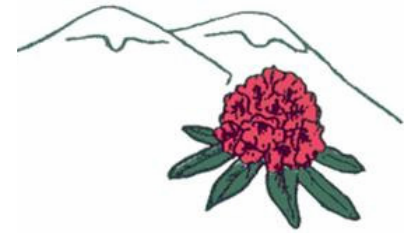


THE RHODOVINE

THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH
RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

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Volume 18, Issue 7

September, 2006

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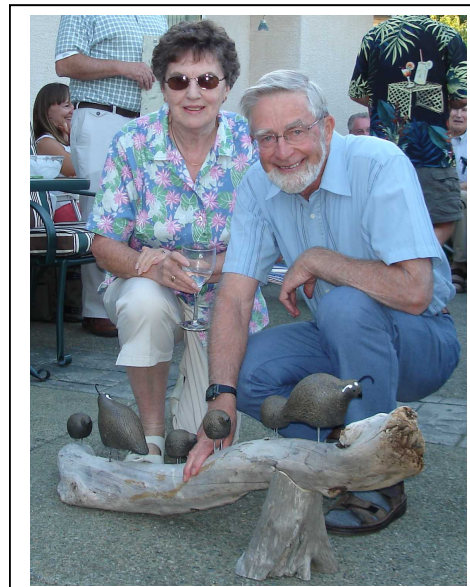
Kristi Ozero

Christi, a long-time resident of this area and a landscape and horticulture consultant, works at Cannor Nursery in Parksville. She is the author of the booklet, Milner Gardens and Woodland Rhododendrons, a subject well-known to her. Milner hired her to catalogue and identify the rhododendrons in the garden.

Farewell Vic and Nancy

Vic and Nancy Vickers will be moving permanently to Vernon BC in early September in order to be closer to their family. They will be missed greatly by MARS as they have been very active members for several years.

We wish them lots of luck and we are certain that they will enjoy the Vernon Area



MARS Meetings

Second Wednesday of the Month
7:30 pm
Qualicum Beach Civic Centre

September Meeting

Wednesday, Sept 13, 2006

Speaker Kristi Ozero

Subject Deer Proofing

Next Meeting

Wednesday, 11th October, 2006
Members are invited to participate in a propagation workshop led by well-known rhodo expert Les Clay. Details will be published in the next newsletter, but in the meantime give some thought to which of your plants you want to propagate

As a result of Vic's leaving the club we have had some changes in duties.

Tony Ansdell is now the Treasurer, Ann Robertson is the Newsletter Editor and Bert Harding will be looking after Membership.

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President's Message

It's hard to believe that I am writing this message, which means that summer has come and is now almost gone. We were very busy with friends and relatives visiting and time just seemed to fly by. Being so busy made it difficult to keep up with watering and it was sure required with this almost "rainless" summer.

I ran across some hints on Rhododendron care that Ward Porter had included in Nanaimo's June 1999 Newsletter that I thought would be of interest.

Deadheading: This is important to aid the plant's energy in going to the production of flowers and not seeds. And of course helps with the appearance of the plant. It is not necessary to deadhead evergreen azaleas

Pinching: This is done to help keep the plant "bushier". Removing the single growth bud will cause the plant to grow multiple buds.

Fertilizing: June is the final month for fertilizing. Fertilizing will cause more growth, which will not have time to harden against the winter weather.

Water: Remember, lots of water through the month of August. This is the month that sets the buds for the following year.

The ARS Fall Conference at Harrison Hot Springs, Sept 22 to 24, 2006

As of August 21/06 there were 200 registrations and District 1 is well represented as is MARS. It's not too late to register, and if you are interested please call me at 954-3210

Cowichan Valley	5
Fraser South	30
Fraser Valley	4
Mount Arrowsmith	16
Nanaimo	14
North Island	6
Peace Arch	5
Vancouver	9
Victoria	26

District 1	115

Dean Goard the president of the Victoria ARS Chapter is working quite hard along with some other Rhododendron members at getting R.MACROPHYLLUM protected. Below is a copy of his most recent report.

REPORT FROM DEAN GOARD ON R. MACROPHYLLUM PROTECTION IN BC

[1] Minister's response

I called the minister's office last week to ask what had happened to my letter of April 27. I was told that the response had been "lost" but was now found and would be sent out by Friday. I picked it up at our club mailbox on Tuesday. I will make a copy of the letter for Bill to take to the District meeting.

It is from the Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Stewardship Division. The major points are recorded below.

"Pacific rhododendron is not considered to be a species at risk in British Columbia. It has been assessed by The Federal Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) based on a 1997 status report.

The committee determined that the species is "Not at Risk" in Canada. Based on information provided by the authors of the Status Report, the assessment indicated the populations of the species are large, extensive and mostly contained in protected areas. The ministry's Conservation Data Centre (CDC) ranks Pacific rhododendron at "S4", meaning that the species is "Apparently Secure" or that the "species is uncommon, but not rare."

CDC staff has indicated that the sites on Vancouver Island are at little risk. As well, one of the sites you are concerned about at Rhododendron Lake, is being managed for the species by the forest company operating in the area, including the creation of a network of recreational trails.

The ministry does not consider this to be a priority species that requires further protection or action at this time. It might be of value to your organization to deal directly with any land owners or land managers who are involved in the Vancouver Island or Sunshine Coast locations to assure your concerns are considered."

Well, this response is not unexpected. I see it as an early step in dealing with the topic. Perhaps we can note that their response was based upon 10 year old information and that the work of Dr. Hall suggests that in fact the Clade 1 might be more precarious. I will share it with my friends who were active in the Ministry and develop a strategy for a response. We will continue to work with the forestry companies.

[2] Mount Elphinstone Site

Ron Knight visited the site several times in late May (Once with Susan and Art Lightburn and again with me in early August. We had hoped to meet up with Kevin Davie, Operations Manager, Sechelt Community Projects, Inc. but missed him. He subsequently got to the site with his forester/biologist.

He replied to my letter of June 8 and noted that "managers of forest lands are required to manage all forest resources. While some are legislated others are based upon other values unique to the community." He then goes on to say that the best way to aid in planning of the operations is to have Ron as our regional representative added to the community advisory consultation process. He suggests that Ron would then have direct input into planning. He also encourages us to provide information needed to manage this species and determine other locations where they exist.

Ron suggests you call Brian Smart at (604) 885-7160 to become a member of the committee.

[3] Shawnigan Lake Site

A number of us went up to the site in late May when the plants were in bloom. The underbrush seemed thicker than before. We started to flag the individual plants or groups of plants as an aid in finding them when they are no longer in bloom. We were trying to plot them out but lost the tape and were overwhelmed by the magnitude of the task. The intention is to go back this fall and check out the seedlings, continue the mapping of the individual plants and collect seed and some cuttings.

I will get back in touch with the forestry company to see how we move forward.

[4] University of Washington Workshop August 24-27 at Friday Harbour Lab.

I have been invited to participate in this 12 person workshop organized by Ben Hall on *R. macrophyllum*. The topics proposed were a tentative program outline. As additional people contribute their ideas, it will become more complex and detailed.

R. macrophyllum population mapping: recent findings

Variation in *R. macrophyllum* populations

a) As seen by plant appearance: flower color, morphology, leaves, etc. (Many photos)

b) As seen by DNA sequences

Ecophysiological challenges for *R. macrophyllum* populations at different locations.

Common garden studies, review of the classical Clausen, Keck and Hisey work, A discussion of propagation of R. macrophyllum from cuttings (this has already started at a site West Vancouver Design of R. macrophyllum common garden(s)

What clones should go into the study? i.e. where to sample

Design of the garden, replicates, etc.

Where would we like the gardens to be established? Which of these are possible?

Dean Goard has added one topic relating to forest succession and timber harvesting.

He would appreciate if you could ask the members at the District I meeting on August 20 if they have other topics which might be considered.

Ron McMaster

Feature Article

Hailey Garden

by Sandra Evelyn

In April, 1975, Mrs. Ellen Hailey gave more than 350 rhododendron plants from her collection to the City of Nanaimo. These plants can be found in the Hailey Rhododendron Garden in Bowen Park.

When I was asked to write a history of this lovely old garden I accepted but not without a good deal of trepidation. Certainly I was familiar with this garden; in fact my husband and I frequently visit the Hailey Garden in Bowen Park and now find ourselves on a first name basis with many of its occupants. Each spring we look forward to renewing our acquaintance with the Rhododendron hybrids such as '**Etta Burrows**', '**Snow Queen**', '**Avalanche**', '**Mrs. Chas. E. Pearson**'; and some species including *R. calophytum*, *R. conncinum*. There are also the many Azaleas such as *R. slippenbachi*. But a large number of these rhododendron plants seem unable to be identified. One must be content to enjoy their beauty and (if they feel so stimulated) to engage in the conjecture of the parentage of these progeny. Over the last decade many Vancouver Island rhododendron experts including Bill Dale, Norman Todd, Evelyn and Nick Weesjes, Dave Dougan, Bob and Jean Rhodes and Ken Gibson have visited the garden and concur that many of the rhododendrons in the Hailey garden noticeably differ from the many hybrid and species rhododendrons they are familiar with. These unknown crosses may well be one of a kind. It seems unlikely even if modern genetic research makes these elusive plants reveal their parentage many will be recognized as registered hybrids. Along with the overall beauty of the plants in the garden this mystery of the unknown becomes part of the lure of the Hailey Garden to everyday passers by and rhodoholics alike.

But a garden's history is not only about nomenclature and botanical origins. It is also about special integrated relationships between the plants and the people who select and care for these plants. The rhododendrons in the Hailey Garden have known two owners. The garden was originally established in Vancouver and later moved to Vancouver Island by Captain Alfred and Mrs. Ellen Hailey. Today it is owned by the people of the City of Nanaimo.

As both Captain and Mrs. Hailey are now deceased and left no written records of their garden I knew it would be difficult to write of this earlier history. However, memories of those who knew the Haileys in Vancouver, such as long time rhodoholic Fred Collins, along with Jean Rhodes' knowledge of items in older ARS journals and Nanaimo historian Fred Taylor's records of Bowen Park, have all helped to piece together some of the story behind the Hailey Rhododendron Garden.

The first Hailey garden was located at their residence in Vancouver at 14th Avenue and Dunbar St. Here, Captain Hailey indulged his interest in arborea and had a collection of locally available magnolias. Ellen Hailey was a lab technician, who worked for a medical practitioner in the Fraser Valley who had a keen interest in rhododendrons.

His hobby proved addictive (who once exposed can dare to deny this?) and Mrs. Hailey was soon observed removing the grass about her home to make way for her own increasing rhododendron collection. Indeed she soon had several hundred rhodos on this city sized lot including both hybrids and species. Many of these plants were obtained by Mrs. Hailey during her frequent "shopping trips" to Halfdan Lem's nursery in the United States. Today some of his famous hybrids, which include **R. 'Lem's Monarch'** (a.k.a. Pink Walloper) can be seen in the Hailey Rhododendron Garden in Bowen Park.

There can be no doubt that Mrs. Hailey's interest in rhododendrons went beyond that of finding a suitable garden plant for "beside the front door". She was a charter member of the Vancouver Rhododendron Society which formed in the early 1950's. From 1959 through 1962 she was secretary-treasurer of the group. In April 1963 she undertook to chair a committee for a display of rhododendrons in the Vancouver Horticultural Society show. Frequently she was called upon to judge at rhododendron shows.

By now "rhododendroning" had become a family affair in the Hailey household. The early meetings of the Vancouver Chapter of the ARS were held in members' homes and gardens. Captain and Mrs. Hailey's three children, a daughter and two sons were always on hand to greet the guest members and serve refreshments. For whatever their reasons these children did not retain an interest in their parents' garden and the City of Nanaimo became the welcoming beneficiary to many of the rhododendrons.

The second Hailey Rhododendron Garden was planted in Nanaimo in 1967. Captain Hailey had accepted a post in Nanaimo as port warden and the family moved to their new home in the Hammond Bay area just past the lagoon. Not about to leave her beloved rhododendrons behind Mrs. Hailey had a backhoe load them onto two forty foot flatbed trucks and transported them to Nanaimo. Here they flourished in a garden that was soon to become vastly overgrown as the family engaged in other interests including a summer home on Thormandby Island. With failing health Mrs. Hailey may have been expressing her concern for her plants' survival when she asked local rhododendron growers to propagate some of her prized species plants but this was never accomplished.

On March 21st, 1975 Captain Hailey was returning in his small pleasure craft from a short holiday to the family summer cabin. Despite his lifelong experience with the sea (his transport carrier was torpedoed off South Africa and he and another Nanaimo man, Capt. Clarke spent several hours in shark infested waters before rescue) Captain Hailey's craft overturned. Although he had lashed himself to the transom Captain Hailey was unable to withstand the cold waters and he died from exposure. Mrs Hailey found she could no longer keep her home and garden and decided to move back to Vancouver to be closer to family and friends. Once again she faced a priority of establishing a new home for her many rhododendrons. She gave her species collection to the Vancouver Parks Board where Alleyne Cook undertook to arrange their planting in Van Dusen Gardens. The hybrids numbering some 350 plants she gave to the Nanaimo Parks Board. It is interesting to note, however, that some species did find their way into the Bowen Park Hailey Garden. In April, 1975 the planting of these rhododendrons in Bowen Park was overseen by city gardener Anders Olsen in what was to be the third and final Hailey Rhododendron Garden. Unfortunately the plants were either not tagged or the tags were lost and no records were kept of the identity of the individual plants.

Until recently the Hailey Rhododendron Garden in Bowen Park has not received the attention it so richly deserves. Lack of funding and manpower saw the plants grow to overcrowd each other. Its root stock (mainly **R. ponticum**) began to overpower the scions. This suggests there are some rare and hard to propagate specialties in the collection. **R.** (mainly **R. ponticum**) began to overpower the scions. This suggests there are some rare and hard to propagate specialties in the collection. **R. 'Susan'** and **R. 'Robin Hood'** are two such specimens that have been identified. Vandalism, too, took its toll. Some plants have been found uprooted and others mysteriously disappeared. However, with the installation of a watering system and a dense mulching of sawdust, most of the rhodos survived happily enough. Today many of these plants have reached a height of fifteen feet or more.

In 1992 the Nanaimo Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society was established and the membership was encouraged to visit and enjoy the Hailey Gardens. In June, 1993 eight of the founding members formed a work party and volunteered to "dead-head" (remove the spent blooms) of the plants. Interest mounted within the group and it was proposed that Bowen Park, including the Hailey Garden, could be used as the NRS principal display garden. A comprehensive plan was worked on by the executive of the NRS and the City of Nanaimo whereby the NRS was asked to "adopt" the rhododendron grove in Bowen Park as part of the city's "Volunteers in Parks" program. With this permission granted in the winter of 1994 the NRS voted to provide the sum of \$1500.00 for the purpose of upgrading and expanding the irrigation system. This sum will be matched by an equal amount from a city grant. Present plans include extending the watering system, plant identification and tagging, improvements to pathways and general maintenance. In future, they also hope to provide for additional plantings.

The Hailey Rhododendron Garden lies in the beautiful Millstream River valley in Bowen Park. It can be reached by three access routes. One may start from the Bush Street parking lot and covered picnic area. From here follow the roadway that runs adjacent to the Millstream River. A smaller parking lot to accommodate about six cars is located halfway between the Bush Street lot and the Hailey Garden. A sign "The Hailey Rhododendron Garden" is on the left-hand side. If you approach from the upper valley proceed downstream past the animal farmyard. Alternatively, leave the parking lot behind the tennis courts on Bowen Road and adjacent to the Bowen Park Clubhouse and follow a woodland trail that descends into the garden. Of course if you should choose (and you most definitely should) to time your visit to these gardens during April and May the colourful, towering and sometimes scented trusses announce you have arrived at the Hailey Rhododendron Garden.

Submitted by Chris Southwick

Events

The Annual Christmas Floral Fantasy held by The Victoria Flower Arrangers' Guild will be at:

Cadboro Bay United Church Hall 2625 Arbutus Road

Friday, November 17, 2006 - 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Saturday, November 18, 2006 - 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Price at the door is \$5.00 per person

Advance ticket sales are \$4.00 per person

In addition we serve tea for \$3.00 per plate.

Wheelchair accessible. Video and demonstrations during the day.

Contact me at 727-0832 for more information or on my email at

jrnoable@shaw.ca or Joel Fair at email joelfair_@shaw.ca

The **'Mid Island Floral Art Club** are having a demonstration by Helen Collicutt, who is an international floral designer at 2:00 p.m. on September 14th at St. Stephen's United Church Hall in Qualicum Beach. Guests and new members are welcome to attend. The guest fee is \$10, payable at the door. Questions may be directed to Pauline at 752-1427.

For Sale and Wanted

It has been suggested that this newsletter could list members' items "For Sale" (or Free) and "Items Wanted". The items should relate to the Club's purpose (i.e. Rhodos or Gardening).

If you have any items you would like listed, please send them before the end of September to:

either email annierobertson@shaw.ca or 455 Schley Place, Qualicum Beach, V9K 2L5.

Lost and Found

At the summer party at Ron and Judy's home there were a number of items left behind:-2 pairs of prescription glasses, 1 pair of sunglasses, dishes and a chair. Talk to Judy.