

RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

A Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society

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

NEWSLETTER

WED. March 18th, 1992 at 8:00 P.M.

CLINT SMITH WILL BE WITH US ONCE MORE WITH A NEW PROGRAM FOR ALL TO ENJOY, PLUS HE WILL BE BRINGING SOME OF HIS CHOICE PLANTS FOR THE PLANT SALE TO FOLLOW. USUAL RAFFLE.

MARCH 22: Sunday - VRS Plant Sale at Clay's Nursery - 1.00-4.00 p.m. All those who have ordered Fertilizer will be able to pick same up at this time - \$8.00 per bag including tax. Anyone who may not have already ordered fertilizer, may do so by calling Harold Johnson at 581-5353.

APRIL 11: VRS Early Show at the David Lam Centre, U.B.C.

APRIL 15: Ken Gibson of Tofino to talk on "Powdery Mildew". Members from Vancouver R.S. and Fraser Valley R.S. all welcome here, as they are to all our meetings.

APRIL 25: (SAT). Trip to Island - Harold reports that there are still 8 seats available for this jaunt to the Victoria Gardens - Harold would appreciate receiving payment prior to the April meeting if possible. We will be catching the 7.00 a.m. ferry to Victoria. Cost - \$16.50 per person.

MAY 2 - SAT. Diane Scott and Pat Glennie have this Willowbrook truss and plant sale event well underway. They would appreciate receiving Perrier bottles for the Trusses at the April meeting. For those providing plants for the sale, they have set Pat Dahl's home at 2054 216th Street, Langley as the place to gather all plants prior to Saturday. Sue Finley and Chris Klapwijk will be setting up the trusses. They are also to have a selection of barrels for sale at reasonable prices.

MAY 3 - SUN. We have been able to persuade Dr. M. Trembath to open up her garden for us, and plan to visit around 10.30-11.00 a.m., after which if you pack a sandwich you can take an hour or so for tea/coffee at the Crabbs, followed by a tour of the Dahl Garden around 2.00/2.30 p.m., ending up at Finleys' Nursery on 216th before 4.00/4.30 p.m. or so. We will provide a map of some kind for you with the April Newsletter.

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

MAY 9TH: Participation with the South Surrey Garden Club in a plant sale organized again by Diane Scott and Pat Glennie. This is a very popular plant sale with all sorts of garden material.

MAY 9/10: V.R.S. SHOW at Van Dusen Gardens - Another chance to get in there with your plants or trusses.

MAY 9 (SAT) John Haveman & Wendy Johannes will have a tour of their Garden, and here as well as rhodos, you can see and probably purchase a multitude of fuschias and geraniums - Again on Saturday, JULY 25TH they will have open garden when the garden will be in full bloom - address and time for these will be published in the April Newsletter.

MAY 17: Group tour of gardens across the water - The Fraser Valley Chapter have already lined up 4 gardens for us - we will, as with the May 3rd one, pack a lunch and the Ladds have kindly offered to provide the coffee and tea. We can arrange to meet at the Albion Ferry. We will be visiting the Dempster, Hemminger, French and Ladd Gardens - We will have a list for signing up at the April meeting. We can arrange transportation for those in need, and probably could double up at the Ferry Terminal. If in need, call Ella at 534-4884.

MAY 20: Monthly Meeting - Program to be arranged.

MAY 23: FRASER SOUTH'S FIRST ANNUAL PLANT SALE TO TAKE PLACE AT CLAYS' NURSERY - MEMBERS WITH PLANTS OF ALL KINDS FOR SALE SHOULD GET IN TOUCH AGAIN WITH DIANE SCOTT OR PAT GLENNIE SO THAT THEY HAVE SOME IDEA OF WHAT TO EXPECT. THEY CAN ADVISE AS TO THE TERMS OF THE SALE, WHICH USUALLY IS A 30% SHARE TO OUR CLUB.

JUNE 17: PICNIC AT WILLIAMS PARK.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE:

MEMBERSHIP: Chris Ballyn reports the following new members which we welcome:

Tom and Pat Erikson, 24642 51st Avenue, Aldergrove, VOX 1A0 - 856-5758

George E. and Anne Rush, 8 Sennock Cresc., Vancouver, V6N 2E4 - 261-8592

AND WOULD YOU BELIEVE, one from The Netherlands:

Mr. Gerard Tegelaar, Van Karnebeeklaan, 8347 W.C. Eesveen, The Netherlands. (This is Chris Klapwijk's uncle).

Would you please add these to your membership list, and also include Haveman, John and Wendy Johannes, P.O. Box 1037, Aldergrove, VOX 1A0 - 856-3064.

LIBRARY: Pat has the following back numbers of Journals available in the Library, and also a couple of extra copies for anyone interested. These are:

Vol. 35, 1981 - #2; Vol. 37, 1983 - #3 & 4

Vol. 38, 1984 - #1, 2, 3 & 4. Vol. 39, 1985 - #1, 2, 3 & 4

Vol. 40, 1986 - #1 and 2.

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Pat now has the catalogue for the Plantsman series of books and can order for members if required. Pat also reports the Davidian book should be available soon, and she has also ordered some books on plant diseases, etc.

TEST GARDEN: Chris Klapwijk reports that he has been in touch with the Langley Parks Board re Williams Park, and Chris is suggesting a "walk through" the park with interested members to get some idea as to just where we might wish to set up a test or rhodo garden. A rough plan will have to be submitted to the Parks Board for their consideration. Chris will have more on this at the March meeting.

FEBRUARY MEETING: A SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS TO CHARLOTTE AND LARRY CHASE FOR THEIR GREAT EFFORT IN ORGANIZING SUCH A SUCCESSFUL AUCTION - AND ALSO A THANK YOU TO ALL OUR MEMBERS WHO BOTH PROVIDED SOME MOST INTERESTING ARTICLES AND TO THOSE WHO BOUGHT SUCH ITEMS AS 2 HOURS USE OF AN EXCAVATING MACHINE, 10 BAGS OF CHICKEN MANURE, AND WE HEAR THERE WAS EVEN A BICYCLE FOR SALE - SORRY WE MISSED THIS ONE - AND THE WORD IS THAT WE HOPE CHARLOTTE AND LARRY WILL MAKE THIS A YEARLY EVENT AND WE PROMISE TO GIVE THEM MORE TIME TO PREPARE AND MUCH MORE TIME FOR THE ACTUAL AUCTION - WE HEAR CHARLOTTE LOST HER VOICE NEXT DAY. WE BELIEVE THAT UPWARDS OF \$400.00 WAS RAISED WHICH MUST BE GRATIFYING TO ALL.

ANOTHER SPECIAL "THANK YOU" GOES OUT TO MRS. VERN FINLEY FOR BRINGING THOSE TRUSSES FOR DISPLAY AND PROVIDING A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THEM. WE KNOW IT IS A LOT TO ASK FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS EVERY MONTH, BUT MAYBE VERN, MIKE AND LILLIAN EMERSON COULD PUT THEIR HEADS TOGETHER TO PROVIDE THIS "SHOW & TELL" SESSION AT LEAST DURING THE FLOWERING SEASON - WITH OUR MEMBERS ALSO BRINGING IN THEIR FLOWERS. - P-L-E-A-S-E!!! (WE WEREN'T THERE IN MARCH, BUT HAVE HEARD MEMBERS' APPRECIATIVE COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR MORE).

This seems the place to ask members to bring in their trusses for display, or even if they just want to find out what the plant is, surely someone will be able to come up with an answer. Also anyone with leaves with "spots" of any kind who have questions as to what might be the cause, could also bring them in, and someone such as Norma Senn will be able to identify the trouble.

APRONS, SWEATSHIRTS, ETC. Diane Scott has now found an outlet who can provide the Club with Aprons, Sweatshirts, etc. for a reasonable cost, with our Chapter name included, Aprons run at \$13.00 plus PST, Sweatshirts around \$16.00 - Diane may have more on this at the March meeting, and it is hoped we are able to acquire some to be worn at the Willowbrook Sale. Good advertising this!

1992 EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEES:

President: Les Clay (530-5288)	Membership: Chris Ballyn
Vice-President: Chris Klapwijk (888-0920)	Library: Pat Dahl (534-5200)
Treasurer: Larry Chase (576-9782)	Programs: H. Johnson & Les Clay
Secretary: Colleen Rodgers (594-6380)	Publicity: Diane Scott (533-4378)
Directors: Harold Johnson (581-5253)	Hospitality: Mrs. Phil Anderson, Dorothy Griffin and Pat Glennie
Christopher Ballyn (857-0253)	Bulletin: D. & E. Crabb (534-4884)
Don Martyn (823-4853)	

The next Executive Meeting will be held at the Chase residence on Tuesday, March 24th at 7:30 p.m. 5963 Holstein St., Cloverdale.

The following article was written by Mr. Damon Powell and published in The National Trust for Scotland Magazine Vol 8 #4 Winter 1991. The garden is open to visitors all year from 0900 until sunset. The garden is adjoining Kyle of Lochalsh in Northwest Scotland, not too far from Inverewe Garden. There also appears a photo of John Basford, retired Head Gardener at Brodick Castle Gardens receiving the British Empire Medal - Mr. Basford is to be the main speaker at the Long Island Annual Convention in May, 1992.

SPRING COMES EARLY TO LOCHALSH WOODLAND GARDEN

It is 8.30am on a cold February morning and the week begins by making the usual rounds to check all is well in the garden. No burns have broken their banks due to the flash flooding to which we are prone, no trees have crashed to the ground, victims of the north westerly that shows no mercy and no sighting of the local sheep population who seem intent on grazing anything of botanical interest.

The sun is high-lighting a stand of Scots Pine with their flaky red bark and dark green canopy against the crispy white snow covered peak of Beinn na Callich across on the Isle of Skye, and the only sound to break the deep silence is the steady purr of a brightly painted creel boat whose skipper is fiercely pulling in a fresh catch of prawns.

Above the newly-planted woodland borders which includes Hosta, Arisarum, Primula, Geranium and Mecanopsis you will find a core of Rhododendrons planted in 1961 by Ewan and Peter Cox of Glendoick, Perthshire. And it is at this time of year in the relative shelter of the garden that you will find Rhododendron Giganteum (Protistum) in flower, possibly as early as January onwards, with its large pink trumpets standing out boldly from, as its name suggests, gigantic leaves. After flowering the wonderful leaf bud scales stand erect like large red candles before unfurling their tender new leaves.

Rhododendron Falconeri with its deep green leathery leaves, coated with a rusty coloured indumentum, flaking reddish brown bark and pale yellow flowers would surely make the garden visitor wonder --- could this really be Scotland?

Rhododendron Augustinii which flowers slightly later from March to April fills its canopy with a refreshing display of cool blue that looks exceptional in contrast to the mossy clad rocks and fresh growth of blae-berry on the hillside.

The fairly tender Maddenii Rhododendrons are next to come into flower and these not only provide a stunning display of delicate pinks, yellows and white but also pour a sweet intoxicating fragrance into the wood-land.

There are many exciting projects taking place at Lochalsh Woodland Garden including a new herbaceous border in the sunken garden, a water garden linking up with the maritime garden presently being constructed to include Fuchsia, Hydrangea, Cordyline and shore line plants.

A National collection of Arundinarias (Bamboo) is to be held in the garden, and the initial phase will be started in the spring.

In the early part of the season the visitor to the garden is as much a welcome sight as the pine marten that can be seen scurrying through the woods or glimpses of fleeting porpoises rolling through the Loch or more commonly to see the otters fishing along the shoreline --- a garden in the wilderness.‡

NEW ZEALAND NOTE BOOK
(By Dr. M.L. Trembath - visit in January, 1992)

NORTH ISLAND

My very first impression was the marvellous fresh clean - almost perfumed - air. (Perhaps that had something to do with the final nine and a half hour "hop" in a hot, crowded DC10 where one felt that every cubic centimetre of air had been in and out of every set of lungs so often that little sustenance remained in it). My next reaction was a surprising bewilderment when I failed to recognize the trees and plantings around me - felt like my little year-old grandbaby turning slowly like a top with finger outstretched saying "whazzat? whazzat?, whazzat?". The grass was so very green, the sky so very blue, and the Norfolk Island pines so incredibly symmetrical...truly a "foreign" country.

New Zealand toilets have the most boisterous flushing mechanics I have ever encountered - even with the lid down one is likely to get splashed, and the seat is left wet for the next poor innocent!

Agapanthus - with every sight of one I'll be transported back to New Zealand - they were everywhere - planted on the banks of highway cuts, on highway medians, in gardens, parks, - even escaped into fields - huge heads of blue (occasional white).

Flowering trees - pohutukawa (Kiwis call it the Christmas tree) with its fuzzy blooms of red filaments; the Australian flowering gum tree - similar looking blooms but a brighter, orange-red colour; jacaranda - almost bare branches covered with blue-purple blossoms.

Bus tour of Auckland - to the top of Mt. Eden overlooking the city, its four other extinct volcanoes, and the harbours - grass in these parks kept under control by cattle and sheep - crossed one of the inlets on the "coat-hanger" bridge. (The bridge enlarged by the addition of a lane "hung-on" each side). It was fabricated in Japan - our bus driver says they call it the "Nippon Clip On". We had an all too short visit at the Museum - and a quick look at a winter garden - admired the courtyard pool of waterlilies and lotuses (or whatever the plural of lotus is!). Vern and I shared space in a cafeteria with cheeky English sparrows who fly in the door, scavenge crumbs from the floor and even light on the cash register and swipe sugar out of the bowl and milk out of the jug - they seem to be accepted as part of the scenery - no attempt to discourage them!

To Rotorua via Rainbow Springs where tourists are shown the big rainbow, brook and brown trout (originally imported) - superb fishing, but too soft fleshed for good eating; and the imported northern hemisphere trees, such as the redwood, which grow so fast that they are useless for structural timber. Time to look at Maori carvings, crafts and buildings before being chivvied through the complex of hot springs, mud pools and geysers with our Maori guide's cheerful "come along, my dears" ringing in our ears - for the rest of the trip. The hotel staged a Maori "hangi" (feast - of traditional foods traditionally cooked over the thermal vents) and entertainment - a group of singers and dancers - war dances done by a couple of very intent young Maoris - some beautiful voices among the singers.

A misty slightly drizzly morning spent at the Agridome with a large number of other tourists. A lively young M.C. had the entire audience, including children, fascinated by his demonstrations - 19 breeds of sheep displayed, shearing, and even a small demonstration of the sheep dogs. Then on to the famous Waitomo glow worm caves. In the grounds of our motel (just out of Waitomo) we saw - lemon trees, plum trees, rhodies, a long bank of blue hydrangea fronted by the inevitable agapanthus - both blue and white.

Through Messenger Pass to the west coast - scenery magnificent tho' weather a bit misty so we missed some of the vistas. We visited the Jury Nursery - and what a thrill to come home to read about the Jury's in the latest Rhododendron, Magnolia and Camellia Year Book. Fascinating to see both temperate and almost tropical plants together - lots of vireyas in bloom, many their own hybrids - rhabdotum about 12 feet tall in bloom, daturas, climbing lillies, orange trees dropping fruit all over, and an indefatigable little Keltie dog dripping a large pine cone on your feet for the next toss. They were very welcoming, tho' we interrupted their work. We went on to visit a huge commercial nursery - mass producing incredible numbers of shrubs, trees and what have you - many for export - acres and acres of container growing plants - it boggles the mind. They grow and export a lot of Japanese maples - cleft graft in the field - often getting 10 to 18 inches of growth in one year.

New Plymouth was special - view of Mt. Egmont crowned with snow (it DOES look like Mt. Fuji), the city park - Puketura Park - large and beautiful - paths through the forest - streams, waterfalls and rapids (contrived) but a lake with a fountain which obliged by playing after a suitable 50 cent piece had been deposited! Ferns galore, trees with epiphytic "perching lillies" in the cleft of trunk and branch. After watching the Tasman Sea roll its surf up the black sand beaches, and a suddenly beautiful sunset, we went back to the park - holiday lights still up in the city (very imaginative compared to ours) - and found it illuminated - coloured spot lights on the trees, fountain alight with colours, a lane of black light which fascinated the children and which was strewn with particles of material reflecting like brilliant jewels. Then there was Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust Garden - all 900 acres of it. Of course we didn't see it all, and few rhododendrons were in bloom but none the less a most impressive garden. I now vow that never again will I attempt to grow the large leaved grandes or falconeris. When I saw them standing tall and broadshouldered, flaunting huge lush leaves, I realized that it is criminal to expose them to my less than perfect clime, to watch them struggle, stunted and sickly despite cosseting - no never again - I might even be prosecuted for cruelty to living organisms!

The capital, Wellington - sight seeing in the rain - the only really notable rain we had. Lady Norwood's Rose Garden was explored under umbrellas - those of us not so entranced by roses spent an enjoyable time in the begonia house (and its tea room)... .. And so on to the South Island.