

VICTORIA RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

VICTORIA RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

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

We meet at the
Couvelier Pavilion
On the grounds of the
HCP Gardens
505 Quayle Road
Victoria B.C.

Meetings are held on the
first THURSDAY
of each month
SEPTEMBER – MAY

Meetings begin at 7:30 pm.



OUR OCTOBER SPEAKER



TAMARA DINTER

Tamara Dinter is a Professional Agrologist (P.Ag) and holds a dual MSc. in Agriculture and Environmental Science with a specialization in Soil Science. In 2019, Tamara travelled to the Galapagos Islands to help produce a documentary on the soil resources of the remote archipelago. Since 2020, she has been the General Manager of her family business, in Duncan



2205 Phipps Road
Duncan BC. V9L 6L2
(250) 748-2023



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Fall is here. It's different every year so while I'm still awaiting the colour changes in my neighbourhood that contrast so beautifully against the blue skies we've been treated to this month, all my flowering plants that sulked in August have perked up again. What little rain we've had in September has mostly come at night and the afternoons have been wonderful. October can be the best month for planting and re-potting if that trend continues. The October guest speaker is Tamara Dinter and she will be talking about soil. As I mentioned last month I have a lot of half full bags of soil the usual suspects waiting to be mixed up like muesli for plants. They live in my truck bed and I'm hoping for some new recipes to serve my rhodos and their companions. If you've ever had a plant come home from the nursery in a pot just brimming with vigor and after one season just peter out, were you pushing the climate limits or could it have been that you forgot to add the grit? We'll find out on October 2nd. Bring lots of questions. See you there!

Ps. Speaking of fall colour, snap a photo for the newsletter if you see something bright and cheerful or warm and umber-ish...please and thank you:)

Sharon



IDEAS TO THINK ABOUT WHEN DEVELOPING A SHADE GARDEN

There are several factors to consider when designing a perennial shade garden: size of the bed, the degree of shade, the soil type, drainage and budget. It is a good idea to start by thinking about a perennial garden layout that makes sense for your space.

With perennials, one wants to make the most of all seasons, so choose plants that flower at different times as well as potential fall and winter interest. Think about diversity in tone, shape, size and growing habit.

1. Choose the right shade perennial that has the simplest low-maintenance requirements. Think about astilbe, columbine, bleeding heart and foam flowers.
2. Variation and contrast are important in shady areas. Choose plants of different sizes, foliage textures and colors to improve contrast. Hostas offer dwarf and giant sizes and colors ranging from chartreuse to blue and variegated.
3. Ferns add a feathery texture, while the Japanese painted ferns add unique colors. Shade loving flowers such as fuchsias are convenient for small spaces.
4. Embrace ferns as they are the ultimate shade garden perennial.
5. Add containers for versatility. The mobility and impermanence of container plants means one can enjoy greater flexibility and versatility.
6. Do not forget to put in a shrub or two if you have space. Ideas include camellias and pieris japonica.

THE SECRET WORLD OF RHODODENDRONS:

A plant more ancient than the Himalayas that has inspired fables and stories
around the world

Adapted from Conversation



Rhododendrons may be deciduous or evergreen, anything from a tree to a creeping dwarf shrub, with leaves a centimeter to a foot long and flowers any shade of white, yellow, orange, pink, red or purple. There are around 1000+ species and DNA-based work confirms that azaleas are in fact a species of rhododendron.

Rhododendron fossil pollen is easy to identify, as are rhododendron seeds, and some fossils are 60 million years old. By contrast, the Himalayas as we know them only began forming 50 million years ago, when India collided with Asia. So, while around half of all rhododendron species are endemic to the Himalayas, the genus cannot have originated there.

Over 60 million years rhododendrons spread around the northern hemisphere, from boreal woods and high mountains, to tropical rainforests where species perch on high branches as epiphytes. They reached North America, Japan, parts of Europe, most of Asia and even Australia. It was native in the British Isles until the later ice ages drove it out.



Richard Milne

Rhododendron pollen shoots out in strings.

Detractors might say rhododendrons are invasive. But that applies to ONE species out of over a thousand – the nefarious *Rhododendron ponticum*. If left uncontrolled, this particular rhododendron will eventually dominate the habitat to the virtual exclusion of all other plant life. Other species do not have this problem.

FOLKLORE REMEDIES WITH RISKS

There is far more to humanity's relationship with rhododendrons than horticultural beauty and the never-ending battle with *Rhododendron ponticum*s in the wetter parts of Britain. Rhododendrons have been used to treat everything from colds and diarrhea through leprosy and STDs to flagging sex drive and diseases of pigs. Few have been tested scientifically. In Labrador, infusions of the local rhododendron are commonly drunk. People claim it has many health benefits, but the evidence is limited.

Like so many medicinal plants, some rhododendrons are poisonous, and not to be consumed by the unwary. Some species, including the common yellow azalea, contains toxins in their nectar which cause sickness and bad "trips" in humans.

Rhododendrons are also poisonous to farm animals which will suffer paralysis and slowly die if they eat the leaves, unless given the antidote of black tea. Eating raw honey in Turkey can cause "mad honey disease". The Roman invaders in Turkey were rendered insensible after consuming pots of honey the locals had left., leading to the slaughter of 1000 Roman soldiers.

A Chinese story tells of how a herd of cattle became drunk after consuming red rhododendron flowers. However, the story is based on cows eating an unfamiliar shrub. The sheep in Scotland have learned not to eat it.

BOTANICAL FABLES

The numbers of rhododendrons in western China is probably why they feature in so many myths and legends. Some are tragic. In one story, doomed lovers were transformed into Dujuan birds who fly around crying tears of blood, that turn into plants. These birds are cuckoo-like birds which pollinate red rhododendrons.

In the Dongba region of Yunnan Province in the Himalayan foothills the Naxi people believe that three huge rhododendrons guard the entrance to the world of the dead. They also believe swords and armour made from the plants played key roles in the epic battles that shaped their world.

In the West, rhododendrons have also been featured in stories. “Massed red rhododendrons” are repeatedly used in Daphne du Maurier’s 1938 Gothic thriller Rebecca.



WHY DO LEAVES CHANGE COLOR IN THE FALL?

FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT AUTUMN FOLIAGE

Adapted from the Almanac August 2025



Did you know that the brilliant, reds, oranges and yellows were hiding all summer long. The changes you see are not just about chilly weather, but rather they are all about sunlight, chemistry and clever trees getting ready for winter.

The eye-popping color change is not about chilly weather, but about sunlight – or rather, lack of it. After the fall equinox, nights grow longer and days grow shorter. The reduced daylight tells deciduous trees that it is time to stop gathering energy and get ready for the dormant season.

Chlorophyll is responsible for absorbing sunlight and giving leaves their green color. As chemicals change, cells called 'Abscission zone' form between the twig and the leaf stalk, eventually causing the leaf to drop from the tree. As these corky cells multiply, they seal off the vessels that supply the leaf with nutrients and water. The combination of reduced light, lack of nutrients and less water triggers the tree to start breaking down the chlorophyll and the green color fades. Because the green color was masking other color pigments, one starts to see the leaves change into yellows, oranges and reds.

GLOSSARY OF RHODODENDRON TERMS

Anther the free end of the stamen that bears pollen



Diploid a rhododendron with two complete sets of chromosomes



Blotch an area of contrasting color on the uppermost petal of the flower



Calyx forms a whorl that encloses the flower of the rhododendron



Polyploid a rhododendron with more than 2 sets of chromosomes



A tetraploid which has 52 sets of chromosomes

NOTES ON A SERIES OF RHODODENDRONS 1933

LIONEL DE ROTHSCHILD

ADAPTED

“At a meeting held to discuss alterations in the Year Book it was thought that a short description of some of the series of the Rhododendron from the garden point of view, together with some hints as to which were the best plants for general cultivation and their likes and dislikes, might be useful to those members of the Rhododendron association who are just beginning the cultivation of rhododendrons. By the trained botanist, therefore, and the gardener who has grown rhododendrons for years, these few lines had better be skipped unless he wishes to raise a smile or argue about some of the comments that follow.”



“*Rhododendron anthopogon* itself in its typical form is one of the least attractive of those series. It has the largest leaves, which can be 11/2 inches long and 1 inch broad, and has pinkish flowers with a purple tinge, but I have a variety growing at Exbury with clear pink flowers, which the year before after its first showed its beauty was hastily moved to a better situation.”

“When we come to the next series, that of *Arboreum*, we find a quite different category of plant, which in most of its forms is more suitable for the woodland and shows to better advantage when it is planted singly as a specimen plant.”

“When we come to *R. floribundum* we have a tall shrub or even a small tree up to 15 feet in height with rather tapered leathery leaves, corrugated, and with white woolly indumentum beneath. As a rule the flowers are of a most objectionable shade of magenta but there is one form in cultivation at Borde Hill with quite an attractive shade of purplish-mauve and apparently larger flowers than the type. If this plant can be procured it is worth growing, but, if no, it is best left alone.”



FALL CARE TIPS FOR PEONIES

Adapted from Gardening Know How

HERE ARE THE FOURMOST IMPORTANT TASKS GARDENERS NEED TO DO TO KEEP ESTABLISHED PLANTS HAPPY

#1. Peony care starts in the fall with the arrival of cooler weather. Yellowing or spotted leaves often denote the presence of disease. By the first freeze it is likely that the foliage will have died back completely. Once this has occurred, all foliage can be cut back to soil level. All plant matter should be removed and disposed to prevent the likelihood of disease in the spring.

#2. Fall care may also involve division. This is a good choice if plants are very large or if you wish to multiply your favourite varieties. Remove all foliage. Dig around the plant, carefully working a large circle. Since an established root system can be extensive, make your best effort to remove as much soil as possible. Cut apart the roots, making certain to leave at least 3 to 5 eyes on each section. New roots can be planted directly into the garden.

#3. Peonies can be fertilized early in the season. The plants will benefit from feeding in the fall. Side dressing with a balanced, slow-release granular feed is preferred, aiding root development before the arrival of winter. Avoid fertilizers that are especially high in nitrogen.

#4. After planting apply some light mulch. This will help protect the roots from the cold and will prevent heaving.

ATTRACT LUCK, LOVE AND PROSPERITY IN YOUR GARDEN

FENG SHUI

ADAPTED FROM THE FARMERS ALMANAC

Gardening is good for you in so many ways. Sunshine and exercise, just to name two. But did you know your garden can be a magnet for success, love and luck? The secret: Feng Shui.



Feng Shui is an ancient Chinese practice centered around placement. The goal is to create positive energy by organizing your garden in a peaceful, balanced way. Feng Shui practitioners believe that living spaces can have a positive or a detrimental effect. A Feng Shui aligned garden can bring peace, prosperity and health to your space. Feng Shui is aligned with nature, specifically: Earth, Wood, Water, Fire and Metal. According to Taoist philosophy, which acknowledges nature's cycles, the goal is to find balance between the elements.

EARTH: stability, security, nourishment

WOOD: expansion, vitality, growth, healing

FIRE: passion, inspiration

METAL: beauty, precision

WATER: wisdom, flowing, connection

UNDERSTANDING FENG SHUI GARDEN DESIGN

SOIL (Earth Element)

Ideally it should be rich in color, delicately moist reflecting the vitality of the land and the physical body. Earth governs stability and nourishment, so the more fertile, the more fortifying its energy

VEGETATION (wood element)

A vibrant orchestration of green conveys growth and resilience. Land that was depleted, rocky or overly shadowed wasn't deemed auspicious. In Feng Shui, wood is the element of renewal and a thriving landscape mirrors a thriving life.

WILDLIFE (fire element)

The presence of birds, bees, butterflies and small animals is considered auspicious. Their presence signals the land is healthy and thriving.

WIND (metal element)

Wind carries chi across the land. Gentle breezes are ideal, softly disturbing life force throughout the garden. Strong or erratic winds can scatter chi, making it harder for supportive energy to take root.

WATER (water element)

While not always visible, water is a crucial factor, even how moisture is retained in soil or how rainfall nourishes the land. In Feng Shui, water governs flow, ease and prosperity. The garden's ability to hold and direct water wisely impacts the abundance it generates.



FIRST STEPS TO A FENG SHUI GARDEN

1. Start with what you have
2. Fertilize your soil so it is ready for growth
3. Clean up the environment
4. Anything rotting, dying or over grown, trim or remove as it is consuming life chi
5. Install any lighting as it amplifies your garden and eliminates negative energy

THE BAGU MAP

The Bagu Map is a “blueprint” divided into nine spaces, each correlating to different areas of your life.



Impose the map over the area of your Feng Shui Garden. Look for spots that correlate to areas of your life that could see a little sprucing up, growth or TLC.

BEST SUGGESTIONS FOR AREAS OF YOUR FENG SHUI GARDEN

1. CAREER AND LIFE PURPOSE

Add a meandering pathway or a water feature. This will get your chi flowing and career moving.

2. WEALTH AND PROSPERITY

Wind is a natural phenomenon, add shrubs and plants that attract birds and insect. Flags, mobiles or wind chimes capture the wind.

3. FAME AND REPUTATION

If you want to be known for something, look for a way to acknowledge that. A good example is a species rhododendron garden.

4. PARTNERSHIP AND RELATIONSHIP

Adding a bench or porch swing or two similar colored rhododendrons suggests pairs.

5. CREATIVITY AND CHILDREN

Adding a child-sized table and chairs or a small bench works well here.

6. HELPFUL PEOPLE

This aligns with masculinity, a Buddha or meditation spot in a quiet area suggests peace.

7. SELF-CULTIVATION, WISDOM AND SPIRITUALITY

A rock garden, a meditation spot or a spiritual statue would serve this energy well.

8. FAMILY, NEW BEGINNINGS, COMMUNITY

A vegetable area or herb garden is highly suggestive of abundant health

9. TRAVEL

Plants or foliage from other countries will pull in that energy.



COLOR IN THE GARDEN FENG SHUI

Color is also an important component of Feng Shui Gardens which pop with lots of colors as this is an easy way to add positive energy. In Feng Shui, color is more than a design choice – It's a vibration because each hue carries a specific frequency that activates certain moods intentions and elements in your environment. When used intentionally in the garden color becomes a tool for balance, harmony and personal expression. The colors also contribute to the five elements.

RED/PINK/ORANGE (FIRE ELEMENT)-triangle shape

Bold, passionate and energizing, Particularly red can activate attention, confidence or fame.

YELLOW/ EARTHTONES (EARTH ELEMENT)-square

Grounding, nourishing and stabilizing. These colors invite a sense of home, ease, and contentment. Think marigolds, clay pots or golden grasses .

WHITE/ SILVER/PASTELS (METAL ELEMENT)-round

Discernment, elegance and precision. These colors help refine energy, making space for focus or creativity.

BLUES/BLACKS/INKY HUES (WATER ELEMENT)-curved

Depth, mystery, and flow. These shades support introspection, emotional healing and prosperity. Water features or a shady retreat spot also works.

GREENS (WOOD ELEMENT)-vertical

Growth, renewal and vitality. Green is the color of fresh starts, new chapters, and things taking off.



Accessing the New Digital JARS

A number of JARS changes will be coming to the ARS and its members in 2026, outlined below:

- 1) A new digital JARS format has been added to the two existing formats (the print JARS that is mailed to all members and the online pdf accessible to members at the ARS website <https://www.arsoffice.org/protect1/users/online.asp>). For many years now, members have been able to access the pdf JARS. Members wishing to do this have to register their membership number on the ARS website above and use a passcode. Your ARS membership number is located on the address label from every mailed printed JARS or can be obtained from your chapter membership chair.

The advantage of the pdf is that it is a reasonable file size that can be downloaded and saved on your computer, and available pdfs go back 13 years, to 2012.

- 1) The new digital JARS is in an HTML format which will allow it to be read on any platform – cellphone, tablet or computer. Because of its smaller screen, cellphones should be used in landscape mode to allow a wider text line. The link to each new digital JARS will be emailed to all ARS members (**which is why everyone needs to make sure their email address is available and accurate**) through Rhodonotes. Accessing the digital JARS will require inputting some personal information (your name, chapter and language you plan to use) so the ARS can keep track of who is using it. Finally, there will be a simple test to answer to make sure you are not a robot!
- 1) The digital JARS is important because unique among garden society journals, the digital JARS, through the magic of AI, will be available and switchable to eleven languages. Currently they are Chinese, Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Japanese, Norwegian, Spanish, and Swedish. To choose a language, just click on the desired flag shown at the beginning of the digital JARS screen. One can leapfrog through the articles in the digital JARS issue, going to any article immediately by clicking on the number for each article shown on the right side on the screen. Sequence is shown in the Table of Contents. The HTML JARS is one file and can be copied and saved in Word just as easy for all articles as for one article, but because it has very large images, the file size will be very large.
- 1) One of the main reasons the digital JARS has been created is to make JARS easily available in many languages and in different formats (tablet, computer and cell phone). By making digital JARS appealing to our members worldwide we hope to significantly reduce the cost of getting JARS to all members at a reasonable cost. Unfortunately, our membership dues do not currently cover the annual cost of operating the society. Like many garden societies, our membership has been declining. By choosing to receive the digital JARS, our members can help reduce printing and mailing costs while still receiving this important publication.
- 1) Switching from a print JARS to the digital JARS by members has the potential to reduce cost. In order to make this happen, members wishing to receive the print JARS will have an increase in membership dues by \$10 US.
- 1) There will be no ARS membership dues increase for those members selecting to receive only the digital JARS. To further reduce JARS cost, the number of JARS issues produced each year starting with the 2026 membership year will be reduced from four to three, with a new issue released every four months.

The importance of the ARS having your current email address

By choosing the digital JARS, you will not incur an increase in your membership dues to the ARS. But the ARS must have your accurate and up-to-date email address in order to get the link to the digital JARS to you on time. **This is critical.**

Please check with your Chapter's Membership Chair or directly with

Katherine Sterner, ARS Office Administrator (member@arsoffice.org), to ensure the email address on file for you is correct, and if it changes, please notify them ASAP.

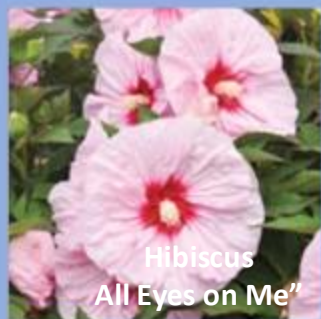
NEW PERENNIALS FOR THE CANADIAN MARKET 2026



Retailers have seen an increase in the purchase of plant materials geared toward sustainability and longevity that are easy to care for and are hardy enough to survive our Canadian climate. (This bodes well for rhododendrons). Greenhouse Canada recommends these new and notable perennials.



Artemesia 'Silver
Lining'



Hibiscus
All Eyes on Me"



Phlox "Prismatic Pink"



Sedum
Midnight Velvet



Bergenia
Snowtime



Ligularia
Midnight Lady



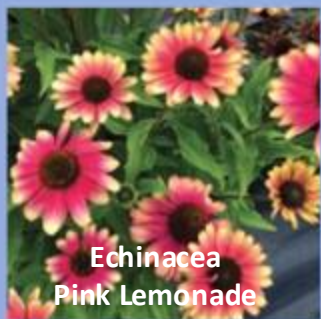
Sedum
Czar's Gold



Heuchera
Changeling



Anemone
Puff Pink



Echinacea
Pink Lemonade



Echinacea
double Scoop
Deluxe



Delphinium
Red Lark



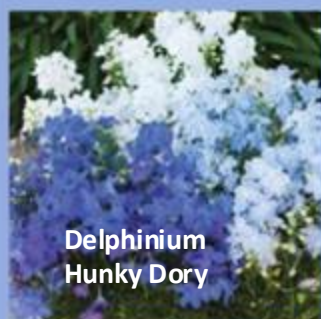
Salvia
Blue by You



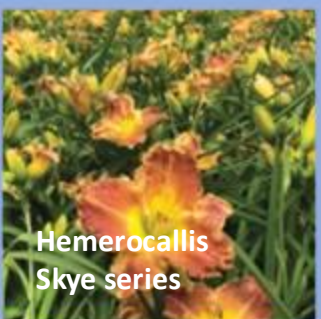
Erysimum linifolium
Erysistible



Coreopsis
verticillata
Sunstar



Delphinium
Hunky Dory



Hemerocallis
Skye series



Perovskia
Zephyr
Compact Blue



Echinacea
Prairie Blaze



Coreopsis
Solanna



Centaurea
Silver Swirl

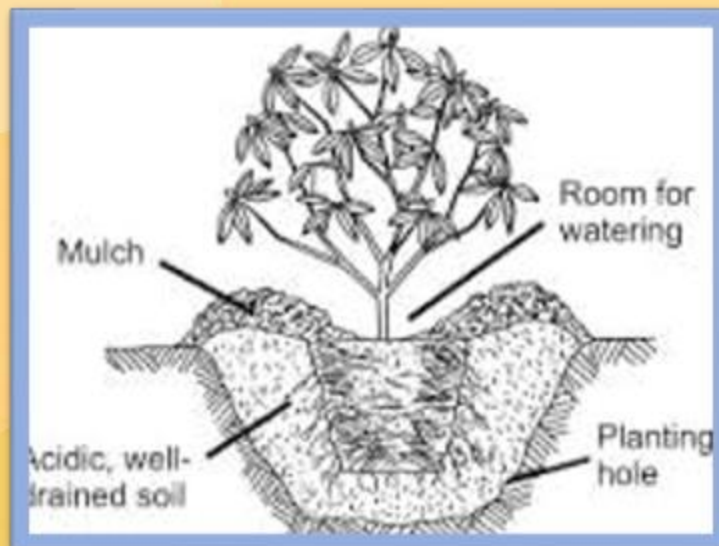
PLANTING RHODODENDRONS IN THE FALL

ADAPTED FROM HORTICULTURE

Autumn is an excellent time to plant rhododendrons. Planting in fall gives a healthier start than planting into spring's cold soil where it will soon face very warm summer weather. In fall's warm soil and cooler air, fall-planted shrubs contend with less stress and put on strong root growth before winter.

The effort one puts into preparing the the planting hole pays off. Be generous and make the hole a couple of sizes larger the the plant's container. Once your rhododendron is in place, water it well and mulch it with shredded bark or compost to moderate the soil temperature.

Water at least one a week, soaking the roots of the plant. There is no need to fertilize the plant as one does not want to encourage vigorous growth going into the cooler months. Now is the time for it to go dormant and be ready for spring.



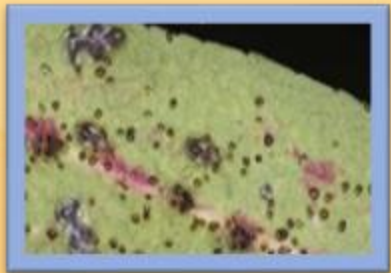
RHODODENDRON LACE BUG

Dr. E. P. Breakey,
RHODODENDRONS ARS 1956

The Rhododendron lace bug, *stephanitis rhododendri* may be found on the undersides of the leaves of rhododendrons, azaleas and mountain laurel. It is a member of *Tingidae*, whose members are called lace bugs because of their gauze-like, reticulated wings, the peculiar hood-like structure over their head and the broad lateral expansions of the prothorax.

Eggs are inserted in the lower surfaces of the leaves along the midribs and larger veins in the late summer and early fall. Nymphs hatch from these eggs the following spring and become fully grown by June or early July.

Injury is caused by the insects sucking the plant juices from the undersides of the leaves. When feeding they remove or destroy the chlorophyll, causing the leaves to take on a mottled grayish discoloration. Later these leaves may turn brown and leathery and cease to grow. The lower surfaces of infested leaves are further disfigured with numerous, small, dark, varnish-like spots of excrement and sometimes with cast nymphal skins.



CONTROL 1956

Lace bugs are readily controlled by the timely application of a good contact insecticide. One pint of nicotine sulphate 40 %, plus 3 pounds of soap, in 100 gallons of water is an old-time spray for killing lace bugs. In smaller amounts this would be 1 teaspoonful in each gallon of soapy water. Unfortunately, for best results nicotine must be used when the temperature is 70 degrees F. or higher, a condition seldom prevailing in the Pacific Northwest when control measures must be used. Lindane is one of the best of the new insecticides for general purpose spraying and the results do not seem to be influenced by the prevailing temperatures, as are those obtained from the use of nicotine. Use at a rate of 1 pound of the 25% wettable spray powder 100 gallons of water, or 1 teaspoonful in each gallon.

CONTROL 2025 NATURAL



Neem oil is a natural pesticide produced from neem tree seeds. Gardeners can add a tablespoon or two of the oil to a gallon of water. Spray affected leaves every two weeks. As a bonus, neem oil is also a fungicide.

Predator insects can help reduce populations. Predators include ladybugs, assassin bugs and pirate bugs. Gardeners can buy species online and release them near the affected plants.

Insecticidal soap is another insecticide to kill lace bugs. Use a mild liquid soap, mixing 4 to 5 tablespoons with a gallon of water. One can add garlic powder and cayenne pepper.

Pyrethrin spray is a natural occurring compound found in some species of chrysanthemums. Spraying one of many pyrethrin products on affected leaves will kill lace bugs as well as mites and aphids. Pyrethrin is organic and breaks down quickly in sunlight, making it relatively safe for use on all plants.

**A SUCCESSFUL DISPLAY OF OUR
RHODODENDRON SOCIETY AT THE
ARTS AND MUSIC FESTIVAL AT THE HCP
THANK YOU AGAIN TO OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS**



**UNFORTUATLEY
OTHER
VOLUNTEERS
PHOTOS
WERE
MISSED
ONE
DAY**



PHOTOS BY IAN THANK YOU

OUR FIRST MEETING OF THE 2025-2026 YEAR VICTORIA RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

THANK YOU CALVIN FOR THE PHOTOS



At every meeting, these faithful volunteers get us set up for the evening meeting

THANK YOU



THANK YOU

ONE BIG REASON FOR GOOD ATTENDANCE AT OUR MEETINGS



THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS FOR YOUR EFFORTS ON OUR BEHALF

NEW LAPTOP PURCHASE RATIONAL

IAN DUNCAN

"I have done some research on a new laptop computer. I have found several in the \$600 to \$700 +taxes range, business type, that would work for us. We also need an external docking station to accommodate some of our older input devices. Most new laptops do not have SD card slots, which some of our guest speakers bring their presentations on. Our club projector, which we use when we speak at other clubs, needs a VGA input. We need input slots for a mouse, power point projector and at least two memory sticks. A docking station to support these is about \$80. Another thought is that if we are considering zooming our meetings, the best way is to have a separate camera on a stand that captures the speaker and the screen and his/her voice. Gets rid of the problem I have attempting to get the presentation on the computer screen, the projection screen and on zoom. Decent webcams are under \$150. We own a mono-tripod. So I think we can do it all for under our \$1000 board limit. If approved, it can be in place for our October meeting, which is when windows 10 support will have ended".



SCENES FROM SCOTLAND

THANK YOU SEAN RAFFERTY



PHOTOS BY NADINE THANK YOU



**CHINESE
AND
HIMALAYAN
SPECIES
RHODOS
GROWN
IN
SCOTLAND**



AYE!



**THOSE
SCOTS
CANNA
DO IT...**





THANK YOU SEAN AND BRENDA

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

1. May Board meeting minutes adopted as read
2. Current events of volunteers of the Wednesday group at HCP to add a note to the newsletter
3. Ken to provide updates on Convention 2026
4. Calvin to provide any news from the Barlup Garden
5. Garden visit in Victoria on the Day 1 to include: The Massa Garden, The Rafferty/Macdonald The Gordon Garden and the Webb Garden
6. Garden visits on Day 2 include: Government Garden, Abkhazi Garden, The HCP Garden, the Brice Garden and the Marquardt Garden
7. The Board approved the purchase of a new computer system for our Society
8. A request to provide an extension of the water system to reach the Goose statue approved
9. A request to see if the VicRS donated \$500 to the HCP was to be asked of the treasurer
10. Plant sale at the Webb's on Saturday October 18, 11 am. – 2 pm.
11. Moved and seconded to approve purchase of a new club computer



BOARD OF
DIRECTORS

RHODODENDRON OF THE MONTH



QUIET ELEGANCE

THIS RHODODENDRON DONATED BY CALVIN PARSONS IS
GOING TO BE PLANTED BEHIND THE “PAIRED GEESE”
STATUE WHOSE WORDING “QUIET ELEGANCE” DESCRIBES
JIM BARLUP AS A PERSON
WORDS CHOSEN BY MIKE PETERSON

THE WEDNESDAY VOLUNTEER GROUP AT THE HCP



“potting up rhododendrons for next year’s sale”

Thank you...Dan, Brian, Dan and Calvin

A PROPAGATION SUCCESS STORY



**The unnamed Barlup cuttings
planted 3 years ago**

Thank you to everyone who helped with this project



**END OF SUMMER AT
THE NORM TODD
PROPAGATION CENTER**



**WORKING IN THE
RHODODENDRON GARDEN
TIDYING THE PATHS**

WHY ARE RHODODENDRON CLUBS DIMINISHING?

AI OVERVIEW

Rhododendron club members are diminishing not because the plants are failing, but due to declining membership among people interested in rhododendrons and their cultivation. This trend is linked to several factors including less emphasis on this plant type in gardening trends, difficulties in maintaining rhododendrons which require specific soil and drainage conditions, increased urbanization and development impacting suitable planting areas, and a lack of knowledge regarding cultivation and care.

Changing gardening trends

There is a general trend away from cultivating and focusing on complex, specific needs of rhododendrons compared to other plants

Cultivation challenges

People may lack the time for proper pruning, feeding and pest management necessary to keep rhododendrons healthy

Urbanization

As cities expand, there is less space available for cultivation of large shrubs, especially in areas where they once flourished, like the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island

Lack of interest in “long-term” plants

Modern gardening trends often favour quick results and less demanding plants, which is the opposite of the long-term investment needed to grow rhododendrons

Availability of new species vs. cultivars

While new wild species are discovered, many established garden varieties require extensive care that may not align with current gardening interests, leading to a decline in their popularity and cultivation



Cookies for the meetings. Betty Gordon 250-479-0210

Talking to new members

Suggesting topics for discussion

Helping every second Tuesday at the Barlup Garden. Calvin Parsons 250-590-0489

Donating to the club raffle

Helping to tidy up after a meeting

Bringing a friend or colleague to a meeting

Bringing an extra mug for those who forgot theirs

Talking to any member who would like to volunteer to come to take cuttings

Help with any plant sales the club may have

These are just some suggestions as we try to make our club vibrant and exciting



BOARD MEMBERS AND CONTACTS

PRESIDENT...SHARON JOSEPH...250-383-1756
VICE-PRESIDENT...KEN WEBB...250-477-1785
TREASURER...BILL GORDON...250-479-0210
SECRETARY...LOIS BLACKMORE...250-818-9307
PAST PRESIDENT...LLOYD GILMORE...250-642-2256
MAL...IAN DUNCAN...250-479-0820
MAL...DAN SYROID...250-477-9210
MAL...MICHAEL TRIPP...250-477-4407
MAL...BURNS MORRISON...250-477-8281
MAL...STEPHEN BRICE...250...658-1850
MAL...JOHN VERWOLF...250-896-6952
LIBRARIAN...ELLEN WELLBORN...250-479-1898