



FRASER

SOUTH

RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

A Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society

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

NEWSLETTER

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19TH, 1992
AT 8.00 P.M.

MR. BILL STIPE, MANAGER OF MEERKERK GARDENS ON WHIDBEY ISLAND WILL PROVIDE OUR PROGRAM. MEERKERK IS THE TEST GARDEN FOR THE SEATTLE CHAPTER, WHICH WE HOPE TO VISIT IN 1993.

THE USUAL RAFFLE WILL TAKE PLACE, AND PLANT SALE TO FOLLOW MEETING. RAFFLE TABLE CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD BE APPRECIATED - THANKS TO ALL WHO PROVIDED THE LOVELY TREATS FOR OUR COFFEE, AS WELL AS THE RAFFLE TABLE LAST MONTH.

WED. 18th NOVEMBER: Mr. Merv ZAKUS of Unique Koy & Water Gardens will be providing our October program - on the construction, plantings and care of water gardens.

WED. 16th December: or thereabouts! Xmas Social.

September was a busy month with our well attended meeting with the Sathers of Whitney Gardens providing an excellent program including enlightening most of us re Bill Whitney's contribution to the rhododendron world, which they have successfully continued - (The Journal of 1984, No. 3 contains a 4 page article on Bill Whitney, detailing the crosses etc. written by Anne and Ellie Sather, - copies of this Journal should be available at our Library). 20 Plants brought from Whitney Gardens were auctioned off, and our thanks to the Sathers for their contribution to the Chapter.

We hear that the Propagation Workshop on 19th Sept. was well attended and most attendees were very enthusiastic and feed back on this suggests that we should do more of this kind of thing - Les Clay lectured on seed planting; Don Martyn showed us how to graft, and Harold Johnson and David Crabb were on the planting of cuttings.

Sept. 25/27th saw the Western Regional Conference at Newport, Oregon - attending from our Chapter were Phil and Jean Hope, Lillian Emerson, Dr. Mike Bale, the Clays, the Crabbs, and the Johnsons. Good lectures, great beach and great food!! Alleyne Cook of Vancouver was one of the main speakers, and talked on the Greigs' of Royston - with wonderful slides showing the transportation of large rhodos from Stanley Park to the Van Dusen Gardens. The National Convention will be held at Tacoma in 1993 in May, and by the sounds of those planning this event, it will be well worth a visit, as they are planning tours of some great gardens.

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

FROM THE EXECUTIVE:

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

Sheila Roberge of #12, 5271 204th Street, Langley - 534-5699
 Vic Dueck & Andrea Van Santan, 11060 McGrath Rd., Rosedale, VOX 1X0 -
 794-3430
 Wayne & Leslie Klein, 13924 North Bluff Rd., White Rock, V4B 3C1
 536-5003
 Shiella Holden, 15905 Bueno Vista Avenue, White Rock, V4V 2A2
 531-1963 (Business: 538-5257).

We also hope to welcome Janet and John Warner of 26212 5A Avenue, Aldergrove, VOX 1A0 - 857-0788 who have just moved from Toronto - and found out about our Chapter through visiting Ken Gibson's garden at Tofino last month. Should any of our new members wish to give us some background so that we can all get to know each other a little better, your Editors will be more than happy to include anything you come up with - please.

MEMBERSHIP DUES for 1993: Chris Ballyn, our able Membership Chairman advises that annual dues can now be paid, either at the October or November meetings, but it is advisable to have it paid by December 1st, otherwise you run the risk of missing receiving the first Journal of the year. If you are unable to attend the meetings, a cheque can be sent to Chris Ballyn at 4096 Sunset Boulevard, North Vancouver, B.C., V7R 3Y8. Dues are as follows:

Full Member:	\$30.00
Associate Member:	\$10.00
Local Member:	\$15.00

A FULL MEMBER becomes a member of the American Rhododendron Society, receives the Quarterly Journal, and votes on all matters relating to the A.R.S. as well as our own Chapter.

AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER is one who already pays full membership in another Chapter

LOCAL MEMBER is one who pays membership to the Fraser South Chapter ONLY - does not receive the Quarterly Journal and foregoes all rights to vote on A.R.S. matters.

The A.R.S. introduced another membership class last year - the Family Membership - which allowed a couple to have a vote each - this our Membership Chairman discovered is not allowable under the British Columbia Societies Act, so it has been dropped from the categories.

Chris Ballyn may take a few minutes at the October meeting to explain the above in a little more detail.

CONSTITUTION: The amendments to our CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS you voted on at the end of last year were not approved by Victoria - Chris Ballyn who has been in charge of this matter made a trip to Victoria recently and has now come forward with amendments which will be approved by Victoria and which meet our needs. These amendments must be voted on at our October meeting, and attached are copies of the proposed amendments, which we ask that you study and be able to vote on at our October meeting. You are, we hope, to receive your Newsletter early because of the fact that you have to be given 14 days notice of these amendments. (P.S. - thus if any great errors are found in your Newsletter, it is simply because we weren't really ready to get the job done!!!).

ELECTIONS: DON MARTYN has been appointed Nominating Chairman - Vacancies to be filled are:

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Director (3 year term)

GOOD LUCK, DON!

TEST/DISPLAY: Chris Klapwijk reported he is still looking for plants for Williams Park, but he also has been in touch with St. Andrews Anglican Church with a view to providing some rhodos/azaleas for placement around the Church Hall. Chris will be gathering more details on this project, and those interested who have material they would be happy to see blooming from Fraser Highway, please get in touch with Chris Klapwijk - 888-0920.

CHAPTERS PROPOSED: Les Clay, District 1 Director, reports that discussions took place at the Western Regional in connection with the establishment of further Chapters. Les reports that in our area discussions are taking place for Chapters in South Surrey, White Rock area, and also in Abbotsford/Mission area. As the Western Regional only took place last weekend, Les has not had an opportunity to produce a report on any other matters, but will probably bring them up at our meetings if he feels it necessary.

ARS Southeastern Conference: Notice of this Conference to be held October 30/31 at Atlanta, Georgia! Should anyone be travelling in this direction at that time, you can see the details of this Conference at our Hostess Table.

GET WELL THOUGHTS: We are glad to say that PAT DAHL is now at home and appears to be progressing to such an extent that we hope she will be with us at our October meeting, as we certainly missed HER as well as the Library!

Also our best wishes go to Bruce Alexander who is about to undergo Hip Surgery this month.

LIBRARY: Pat reports that she now has the Davidian books in and will have them available at the October meeting. Pat also would remind members that now is the time to order books for Xmas gifts - Catalogues available at Library.

The next meeting of the Executive will be held at the home of Wendy Johannes at 30324 Sunset Crescent, off Mt. Lehman Road, north of Highway #1.

GETTING STARTED WITH RHODODENDRONS

Recently Karen Shuster of the Vancouver Club produced an article in the Vancouver Newsletter which contains some great advice, and we quote some of the Rules she mentions here (Honestly, I did get her permission for this).

Rule No. 1: Flowers last only a few short days, but you will be looking at the plant itself for many, many more. Go for a good-looking plant. You can't go wrong with a yak(ushimanum), or any of the hybrids of its family - "Pirouette", the seven dwarfs ("Hoppy", "Dopey" etc. - I kid you not!), ... What's more, they all have pretty terrific flowers as well. The noble Sir Charles Lemon has

beautiful foliage and eventually becomes a lovely small tree. Others worth looking for are Unique, *pseudochrysanthum*, and (as Harold Greer describes it) 'the Rolls Royce of foliage', *R. campanulatum* var. *aeruginosum*.

Rule No. 2 Keep it simple. Don't set your heart on a plant that isn't available locally or is a known prima donna. There are so many others which would make you even happier. "P.J.M." is a doer - a medium sized plant with aromatic foliage and bright flowers; it always looks good. Another easy-to-grow plant is 'Dora Amateis' - vision in white. If you'd like a larger growing plant 'The Honourable Jean Marie de Montague' is a good solid red (also *Taurus*, Grace Seabrook - ed.). For something smaller try *impeditum*, a tight bush of vibrant blue.

Rule No. 3: Do some research, it's fun. A combination of walks in a well labelled garden and browsing through books will do the trick. For the former, Van Dusen Gardens and UBS's David Lam Asian Garden are the obvious winners. Then get yourself at the very least a Greer's (and Whitney's - ed) catalogue, and preferably a Greer's Guide. The Cox books are the next step up and well worth it, being more scholarly and providing carefully considered evaluations. And make use of the VRS Library - borrow a different book at each meeting, and soon you'll be an expert!

Rule No. 5 Ask the experts. Rhododendron society members like to talk about their plants even more than they like growing them, so use the social time at the meetings to get advice. Volunteer to do something about which you know next to nothing, so that you can hang out with those who do and learn from them.

Rule No. 6 Indulge your fancy. Don't think that there's some ultimate criterion determining the "right" plants to grow. If you like purple, grow every shade of it. There are many named varieties of *augustinii* which offer every shade of blue/purple. My very first plants were *fastuosum* "Flora Pleno", "Bob'S Blue", and *impeditum*. They are still flourishing, and they blend quite nicely together. Or go for fragrance - "Loderi King George" and the other Loderi hybrids - "Exbury Naomi", "Angelo", etc. all are heavenly. And so many of the deciduous azaleas are fragrant - *daviesii*, "Orchid Lights" and the rest of the Lights series, "Julia Madame", "Oxydol", and "Arpege" (obviously). Don't forget "Windbeam" or "P.J.M." for fragrant foliage.

Rule No. 7 If something does well in your garden, get more like it. If you have nothing but sun, go for azaleas rather than the broad-leafed rhodos which prefer some protection. If a *williamsianum* hybrid flourishes in your soil, it has enough friends and relations ("Wilbrit", "Linda", "Bow Bells", "Karin", "Moonstone", etc.) that you can appear to have lots of variety while staying within a narrow range.

Rule No. 8 Don't ever get discouraged by adversity. The experts lose plants occasionally; you will too. Look upon these losses as opportunities to acquire replacement plants. This leads to...

Rule No. 9 Don't throw good money after bad. If "Purple Splendour" dies on you twice, forget it. Some plants are just not meant to be grown in certain gardens. Try "Anah Krushke" instead, it's much easier to grow and is a better looking plant.

Rule No. 10 Take a chance. Use the opportunity to get young, inexpensive plants at the sales and grow them along. They'll have a better chance of making it, if they do their growing up in your garden. If they don't turn out to be what you had in mind, they are easily disposed of. And some "Unknown Warrior" might turn out to be the love of your (gardening) life!

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

A. CONSTITUTION

1. Insert:

"ARTICLE III - FUNCTION

This Society shall function as a chapter of the American Rhododendron Society and as an autonomous local society serving the Local membership."

2. Renumber existing ARTICLES III, IV AND V as "IV", "v" and "VI" respectively.

B. BY-LAWS

1. Delete ARTICLE I--MEMBERSHIP entirely and substitute:

"ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP

a) Membership in the Society shall be open to all persons or businesses who, or which accept its Constitution and By-Laws. Membership may be in any of the following categories -

"Local" - one or more persons dwelling at the same address who wish to participate only in the local activities of the Society.

"ARS" - one or more persons dwelling at the same address who wish to participate in the activities of the American Rhododendron Society as well as the local activities of this chapter.

"Associate" - one or more persons dwelling at the same address who already hold membership in the American Rhododendron Society and who wish to participate in the local activities of this chapter.

"Commercial" - a business which wishes to participate in the activities of the American Rhododendron Society.

"Life" - a person who wishes lifetime participation in the activities of the American Rhododendron Society and who has made a once only donation in the amount set by the American Rhododendron Society. This membership category includes lifetime participation in the local activities of this chapter.

- b) The membership year shall run from 1 January to 31 December of any given year.
- c) A membership shall no longer be in good standing if its dues remain unpaid after 31 December."
2. From ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP FEES/DUES delete clauses c) and d).
3. Change ARTICLE V - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING by changing the month from "November" to "January" in clause a).
4. In ARTICLE VII QUORUM delete clause b) and substitute
"b) At any meeting of the Board of Directors a quorum shall consist of a majority of the elected officers and directors."
5. Delete clause a) of ARTICLE X - VOTING and substitute:
"a) At all meetings of the Society each membership shall be entitled to only one vote except that on matters relating only to the American Rhododendron Society Local memberships may not vote."
6. Change ARTICLE XI THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS by
i) Deleting clause a) and substituting:
"a) The Board of Directors shall consist of the immediate past president, the four current officers and the three current directors. This Board may at its discretion appoint up to three more eligible members from the membership at large. These appointed members shall serve for periods determined by the elected members but shall have full voting rights at Board meetings."
ii) Adding a new clause:
"e) There shall be no more than one Board member from any given membership."
7. Change ARTICLE XIII OFFICERS by -
i) Deleting the last sentence of clause d).
ii) Adding:
"e) Signing officers of the Society shall be any two of the President, Vice-President and Treasurer."
8. In ARTICLE XVIII FINANCIAL MATTERS delete clause c) and substitute:

"c) The Board of Directors is authorized to spend up to the sum of three hundred dollars on any one expenditure. If larger amounts be required the prior approval of the membership shall be required in each case."

9. In ARTICLE XIX AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS delete clause a) and substitute:

"a) The Board of Directors shall annually appoint an auditor to examine the current financial records of the Society."