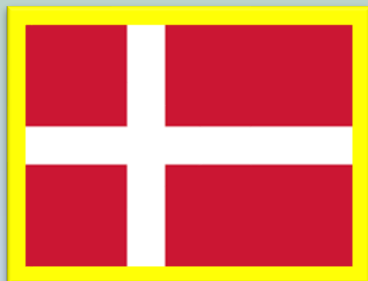
During the 2018 ERS/ARS meeting in Bremen, Ken Webb met and became friends with Jens Holger Hansen of the Danish Rhododendron Society. They exchanged videos of their and other gardens and eventually, likely at Jens' encouragement, the Danish Society suggested the creation of a Barlup Garden in Copenhagen (where they have access to land for it). It became evident to us here early on in the project that shipping rooted cuttings internationally would be no small feat.

To do so one must clear the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) 3 page single-spaced checklist (designed to prevent transshipment of live pests and other diseases). It also quickly became a requirement inspectors that propagation be restricted to one site for ease of inspection.



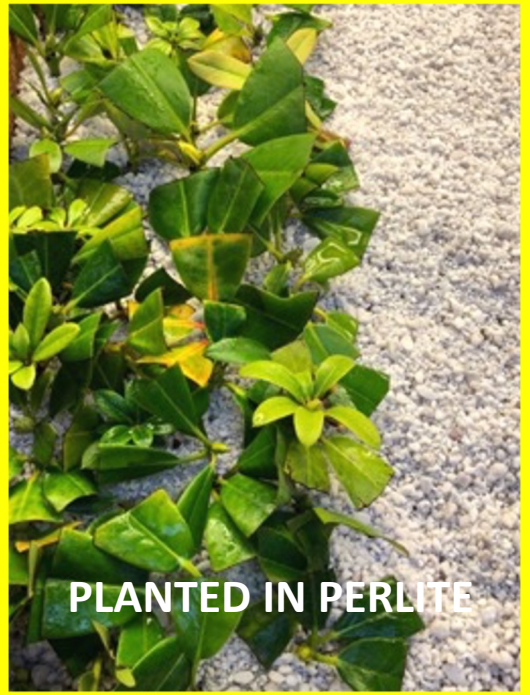
The Webb's propagator has worked well in this regard. At our initial inspection, Ken explained to the inspectors how he power washed and bleached the facility and demonstrated the yellow tapes he uses to catch and monitor flying insects. The cuttings are kept isolated from any other plants. Ken and Madeleine have planted matching cuttings in pure perlite and pure peat (initially required by the CFIA) although latterly we have received clearance to use the 60/40 or 50/50 mixture we normally use.

Inspections every 3 months are undertaken with a view to have clearance for expedited shipping this summer. When ready to send, each cutting will be gently shaken to shed unnecessary medium before being wrapped in moist paper toweling and hydrated polymer crystals. The toweling is then wrapped in Saran type plastic film and the plants are air expressed within 24 hours. As the project begins to seem "doable" we are excited that a companion Barlup garden will be developed in Denmark. We hope that one day, in the not too distant future, we may all go to see a tiny part of Victoria blooming happily in Copenhagen.





PLANTED IN PEAT MOSS



PLANTED IN PERLITE



A COMPARISON



PLANTED IN PERLITE AND PEAT MOSS



Kudos go to Frank, Ken and Madeleine for their efforts in taking the time and energy to take the cuttings, plant them, and deal with the intricacies of sending live materials out of Canada to Denmark. Dealing with Canada Customs is like going to the dentist. In anticipation, one expects perhaps a little pain and one is prepared. For those who have brought plants into Canada, doing this, is like being in the dentist's chair having a root canal ... sometimes, a really big pain. Just know when dealing with any government agency ... it is all things CYA.

OUR FIRST VICRS PLANT SALE OF 2023



WHEN: THURSDAY APRIL 4, 2023 6:30 TO 7:30 PM

WHERE: NORM TODD PROPAGATING CENTER

WHAT: RHODODENDRONS

FACT: GROWN AT THE PROPAGATION CENTER

COST: ONE GALLON HYBRID \$22

COST: ONE GALLON SPECIES \$26

COST: TWO GALLON SPECIES \$40

CREDIT AND DEBIT ACCEPTED

ALL PLANTS SOLD WILL BE BROUGHT TO THE COUVELIER CENTER FOR PICK UP

***PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY CURRENT MEMBERS WILL
RECEIVE 20% DISCOUNT***

WHOOPEE!



YAY!

HERE ARE JUST SOME OF THE 300 PLANTS THAT WILL BE AVAILABLE

VIICTORIA RHODODENDRON SOCIETY PLANT SALE

APRIL 4... 6:30 – 7:30 ...

NORM TODD PROPAGATING CENTER

Grace Seabrook
Holy Moses
Tabitha
Percy Wiseman
Golden Gate
Autumn Gold
Trilby
Alison Johnson
Taku
Genghis Khan
Award
Hotei
Mrs. TK Lewinski
Elsie Watson
Cinnamon Bear
Nancy Evans
Tofino
Cilpinense
Lem's Cameo
Mrs. G W Leak

Arthur Osborne
Razorbill
Songbird
Patty Bee
Dormouse
Genevieve
Yaku Queen
Ruby Hart
Naselle
Mood Indigo
Many Moons
Rubicon
Towner Crest
Ken Janek
Rosamundi
Black Sport
Blue Diamond
Cheerful Giant
Hallelujah
Bashful



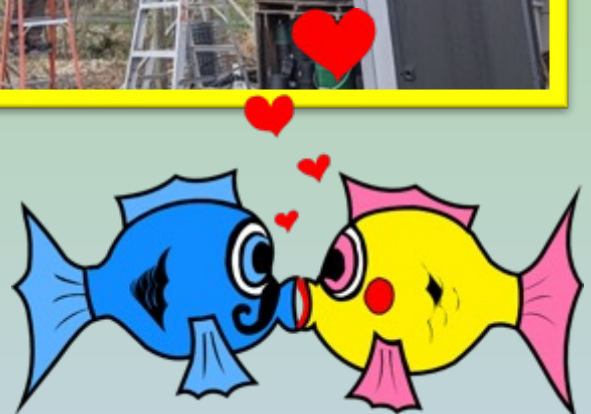
Prices at Gardenworks

Thanks Dan!

Other sale dates include:

*Saturdays in April at the Marquardt Farm 10 am – 2 pm
April 30, 2023 at the Webb's 10 am – 2 pm 5008 Old W. Saanich Road*

NEWS FROM THE NORM TODD PROPAGATING CENTER



**HUGS AND KISSES GO TO LLOYD, MIKE, IAN, AND CALVIN
FOR THEIR WORK AT THE NORM TODD PROPAGATING CENTER
... a new roof and spraying iron chelate on the rhododendrons...**

NEWS FROM MICHAEL MARTIN MILLS ... ARS REGISTRAR

We are celebrating three new rhododendrons that have been registered at the RHS.

Two are Jim Barlup hybrids registered from the Victoria Rhododendron Society and the other is named for a member of our society who lives in north Carolina.



Four Winds



Wind Surfer



Mike O'Hara...hybridized by the late Joe Minihan of Pennsylvania



KEEP SUNDAY, JUNE 18 FREE
FOR OUR ANNUAL PICNIC
THIS YEAR AT THE WEBB'S



WE BEGIN THE PATIO PROJECT AT THE HCP

March 15, 2023
The shovels hit the dirt



On the HCP
Patio and Balcony Container Garden
project



Ian Duncan, Victoria Rhododendron Society
presenting a \$3,000.00 donation for the 'Patio and Balcony Container Garden' to
Linda Petite, HCP Head Gardener



Day 1 - removal of plants, boulders and soil to a depth of 38", preparatory for 3/4" road base substrate for pavers and walls

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

OPEN GARDENS THIS YEAR

ADVANCE NOTICE

WEDNESDAY

MAY 3 ... 4 PM – 7 PM

**BILL AND BETTY GORDON
4821 TOWNSEND**



FRIDAY

MAY 5 ... 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

**STEPHEN AND MARJORIE BRICE
5435 ALDERLY ROAD**

SUNDAY

MAY 7... 10 AM - 3 PM

**BRENDA AND SEAN
10575 WEST COAST
ROAD**

**HANNAH MASSA
5024 GLINZ LAKE ROAD**

WEDNESDAY

MAY 10 ... 2 PM – SUNSET

**IAN DUNCAN AND ANN
ALLEN
4670 KERRYVIEW DRIVE**

SATURDAY

MAY 20 ... 2PM – 4 PM

**JACK JEWEL
4655 LOCHSIDE DRIVE**

**A HUGE THANKS GOES TO THOSE
WHO OFFER THEIR GARDENS FOR
VIEWING
AS THIS IS A SPECIAL WAY OF BEING
A CONTRIBUTING MEMBER**

A Special Invitation: Greig Rhododendron Species Garden



Rhododendron season is back and heating up. Milner Gardens and Woodlands is inviting members of all District One chapters to a celebration of the Greig Species Garden on Tuesday, April 11, 1 to 3 pm. Milner will be open only to ARS members at that time (free admission); it's a low-key affair with refreshments and

few speeches, giving everyone a chance to wander the paths while recognizing and appreciating how it has progressed.

This garden opened five years ago; since then, many more trees and rhododendrons have been planted, bulbs and drifts of companion plant added. A few more are still being planted, replacing any that have died and filling in unused areas. You will also be able to survey the hillside site where plans for the second phase have already begun.



PHOTOS: John Deniseger



Adapted from Plant Care Today

Iron is an essential nutrient needed for plants to function. Chelated iron like this is water soluble and iron supplements on plants is easy to apply. Iron is used in some of the most vital functions of plants, including: chlorophyll and enzyme production, nitrogen fixation and metabolism and development

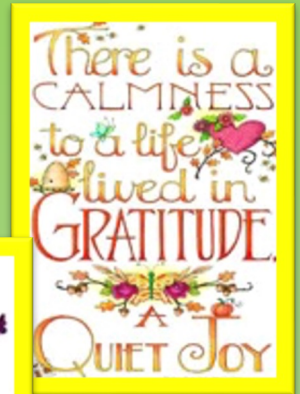
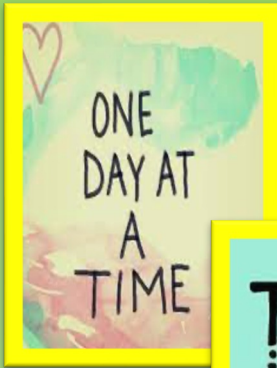
The symptoms of iron deficiencies in plants can be spotted by yellow leaves, usually between the dark green veins, which gives the leaf a spidery look. Plants and leaves lack that “healthy green” appearance. This is commonly referred to as lime chlorosis or iron chlorosis. With time, the leaves appear whitish, and start to die; resulting in stunted growth of the entire plant. This can be quite frustrating to a gardener, especially with the unsightly yellow or whitish foliage. Chelated iron supplement is the best when treat chlorosis.

Iron deficiency in plants is rarely caused by lack of iron in the soil, because it is typically abundant in soil. The absorption of the iron is the issue. A variety of soil conditions may restrict the nutrient uptake of a plants to get iron from the soil. Causes may include: too much clay, a very high pH for the soil, high phosphorus content and or overly wet or compacted soil. If iron deficiency is diagnosed, one can apply a foliar feed spray. Evaluating the different causes if iron deficiency and correcting them will save lot of time and money.

In general, iron can be applied in chelated form or as a ferrous sulfate as foliar sprays. Ferrous sulfate or ferric iron is compromised of about 20% iron. It is quite an inexpensive fertilizer, mainly used in foliar applications. Iron chelates are much better because the compound has stabilized iron ions, ideally preventing it from oxidizing as they contain three components in their EDDHA, citric acid, amino acid or humic-fulvic acid



THOUGHTS AS WE MOVE TOWARD SUMMER AND THE END OF COVID





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AN UPDATE AT THE JIM BARLUP LEGACY GARDEN

Calvin, Frank and myself recently met with Robbie Young, the acting director of Parks and Recreation of Esquimalt Township to further share information on the process of receiving and placing the donated "Paired Goose" within the Legacy Garden. The site chosen will be near to the rock as seen in the photo of the red light pole. The area for further planting is on the waterside of the path, and has been cleared of bush, but needs root pulling and further cleaning before planting can take place. As all financial decisions for Esquimalt are now made in May, it means that the next planting of Barlup hybrids will take place in the fall.



WHAT DO RHODODENRONS TEACH US ?



*We don't
Grow when things
Are easy*

*We grow
When we face
Challenges*