



A place to grow

CVIBGS News

Issued by the Central Vancouver
Island Botanical Garden Society
www.cvibgs.org

Autumn 2005

- Inside:**
- Habitat Garden. progress report
 - Rosehip propagation
 - Water wise & other gardens under development
 - Volunteers needed
 - Key Dates
 - Websites, events



President's Message

- Phillip Field

I hope that you have had a wonderful

Summer and now looking forward to that glorious time of year, Autumn.

June, July August (and now September) just whistled by for us! Mind you, we were involved in the B.C. Disability Games and undertook a lengthy house renovation, plus a myriad of other activities, so we certainly lived up to the "seize the day" approach to life.

On to Society matters. I regret to report that Lorraine Coumont has tendered her resignation after 9 years as a Board member, many of which were as President.. Happily Lorraine will stay on as a member. I sent a message to Lorraine, on behalf of the Society and the Board, expressing our gratitude and appreciation for her time, energy and leadership, along with our best wishes.

Lorraine's resignation leaves a vacancy on the Board which we need to fill.. Please contact the Secretary, Darlene Booth at 758-0306 if you are interested in putting your name forward.. The job is not arduous or onerous but we do need help.

Our main topic has been the necessary re-organization and assignment of tasks involved for the annual Garden Show in Nanaimo. The Show is a major fund-raising project for our Society, and an event that the general public looks forward to each year, leaving us with an obligation for ensuring the Show is continued successfully. Under the guidance of past Show coordinator Dave Mitchell, we have developed an approach that will provide for ongoing success. We have split up specific areas of responsibility amongst Board members while at the same time retaining overall control of the activities involved in putting on the Show.

Our plans for the year are on track regarding: i) continuing with Garden Development at the G.R. Paine centre, ii) regular Newsletter to members, and iii) offering opportunities for members to be involved in the Society. We have not as yet made headway toward obtaining funding from outside organizations, but have identified useful source material. Successful fund-raising requires specific knowledge and talent, according to broader plan specifics. **We are interested in finding a person**

who has fundraising experience/capacity/talent at the Foundation/Corporation level either to head up that operation or to provide advice. Please contact the Secretary, Darlene Booth at 758-0306.

We received some response to our Summer newsletter's call for volunteers and will be in touch with those who responded but we also reiterate our invitation. We sincerely want to provide opportunities for members to become involved in the Society and the more people contributing the easier the tasks.

Our relationship with Malaspina University College at the G.R. Paine Centre, work continues on the Water-Wise garden and conversations have commenced on the next phase being some form of a therapeutic garden. In keeping with our aim of supporting botanical education, the Society has established an annual contribution of \$50 to the Malaspina University College Foundation to be awarded to a deserving student enrolled in the Horticultural program to help the student with the purchase of books. The recipient this year was Nacolle Ondra, who sent us a most gracious card of thanks.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to express my best wishes to all for an enjoyable Autumn.

Cheers, Phil

Habitat Garden

Autumn, 2005

by Connie Kuramoto

The days are getting shorter, and the angle of sunlight is changing creating that golden light that is so characteristic of our sunny autumn days. The *Rosa gymnocarpa* and the *Rosa nutkana* are covered in rose hips, ripening in the early autumn sun. It is a real feast for the eyes, as well as for the birds and small mammals that enjoy them as food.

The small (6-10mm) orange to scarlet coloured 'hip' of the *Rosa gymnocarpa* quickly loses the sepal lobes resulting in a smooth fruit giving rise to one of its common names, the Baldhip Rose.



Rosa nutkana has much larger hips, some reaching as large as 1-2 cm across. To propagate collect hips August to September and dry and crush or macerate to remove seeds. Seed can be freshly sown in fall as in *Rosa gymnocarpa*. To sow in spring, warm stratify then cold stratify to germinate. Use semi-hardwood cuttings to propagate vegetatively. Cuttings can be collected during late fall and stuck into pots or even right where you wish them to grow. Cuttings typically need to be 1 cm in diameter and up to 1 m long.

The Evergreen Huckleberry, *Vaccinium ovatum*, which has been planted along the north edge of the Gary Oak (*Quercus garyana*) Meadow has thrived, and now is sporting a nice crop of berries. The Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*) plants that are planted throughout the gardens are lush and green. Small birds cling to the seed heads of *Spirea douglasii*, devouring the ripe seeds, then fly down to bathe and take sips from the pond. There is a pair of ducks that have also returned to the pond. The Habitat garden is indeed alive and well and serving its purpose of enriching the areas wildlife food, as well as providing us humans with a great place to view their activities.

Native Grasses Added to Garden

We recently acquired some interesting additions to the Habitat Garden. Val Vaarttrnou, who has been collecting and studying Native

Grasses for reclamation purposes for the last 10 years on a good sized plot in Duncan. He recently invited us, along with a number of other groups, to purchase plants from this plot, as his study is now finished. I took a group of students during their Horticultural Skills and Practices course and we spent the morning with Val, who showed us which grasses were which, and we dug out over 75 plants to bring back with us.

We purchased 3 of each of 26 different varieties of native plants and planted them in labelled display strips around the Hawkens garden, as well as in the Gary Oak meadow of the Habitat Garden. Val also gave us some seed from each variety, as well as the opportunity to purchase a blend of Gary Oak Meadow Grass Seed. We now have a half-kilo of Authentic Gary Oak Meadow Grass Blend to plant in the Meadow, as well as seeds from a number of different native Habitats. We will be seeding some this Spring, and plants will be available as soon as they are ready.

Thanks so much to Manny, (Vals nick-name) for all his great collecting and research, as well as his generosity in sharing this seed with us. We hope to be experimenting with this seed throughout the garden. I will be sharing more information about these grasses with Botanical Garden Society members as soon as I get my pictures organized. These often neglected native grasses are a wonderfully welcome addition to our thriving Habitat Garden.

The Habitat Garden (and the Hawkens Garden) is located at the G.R. Paine Horticultural Centre, Malaspina University-College on 2324 East Wellington Road, Nanaimo. Visitors are Welcome.

Baldhip

Rose Propagation

Collect hips in August to early September after they redden. Clean the seed by macerating hips in a blender with water to float off the seed. Seed can be dry stored in sealed containers at 1-3°C. Cold stratify cold seed at 4°C for 90 days before planting. Sow immediately after cleaning for best germination. Plant seed in containers, cover seed shallowly with soil and mulch, and leave outside for natural stratification. Seeds should germinate sometime in the late winter, or early Spring.

To propagate vegetatively, take semi-hardwood cuttings. Collect during late fall and stick cuttings immediately, either into a pot or right into the ground. Cuttings typically need to be 1 cm in diameter and up to 1 m long. Bottom heat will speed rooting in a greenhouse, but cutting should root even without heat.

Dates to Remember:

Nov 1, 2005 and Jan. 3, 2006—CVIBGS
Board of Directors' meetings, G.R. Paine Horticultural Centre. Meetings start at 7:30 pm. All welcome.

March 10-12, 2006 A
Celebration of Island Gardening, 11th Annual Spring Flower and

Garden Show, Beban Park Recreation Centre, 2300 Bowen Rd., Nanaimo. Please contact Connie Kuramoto if you are interested in arranging for display space (753-8848). Volunteers for helping with the show's organization are urgently required. The Show attracts thousands of Nanaimo area residents.

The Water Wise Garden and more to come at GR Paine

The Waterwise garden is the fourth in a series of demonstration gardens to be installed at the Malaspina University-College's GR Paine Horticulture Centre. It is being funded in partnership with the Central Vancouver Island Botanical Garden Society (CVIBGS).

The garden's design and construction, started earlier this year, will be completed over next year by the students of the college's Horticulture Technician Certificate Program.

The central theme of this project is to demonstrate methods of saving water in the rural and urban garden setting and while still having a beautiful and functioning garden.

The second strategy for working with the natural systems included using native plants. The plant materials used in the Dryland Garden were selected to demonstrate how native plants can be used to create a beautiful garden as well as one that requires less water, fertilizer and maintenance. The native plant materials used are also more resistant to deer browse than conventional garden plants.

As with the other projects, the garden incorporates facilities for viewing and learning about native plants and dryland gardening. The garden will eventually contain interpretive panels which will provide botanical and other cultural information on the plants used.

Currently, the plans for a therapeutic garden are under discussion and inputs being obtained. Also the centre is considering the development of a heritage orchard to further complement the garden generously donated by Lavern Hawken.

Some Vancouver Island Garden Events & Websites

<http://milnergardens.org/>

Milner Estate Woodland Gardens and Woodland, Qualicum Beach, BC. Part of Malaspina University College's Horticulture Program. During December, visit **Milner Christmas Magic**, a popular family event. Lights, live music, Santa, Teddy Bear display, Christmas Wreaths and Gifts, special Tea Room service.

<http://nanaimo.rhodos.ca/>

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society, website provides information on monthly lectures and special events held at Beban Recreation Centre.

<http://www.hazelwoodherbfarm.com>

Hazelwood Herb Farm, located in the Cedar/Yellowpoint area. Visiting hours, October-December Fri/Sat/Sun 11 a.m.-5 p.m. "Shopping by Candlelight", a popular annual event, Nov 2 and 3, 4-8 pm.

<http://www.mala.ca/horticulture/okayama.htm>

Okayama Friendship Gardens, funded by the Okayama Women's College in Japan, was designed and constructed by the Horticultural Program of Malaspina University-College. Garden located on campus.

<http://www.discovery.mala.bc.ca/web/knowledsd/feature>

Tamagawa Gardens, on the campus of Malaspina University-College. The central jewel of the gardens is the koi pond, donated to Malaspina University-College as a 10th. Anniversary gift

<http://www.gardeningbc.com>

a useful resource with links to **GetSet! to Garden**, an on-line BC Garden Magazine and other resources.

<http://www.cvios.com/>

Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society

<http://herbalcollective.ca/>

Herbal Collective, Website for a Nanaimo magazine about herbs and holistic health

<http://woodlandgardens.ca>

Kitty Coleman Woodland Gardens, located near Courtney.

CVIBGS Urgently Needs Volunteers

CVIBGS appeals to its supporters for help in many interesting areas. Please contact us by email or by phone (Phillip Field 751-1040 or Darlene Booth: 758-0306) to find out more. Here are only a few areas we need your help:

Board - we need to fill the vacancy on the Board of Directors resulting from Lorraine Coumont's (pictured right) resignation .

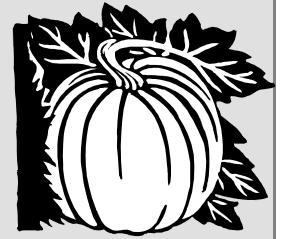
Fundraising - our goal is to attract people who have had some experience to help us find funding towards the development of a financially sustainable botanical garden.

Future development at the G.R. Paine Centre towards a first rate botanical garden according to our vision may be beyond the resources of the University-College, students and staff, without community support.

2006 Annual Garden show - help required in many areas: advertising, sales, CVIBGS booth, hospitality, etc. Here is your chance to become involved in providing a very enjoyable community service.



Lorraine leaves the Board after nine years, serving as President for many years as well as a volunteer coordinator for the Garden Show. Thank you Lorraine and our best wishes. Happy travels!.



CVIBGS Board of Directors

Phillip Field, President
Mike Strothotte, Vice President
Ian Seal, Treasurer
Darlene Booth, Secretary
Edythe Field
Michael Girard
Connie Kuramoto
Helmut Neumann

We welcome your letters and feedback. Please send by mail or email:

phillipfield@shaw.ca
www.cvibgs.org

OUR MISSION

- ◆ exhibit native and exotic plants in beautiful and informative settings;
- ◆ offer useful and interesting information about plants to the public;
- ◆ give advice on horticultural problems...;
- ◆ provide library reference and study facilities in horticultural, botany and related fields;
- ◆ engage in exchange, testing and evaluation of new and desirable plants to the ultimate benefit of the public;
- ◆ conserve plants that may be in danger ..

Have you renewed your Membership?

CVIBGS is a Registered Non Profit Organization. Tax receipts will be issued for donations \$20 or more.

A big thank-you to all those members who have sent in their fees for renewing their membership for 2005. This support is greatly appreciated. We sincerely hope that former members who have helped us in the past will consider renewing their membership at this time. If you have not been sent a new Membership Card, with an expiry date of March 31, 2006, we hope that you will use the Form below to renew your membership. Your Membership Card will give you a 10% member's discount when shown at most Nanaimo garden centres.

Mail to: CVIBGS, PO Box 2227, Station A, Nanaimo, BC V9R 6X9

I would like to:

Renew my Annual membership, or Begin a CVIBGS membership

Student: \$10.00 Individual: \$15.00 Family \$25.00
 Lifetime: \$1000.00 Corporation \$200.00

Donate the amount of \$_____

Be a Garden Show volunteer Help with Fundraising

Serve on the Board of Directors or a committee

Name (print): _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone _____ Email: _____