

RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

A Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society

P.O. Box 3040 Langley, B.C. V3A 4R3

NEWSLETTER

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17TH, 1991 AT 8:00 P.M.

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GUEST SPEAKER: ARTHUR DOME, DIRECTOR OF THE RHODODENDRON SPECIES FOUNDATION, WHO WILL SHARE HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE SPECIES AND THEIR PROGENY.

WE WILL HAVE A 10 MINUTE DEMONSTRATION ON PREPARING TRUSSES FOR SHOW BY ONE OF OUR EXPERTS IN THE FIELD, SO AS TO HELP THOSE MEMBERS WHO WILL BE SUPPLYING TRUSSES FOR THE WILLOWBROOK DISPLAY.

MAY 15TH: MR. FRANK MOSSMAN, Hybridizer of the beautiful red Taurus hybrid will be with us. Mr. Mossman will also be talking on Oregon's own azalea, Occidentale, a fragrant pink/white azalea.

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APRIL 21ST - SUNDAY: Our visit to Victoria Gardens - If anyone is still looking for transportation, the meeting will be your last chance to get fixed up. For those who have been unable to send Harold their cheque, it should be looked after at the meeting at the latest (\$17.00 per person). We are also hoping to be able to visit a nursery that day so we may be able to pick up a plant or two.

MAY 4TH - SATURDAY: Truss Display and Sale day by our Chapter at Willowbrook. Diane Scott has this well in hand. Diane and her co-workers will be arriving to set up at Willowbrook at 7.a.m. and would ask that those with trusses for show purposes, please bring them by 8.00 a.m., and have name tags on the trusses - there will be bottles available, but should you have suitable bottles to display, kindly bring them along. All those scheduled to help with the sales end of this venture should be at Willowbrook prior to 9.00 a.m.

MAY 11TH - SATURDAY: This is the Surrey Garden Club sale day and we are taking part in this by selling some plants. The sale goes from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. and takes place at ST. MARK'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, 12953 20TH AVENUE, SURREY. See Pat Glennie for further information. MAY 12th - Take in VRS Show at Van Dusen.

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MEETING: ST. ANDREWS ANGLICAN HALL, 20955 OLD YALE RD., LANGLEY

MARCH MEETING: All enjoyed Jack Lofthouse's presentation and the plants and seeds he brought along were in good demand. We suspect that some of our members will be trying their hand at hybridizing after all the information received at the last two meetings.

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome to Mr. John Anderson of Box 3182, Mission, V2V 4J4 - 820-0821, and to Tim & Linda Wilson, 24360 26th Avenue, Langley, V3A 7B9 - 530-0401

CONGRATULATIONS: goes to Ann Trembath on the birth of a baby girl.

"NOT SO WELL LIST": Gerry Emerson - who we hope, along with Lillian, may have had a trip to New Zealand to see their son and grandchildren, and be back home in time for our April meeting. Gerry has also come forth with his interpretation of Spring, which appears on page 4 hereof.

Diane Scott's husband is now home, but has some way to go yet, and will be keeping Diane very very busy for a while yet.

EXECUTIVE FOR 1991

President - Les Clay (530-5188)  
 Vice-President- Dr. Mike Trembath (856-7261)  
 Treasurer: - Mrs. Lillian Emerson (888-2952)  
 Secretary: - Sue Finley (888-0920)  
 Directors: - Chris Ballyn (3 years),  
 Harold Johnson (2 years),  
 Pat Glennie (1 year) (538-2844)

COMMITTEES

Programs: Harold Johnson - 581-5253  
 Les Clay - 530-5188  
 Membership: Chris Ballyn - 888-2914  
 Publicity: Diane Scott - 533-4378  
 Library: Pat Dahl - 534-5200  
 Hospitality: Mrs. Phil Anderson - 856-8139  
 Bulletin: Ella Crabb - 534-4884

Please phone them with any program you might want, any suggestions as to any of the above should be passed on to the person in charge. Articles for the Bulletin appreciated, or at least they would be!!

PRESIDENTS' MEETING: Les Clay reported at the Executive meeting on a recent meeting of the seven Presidents of Chapters of District 1 - which appears a good way of exchanging ideas for meetings, and it is hoped it will become at least an annual event - the four Chapters on the Island, the Fraser Valley Chapter meeting in Maple Ridge, plus the Vancouver Chapter, all invite our members to their meetings, and one can also become an associate member of any of these chapters for a small sum. Copies of all Newsletters from these Chapters are kept in the Library for your information.

TRAVEL: The Emersons will be off to New Zealand armed with information on the New Zealand Chapters so that they may get information on Nurseries to visit and plants to bring back, and this brings to mind the fact that this applies to travel in Britain, Germany, Holland, etc., and more specifically the U.S.A. Information as to Chapters abroad are usually in the Quarterly Journal. To bring plants back you are required to have an Import Permit available from Agriculture Canada.

FERTILIZER: The Rhododendron fertilizer developed by Green Valley in conjunction with the V.R.S. will be available again this year at the same cost as last year, being \$7.50 per 10 kg bag. The surveys taken last year show good results with this fertilizer. There will be a list handed round at the February meeting for orders, and we assume that it can once again be picked up at Clay's Nurseries.

INSURANCE: Our Chapter has now taken out liability insurance to cover possible accidents, etc. at a very low cost.

LIBRARY: Pat has acquired some new books for the Library as follows:

Cuttings made Clear by Beatrice Hiave  
 Propagation - Collins Garden Handbook  
 Kalmia II - by Richard Haynes  
 Guide to Choosing Rhododendrons by Cox

F.V.R.S.: The Fraser Valley Chapter has issued an invitation to any of our members and friends to attend their meetings - they meet the fourth Monday of every month at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 22279 116th Avenue, Maple Ridge. Call Jim Connor at 467-1416 for further information. Also the Chapters on the Island also welcome members to their meetings.

NAME TAGS: We will be having proper name tags for our meetings very soon, which will be available at every meeting. Also Sandy and Janette Paul have made up some name tags with rhodo wood, and will have some for display at our February meeting. We will be taking orders for these at a cost of \$3.00 per name tag - all receipts for the benefit of the Club.

WINTER DAMAGE: It might be a good idea for us at this time to have a look around to evaluate our plants and make a list of the hardy and not so hardy - I would think that anything that can survive the winds, snow, ice, silver thaw etc. that we have had in the last 6 weeks or so, must be pretty hardy. It probably will be some time before the full effects are seen, as some plants look quite good, but the buds may have been killed. In our own garden we appear to have lost Cornish Cross, Marlene Peste, Coral Skies, Mohamet, Royal Flush and probably Lady Roseberry; others looking pretty bad are Tropicana, David, Virgo, C.I.S., Macabeanum, El Camino, Gertrude Schale, Loder's White, Sir Charles Lemon, Alice, Grumpy, Polar Bear, Travis L. and too many to list. In spite of that, it is amazing how good most of them look, but whether they will flower or not remains to be seen. Astonishingly, we have a Hamamelis Mollis blooming its head off out there, along with a late blooming Xmas Rose, and the bulbs are pushing through too, so all is not lost.

Rhododendron Powdery Mildew: The Mount Arrowsmith Chapter had the following interesting article in a recent Newsletter:

## RHODODENDRON POWDERY MILDEW

The first case of severe powdery mildew of rhododendrons in the UK was seen in 1980. Since that date, further outbreaks have been confirmed in the gardens and nurseries in southern and eastern England. The disease has been found on *R. ponticum* and related hybrids and some species. Rhododendron powdery mildew has been reported in Australia, India and the USA. Symptoms are usually most obvious from June onwards. Look for faint yellow blotches on the upper surfaces of the leaves. As the leaves age, these blotches may develop a purple margin or purple spots will appear on the under side of the leaf opposite the yellow blotches. Some of the more resistant types will merely develop reddish spots on the top of the leaves. Occasionally, in very shaded situations, a white powdery fungal growth develops on the upper surfaces. Severe infections can lead to a premature shedding of leaves and in the worst attacks almost complete defoliation of the affected shrubs.

Powdery mildews probably over-winters on infected plants in sheltered locations. As temperatures rise during spring and early summer, spores are produced on the surfaces of infected leaves. These are dislodged and spread long distances by the wind. The spores germinate if they alight on rhododendron leaves when humidity is high.

Most rapid development of the disease occurs when mild humid weather coincides with a flush of growth during June and early July.

How can you avoid problems from mildew? First do not buy infected stock. Examine plants for signs of mildew and purchase only those which show no symptoms of the disease. If you already have diseased plants in your garden the following measures should be considered:

- (a) If only a few plants are affected, remove and destroy them.
- (b) If many plants are affected, try cutting the plants back before bud burst; this should substantially reduce carry-over of infection on leaves and in buds and increase the prospects of effective fungicide treatment.
- (c) Application of routine fungicide sprays during the growing season will help if timed in relation to the rate of plant growth and weather conditions (at 7 to 10 days intervals when growth is rapid and/or weather is warm and 14 to 21 days when weather is cool and growth is slower).

None of the fungicides currently marketed have a specific recommendation for the control of rhododendron powdery mildews. However, certain products based on dinocap and benomyl have given good results on powdery mildew of azaleas. Because of a wide range of cultivars grown, test fungicide on a few plants to determine crop safety before application on a wider scale.

The above is an excerpt from the Royal Horticultural Society.

LIBRARY: Pat has acquired four excellent books for the Library as follows:

RHODO SPECIES NAME BOOK

An excellent Book on Hostas  
Another called "Creative Propagation" and  
Alpine Rhododendrons & Garden Plants

For those who may have books out at the moment, could they be returned at least at the May meeting as, apart from our June Picnic, the next meeting will be September.

RAFFLE: THANKS TO THOSE WHO DONATED IN MARCH - THE RAFFLE TABLE LOOKED RESPECTABLE - SO CAN WE TRY AGAIN FOR APRIL - ANYTHING FROM CUTTINGS, TUBERS, BAKED GOODS OR WHAT HAVE YOU - CHRIS' GREAT SELLING EFFORTS GO A LONG WAY TO COVERING OUR MONTHLY EXPENSES, BUT WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A FEW MORE WINNERS EACH MONTH.

KITCHEN: Thanks to all who have brought along the "goodies" these past few months - I think there are still openings for May!

NAME TAGS: Unless you are wearing the Rhodo Wood Name Tags, please remember to pick up your name tag at the "kitchen door" and return it when leaving. This way we can get to know each other at least by name.

OPEN GARDENS: Anyone out there willing to open their Garden to Members? To get it into the Newsletter, it would have to be from May 12th on. The Crabbs welcome anyone to visit - between April 25th and May 16th - afternoon or evening - just call us at 534-4884 for directions.

CLUB Paula Cash, Membership Chairman of the A.R.S. has sent a 5 page memo, generally on attracting members, and a very interesting interpretation of the different age groups participating in Clubs, which will be available for your reading from the Library - really it is very entertaining, and from it, as far as our Chapter is concerned, the Board of Directors have often remarked on how gratifying it is to see some of the younger ones joining - personally I realized this recently when I passed over a lovely Macabeanum to Brett Rodgers - knowing that one day he would fully appreciate this plant when it bloomed, whereas I might be so over the hill to have lost interest completely. Most of the Sixty-on age group are heard to say they wished they had been involved in Rhododendron growing (or any other plant for that matter) when they were younger. Now that does not mean that you can do without the other age groups - they all have a part to play in any Club. Just read the article, especially page 5.

EXECUTIVE MTG. TUES. April, 23rd at 7.30 p.m. at the Dahls' home,  
2054 216th Street, Langley.

GERRY'S INTERPRETATION OF SPRING

SPRING IS A HAPPENING OF IMMENSE PROPORTION WITH AN ELONGATED TIME FRAME STRETCHING FROM WINTER TO SUMMER. IT IS THE INTERNAL TIME CLOCK THAT CHANGES A SLEEPING BEAR TO A ROARING GIANT.

SPRING IS A HAPPY TIME WITH THE COLD PAST AND THE WARM YET TO COME. IT IS A NEW CLEAN FLOCK OF BIRDS TO REPLACE THE RAVAGED WINTER CROWD. IT IS THEIR HAPPY CHIRPING THAT SIGNALS THE PLENTIFUL SUPPLY OF PREVIOUSLY SCARCE FOOD. IT IS THE RIVULETS OF WATER CREATED BY THE FRESHLY MELTING SNOW.

SPRING ON OUR TIME CLOCK OF EVENTS COMMENCES WITH THE FIRST CROCUS, THE NEW LAMB AND THE FLUFFY PUSSY WILLOWS WAVING IN THE FRESH SPRING BREEZE. IT IS THE ENERGY YOU HAVE SOMEHOW ACCUMULATED OVER THE WINTER THAT FILLS YOU TO BURSTING BY SPRING. IT IS A SUBTLE EVENT WITH NOT MORE THAN A FLASH OF AN EYEBROW TO TELL A DORMANT DORMOUSE SOMETHING STRANGE IS IN THE AIR, OR THE GROAN OF A HIBERNATING BEAR THAT LIFE IS ASTIR IN HER BELLY.

SPRING IS WALKING THROUGH THE SOFT WET GRASS AND LISTENING TO THE SWISHING SOUND OF YOUR GUM BOOTS. IT IS THE SWISH OF THE LONG WHITE DRESS GOING DOWN THE AISLE WITH THE NEAT BLACK TUXEDO.

SPRING IS THE TIME FOR THE BIRDS TO CHANGE TO THEIR SUMMER PLUMAGE. IT IS THE TIME FOR THE WORKER BEES TO FIND FOOD RATHER THAN KEEP THE QUEEN WARM. IT IS THE SILENCE OF A ROBIN LISTENING FOR WORMS AND THE RHODODENDRON PUTTING FORTH NEW BUDS. IT IS THE BURST OF POWER IN A BUD THAT SIGNALS THE HOUR FOR EXPANSION; THE SOUL OF THE SLEEPING PLANT THAT GERMINATES THE SEED IN THE SPRING. SPRING IS THE SPARK PLUG FOR THE FUEL OF LIFE.

SPRING IS THE DAY BY DAY INCREASE IN THE DAILY SUNLIGHT. IT IS THE INTERNAL TIME CLOCK THAT CHANGES OUR OUTLOOK FROM A GLOOMY PAST TO A ROSY FUTURE.

SPRING IS ALL THESE PHENOMENA ROLLED INTO ONE BREATHTAKING SERIES OF EVENTS AND WHEN THIS POWER IS FINALLY SPENT, SPRING IS SURELY AT AN END.