

RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

A Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society
P.O. Box 3040 Langley, B.C. V3A 4R3

NEWSLETTER

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15TH, 1991 AT 8:00 P.M.

GUEST SPEAKER: DR. FRANK MOSSMAN, WILL BE WITH US FROM WASHINGTON. DR. MOSSMAN WILL BE SPEAKING TO US ON OCCIDENTALE AZALEAS, OREGON'S NATIVE AZALEAS. DR. MOSSMAN IS A WELL KNOWN HYBRIDIZER, HAVING HYBRIDIZED THE WELL KNOWN RED TAURUS AMONGST OTHERS. SO MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW AS THIS IS ANOTHER "NOT TO BE MISSED" SPEAKER.

PLANT SALE WILL FOLLOW MEETING. LAST CHANCE TO ACQUIRE SOME PLANTS AS OUR NEXT MEETING IN THE HALL WILL BE SEPTEMBER.

JUNE 19TH: PICNIC - WILLIAMS PARK, AT 6.30 P.M. - THIS ONCE AGAIN WILL BE A POT-LUCK TYPE OF BUFFET AND DIANE SCOTT IS TO PUT THIS ALL TOGETHER - WILLIAMS PARK IS OFF 70A AVENUE WHICH IS AT THE END OF 232ND BEFORE REACHING NO. 10 HIGHWAY. BEING ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS, WE WILL BE BRINGING OUR OWN PLATES AND CUTLERY.

SUNDAY, MAY 19TH: UBC BOTANICAL GARDEN ARE HOLDING THEIR FIRST ANNUAL PERENNIAL PLANT SALE AT UBC GARDEN'S ADMINISTRATION BLDG. 10.00 A.M. TO 4.00 P.M.

MAY 25/26: THE CANADIAN GERANIUM & PELARGONIUM SOCIETY HAVE THEIR ANNUAL SPRING SHOW & SALE AT VAN DUSEN GARDENS, 10.00 A.M. TO 5.00 P.M. BOTH DAYS.

MAY 25/26: KEN GIBSON OF TOFINO ADVISES OF SPECIAL EVENTS AT UCLUELET AND TOFINO FOR THIS WEEKEND. BILL DALE WILL BE PRESENTING THE GEORGE FRASER PIONEER TROPHY TO THE PEOPLE OF UCLUELET AT 2.00 P.M. AT THE NEW MEMORIAL GARDEN, UCLUELET - A PLANT SALE WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE ATHLETIC HALL AT 11.00 A.M. FOLLOWING THE CEREMONIES KEN & DOT GIBSON OF TOFINO WILL HAVE AN OPEN GARDEN. SOME ACCOMMODATION HAS BEEN RESERVED FOR RHODO MEMBERS AT THE PACIFIC SANDS BEACH RESORT NEAR TOFINO FOR THE NIGHTS OF MAY 24/25 AT A SLIGHTLY REDUCED RATE, BUT RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE MADE ASAP. FUNDS FROM THE ABOVE PLANT SALE ARE TO GO TOWARDS ESTABLISHING THE MEMORIAL GARDEN FOR GEORGE FRASER.

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



APRIL MEETING: We had a great attendance for our lecture By Art Dome on the species and their progeny which provided most of us hobby gardeners with more insight into the rhododendron world.

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome to GLADYS and WILLIAM BAYER, 23859 14A Avenue, Langley, V3A 6H5 - 530-5298, and to ELIZABETH and RAOUL TIELENS of 23777 Rawlison Crescent, Langley, V3A 4R5 - 888-0671

"NOT SO WELL LIST": Gerry Emerson has come back from New Zealand clutching some special plants which we hope to see bloom some day. Diane Scott's husband is now at home but needs a lot of help from Diane.

EXECUTIVE FOR 1991

President - Les Clay (530-5188)
 Vice-President- Dr. Mike Trembath (856-7261)
 Treasurer: - R. Mann (Interim) - 576-8889
 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

The above welcome your questions, suggestions as to future events, articles for the Newsletter, etc.

WE REGRET TO REPORT THAT THE EXECUTIVE RELUCTANTLY ACCEPTED OUR TREASURER'S RESIGNATION. WE OWE LILLIAN A BIG THANK YOU FOR HER TREASURER'S POST WELL DONE. MR. BOB MANN HAS KINDLY AGREED TO FILL THE GAP UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR.

LIBRARY: PAT ADVISES THAT THE LIBRARY NOW HAS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE GREER'S GUIDEBOOK TO AVAILABLE RHODODENDRONS - THERE ARE ONLY 6 COPIES OF THIS AVAILABLE SO FIRST COME FIRST SERVED!. THE LIBRARY NOW HAS THE FOLLOWING NEW MATERIAL AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS:

1. VOLUMES 2 AND 3 OF THE DAVIDIAN BOOK ON RHODODENDRON SPECIES.
2. VERTREES BOOK ON JAPANESE MAPLES.
3. ENCYCLOPEDIA OF RHODODENDRON HYBRIDS BY COX.

YOU CAN MAKE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH PAT TO HAVE THE LIBRARY BOOKS KEPT OVER THE SUMMER PERIOD, BUT THIS WILL HAVE TO BE DONE AT OUR MAY MEETING, AS NEXT MEETING WILL BE SEPTEMBER.

NAME TAGS: FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT ALREADY ORDERED THEIR RHODO WOOD NAME TAGS FROM SANDY & JANETTE PAUL, YOU CAN STILL DO SO, AND WE ENCOURAGE THIS AS ALL PROCEEDS (\$3.00 PER NAME) ARE DONATED TO OUR CLUB. WE AGAIN ASK THAT UNLESS YOU ARE WEARING A RHODO WOOD TAG, YOU PICK UP THE NAME TAG AT THE DOOR, AND ALSO SIGN THE ATTENDANCE RECORD BOOK - WE ARE TRYING TO ORGANIZE THIS WITH A TABLE AND AT LEAST TWO MEMBERS ATTENDING TO MEMBERS' QUESTIONS, ETC.

RAFFLE TABLE: THANKS TO ALL WHO DONATED LAST MONTH - THIS MAKES IT ALL WORTH WHILE, SO ONE MORE TIME BEFORE THE SUMMER BREAK PLEASE.

KITCHEN: THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE BROUGHT ALONG THE "GOODIES" THESE PAST FEW MONTHS - WE WILL ONCE AGAIN HAVE A SIGN-UP SHEET FOR SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER AT THE MAY MEETING. YOU MAY NOTICE A NEW 100 CUP COFFEE PERCOLATOR IN THE KITCHEN WHICH HAS BEEN PURCHASED FOR THE CLUB'S USE.

T-SHIRTS: THERE IS A SURREY COMPANY ADVERTISING AMONGST THE CLUBS - T-SHIRTS, SWEATSHIRTS, ETC. WITH ANY EMBLEM ON THEM. IF WE HAD ENOUGH INTEREST IN THIS, WE COULD HAVE SOME ORDERED - SEE "HOSTESS" AT TABLE AT DOOR ON THIS.

PNE EXHIBITION: WE ARE AGAIN JOINING THE LILY SOCIETY IN A DISPLAY AT THE PNE - DIANE SCOTT WILL BE CHAIRMAN WITH LES CLAY AND HAROLD JOHNSON AS OUR REPRESENTATIVES.

CONVENTION REPORT

BOTH LES CLAY AND HAROLD JOHNSON ATTENDED THE NATIONAL CONVENTION IN OAKLAND, IN THEIR RESPECTIVE CAPACITIES OF ALTERNATE DISTRICT DIRECTOR AND CHAIRMAN, SPECIAL PROGRAMS. THEY REPORT THAT THE TOTAL ARS MEMBERSHIP STANDS AT 420 FOR DISTRICT 1. THEY ALSO WERE ABLE TO CLEAR UP THE DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT OF DUES; THERE WILL NO LONGER BE A LATE CHARGE FOR PAYMENT, BUT IF ONE DOESN'T PAY THEIR DUES BY DECEMBER OF EACH YEAR, THEY WILL MISS OUT ON THE WINTER JOURNAL FROM THE ARS. THERE ALSO APPEARS TO BE ANOTHER CLASS OF MEMBERSHIP. A COUPLE CAN JOIN FOR THE \$30.00 FEE, BUT ARE ONLY ENTITLED TO ONE VOTE, WHEREAS A COUPLE CAN HAVE A FAMILY MEMBERSHIP FOR AN EXTRA \$5.00 ENTITLING THEM TO TWO VOTES. THERE ARE 7000 BACK ISSUES OF THE ARS JOURNAL AVAILABLE. SUE IS ORDERING SOME OF THESE FOR OUR USE. THEY ALSO REPORT THAT THE RHODODENDRON SOCIETY OF CANADA HAS VOTED 80% IN FAVOUR OF AFFILIATION WITH THE ARS - THE CANADIAN SOCIETY IS MOSTLY IN THE ATLANTIC, NIAGARA AND TORONTO REGIONS. THE BOARD ALSO VOTED IN FAVOUR OF THE VICTORIA CHAPTER'S REQUEST TO HOST THE 2005 NATIONAL CONVENTION.

EXECUTIVE MTG. TUES. MAY 21ST AT 7.30 P.M. AT THE GLENNIE RESIDENCE, 13563 WOODCREST, SURREY - 538-2844.

IN PRAISE OF OLDER RHODIES
(by Mike Trembath, V/P)

MY FRAME OF MIND TODAY (APRIL 21) IS MUCH HAPPIER THAN IT WAS TWO WEEKS AGO... THERE ARE BLOOMS BLOOMING, THE SUN IS SHINING, AND MY FINGER NAILS ARE SUITABLY DIRTY. A FEW WEEKS AGO, EVERY WALK AROUND THE GARDEN PRODUCED MOANS AND WHIMPERS OF DISTRESS AS I SAW YET ANOTHER PLANT, PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT TO HAVE SAFELY WINTERED, SHOWING MAJOR DAMAGE. SOME WERE EXPECTED - LODER'S WHITE NEVER NEEDS MUCH REASON TO UNDRESS - BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT CAMPYLOGYNUM TO LOOK HALF DEAD, OR MOUPINENSE TO NOW APPEAR MORIBUND. NOT SURPRISINGLY FIREMAN JEFF HAS SHED NOT ONLY HIS PROTECTIVE GEAR OF HELMET AND OILSKINS BUT CLEAR DOWN TO HIS UNDIEN, AND I FEAR WILL NEVER RECOVER. FABIA I THOUGHT HAD SURVIVED WITH ONLY SOME LEAF DISCOLOURATION, BUT IS NOW STRIPPING HERSELF. I HAVE (HAD?) A DELIGHTFUL LITTLE SOULEI CROSS THAT CAME FROM FRANCISCA DARTS, LOVED BY ME FOR ITS CLEAN UNCLUTTERED WHITE BELLS - ITS FOLIAGE ALWAYS SUFFERED A BIT IN THE WINTER - BUT THIS YEAR THE LOVELY LITTLE FLOWERS ARE PERCHED ON THE END OF SERE, BARE BRANCHES - A SAD SIGHT THO' A BIT RIDICULOUS.

OUT OF THE MIDST OF A HAPPY GREEN CUNNINGHAM'S WHITE THERE IS THE SKELETON OF HECLA NOTHING LEFT NOW BUT BARE BRANCHES THOUGH AT FIRST THE CONTRAST OF FLAT BRIGHT RUST-COLOURED LEAVES WITH THE LUSH GREEN OF THE CUNNINGHAM'S WHITE WAS MOST INTERESTING (BY THE TIME I GOT AROUND TO TRYING A PHOTO - HECLA'S LEAVES HAD DROPPED). ON THE OTHER SIDE OF C.W. IS A RAINBOW - SURPRISINGLY HEALTHY. AS IS APPARENT I HAVE USED C.W. AS PROTECTION FOR LESS ROBUST PLANTS.

SO LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE OLD STANDBYS - THEY WILL BE THE MAINSTAY OF MY BLOOM THIS YEAR. THE EARL OF ATHLONE AND HIS COUNTESS, THE VARIOUS LADIES - CLEMENTINE MITTFORD, ANNETTE DE TRAFFORD, EVEN LADY BESSBOROUGH (THO' SHE SHOWS AN UNLADYLIKE SUNBURN ON ONE SIDE). THE MRS.'S - A.T. DE LA MARE AND HER CLEAN FOLIAGE, G.W. LEAK AND HER SPOTTY LEAVES, JOHN CLUTTON AND TOM LOWINSKY, AND EVEN CHARLES PEARSON; THE GOLDSWORTH'S - PINK ALREADY OPENING CANDELABRAS, YELLOW SWELLING SUITABLY, AND EVEN ORANGE THO' ITS DICHROANTHUM BLOOD SHOWS IN DARKENED FOLIAGE. THE NAOMIS, BLESS THEM, LOOK AS CLEAN AS EVER, AND ONE MUSTN'T FORGET BLUE PETER, VULCAN, BEAUTY OF LITTLEWORTH AND EVEN THE LODERI'S, AND THO' IT HURTS TO ADMIT IT, COSMOPOLITAN AND NOVA ZEMBLA (I GUESS I'M GLAD TO HAVE THEM AFTER ALL!).



Thanks, Mike - Page 4 is kept for just this type of article.

APRIL 21st - OUR TRIP TO THE VICTORIA GARDENS

We know that this will go down as a terrific success; thanks due to the weatherman, and to Harold Johnson for all the work in arranging same; and also to Bill Dale for guiding us through the gardens, and last but not least to our hosts. Charlotte Chase has come forward with her version of the whole day, which follows!

Here you have them my first impressions of my first rhododendron tour. Well the initial impression leaves much to be desired; after all, who in their right mind would want to wake up on a day of the week when all but a rhododendron nut would be safely tucked in between the covers. You guessed it, NO ONE! Not even me. Not even the birds and we all know they are very early risers. However after much scrambling around, pushing of the panic button etc. we arrived at the ferry terminal with only seconds to spare and in very good company. Most of you were in doubt as to whether you would make it.

We arrived. No comment on the trip. It is just a hazy blur. We hopped on, made that struggled to board the bus, which was to take us to the first garden. The trip I believe was well planned and as I seem to recollect the driver had an interesting commentary as he chattered us to the first stop.

Our arrival was more or less uneventful. On our arrival our hosts gave us a map as well as a history of the garden. We all wandered down the lane; some with enthusiasm, some with anticipation, and me with just the desire to wake up. Then the most wonderful thing happened!!! I was instantly taken with the beauty of this wooded wonderland. Then I read the history and then I was truly impressed. There was not one sick rhodo that I could see. There weren't many rhodos which were under three feet tall. Every rhodo looked as if it might have been there from seed. They all appeared to be such a natural part of the landscape. I don't exactly know in fact I don't know at all, a species from a hybrid but I found one or two which I recognized and some I would like to add to Larry's collection. (If it's Larry's collection then I am not likely to be accused of spending any unnecessary money.) Then after ages of wandering around in stunned disbelief, time which didn't seem nearly long enough, we ended up at the home of Nick and Evelyn Weesjes all nestled in a sunny spot. Would you believe it Home Made Cookies, tea and coffee for ALL of us. All too soon it was time to board the bus again and this time I was ready for it.

I didn't want to but we had to, we stopped for lunch.

Next stop after lunch is my personal favorite. The home of Herman Vaartnou. Why was it my favorite? Because it gives some hope to the Charlottes of the world, the ones who live on a 120 X 60 foot city lot. Now his is bigger than that but it really demonstrates the effective use of space. Not one square inch was wasted. He has all sorts of neat stuff (Rhododendrons) tucked here and there. Big ones, small ones, tall ones, short ones, old ones, new ones, and ones I think Larry should own. (Don't blame me for spending unnecessary money.) This house was the unwitting sponsor of an impromptu spending frenzy. Better known as a plant sale, for which we are all grateful. Larry was bad. He spent!

Next stop was the most graceful landscape I personally have ever seen tucked into one and a half acres of land. This property was

formerly owned by Princess Abkhazi and is now the proud possession of Chris and Pam Ball. A miniature Buchard Garden in some respects. There is not one square inch of untended or uninteresting landscape. There is a sidewalk dated 1946 and I understand the garden was begun even earlier. The whole of this wonderland was topped by a charming little house which has an enormous and once again, gracefully curved patio on whose steps we were able to rest, our by that time, very weary feet. Such a pleasure to sit there and look down over rhodos in bloom, heather so tidy you might even consider being able to produce the same effect yourself, a pond which will soon be sporting water lily's and, I understand, ducks.

Back on that bus! The driver; (I know by now because I am awake.) is a very nice man who gave us cheerful commentary on things of interest as we journey to ANOTHER PLANT SALE! Life is really to short for this. Really, that Larry spent more unnecessary money. He just about got out free but then, he noticed Chris with a "treasure" tucked under his arm and upon inquiring found there were two, count em, two, left WITHOUT OWNERS. He and his friend Bob sprinted across the street from the coffee shop and adopted those two poor little orphans. It was an act of kindness; what is a wife to do? I turned a blind eye.

Last but under no circumstances, least. The home of our host, Bill Dale. This garden has an awe inspiring view not only out over the water but down over the experimental gardens. Now it is my considered opinion that they should just take a wander up the hill to Bill's garden and see how it's done! While we were relaxing our feet, and feasting our eyes, two of the cutest little Quail came calmly wandering along the path to view the beauties which Bill had provided for our enjoyment. Pure pleasure.

My personal thanks to Harold Johnson who planned this outing and to Bill Dale our gracious Victoria host. If it were not that Larry has nearly depleted the family bank account with HIS hobby I would be even more appreciative. THANK'S GENTLEMEN.