

RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

A Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society

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

NEWSLETTER

WED. April 15th, 1992 at 8:00 P.M.

KEN GIBSON OF TOFINO FAME WILL BE WITH US TO PROVIDE MORE DETAIL ON POWDERY MILDEW - HE WILL HAVE SOME HELP FROM OUR OWN NORMA SENN. PLEASE BRING ANY PROBLEM LEAVES IN PLASTIC BAGS FOR POSSIBLE IDENTIFICATION. RAFFLE TO FOLLOW.

APRIL 15th PLANT SALE: THIS IS TO BE A "MEMBERS/GROWERS' APPRECIATION EVENING" MEMBERS WITH PLANTS FOR SALE ARE ASKED TO BRING WHAT THEY MAY HAVE - FOR THIS EVENING ONLY MEMBERS WILL SELL THEIR OWN PLANTS AND WILL NOT BE ASKED TO GIVE THE USUAL 30% TO THE CHAPTER. YOU CAN MAKE YOUR OWN CHOICE AS TO WHEN TO SELL SAME, BEFORE OR AFTER THE MEETING AS LONG AS WE HAVE PEACE FOR THE SPEAKER!! PLEASE USE A LITTLE DISCRETION AS TO QUANTITY, AS PLANTS WILL BE NEEDED ESPECIALLY FOR OUR MAY 23RD SALE AT CLAYS NURSERY.

SAT. APRIL 11th: Vancouver Society's EARLY SHOW - we are invited to participate - Education Hall UBC Botanical Garden - Call Doug Kitts - 946-4587 or Tom Tatum - 943-7420 for more information.

SAT. APRIL 18th: FRASER VALLEY CHAPTER TOUR - Moved from May 17th to this date. The plan is to get together at the Albion Ferry by 9.15 a.m. - the French Garden being only 5 minutes from the Ferry. See Page 4 for more particulars.

SUNDAY, APRIL 19th: DARTSHILL - 2.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. 1660 168th Street, Surrey - Park on either 168th or 16th Avenue. See page 4.

SAT. APRIL 25th: VICTORIA GARDENS - Catch 7.00 A.M. Ferry from Tsawwassen!! - We stop for lunch at a Bonanza, or pack your lunch please.

SAT. MAY 2nd: WILLOWBROOK TRUSS SHOW & PLANT SALE - PERRIER BOTTLES for this urgently required - please bring to the meeting or phone Diane Scott at 533-4378.

SUNDAY, MAY 3rd: Local Garden Tour - See page 4.

MONDAY, MAY 4th: Riverview Hospital are opening their grounds for gardeners, naturalists and horticulturalists - with tours at 1.00 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. - David Tarrant and Bill Brown to be the guides - Call 524-7686 for further information.

SAT. MAY 9th: Participation with South Surrey Garden Club in Plant Sale at St. Mark's Anglican Church, 12953 20th Avenue, Surrey.

MAY 9/10th: Vancouver Chapter's Show and Sale at Van Dusen Gardens.

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



SAT. MAY 9th: Haveman garden tour. See page 4.

WED. MAY 20th: Monthly Meeting.

SAT. MAY 23rd: FRASER SOUTH'S FIRST ANNUAL PLANT SALE at Clays' NURSERY. Members with Plants please contact Diane Scott or Pat Glennie.

JUNE 17th: PICNIC - Williams Park.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE:

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

Sharon Allen, 3397 198A Street, Langley - 530-7868
 Dr. R. Ogden, 11120 154th Street, Surrey - 583-7434
 (of note: Dr. Ogden is a Past President of the V.R.S.)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Les Clay reports from the recent meeting of District 1 Presidents' that there are now 688 members in District 1 - some thoughts of organizing a Chapter in the Mission, Nanaimo and South Surrey areas in the future, and also the possibility of having a one day social conference for members of all Chapters to meet.

TEST/DISPLAY GARDEN: Chris Klapwijk reports that a Display Garden might be more appropriate at Williams Park - Chris will probably have a date for the walk-about at the April Meeting.

LIBRARY: Pat has the following back numbers of Journals available. Members should put their names in at the meeting for copies - after the April Meeting, a charge of \$1.00 each will be charged:

1962, Vol.16, #2; 1967, Vol.21, #3; 1972, Vol.26, #3
 1973, Vol.27, #4; 1974, Vol.28, #3; 1976, Vol.30, #3
 1977, Vol.31, #4; 1977, Vol.31, #1; 1978, Vol.32, #2
 1980, Vol.34, Nos. 1,2,3,& 4; 1981, Vol.35, Nos. 1,2,3,& 4
 1982, Vol.36, Nos. 1 and 4.

1992 EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEES:

President: Les Clay (530-5188)
 Vice-President: Chris Klapwijk (888-0920)
 Treasurer: Larry Chase (576-9782)
 Secretary: Colleen Rodgers (594-6380)
 Directors: Harold Johnson (581-5253)
 Christopher Ballyn (857-0253)
 Don Martyn (823-4853)

Membership: Chris Ballyn
 Library: Pat Dahl (534-5200)
 Programs: H. Johnson & Les Clay
 Publicity: Diane Scott (533-4378)
 Hospitality: Mrs. Phil Anderson, Dorothy
 Griffin and Pat Glennie
 Bulletin: D. & E. Crabb (534-4884)

The next Executive Meeting will be held at the Johnson residence on Tuesday, April 21st 7:30 p.m. 13730 111th Avenue, Surrey.

THIS AND THAT

WILD FLOWER TOURS - The Cat and Canary Bed & Breakfast, Hornby Island are offering Wild Flower Tours April 27/28, April 29/30 and May 4/5 - Particulars of this available at Hostess Table at Meeting.

VICTORIA SHOW - Should you be going to Victoria around May 9th, the Victoria Chapter's Show & Sale takes place at Cedar Hill Recreation Centre, 11.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on May 9th - all welcome.

CALIFORNIA BOUND: For those travelling further south, the Noya Chapter hold their Show at Redwood School, Lincoln & Chestnut Streets, FORT BRAGG on May 2nd and 3rd, 1992 - again all welcome - brochure at Hostess Table.

GERANIUM & PELARGONIUM SOCIETY - announces its Conference to be held at U.B.C. Botanical Gardens, July 9-11, 1992 - Call Bonnie Holliday, 271-8321 or 271-6487 for further information.

DEADHEADING!! Dot Gibson has handed on a great tip for deadheading - It is Avon's product, SKIN SO SOFT Bath Oil. Dot says "it does wonders as a great repellent for our beastly black flies, and works to repel mosquitoes and other blood sucking vultures and is also wonderful for oiling your fingers to prevent those sticky dead blossoms from adhering to your digits at deadheading time".

Also on deadheading, an Article by Raymond Oliver, Nelson, N.Z. (1984, Vol.38, ARS Journal) quotes:

"However, we are not particularly interested in seed from our plants, rather a good annual display of bloom. This is where dead-heading can assist. Removal of the fading flowers allows the plants' energy to be channeled into bud production for the coming season - The ideal time to dead-head is as the flowers wilt and fall..."

PHOSPHOROUS: From an article in the Journal, (1984, Vol.38) written by Bob Badger, Seattle we find that "since many of our soils (West Coast) and most all of our peat mosses have acid pH's below 5.5, that's why the flower buds don't form. You need more phosphorus in your soils. Use rhododendron blended fertilizer, super phosphate, or bone meal. I use one teaspoonful of super phosphate per foot of height in late January or February and again in late March or April. Also, phosphorus "filled" plants are much more winter hardy according to many recent experiments".

HELP: PAT DAHL is looking for: HONG KONG, BANKOK, MADRAS, BOMBAY, HINDUSTAN, CALCUTTA, CAIRO, FIJI, MANDALAY, NEPAL, etc.??

NEED HELP?: HYBRIDIZING: DON MARTYN, HAROLD JOHNSON, LES CLAY, CAROL LOCKEN, The FINLEYS, The MANNS', and MIKE TREMBATH

PROPAGATION: As above, plus JIM RISHEL, Dr. Bobby OGDEN, DAVE CRABB, ANN CASSELS, MARY REID

GENERAL: LILLIAN EMERSON, COLLEEN RODGERS, CHRIS KLAPWICJ, SUE FINLEY,

PLANT TROUBLES: NORMA SENN, LILLIAN EMERSON, COLLEEN RODGERS, LES CLAY

(Any corrections, additions or deletions to the above appreciated).

GARDEN TOURSSATURDAY, APRIL 18th:

FRASER VALLEY CHAPTER GARDENS. WE SHOULD BE AT THE ALBION FERRY AROUND 9:15 A.M. IN ORDER TO GET TO THE FRENCH GARDEN BY 10:00 A.M.

FROM THERE WE GO TO THE LADDS' GARDEN WHERE WE ARE TO BE PROVIDED WITH TEA AND COFFEE FOR OUR PACKED LUNCH. IN THE AFTERNOON WE ARE TO VISIT THE HEMMINGER AND DEMPSTER GARDENS WE CAN ATTEMPT TO DOUBLE UP BEFORE GOING ON TO THE FERRY. SHOULD WE LOSE SIGHT OF EACH OTHER, THE ADDRESSES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

FRENCH - 24628 RIVER ROAD, ALBION - 463-8247

LADD - 11775 260TH STREET, MAPLE RIDGE - 462-9562

DEMPSTER - 11402 RIVER WYND, MAPLE RIDGE - 467-9140

HEMMINGER - 13245 236TH STREET, MAPLE RIDGE - 463-3867

(WE MAY HAVE SOME MAPS AVAILABLE AT THE 15TH MEETING)

SUNDAY, APRIL 19th:

DARTSHILL - 1660 - 168TH STREET, SURREY. THE GARDEN OF FRANCISCA AND ED DARTS - WHAT BETTER WAY TO SPEND EASTER SUNDAY BETWEEN 2.00 P.M. AND 5.00 P.M. MEMBERS OF SOUTH SURREY GARDEN CLUB ARE TO JOIN WITH US, AND FOR THOSE WHO HAVEN'T BEEN TO DARTSHILL BEFORE, YOU ARE IN FOR A REAL ENJOYABLE AFTERNOON. IT IS EASY TO FIND - AT THE CORNER OF 16TH AND 168TH - ONE CAN PARK ON 16TH OR 168TH.

SUNDAY, MAY 3RD

TREMBATH GARDEN AT 25149 72ND AVENUE, ALDERGROVE. AT THE JUNCTION OF HIGHWAY 1 AND 232ND YOU WILL FIND 72ND AVENUE ON YOUR RIGHT WHICH YOU JUST FOLLOW PAST DREIDGERS BERRY FARMS FOR JUST OVER A MILE AND YOU WILL FIND 25149 ON YOUR LEFT HAND SIDE. 10.30 A.M. OR SO.

FROM TREMBATHS YOU THEN RETURN ON 72ND AVENUE TO 248TH WHERE YOU TURN LEFT TO 56TH AVENUE - AT 56TH YOU TURN RIGHT AND GO TO 240TH AND MAKE A LEFT JUST A FEW BLOCKS TO 52ND AVENUE WHERE YOU MAKE A RIGHT TURN PAST POPPY SCHOOL, RIGHT THROUGH THE "NO EXIT" SIGN TO 234TH WHERE 52ND ENDS. MAKE A RIGHT TURN AGAIN TO THE CUL-DE-SAC WHERE YOU WILL FIND THE CRABB GARDEN AT 5319 234TH STREET - PACK YOUR SANDWICH AND TEA AND COFFEE WILL BE READY FOR YOU. HERE WE MUST ASK THAT YOU PARK ON OUR SIDE OF 234TH PLEASE.

DAHL GARDEN AT 2054 216TH - FIND YOUR WAY TO FRASER HIGHWAY FROM THE CRABBS, AND MAKE A RIGHT TURN ONTO FRASER HIGHWAY DOWN TO 216TH - MAKE A LEFT TURN AND YOU WILL FIND 2054 A FEW MILES DOWN THE WAY ON YOUR LEFT HAND SIDE - WE ARE EXPECTED HERE AROUND 2.00 P.M.

FINLEY NURSERY AT 179 216TH AVENUE, VERY CLOSE TO THE BORDER ON YOUR RIGHT HAND SIDE. TRY TO BE THERE BY 4.00 P.M. PLEASE.

SAT. MAY 9th: HAVEMAN GARDEN, 30324 SUNSET CRESCENT,, MOUNT LEHMAN - 856-3064. 9.00 A.M. TO 5.00 P.M. FROM THE NO. 1 FREEWAY COME OFF AT MOUNT LEHMAN, NORTH. PROCEED DOWN A FEW MILES AND YOU WILL FIND SUNSET CRESCENT ON YOUR LEFT HAND SIDE. GERANIUMS FOR SALE. AGAIN ON JULY 25TH.

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

SOUTH ISLAND

We flew from Wellington to Christchurch - over the treacherously Cook Strait. From our height the turquoise water looked to be rolling peacefully on miles of white sand beach. To the west country was mountainous - rugged snowy peaks, but Christchurch is built on the flat and fertile Canterbury Plains. There's a huge park - Haggerty Park - in the middle of the city, the river Avon runs through it (even saw trout in the river!). The old University buildings, now a centre for art and theatres, surrounded on Sunday by a large and varied street market - a kind of up-market flea market.

Our group contained a number of enthusiastic alpine gardeners - and they now came into their own. Potters Pass - we scrambled about on gravel hills and around sub-alpine bogs - bottoms skyward as the hunt was on for the 'littlies' - amazing how many tiny geraniums, daisy-like things with furry leaves, etc. you begin to see on what looked to the uninitiated (like me) to be absolutely barren ground. Picnic lunch by a lake enfolded by the hills, then on to Arthur's Pass where despite a rain shower, the enthusiasts trudged off. Came back with goodies including a huge leaf of the Mt. Cook lily - *RANUNCULUS LYLLI* - not yet in bloom. Having spent the night in a lodge constructed in and out of Ramu Wood (beautiful) we were bussed almost to the top of Mt. Hutt (ski area) - a hair raising trip for those at the windows looking over a sheer drop of thousands of feet. The view of the plains below was breathtaking. The alpiners making like slightly geriatric mountain goats leapt and slithered up (and down) scree to "Pet" vegetable sheep and look for more plants. Our charming guide on this trek was Ethel Doyle and we returned to her two acre garden for lunch. The garden was a delight both in design and content - filled with alpine treasures, but holding much of interest to the rest of us, too.

All good tourists must visit Mt. Cook - and this we did, passing en route beside beautifully coloured lakes. The strong explorer types went hiking along the Hooker Valley with a park guide. Our intrepid bus driver doffed his shoes and offered to lead some of us on a quick hour long trek to the foot of the glacier (don't think he had many takers - tho' he bounded off himself).

Still mountaineering, we spent a day on top of the Pisa Range - the site of New Zealand's first Nordic ski area. - as guests of the owners and developers Jim and Mary Lee. The area is five thousand feet up and in the middle of the Lee's sheep run. We had been joined for the day by Peter Cameron and his wife Margaret - both active in alpine and rhodie affairs. Much of the organization for

this part of our trip was thanks to Peter who arranged access for us to the ski hills, and gardens and guides for us en route, and who entertained us royally at their home in Dunedin. We have much for which to thank him for.

The drive to Queenstown took us along river gorges where much goldmining had been done, and also past the famous (or infamous if you prefer) where the bungie jumpers ply their silliness. We stopped to look at Arrowtown, an old mining town where many original buildings are restored, and tourists are tempted by the jewellery shops (gold, greenstone, and opals) and outlets for wools, yarns, and leathers. Queenstown itself, having both lake and mountains almost within it, is a popular resort town. Some of us who resisted shopping at Arrowtown weakened here.

Before visiting the west coast "fjords" we spent a night at Te Anau by the lake of the same name, and our golfers whisked through eighteen holes in three hours - I take it that is close to a record! The next day was a special one - by boat across Lake Manapouri - down into the bowels of a mountain to see a large electric generating plant, then over Wilmot Pass to Doubtful Sound and a boat cruise on the Sound. Were it not for the totally different tree cover, and lack of bare rock faces - we might have been travelling along our own west coast inlets - a beautiful trip. We stopped on the way back to admire a "moss garden" - a hillside by the road covered with ferns and RED mosses - Fascinating.

Based in Dunedin we : toured the botanic garden, the Cameron Garden (I drooled over a Rh. pendulum, and almost wept when told it wouldn't be hardy with us - what a darling little fuzzy-bunny it was!), the Fluit's garden (built on a forty five degree slope - I swear), Lanark Castle and its grounds, and nesting site of the royal albatross. Back toward Christchurch - up the east coast - walked on the beach to look at the strange Moeraki Boulders - perfectly round and looking like giant bowling balls. All too soon it was back to the airports, and the aircraft, and more airports and more aircraft and so home. From only a two month perspective the trip already seems distant and dream-like.