



SEPTEMBER 1993

The Yak

A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

FRASER SOUTH RHODODENDRON SOCIETY
6835 232ND STREET
LANGLEY, BRITISH COLUMBIA
V3A 6H4, CANADA

Wednesday, September 15 Meeting 8:00 p.m.

St. Andrews Anglican Hall
20955 Old Yale Road, Langley

- We are very fortunate to have *Gwen Bell* of the Seattle Chapter ARS as the guest speaker for our September meeting. Gwen has travelled to rhododendron areas of the world, including China, Japan, Sikkim, Great Britain, Europe and New Zealand. Her reputation for knowing the best new rhododendrons is widely known.
- Members get your list ready of your ten most favourite rhodies that you absolutely couldn't live without! Bring your list to the meeting.

New members

A warm welcome to David and Sandy MacFarlane who recently joined Fraser South.☼

And a great time was had by all

The annual picnic held in mid-June was a great success—beautiful setting, yummy food and excellent company. Members from as far away as Tofino joined in the fun.☼

Wanted—Rhodo Photos

At the August Executive Committee Meeting it was suggested the Chapter compile albums of members' favourite rhodo photos. Dr. Trembath will discuss this at the September meeting. Members are invited to contribute their rhodo photos which should be 4" x 6" in size and with two photos for each rhodo—a photo of the bush and a photo of the flower and of course, include the name of the rhodo.

The Chapter will make these albums available at plant sales and displays, etc.

Your contributions will be greatly appreciated.☼

Thanks to Diane Scott and crew

Diane Scott and her crew of volunteers organized a wonderful display at the PNE this year. At the 11th hour Diane came up with a brainwave—what would be really helpful at displays such as the PNE and Willowbrook Mall Plant Sale would be photo albums to show off what rhododendrons look like in all their splendour. A quick call to Dr. Mike Trembath and Bob's your uncle—a beautiful album was produced (which Dr. Trembath spent all night and day putting together). Our sincere thanks to Diane and her crew for all their time and hard work.☘

Library Report

by Pat Dahl

As we enjoy our Indian Summer after a somewhat wet few months (those of us with restricted water haven't complained and the rhodies have loved it), I would like to interest you in Fraser South's library which has a very good selection of books and videos.

Our retreat to the greenhouse is not imminent! I am sure we are all still busy cleaning up and preparing our gardens for winter, but planning for next year starts at this time. With that in mind and the approaching months when hopefully we can put our feet up once in a while without feeling guilty, what better time to enjoy a good plant book or video.

We have ARS Journals from 1948, seven volumes from the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, journals from the Royal Horticultural Society, Camellia year books, books on bulbs, lilacs, magnolias—you name it we probably have it! We have approximately 100 books and videos on talks given at our meetings, gardens and rhodos.

All this has been possible by a small group of hard working volunteers who have raised money from plant sales and from the Executive who have allocated funds to the library—to all these people we owe our thanks, and hopefully we can continue to expand our library in the coming year.

Please remember—all books borrowed are to be returned at the September meeting.☘

BULLETIN BOARD

UPCOMING EVENTS

CUTTINGS WORKSHOP

Saturday, September 18, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.
at Clay's Nursery, 3666 - 224th Street, Langley

- workshop on how to root cuttings
—bring your *Willow Water* (see the May issue of *The Yak* for recipe by Harold Johnson—*Rooting Tips*)
- cutting exchange—share cuttings of your rhodos with other members
- tour of Les Clay's lab

FRASER SOUTH'S FALL RHODO SALE

Saturday, September 25, 12:00 to 4:00
at Clay's Nursery, 3666 - 224th Street, Langley

Bring your plant materials, friends and money!
Beat the rush of the spring sales.

VANCOUVER CHAPTER MEETING

Thursday, September 16, 7:30 p.m. at VanDusen
Gardens Floral Hall, 5251 Oak Street, Vancouver

Guest speaker will be Anne Sather of Whitney Gardens (Brinnon, Washington). Whitney Gardens has produced many of our better known rhodos including Virginia Richards, Blue Pacific, Double Date, Sunny Day, Top Banana, Anne's Delight.

The Glades—An Opportunity for a Rhododendron Park

by David Sellars

A couple of weeks ago, a meeting was held between the District of Surrey and representatives from garden-oriented societies in the White Rock/South Surrey area. Fraser South was represented by Les Clay and the Peace Arch Chapter by Jeanie Robb.

The District of Surrey may be interested in purchasing *The Glades*, a famous 5-acre private rhododendron garden in South Surrey together with adjacent properties to create a park. One of the neighbouring properties under consideration is the property of Harry Dring, a long-time rhododendron hybridizer.

The Glades was created many years ago by Bill and Lydia Stevens. They had been impressed by rhododendron gardens in Scotland and wanted to create a similar garden in Surrey. The gardens used to be open every May for an admission charge of one dollar and visitors came from far and wide to see the

rhododendrons and rare trees. Bill has now passed away and Lydia no longer lives on the property. *The Glades* requires continuing upkeep to maintain its former glory.

Surrey has recently acquired 'city' status and has adopted the sobriquet '*City of Parks*'. A great city should have a botanical garden and arboretum and Surrey should be encouraged to proceed with the purchase of this heritage site. In the next issue of *The Yak* we hope to have more information on *The Glades*.

In the meantime, individuals who support this initiative should write to:

Clark Kavolinas
General Superintendent
of Planning, Research and Design
Surrey Parks and Recreation Commission
14245 - 56th Avenue
Surrey, B.C., V3X 3A2

Diane Scott reports

My friend, Pat keeps telling me I don't give enough reports, so to satisfy her and to let the rest of you know, this is how "*Our Time at the PNE*" has gone. I would like to express my thanks to the people behind the scenes without whose help I surely would have floundered—Dorothy Griffin whose magical power helped persuade you that indeed it is fun to lily and rhodo sit; Lillian Emerson who provided excellent typing and envelope stuffing services; Gina Boswell—landscape extraordinaire; Harold Johnson who was always ready to help; Del Knowlton who put the display together

and Les Clay whom I'm sure never wants to see me or hear my voice again—a big thanks for all his patience in helping us choose the display material, packing it all up, taking it to the PNE and bringing it all back; and to Barb his left hand who photocopied all the printed material that I sent out plus all the handouts for the display; to Les' right hand, Bev, I have an especially grateful *thank you* for putting up with all this and still managing to smile. It takes a lot of effort on everyone's part to put this all together. The kind of exposure we get at the PNE is invaluable whether it's only to find a new source to buy an unusual rhodo or maybe even join another chapter, we've done a little bit to help make another rhodoholic.*

rootstalk

by *Indumentum*

The worst rhododendron problem was identified by Austin C. Kennel, former President of the American Rhododendron Society in the Fall 1990 issue of the ARS Journal. It is the affliction that people give to plants—name tags. Austin has never met a name tag he likes. *"They're either too difficult to inscribe, or too hard attach, or don't retain what's written on them, or too difficult to find among the foliage, or too obtrusive, or too tough to decipher or won't stay on the plant!"* He suggests that the design of a really practical means of identifying plants might be a good endeavour for the ARS Research Committee.

I suggest a bigger problem is not having a name tag at all. It's very frustrating visiting a famous rhododendron garden, finding a gorgeous plant with just the right flower colour and foliage and then not being able to identify it.

To encourage public gardens to improve their identification methods perhaps we should develop a rating system consistent with the standard rhododendron method. On a scale of zero to 5 we could rate public gardens on the basis of landscape/plants/labelling. For example, Crystal Springs in Portland, Oregon would get a 5/4/1. Meerkerk Gardens has excellent labels and would score 4/4/4 and will rate higher once the Asian Garden is complete and all the labelling is accomplished. Closer to home, VanDusen Gardens gets a 4/4/3 for not all rhododendrons are labelled. By far the best labels we've seen recently were at the UBC Asian Gardens but the labelling is far from complete resulting in a score of 4/5/4.

Ed. Note: We welcome your comments to The Yak on your favourite public gardens and how you would rate them. ☘

COME JOIN IN THE YAK

We would appreciate members' contributions. Got an idea? Want to share some experiences, comments, a laugh or two. This newsletter is an opportunity to participate in the society.

Send your articles, comments, notes, queries, or letters to:

Wendy Sellars
16877 - 30A Avenue
White Rock, B.C., V4B 5E7
or fax: 583-5113

Fraser South Rhododendron Society Executive and Committees

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