



# THE YAK

Volume 33, Number 1

January 2019

Fraser South Rhododendron Society  
is a chapter of the  
American Rhododendron Society

<http://frasersouthernrhodos.ca>

Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the third  
Wednesday of each month (except June,  
July, August) at:

Langley Mennonite Fellowship Church  
20997 40<sup>th</sup> Street  
Langley, B.C.

Map : <https://goo.gl/maps/ZB1m1jnF9DP2>

## *This Month*

The “Just Deserts Extravaganza” and the  
Annual General Meeting.

Forget your New Year’s resolutions for an  
evening and bring your favorite desert to  
share with the group.

Also on the books is the Annual General  
Meeting where all AGM related items will  
be addressed and the proposed slate of  
2019 FSRS executive officers will be voted  
on to take on the task of guiding the club  
through the coming year.

**Date:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019.

**Kitchen Duties:** John Lapins &  
Robert Talbot



### **R. ririei** (Medium H4-5)

Flowers campanulate, lilac purple to reddish  
purple, with deep violet nectar pouches, in a  
truss of 4-10. Leaves grey-green, under-  
surface with a thin layer of compacted silvery  
white indumentum. One of the earliest  
species to flower, lasting well if there is no  
frost. (See “In The Garden”).

## 2018 OFFICERS

Acting President:	Colleen Bojczuk	604-826-4221
Past Pres:	Evelyn Jensen	604-857-5663
Vice Pres:	Colleen Bojczuk	604-826-4221
Secretary:	Barbara Mathias	778-580-6404
Treasurer:	Harold Fearing	604-857-4136
Directors:	Caroline Feldinger	778-545-8994
	Judy Wellington	604-597-9156
	Jim Worden	604-541-4754
Programme:	Jim Worden	604-541-4754
Membership:	Ginny Fearing	604-857-4136
Newsletter:	Maureen Worden	604-541-4754
Librarian:	Gerald Nemanishen	604-826-0166
Website:	Maureen Worden	604-541-4754
Hospitality:	Gail Floyd	604-541-2884
	Lois Williams	604-535-0543
BCCGC Liaison:	Vacant	

## *From the Acting President*

Happy New Year to all! I must say I'm a bit ticked off that we didn't get any snow over the holidays – the Christmas lights always look so much nicer reflecting off snow and a person needs to shovel snow to wear off all the turkey! Wind and rain just don't seem to get the job done.

We may be heading for an early spring if this pattern keeps up – I just saw Chaenomeles (flowering quince) blooming, and the Forsythia next to it didn't look far behind. Roses in several places are still blooming, even tho' they have no leaves. Hopefully the plants won't get too busy and then we get a cold spell to spoil things. Our area didn't get hit as hard as some in the storms, but we do see some badly damaged trees around – we just have small branches to clean up and a lot of leaves from far away trees.

Now, looking forward to spring, I'm hoping we can have a very positive season with wonderful color from our Rhodos and other plants – they seem to be well budded and healthy so far. I will be encouraging everyone to share their garden beauties with the club for show and tell, not just at the truss show, but all spring long. Bring your fancy desserts for the AGM meeting, and I'll see you all then.

*Colleen B.*

## *The Calendar*

Fraser South Rhododendron Society Wednesday January 16, 2019. Time: 7:30 p.m. Langley Mennonite Church	Annual General Meeting with Annual Desert Extravaganza and member slides
Vancouver Rhododendron Society Thursday January 17, 2018 7:30 pm VanDusen Gardens	AGM, with talks by Jacquie Clayton on Sikkim, Chris Hodgson on the 2018 Bremen ARS Convention, and ....
Fraser South Rhododendron Society Wednesday February 20, 2019. Time: 7:30 p.m. Langley Mennonite Church	Susan Murray, "Glorious Spring Gardens of Wales" – A tour in 2018 with the Scottish Rhododendron Society. See website for more details.
Vancouver Rhododendron Society Thursday February 21, 2019 7:30 pm VanDusen Gardens	Dr. Glen Jamieson, "Vireya Rhododendrons

## **Proposed Slate of Officers for 2109**

President - Colleen Bojczuk  
Vice President - Jim Worden  
Past President - Evelyn Jensen  
Treasurer - Harold Fearing  
Secretary - Barb Mathias  
Directors - 1<sup>st</sup> Year - Gerry Nemanishen  
              - 2nd Year - Carolyn Feldinger  
              - 1<sup>st</sup> Year - Shawn O'Neill

### **Appointments**

Hospitality - Gail Floyd and Lois Williams  
Membership - Ginny Fearing  
Newsletter - Maureen Worden  
Website - Maureen Worden  
Programme - Jim Worden  
Librarian - Gerry Nemanishen

Any other nominations should be presented to council one week before the meeting.

## **Reminders**

Our raffles help finance chapter activities. Please bring your contributions, extra plants, garden items, etc.

\*\*\*\*\*

Feel free to suggest program topics and/or speakers to any member of the executive.

\*\*\*\*\*

Submit articles, photos, or suggestions for the newsletter or else you will be stuck with the editors choices.

\*\*\*\*\*

Speaker reviews are always welcome!

\*\*\*\*\*

## **From the Editor**

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season.

Last month if you remember, I was looking for Christmas greenery and didn't know whether to "hope for a blow (i.e. a windstorm) or to start pruning". Fortunately, a gardener friend provided me with a great assortment of greens for my decorating needs. Unfortunately for a great number of people, the "blow" occurred and resulted in a great mess and lost power. We only lost power for 17 hours and had to forage for dinner that night but did not have any major wind destruction.

Our Christmas dinner was once again a great success and enjoyed by all. Lots of food, draw prizes, and brain stimulation required for the quiz.

I hesitate to think we may have an early spring, but some of the plants in the garden are thinking that way. The daffodils are already up about 3-4 inches and other spring perennials are starting to poke their way above ground.

The Anna's hummingbirds have started their spring courtship with a male regularly dancing and flashing for the females that like to sit in the magnolia outside our kitchen window. I've also noticed that the bird feeder population includes a large contingent of gold finches this winter as well as house finches. In colder winters, I don't usually see the gold finches this time of year. My bird food budget is going to have to be increased!

Be sure to check out the website, for more detailed information on our February meeting presentation and be sure to click on the "Bio" that includes a couple of great pictures! Similar information will be added next month for our special "out of the country" guest speaker in March.

This month a new group of executives will be proposed to the membership. Be sure to come to show your support, enjoy the fabulous desserts and slides from some of our members.

*Maureen Worden*

## Christmas Potluck - 2017



Table decorations for our Potluck dinner were created by Ginny Fearing, Barbara Mathias, and Nancy Moore. A lucky person from each table took home a centerpiece. (Bet those lanterns came in handy for the power outage before Christmas!).

Collen Bojczuk once again created beautiful swags as prizes for her annual quiz. She also created centre pieces for the draw. The centre pieces were done in glass bowls given to her by the late Vern Findlay.



The food was plentiful and as always no duplicate dishes. Thanks to Ginny Fearing for cooking the ham and Carolyn Feldinger for cooking the turkey, and to everyone who contributed. The selection of desserts available was the perfect ending to a great meal.

If anyone is willing to share their recipe, please send them to the editor for publication in the February YAK. (I loved the lemon desert ...hint).

All pictures are courtesy of Barb Mathias.





Hard at work trying to solve the quiz.



## From the Archives

The following article originally appeared in the Fraser South Newsletter, April 1995 by David Sellars.



### The Rhodoholic

During the Victorian era, a group of rhododendron enthusiasts used to meet once a year at the 'Pistil and Stamen' an unassuming pub on Tottenham Court Road in North London. Gathered around the oak table, drawing on their pipes and supping on flagons of beer were many of the plant exproers and nurserymen who are household names today: Robert Fortune, Sir Joseph Hooker, Sir Edmund Loder and the Waterer clan, John, Michael, Anthony and Gomer. On this particular night, December 9, 1870, a heated discussion was under way which seemed to revolve around the fact that Gomer was cheesed off because his Dad wouldn't name a rhodo after him. Sir Edmund was taking his side because he felt any rhodo with a name like that would be unforgettable and would surely last until the 21st century.

Sitting slightly apart and observing the exchange of botanical jargon with sardonic amusement was an Oxford don, Charles Dodgson. Charles was more of a writer than a rhododendron enthusiast but he was a good friend of Sir Edmund Loder and spent time at Leonardslee photographing rhododendrons. As the argument grew more and more obscure Charles began to develop an idea for a poem which blended science, botany, poetry and nonsense, the many obsessions of the Victorian leisure class.

The poem that was written that evening, *The Rhodoholic* is not well known so we have printed it opposite. Unfortunately the origins of the poem were so arcane that, unlike 'Gomer Waterer' it never caught on. Never one to give up on an idea, Charles rewrote it under his pseudonym Lewis Carroll and included it in a children's book *Alice Through the Looking Glass*. The revised version is known as the *Jabberwock* and the first verse is:

*'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves  
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe;  
All mimsy were the borogroves,  
And the mome raths outgrabe*

Lewis Carroll, 1872

### The Rhodoholic

*'Twas ventricose and the dendroid scales  
Were zygomorphic in the clone  
All villous were the polyploids  
And the colyledons were out sown.*

*Beware the rhodoholic my son  
The viscid lobe, the pubescent gene  
With scurfy hairs, fasciculate gland  
And scabrid anthers green.*

*And hast though indulged the rhodoholic?  
Come to my arms my coriaceous boy!  
O glabrous fate! Stellate! Punctate!  
He was floccose in his joy.*

Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, 1870

(Rootstalk, April 1995)

## *From the Garden*

A Christmas gift received from a friend just waiting for the breeze to pick up, Witch Hazel, *R. ririei* which has been blooming since December, and varied promises of blooms to come in the Spring.









# Rhododendrons of Sikkim-Himalaya

Rhododendrons of Sikkim-Himalaya based on the explorations by Joseph Dalton Hooker and his findings published in 1849.

10.

## RHODODENDRON ARGENTEUM, Hook. & G.

Silvery Rhododendron.

TAB. IX.

Arborescens, foliis angulis subcoriaceis obovato-oblongis sessis in petiolum crassum attenuatis planis utrinque glaberrimis subtus argenteis costa nervisque prominentibus, bracteis deciduis dense sericeis, pedunculis brevibus crassis puberulis, calyce brevissimo obscure lobato, corolla (inter maximam) alba late campanulata, limbo segmentis brevissimis bilobis, staminibus 10, filamentis glabris, ovario pubescente loculis subobovato, stylo flexuoso crasso, stigmate dilatato.

HAB. Sikkim-Himalaya; summit of Sinchul, Samsah, and Touglo, elev. 5,000-10,000 feet. Fl. April.

A tree thirty feet high: *Arbores* solitary, or two or three together, spreading, branched above, the *Arbores* pale, the *Arbores* leafy at the apex. *Leaves* very beautiful in the leaf-buds, erect and silky, at first enveloped in large scales, so closely imbricated and so large, as to resemble the cones of some species of pine, the outer or lower scales broad and coriaceous, glabrous, coloured (reddish-brown), the innermost ones oblong-spatulate, pubescent. When fully developed the *Leaves* are among the largest of the genus, six inches to a foot long, three to five inches broad, coriaceous, nearly plane, glabrous, full green above with parallel rather closely placed nerves, beneath silvery white, with the costa and nerves prominent. *Petioles* short. *Bracteis* deciduous, densely silky. *Flowers* two to three inches long, two to two and a half inches in diameter, always white.

In the silvery underside of the foliage, but in nothing else, this resembles *R. orborens*; while in the much divided limb of the corolla, the ten-celled ovary, the stout flexuose style and large stigma, it approaches *R. Falcoveri*, but only in those particulars. The blossoms are only second in size to *R. Dalhousie*. On Sinchul, the higher parts of the mountain, at from 5,000 to 9,000 feet of elevation, are more or less clothed with it: on Touglo, as it approaches 10,000, it is suddenly replaced by the following species, *R. Falcoveri*. It seems to be shy of flowering, this season at least (1848); for it was with difficulty I could procure sufficient specimens to complete my drawing.

TAB. IX. *Rhododendron argenteum*. Fig. 1. Summit. 2. Pistil. 3. Section of ovary.—unpublished.



1853 14. Tab. IX.

Levy, Deless & Sauer, imp.

RHODODENDRON ARBOREUM, Hook. & G.

## **Beverly Anne Clay**

*APRIL 25, 1938 – DECEMBER 14, 2018*



Beverly Anne Clay was born on April 25, 1938 in Vancouver, BC, at Vancouver General Hospital. She married the love of her life Leslie Kenneth Conrad Clay on May 16, 1959 and now, just shy of their 60th wedding anniversary, Beverly passed away on December 14, 2018 holding the hand of her loving husband. They moved to Langley in the spring of 1964 where they owned and operated Clay's Nurseries until 2001 on the 40-acre property in South Langley. Bev had the opportunity to travel a fair bit with Les but loved nothing more than to be at home in the dirt with her plants and with her family where she spent many happy years.

Bev was a wise, strong, adventurous, determined, caring, loving, selfless, affectionate, and playful woman. She will always be remembered for her playful personality and the little smiles and smirks she would give her family with joy in her eyes. She was honest and open-hearted, and loved her family with all her heart.

Even though Bev had rheumatoid arthritis, this did not stop her, with gardening keeping her feeling young. Bev was an avid baker. She was always sharing and showing her love through pies, brownies, cakes, puddings, trifles, cheesecakes, buns, and bread. As such, she was also a skilled baking teacher – always willing to spend an afternoon with her children and grandchildren to impart her baking wisdom. A dash of this, a dab of that, and a splash of this.

If that wasn't enough, she was constantly knitting for her family and her church – she was a knitting machine – and spent many hours volunteering for the United Churches of Langley gardening, making prayer shawls, and would bake muffins for the homeless breakfast program run out of Langley United (200th Street).

Bev will always be remembered in the hearts of her family – her loving husband Les Clay; her children and their spouses Barb and Jamie Nelson, Butch and Lee-Ann Clay, Geoff Clay and Peggy Richardson; her grandchildren and their spouses Robert Nelson, David and Robyn Garland, Jessica Nelson and Mike Irvine, Sarah and Noel Lim, Jennifer, Brian, Steven and Emily Clay, and Elizabeth Clay; her sister and brother-in-law Valma and Gordon Dennis, her nieces, nephews and their spouses and children Alison Dennis, Holly and Randy Semrau, Chris & Michelle, Emily and Daniel Dennis.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday January 12, 2019 at 2:00pm at the United Churches of Langley (21562 Old Yale Road). In lieu of flowers, Bev's family asks that donations be made to the Derek Doubleday Arboretum (cheques to be made payable to the Rotary Club of Langley, Box 315, 20465 Douglas Cres, Langley, BC V3A 4B6) or to the United Churches of Langley (21562 Old Yale Road, Langley, BC V3A 4M8).