

RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

A Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society

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



FRASER SOUTH

NEWSLETTER

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH, 1992
AT 8.00 P.M.

MR. MERV ZAKUS, OF UNIQUE KOY & WATER GARDENS WILL PROVIDE OUR PROGRAM, ADVISING ON ALL ASPECTS OF WATER GARDENS, CONSTRUCTION, PLANTINGS, ETC..

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

WED. 9TH DECEMBER: XMAS SOCIAL at the Clay residence. Diane Scott will be contacting you, or you could call her at 533-4378, to arrange what you are able to provide for our table. Diane's husband has just undergone a hip operation and understandably she will have her hands full for the next while. Since Reg's accident nearly 2 years ago, Diane has been unable to attend meetings regularly, but in spite of this has been working for us behind the scenes as usual.

WED. JANUARY 20TH: Mr. John Kerridge will be with us who specializes in Primulas and companion plants - he will also be bringing some plants or seeds of his special primulas to the meeting. Mr. Kerridge displays at the Northwest Washington Flower & Garden Show which in 1993 takes place February 11th to 15th - a show well worth the trip. January also is our Elections Night with our new Executive ready to take over.

FEB. 11/15TH: Northwest Flower & Garden Show, Washington State Convention Centre, Seattle. We had members last year who couldn't arrange transportation for this event. Perhaps anyone travelling with spare seats could leave their names at the Hostess Table at our January meeting. Also those wishing transportation, could also leave their names. Some go for just the day, while some stay overnight - For further information write Northwest Flower & Garden Show, 1515 Northwest 51 Street, Seattle, WA 98107. (206) 789-5333 (Fax: 784-5545).

We hear raves from the October presentation of Bill Stipe - now we are to visit Meerkerk in 1993 - The Journal contains Meerkerk's Third Report covering testing done 1990-1991. We do appreciate our Washington neighbours making the trip up here to talk to us, and trust they realize how much their presentations are enjoyed by our members. Thank you again.

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

FROM THE EXECUTIVE:

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

JOYCE MANARY, 1097 Jackson Way, Delta, V4L 1W5 - 943-3052
 CHARLES RUSS, 20498 1st Avenue, Langley, V3A 4P4 - 533-9583
 JANET & JOHN WARNER, 26217 5A Avenue, Aldergrove, VOX 1A0 - 857-0788

MEMBERSHIP DUES for 1993: One more time, Membership dues are now due for 1993 Membership. You can either see Chris Ballyn at the November meeting, or mail your cheque payable to Fraser South Rhododendron Society 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 motion was passed by the Executive to the effect that Local Membership would now be discontinued, although members who have been classified Local in the past will still be able to continue with this type of Membership. An up-to-date Membership List should be available with our January/February Newsletter, we hope.

CONSTITUTION: The amended Constitution and By-Laws are probably by this time in Victoria for registration.

ELECTIONS: Firstly we have to report that our present Vice-President, Chris Klapwijk has declined the position of President due to personal reasons. Your Executive accepted Chris' resignation but are glad to report that Chris will still be carrying on an active role in the Chapter. The Executive have now put forward DON MARTYN's name for the position of President. The following have also agreed to let their names stand for these positions:

Vice-President:	NORMA SENN
Secretary:	LILLIAN EMERSON
Director (3 year)	Dr. Mike BALE
Director (2 year)	Dr. M.L. (Mike) TREMBATH

Further nominations may come from the floor. From the last Executive Meeting I can assure you that many names were brought forward for possible "duties" of one kind or another, so we would suggest that you choose what you might wish to do, rather than WAIT for the arm twisting! There is a Flowchart which has been prepared by Jo Ann Foster (President of the North Island Chapter) and Harold Johnson with proposed Guidelines which may be available at the Hostess Table or see Don Martyn on this. It contains spots for people to handle Local Garden Tours, Education sessions at our meetings, Telephone committees, etc. etc. Your Executive consists of Past President, President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and 3 Directors, starting with a 3 year term. Don Martyn has already served one year of his three year term, thus the reason for the above 2 vacancies for Directors. The appointed Executive also has the power to appoint three other members to the Executive.

LIBRARY:NEW BOOKS now available

CONIFERS by D.M. van Geldern and J.R.P. van Hoey Smith
 ALPINES in an OPEN GARDEN by Jack Elliott
 BULBS - 2 Volumes - by John E. Bryan
 DICTIONARY OF PLANT NAMES
 PLANT PROAGATION by Michael Dirr
 ALPINE & ROCK GARDEN PLANTS by Christopher Grey-Wilson

BOOKS contributed by Mr. Barton

TREES AND SHRUBS 1-3 - by W.J. Bean
 BROOKLYN BOTANICAL GARDENS - 7 Volumes
 JOURNAL of ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY - 1963-1968

BOOKS & JOURNALS FOR SALE:

GREER'S GUIDEBOOK to Available Rhododendrons - \$18.00
 DAVIDIAN III SPECIES - \$43.83
 WHITNEY GARDENS Catalogue - \$1.00
 HOW TO IDENTIFY RHODODENDRON & AZALEA PROBLEMS - \$4.50

A.R.S. Journals at \$1.00 each:

- ✓ Vol. 26, 3 - 1972
- ✓ Vol. 37, 1&2 1983
- Vol. 38, 1, 2 and 4 - 1984
- Vol. 39, 3 - 1985
- Vol. 40, 1, 2 and 3 - 1986
- ✓✓ Vol. 43, 1, 3 and 4 - 1989

BOOKS MISSING - PLEASE RETURN TO LIBRARY

COLOUR DICTIONARY OF FLOWERS & PLANTS (Paperback)	by Roy Hey & Patrick Syngé
GARDENING FOR THE WEST	by R. Nicholson
GARDEN BIRDS	by Dr. N. Proctor
COMPLETE GUIDE to PLANTS & FLOWERS	by Simon and Schuster
TREES & SHRUBS	by David Squire

Pat suggests Christmas books may now be ordered - there is a savings on these books which is passed on to the members.

Anyone with suggestions as to Videos, books, etc. please discuss with Pat at the Library - suggestions always welcome.

B.C. Council of Garden Clubs Bulletin for September/October now available in the Library, as well as Newsletters received from B.C. Clubs, Eugene and Mid Atlantic Chapters.

1993 TENTATIVE DATES:

We hope to be able to have our Display & Sale dates arranged so that it can be published in the Journal - suggested dates are:

FEBRUARY Meeting - Charlotte's Auction.

MARCH 21st will see the Vancouver Chapter's Plant sale at Clay's Nursery.

APRIL 10th: Fraser South's Plant Sale at Clay's Nursery

APRIL 28 - May 2nd - ARS Annual Convention at Tacoma.

MAY 1st: Truss Display and Plant Sale at Willowbrook Mall, Langley.

Oct. 21/23 - ARS Western Regional Convention, Eureka, California.

(Steve Whysall, Reporter for the Vancouver Sun, who has done some articles on Les Clay and his Tissue Culture (Sun, Oct. 31, 1992) has indicated he would advertise our sale dates etc. (Publicity person, John Haveman (whoever!), please note).

SPECIES FOUNDATION: Our Chapter is now a member of The Rhododendron Species Foundation, Federal Way, Seattle, Washington - there are whispers around that we may also visit the Species Foundation in 1993, but any time one has the time and is in the Seattle area, they could always visit the Species Foundation on their own. Material on the Foundation will be either at the Hostess Table or the Library.

INVENTORY OF PLANTS: HARRY WRIGHT, 769 Chaster Road, Courtenay, B.C., V6N 5P2 is about to prepare a database of mature rhodos in British Columbia. If you do have a list, perhaps you could forward it to him, or if you wish, we would be happy to type it up for you and send him.

ROESKE GARDEN: This Garden won the first prize for large garden in Langley this year, and having now had a tour of Arnie's property, we can well see why. This is a must for our Local Garden Tours in 1993 - take notice Arnie and Mary. Mary is a talented artist - I was admiring a couple of paintings in the distance and remarked that they surely were paintings by Alan Saap only to be told that both were by Mary herself - hard to tell the difference, so that gives you a rough idea of the Roeske household.

FAREWELL to Mary Reid who has now moved to Mission and will be joining the Fraser Valley Group in Maple Ridge. Remember, Mary presented a lovely slide show at our last January meeting. Hope to still see you around Mary.

The November Executive meeting will be held at the DAHL residence, 2054 216th Street, Langley at 7:30 p.m. on TUESDAY, 24th November.

The following appeared in "Country Garden", an extra of the Langley Times.

UP THE GARDEN PATH

By Norma Senn

University-College of the Fraser Valley

The ideal weather condition for fall colour are warm sunny days and cool nights. This allows the manufacture and accumulation of sugars in leaves which in turn are the basis for development of pigments associated with red coloration. In B.C. we do not have a lot of native plant material like the beautiful sugar maples and, in many years, our foggy, overcast weather limits the development of local fall colour. That does not mean we have to live without the beautiful colours of this season.

There are many cultivated trees, shrubs and vines that can be grown locally that will provide fall colour and add other features of seasonal interest to our gardens.

If you want to add new plant material to a garden for fall colour, you should be visiting local garden centres now. Within any group of plants you will find a range of colours, and some plants may have more colour than others. Also, when planting for fall colour, remember that sunlight is a key to manufacture of pigments in plants, so, for best fall colour, put plants in areas where they receive full sunlight. Some years you may find that colour development is better than other years because of the weather conditions. A sunny fall with gradually cooling temperatures will provide for conditions for best leaf colour displays.

The following are some of my favourite trees for providing fall colour. These plants are all hardy in our area. Your local nursery can provide advice on planting procedures. I have tried to include some plants that are readily available, but all of the trees listed can be found locally with a bit of hunting.

We may not have sugar maples for fall colour, but many of the small species of maple trees provide wonderful shades of yellows and scarlet. The AMUR RIVER MAPLE (*Acer ginnala*) is a small maple that develops brilliant red leaves. Some of the JAPANESE MAPLES (*Acer palmatum* and *A. japonicum*) also offer fall colour, although there can be great variability in colour development from one tree to another with these two species.

The SOURWOOD TREE (*oxydendron arboreum*) has two desirable features. It is a late summer bloomer, bearing delicate sprays of small white flowers in August. Then in late September, the leaves change to a deep mahogany red. Sourwood is in the same plant family as RHODODENDRONS and PIERIS, and has the same kind of growing requirements. This plant needs good drainage and acid soils. Again, for best fall colour, it should be planted in full sun.

Another small tree that has gorgeous fall colour is the PERSIAN PARROTIA TREE (*Parrotia persica*). This plant can be grown as a single stemmed small tree or a multi-stemmed large shrub. It is related to witchhazel and, like some of our witchhazels, PARROTIA blooms in winter. The winter flower aspect is a nice bonus in the garden, although it does not start to produce many flowers until about 15 years old. Another feature of winter interest is PARROTIA'S flaking bark, which produces mottles of white to gray. While adding to the winter landscape, PARROTIA is best known for fall colour. The leaves change from dark green to yellow, deep orange and red. Again full sun is absolutely necessary for good foliage displays.

For lovely golden yellow foliage two of my favourite trees are the GINKGO TREE (*Ginkgo biloba*) and the KATSURA TREE (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*). In some

years, the Katsura tree may develop leaf colours into the orange and red tones, although the yellow leaf colour is usual. Both trees have interesting leaf shapes throughout the summer. The GINKGO TREE has a fan-shaped leaf, and the KATSURA TREE has delicate, heart-shaped leaves. Both of these plants may be slow to establish, but they are definitely worth troubling over.

Our local PACIFIC DOGWOOD (*Cornus nuttalli*) can have vivid orange-yellow fall colour in seasons where we have good autumn sunshine. The leaves often change colour intermittently, so we can have rich green leaves, mixed with orange and yellow all at once. In addition, there is also sporadic fall flower production with our native dogwood, which adds further interest to landscape. EDDY'S WHITE WONDER, the hybrid between our Pacific dogwood and the eastern dogwood, does not flower in the fall, but it does have spectacular fall colour.

Some of the oaks can have scarlet to deep mahogany red leaves in autumn. PIN OAK (*Quercus palustris*) and SCARLET OAK (*Q. coccinea*) are two commonly available oak species that are valued for their fall colour. Oaks are magnificent trees, but ultimately they are large, so only plant these if you have the room to let them grow.

Both the SWEET-GUM TREE (*liquidambar*) and the TUPELO or BLACK-GUM TREE (*Nyssa sylvatica*) are also recommended for their scarlet leaf colours in autumn.

I enjoyed the imaginary letter to "Grandma" written by "Fifi" (Editor) on Hotel Newport letterhead and attached to the Eugene Chapter's Newsletter so much, maybe because I was the "Canadian" member she refers to. I repeat it here:

"It's 11 pm the first day of the Western Regional Rhododendron Conference and I just got back to my room. No, I wasn't in the bar, I was stuck in the hotel elevator, 12 people packed in like sardines. Just as the third floor slid by, everything stopped. No matter what buttons we pushed, the steel doors wouldn't budge. We leaned on the emergency button with hysterical laughter -- yelled, and we demanded to see the manager. Eons later, about 5 minutes, a hotel maintenance employee arrived with reassurance and a coat hanger, I think. We howled for quick release, and were told we were too heavy -- the elevator would only hold 2500 lbs. A Canadian member shouted back that not one of us weighed over 200 lbs. Someone squashed into the far corner muttered "Speak for yourself, lady!". The air was stifling and so were the jokes by the time someone arrived with a crow bar -- where were the "jaws of life"! After a great struggle outside, the doors yielded a crack, then shut, then a crack, then shut, and finally wide enough for a Portland Chapter member to wedge a book in the crack -- the Hostas book he'd just bought at the book sale. I think Eric Grissell's Thyme on My Hands would have been ideal, but it was a judgment call. At last the doors were forced open by two strong men. As we staggered onto the 4th floor lobby, I tripped over the crow bar.

Sept. 26 - I lost my head and most of my cash at the plant and book sales! The workshops were great, the weather perfect, the mood jubilant, and the banquet a sight for sore eyes with red napkins, white tablecloths and sparkling glasses. The Chef prepared 400 portions. I was number 395 at the buffet table so I had to settle for carrot cake instead of cheesecake. Oh, well, I won the lovely dried arrangement centrepiece from our table; Nancy Greer won the lovely china plate from SW Oregon Chapter raffle. The company was great and so was the wine. There was a small rhododendron or azalea at each place setting. Oh, Oh, I just heard the elevator alarm upstairs. Ha Ha, if there's one thing I do know, it's that none of last night's victims are aboard!" (You are right on there!-Ed.)