

The

“Niagara Rhodo”

June 2006 Newsletter



The Niagara Chapter
Of The
Rhododendron Society of Canada

Website: www.rhodoniagara.org

Upcoming Events

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 Ontario's premier outdoor gardening event, "*Visions from the Gardens*". You will not want to miss this event being held at the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens & School of Horticulture.

We will have a booth at this outdoor horticulture festival to boost the awareness of Rhodos and our organization.

Members have volunteered to "man" the booth -- an activity that comes with privileges!

This show offers a great opportunity to hear expert speakers for inspiration and ideas. Also, to become connected to other gardening enthusiasts, both professional and amateurs, and our local vendors.

Summer Picnic at Jack and Jackie Looye on July 29, 2006

See Map and Directions on the website

Address: 1067 Line 6 Rd., Niagara-on-the-Lake. Phone (905) 262-5975

Time: 2:00 p.m. This is a social get together for Niagara and Toronto members. The food is pot luck. Please bring a salad, desert, etc. to share. The meat will be Jack's BBQ Beef Ribs, his speciality, and sausages. Salmon also will be available for non-carnivores.

Plants for Members

Rhodo and azalea cuttings, which were taken last fall from members' gardens and shipped to Oregon, USA for propagation, have now returned. Marian Little and Bob Dickhout recently potted up some 135 rooted cuttings. These plants will be made available to members either in the fall or next spring. This is our third go at providing plants to members with proven local hardiness, the first being the huge amount produced for the convention in 1998.

President's Message - Sondra Meis

Our organization is in discussion with Niagara College about a joint project to create a bed of rhododendrons to beautify their campus, and to serve as a focal point for teaching the students about rhododendrons in their horticulture program. We are excited at partnering with the College. This has the potential for expanding the awareness of rhodos and their specific needs among their students and the broader community. Your Board of Directors continues to seek ways to add value to members. Please share your ideas and suggestions with us. We hope to see you out and about. Enjoy the summer!

Purpose:

We are a non-profit organization whose aim is to promote and encourage interest in the genus *rhododendrons* including *azaleas*. Our goals are 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:	<i>vacant</i>	
2nd Vice president:	<i>vacant</i>	
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 Convenor:	Rolf Schoen	
Web Site:	Nick Yarmoshuk:	Email: nicholas.yarmoshuk@sympatico.ca Other Board
Members:	Marian Little & Barb Agnew	

Immediate Past Events

Niagara Plant Sale held on Saturday, April 22, 2006

Our Chapter's annual plant sale was once again a success. Sales were brisk of chunky peat and fertilizer that had been packaged in manageable amounts to help gardeners to achieve more consistent growing results.

Winners of the raffle:

Nancy Honey,	Vineland Station,	Cup
William McLean,	St. Catharines,	Cup
Kathy Winter,	Burlington,	Plant Gift Certificate
Dave Haskins,	Grimsby,	Plant Gift Certificate
J. Redekopf,	Beamsville,	Plant Gift Certificate
Jim Schroder,	Guelph,	Plant Gift Certificate

Pre-Plant Sale Information Session & April General Meeting, April 9, 2006.

Nick Yarmoshuk, a Director and Past President, showed slides of and spoke about the various plants to be available at the annual plant sale He described appropriate planting procedures and provided suggestions for care of Rhododendrons and Azaleas in Niagara.

Chunky Peat Moss & Fertilizer Pot-luck Work Party, April 8, 2006

The work party of 20 + members at the Looyes bagged up chunky peat and fertilizer for the plant sale in record time (45 minutes) and then enjoyed a potluck supper, including BBQ beef ribs supplied by the Society.