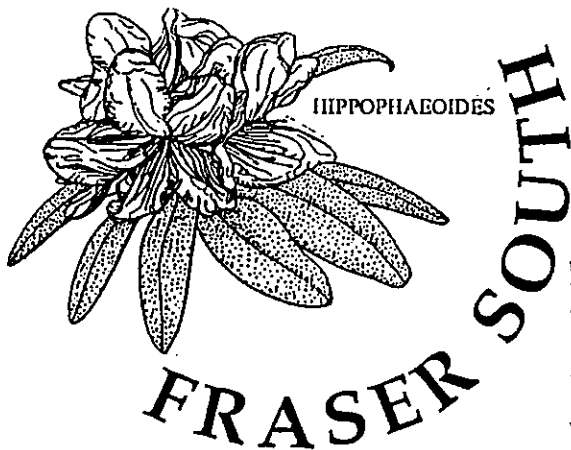


President: Don Martyn

Secretary: Lillian Emerson



RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

A Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society

6835 232nd Street

Langley, B.C., V3A 6H4

Fax: 888-2952

NEWSLETTER

WED. FEBRUARY 17TH 1993: CHARLOTTE'S AUCTION. A 15/20 MINUTE QUESTION/ANSWER PERIOD RE WINTERIZING YOUR PLANTS, ETC. IS ALSO PLANNED, AND EITHER A SHORT SLIDE QUIZ BY OUR PAST PRESIDENT, OR PART OF THE RHODO VIDEO WILL BE SHOWN.

AUCTION: THIS WILL AGAIN BE A FUND RAISER, EITHER FOR THE A.R.S. OR MR. WHARTON'S SEED COLLECTING TOUR. CHARLOTTE AGAIN ASKS YOUR SUPPORT HERE. AS SHE SAID LAST YEAR, IT IS EASY, IT IS FUN. EVERYONE BRINGS ONE OR TWO THINGS TO BE AUCTIONED OFF AND EVERYONE BRINGS ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY ONE OR TWO THINGS. NOT NECESSARILY PLANT MATERIAL - SO GET OUT YOUR THINKING CAPS AND HAVE A HUNT IN THE BASEMENT AGAIN. CHARLOTTE WILL NO DOUBT BE CALLING YOU THE NIGHT OF THE MEETING.

WED. MARCH 17TH: CLINT SMITH from Benjamin's Rhodos, Sumner, will be with us once again - everyone enjoys Clint's programs - and there will be plants from Clint for sale.

SUNDAY, MARCH 21ST: Vancouver Chapter's Plant sale at Clay's Nursery - 1.00 to 4.00 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 27TH: VRS Early Show at David Lam Centre, U.B.C.

SATURDAY, APRIL 10TH: Fraser South's Plant Sale at Clay's Nursery - Noon to 4.00 p.m. Diane Scott is already on deck on this one with John Haveman attending to the publicity. Members with plants for sale could call Diane at 533-4378 - also help will be needed in the way of cashiers, etc. Should members have perennials, annuals etc. as well as shrubs and trees, Diane Scott or Pat Dahl would be pleased to hear from you, so that they know where to go for certain plants.

SATURDAY, APRIL 24TH: WILLOWBROOK Truss Display & Plant Sale - organized by Diane Scott with help from Pat Dahl and we hope a few more. This is Earth Week - a good time for selling rhodos. Diane will be looking for volunteers again. Sue & Chris usually attend to the Truss Display.

VANDUSEN GARDENS: We have the VanDusen Gardens 1993 Calendar showing events from February to December - See it at the Hostess Table please.

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

FROM THE EXECUTIVE:

The 1993 Board of Directors are now in place as below. They added 2 Members at Large, being the Program Chairman and the Newsletter Editor for the year 1993. It is your Executive's wish that Committees be set up for handling Sales, Shows, Public Relations, Social events, Tours, etc. Lillian is to have a Chart ready for the February meeting with the great hope that many many names will appear magically!

1993 EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEES:

President: DON MARTYN (823-4853)	Membership: Chris Ballyn
Past President: LES CLAY (530-5188)	Programs: Harold Johnson
Vice-President: NORMA SENN (856-0075)	Library: Pat Dahl (534-5200)
Treasurer: LARRY CHASE (576-9782)	Bulletin: E. & D. Crabb
Secretary: LILLIAN EMERSON (888-2952)	Publicity: John Haveman
Directors: CHRISTOPHER BALLYN (987-2991)	Hospitality: Mrs. Phil Anderson
DR. M.L. TREMBATH (856-7261)	
DR. MIKE BALE (854-8080)	

The Board of Directors also passed a unanimous vote of confidence and thanks for our Librarian, PAT DAHL and wished to publicly acknowledge her great efforts in providing books for sale to members. The success of the Library is well evident at our meetings (Apologies Pat, for the broken lock! - lost without you), but your Board of Directors acknowledged that you should have help, but just try to get it!!

Pat and Dennis have just returned from a trip to New Zealand, and didn't forget us even there - she reports purchasing a Video giving over 100 varieties of rhodos, which is now being transferred for this country's viewing, and will be available at the Library. Anyone wishing to order books may call Pat at 534-5200. Here again, we have to encourage Dr. Mike Bale who had his video at the garden tours last year, and although he strongly feels it needs some editing, it can be made available for anyone's viewing.

CHRIS KLAPWIJK: although now no longer part of the Board of Directors, has undertaken to carry on with his successful Raffle - there will probably not be a Raffle at the February meeting because of the Auction but it will be in full swing for the March meeting.

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

Priscilla & Jim Archer, 16985 22nd Avenue, Surrey, V4B 5E7 -
536-4101

We hope to have an updated Membership List for you next month, when

we hope and expect a few of our stragglers will return to the fold. Some of you will be receiving the Newsletter even though you may not have renewed. However, we promise you we will not bore you next month if your name doesn't appear on the Membership List by then!

The Local Membership class has now been re-introduced at \$15.00 - Full Membership - \$30.00; Associate Membership - \$10.00. Cheques may be mailed to Chris Ballyn, 4096 Sunset Boulevard, North Vancouver, B.C., V7R 3Y8, or paid at the February meeting.

B.C. COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS: Our Membership has now been paid up for 1993. The Board of Directors also passed a Motion to again donate \$100.00 to the Council for their Scholarship Trust Fund. The Annual Conference of the Council will be held on March 20th at the Dogwood Room, P.N.E. Our Chapter sponsors two members to attend this event - it is a full day and they say informative talks, good meal etc., so please see Lillian Emerson, who will attend to the forms. 1992 saw Sue Finley and Chris Klapwijk attend.

SEED EXPEDITION: Dr. Peter Wharton, Curator, David C. LAM Asian Garden, U.B.C. is to join a group on a seed collecting expedition to S.E. Gansu Province, People's Republic of China, close to the Sichuan border. It is reported that a good number of species rhododendrons are to be found in the area. Dr. Wharton will be attending in June for five weeks, and the seed collection will be done by a Chinese group in the Fall. Financial help is required as the U.B.C. has cut back somewhat on operating funds, and he proposes the purchase of seed shares to support this venture. Your Board of Directors were enthusiastic about this project and will bring it to the membership at the February meeting for a vote as to amount to be given. It is an area that hasn't been explored by a westerner since 1914, but the Chinese hosts have supplied materials and information on what they may find.

JANUARY MEETING: Mr. John Kerridge gave a very interesting talk and slide show on primulas and the seed he brought along was quickly taken up. He announced that he and a U.S. friend of his would be selling primulas etc. at Van Dusen, and we hope it is the April 25th date.

KITCHEN: We, mustn't forget the Kitchen and our coffee, tea and goodies, which Melba attends to monthly, but we do ask for some volunteers here to help with cookies, etc. Thanks to those who have quietly provided in the past.

TACOMA: The particulars of the National Convention to be held at Tacoma on April 28/May 2nd are in the recent Journal. It is expected that a good representation will be attending from our Chapter, so now is the time to get your bookings attended to!

The February Executive meeting will be held at the CHASE residence, 21012 46A Avenue, Langley - 532-0159 - on Tuesday, February 23rd, 1993 at 7.30 p.m.

[PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS FOR CHAPTER CORRESPONDENCE]

TREES AND SHRUBS FOR WINTER BLOOM
By Norma Senn

We have a wealth of wonderful trees and shrubs to use in our local gardens. To my mind, however, some of the most rewarding are those that provide us with late winter or very early spring blooms.

There may be variation in blossom displays from one winter to the next, depending on the severity of a given winter and occasionally, there may be years when woody plant blossoms suffer serious winter damage. There may also be variation in the actual blooming dates from one year to the next, depending on the frequency and duration of cold spells. However, in many years, winter blossom displays can be excellent and they offer a great deal of pleasure to the gardener.

The following plants are some of my favourites for winter bloom, with a few comments about their growing requirements. For the most consistent displays, they should be planted in areas that are protected from the cold, dry east winds. You may have to hunt a bit, but I have seen all of the plants listed in large local garden centres during the year.

Winter Jasmine, Jasminum nudiflorum, has lovely bright yellow flowers, beginning with sporadic blooms in November and continuing to bloom through early spring. The flowers are borne on bright green branches and are very noticeable in the landscape. Winter Jasmine has long trailing or arching branches to 10-15 feet, and is spectacular when allowed to trail down over retaining walls. I have also seen them grown up trellises as espaliers, or handled like vines. However, if trained to grow up, they will need to be tied to stay in place. Grow Winter Jasmine in areas with full sun, even moisture and good drainage. Flowering branches make nice additions to winter bouquets.

Witch Hazel, Hamamelis mollis or H. intermedia, are large deciduous shrubs, or small trees with small flowers of yellow, orange or red. Individually, each flower is small, but they are borne on bare branches, and en masse, they make a lovely display. Witch Hazels are what I like to describe as "edge of the wood" trees; they grow best in partial shade, in deep, loamy soil with lots of organic matter, even moisture and good drainage. Witch Hazels have other features that make them attractive for garden use; their flowers are fragrant, they have lovely clear yellow fall leaf colour, and the plants are slow-growing, so they do not overgrow the garden quickly. There are many named varieties from which to choose. A good time to select a Witch Hazel for your garden is in late January or in February when the flowers are out, so you choose the colour you want.

Corylopsis spicata and C. pauciflora, Spike Winter Hazel and Buttercup Winter Hazel, respectively, are deciduous shrubs that bear flowers in late February through March. The flowers are soft yellow in colour, and are borne on bare branches. These are well behaved, slow growing shrubs that ultimately grow to 8-10 feet in height. They are happiest in partial shade, and should be sheltered from the cold dry eastern winds. They need even moisture in the summer. Corylopsis spicata is the more commonly available species.

One of my favourite large shrubs is Viburnum bodnantense because it offers something of interest year round in the landscape. This is a large deciduous shrub that produces clusters of fragrant, small pink or white flowers from October to Spring. The leaves are a bright fresh green throughout the summer, turning shades of dark red just before falling in October. This can reach 10 feet in height. For best growth, give full sun, and a rich loamy soil.

Cornus mas, Cornelian Cherry, is related to our own Pacific Dogwood. However, the Cornelian Cherry is a very different plant. It has small, soft yellow fuzzy flowers in late February or early March. In August, Cornelian Cherry has brilliant red fruits, which can be used for jellies, as long as the birds don't get them first! It can be grown as a large multi-stemmed shrub, or more usually as a small specimen tree. It should have excellent drainage, and it needs some water during the dry part of summer. I have read that this plant needs to be 10 to 15 years old before it begins to bloom, but apparently, my own plant has not read the books because it started to bloom at age three.

I often hear people commenting with wonder, that there are cherry trees in flower in Vancouver in November and December. The plants they are speaking of are Prunus subhirtella "Autumnalis", the Winter Flowering Cherry. This lovely tree bears pink blossoms, sporadically, throughout the winter as long as the weather is mild. A final full flower display occurs in spring. Winter Flowering Cherry grows best in full sun, with good drainage and even moisture.

Chimonanthus praecox is also called Wintersweet. The brownish small flowers, borne in February, are not showy, but this plant is very fragrant. If possible, plant it near a doorway to enjoy the fragrance whenever you go in or out. Wintersweet is a deciduous shrub; it should be planted in partial shade and protected from cold winter winds. Wintersweet may need to be watered during the driest part of the summer.

Two plants that are worth fussing over because of their winter blooms are Camellia sasanqua and Sarcococca. Neither of these plants is reliably winter hardy here. However, some things are worth the risk. They are both broad-leaved evergreen shrubs, each having glossy, neat green leaves. The Camellia blooms sporadically throughout the winter and has red, white or pink flowers. The flowers of Sarcococca are actually small and whitish in colour, but have a wonderful fragrance that makes up for their tiny size. Since both plants may suffer in severe winters, there are a couple of things to try. Grow them in large tubs and move the containers into protected spots like a garage or unheated glassed-in sun porch during very cold weather. The other method is to try to plant them in very sheltered areas, next to the house entryway where there may be some protection from cold wind and extreme temperatures. However, they may, indeed, be some years where these two plants will die no matter what you do.

If some of these plants are new to you, and you would like a chance to see what they look like in bloom, check out Van Dusen Botanical Gardens, located at 37th Avenue and Oak Street, Vancouver. Even in winter, you can find plants of interest at Van Dusen. One feature that is very helpful is the display found just as you walk into the gardens from the admission kiosk. It shows the plants currently in bloom, with each plant identified. It's also time to start visiting local garden centres, so you can see exactly what varieties of winter blooming trees and shrubs you'd like to add to your own garden.

FIVE STAGES OF RHODOHOLISM - by Heide Shelton

(Reprinted from the March 1988 Newsletter of the Seattle Rhododendron Society - Ed.)

1. Patient busy with commonly available hybrids (Elizabeth, Hon. Jean marie de Montague, Scintillation, Gomer Waterer, Pink Pearl, etc.) Notices pretty flowers and relatively easy care, goes on to stage 2.
2. Begins to comb more prestigious and out-of-town nurseries for more unusual varieties and smaller plants (keeping in mind that he/she will run out of garden space in the near future as this acquisitive habit continues unfettered). Throws out or gives away perfectly healthy plants (especially non-rhodies) to make room for more of his favourites. Buys every book on rhododendrons that is available. Plants trees whose sole purpose it is to provide just the right amount of dappled shade for rhodies. Begins to collect plants for showy foliage alone. Tries rooting some cuttings. Joins the Rhododendron Society.

The disease can be halted at this stage but not reversed.

3. Starts to look at "real estate" (minimum three acres) in outlying areas because his/her garden is at capacity. Builds a greenhouse and makes some crosses, "just to see what happens". Dreams about owning a rhododendron nursery. If financial and physical resources are adequate for realizing this dream, patient may live out his/her life growing, hybridizing, exhibiting and selling rhodies and sharing experiences with like-minded people. All the while he/she harbours the secret hope to be the hybridizer of the next "Lem's Cameo", i.e. a plant that will take the rhody world by storm and bring if not a fortune, at least fame to its creator.

Recovery at this stage is difficult if not impossible, due to the fact that patient sees the disease as entirely benign, even pleasurable.

4. Admiration for species, which began late in stage two or early stage three, begins to take over now. Patient will travel long distances to seek out unusual plants. Beauty of flowers or even acquisition of plants matters less and less; rarity is what patient is after. May sell house and car to finance a trek to the Himalayas. Patient's family, if still intact at this point, gives up on his/her sanity.
5. Patient shaves head, dons a yellow robe, and becomes a Tibetan monk too live among his beloved species. It is not known how females cope with this stage; possibly they disguise themselves as mountaineers, naturalists, or missionaries. As no case of recovery from stage five is known in the literature, it is generally considered terminal.