

The

“Niagara
Rhodo”

March 2006 Newsletter

*The Niagara Chapter
Of The
Rhododendron Society*

Upcoming Events

March General Meeting on Sunday, March 26, 2006

Rittenhouse Hall, Vineland Research Station, Victoria Ave., Vineland, Ontario.

Time: 2:00 p.m.

This meeting will feature **Ken Parker, President and Co-Owner of Sweet Grass Gardens** (www.sweetgrassgardens.com). Ken has been actively growing installing and promoting Indigenous Plant Flora of North America since 1992, which has earned international recognition and has been featured on HGTV, City TV, TV-Ontario, Canadian Gardening television, Gardening Gamble Show on the W-Network, The Globe and Mail, the Toronto Star, Canadian Gardening Magazine, plus numerous radio shows.

His topic will be *"Native Plant Gardening –A Joint Venture with Nature"*. We will learn how to incorporate native species in the home landscape. His presentation includes ecological solutions for garden enthusiasts plus an introduction to the culinary, medicinal and spiritual uses of indigenous North American flora. This outstanding slide show will highlight perennials, grasses, trees and shrubs for - Clay, sandy soil, wet sites and shady gardens.

Don't forget to bring some friends.

Pot Luck Work Party on Saturday, April 8, 2006

The Looye's address: 1067 Line 6 Rd., Niagara-on-the-Lake. Phone: (905) 262-5975

Time: 2:00 p.m.

This will be a work party at the home of Jack and Jackie Looye. At this time, we will bag up chunky peat and fertilizer for the plant sale. All members are welcome to pitch in. The Niagara Rhodo Society will be supplying BBQ beef ribs. Please bring a dish of food to share.

April General Meeting Sunday, April 9, 2006

Rittenhouse Hall, Vineland Research Station, Victoria Ave., Vineland, Ontario.

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Nick Yarmoshuk, a Director and a Past President, will be speaking about some of the different plants that will be for sale at our Plant Sale. Also at this time, he will help to inform you, our members, about the proper planting instructions and care for *rhododendrons and azaleas*. Nick is in demand as a speaker; we are fortunate that he is available on this date and willing to take on this topic. Nick's garden in St. Catharines is a living testimony of his experience in growing rhodos and other spectacular plants.

Nick will be providing two handouts: a document summarizing the essential content of his talk; and a copy of the "Growing Rhododendrons Successfully" article, a talk that he gave at the first Niagara Horticultural Show held at the Niagara Parks Commission in Niagara Falls in June, 2004.

Niagara Plant Sale on Saturday, April 22, 2006

Saturday at 10:00 a.m. sharp till 2:00 p.m. at the

Vineland Research Station, Victoria Avenue, Vineland.

(Exit QEW at Victoria, go towards lake on Victoria, on left side, follow sale signs)

See our web site www.rhodoniagara.org for a list of some of the plants that will be available. All are locally grown. This is a great time to buy your *rhododendrons and azaleas* and a few other companion plants at affordable prices.

Some new introductions of perennials, including tricyrtis (3 varieties), heuchera Peach Flambe and Hollywood, plus polemonium Stairway to Heaven, etc., will also be for sale.

This year we will be offering One Stop Shopping -- an opportunity to buy chunky peat and fertilizer. Coupled with instructions and tips learned at Nick Yarmosuk's presentation on April 9th on growing rhodos should be fool proof. Even our resident deer will be impressed.

This plant sale funds our Chapter's projects during the year. So support your local Chapter and buy at our plant sale. Mark your calendars now. Members get a 10% discount so make sure you have your 2006 membership. (Local memberships are available.)

National Plant Sale on Thursday May 4th and Sat. May 6th, 2006 at the R.B.G.

Plant sale starts at 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon, both days.

2006 Niagara Flower and Garden Show on June 9-11, 2006

The Master Gardeners of Ontario and the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture are hosting the second Niagara Flower and Garden Show. You will not want to miss Ontario's premier outdoor gardening event! For those who attended the debut event in June 2004, you will recall that it was a very special event, held at a unique site, with unbeatable Niagara ambience. It attracted some 7,000 visitors from Ontario and Upper New York State.

We will have a booth at this outdoor horticulture festival to boost the awareness of Rhodos and our organization. We will be seeking volunteers "to man" the booth, closer to the event -- an activity that comes with privileges!

This offers a great opportunity to enhance your gardening knowlege, while becoming connected to other gardening enthusiasts, both professional and amateurs, and our local venders.

President's Message - S.Meis

It's time to get in the groove for Spring/Summer by participating in our full program, outlined above. We welcome you to bring friends to our meetings, and to encourage them to join.

The Rhodo "bug" is not an infectious disease, but it is catching! Passion about rhodos, for some, becomes a lifelong adventure. Furthermore, we have seasoned members who have a wealth of knowlege and gardening experience in Niagara, that extends beyond rhodos. Rhodo folks are good cooks too.

Purpose;

We are a non-profit organization whose aim is to promote and encourage interest in the genus *rhododendrons including azaleas*. **Our goal is to provide educational meetings, encourage people to grow and appreciate the plants, provide access to topical publications and to host joint meetings with other chapters.**

Membership:

Membership is open to anyone interested in the growth and culture of rhododendrons and azaleas. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact our Membership Chairman: Mr. Bob Dickhout, 5200 Timothy Drive, Niagara Falls, L2E 5G3, Telephone # 905-356-3432

Officers / Board Members

President: Sondra Meis-Simpson Email: spm@pointabino.ca

1st Vice President: *vacant*

2nd Vice president: *vacant*

Past President Mike Little

Secretary: Jackie Looye Email: rhodoland@on.aibn.com

Treasurer: Mike Little

Membership: Bob Dickhout

Newsletter: Sondra Meis-Simpson (temp.)

Library: Rolf Schoen

Social Convener: Rolf Schoen

Web Site: Nick Yarmoshuk

Other Board Members: Marian Little
& Barb Agnew

Past Events

Mark Denee, Co-owner and Corporate Horticulturalist at the Epic Plant company in Niagara-on-the-Lake gave an excellent presentation on perennials at our January 22, 2006 meeting. As a leading wholesale nursery, the Epic Plant company (and thus Mark's) challenge is finding good, new perennials, with the emphasis on good. It was exciting to learn about a local nursery supplier that is dedicated to excellence in perennials for our environment. His handout will be a handy tool for our members to make their gardens more dramatic through the selection of choice perennials.

Our Christmas Party at the home of Brian and Mary Schram on December 10, 2005 was a great success. We got to sample Brian's home made clam chowder soup. As always at our events, the food contributions were something to die for.