

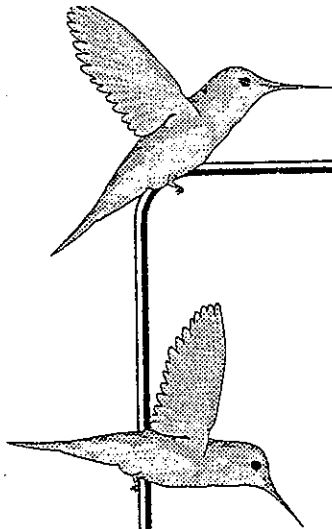


NOVEMBER 1994

The Yak

A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

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



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1994 MEETING
8:00 P.M.

St. Andrews Anglican Hall
20955 Old Yale Road, Langley

Sex in the Rhododendron Garden

Guest Speaker: Loyd Newcomb

Loyd Newcomb from Snohomish, Washington has been tampering with Mother Nature and creating new rhododendrons for the past 35 years. His presentation will cover the technical aspects of hybridizing and he will also show slides of the fascinating results that can be obtained. Loyd was a friend of Halfdan Lem who passed on some of his seedlings and ideas on hybridizing. A few years ago one of Loyd's crosses 'Newcomb's Sweetheart' won an award of merit in England. His wife, Eddie has recently registered one of their best hybrids which is not yet in circulation and we look forward to seeing slides of this new plant.

The Yakalendar

Fraser South Chapter Meeting Wednesday, November 16, 8:00 p.m.

"Sex in the Rhododendron Garden"—Speaker: Loyd Newcomb

Fraser South Christmas Party Wednesday, December 7, 6:00 p.m. Newlands Golf and Country Club

21025 - 48th Avenue, Langley

Dinner in the Copper Room—Cocktails at 6:00, Dinner at 7:00

Turkey Dinner (salad and dessert included), cost per person: \$28.00 (includes gratuity and tax), drinks not included. There will be door prizes and the traditional Les Clay "Name That Rhodo" Contest. *Diane Scott will be contacting members. Tickets will be on sale at the November meeting.*

Kwantlen College Lecture Wednesday, November 23, 8:00 p.m.

Kwantlen College, Langley Campus
Auditorium, 20901 Langley Bypass

"What's New for 1995 Gardens"—Speaker: Brian Minter
No Charge

Fraser South Chapter Meeting Wednesday, January 18, 1995

"Reflections of Nature in our Gardens"—Speaker: Glen Patterson

Reminders

Membership Dues

Deadline for renewing your membership is mid-November to receive the ARS Winter 1995 Journal. When renewing your membership please complete the 1995 Membership Renewal Form sent to you with your October issue of *The Yak*.

Complete the ARS Questionnaire!

The purpose of any society is to provide services to the members. The members have to decide what services they want, in other words, what kind of society they wish to belong to. It is therefore *very important* that you complete and mail the questionnaire in the Fall 1994 edition of the ARS Journal.

The Yak Returns Next Year

The next issue of *The Yak* will be in early January 1995.

New Members to Welcome

We are pleased to welcome Russ Arndt of Surrey and Art and Eleanor Stubbs of Milwaukie, Oregon.

Ron Rules-OK ?

Ron Rule gave a provocative presentation at our October meeting. He started off by wondering why so many people were obsessed with rhododendrons but allowed that they did serve a function as background plants. The audience of rhodoholics shifted uneasily in their seats but relaxed as Ron developed his artist's feel and perspective of garden creation. He is fond of the English romantic school of gardening and showed some beautiful slides of English and Northwest gardens to illustrate his philosophy. Many of the Vancouver gardens he has designed reflect extravagant tastes but the slides were useful to understand the principles of garden design such as creating a sense of place consistent with the site.

In January we will be continuing with our lecture series on garden design with Glen Patterson demonstrating his aesthetic perspective. Contrary to Ron Rule, Glen eschews the English garden tradition and believes we should be developing a Northwest design style based on our beautiful scenery of mountains and lakes. Stone, water and trees are the natural setting for rhododendrons in the wild.

Library Update

Thanks to requests by members and support from our Executive we have a very comprehensive selection of books in the Fraser South Library. We not only have most of the rhododendron books in print but for those of us who have other gardening interests there are innumerable choices.

Our fall has been magnificent—the best colour in my opinion, for many years, but I say that every year I think! Have you wondered about which maples or oaks are the most colourful? Our library has "Maples of the World" by D.M. van Geldrin, P.C. de Jong, and W.J. Oterdoom and "Japanese Maples" by J.D. Vertries.

'Tis the season for planning bulb plantings and we have some excellent resource books—"Bulbs" (two volumes) by John E. Bryan. I have just ordered the "Modern Miniature Daffodils" by J.S. Wells and "Narcissus" by Michael Jefferson-Brown and these should be in by the November meeting.

For the winter days we have videos—"Rhododendron Leaf", "Gardens of the World", "Exbury", "Pruning", etc.

If anyone has wondered what Mike Bale was doing at the back of the room setting up a video camera before our meetings, he records the lectures for us, so if you are unable to attend a particular lecture or wish to clarify a point or name, etc. the video is available from the library.

The library is for everyone, please use it and if I don't have what you need don't hesitate to ask.

Pat Dahl

Garden Gems

The latest edition of the ARS Journal (Fall 1994) contains an interesting article on ratings of older rhododendrons. A questionnaire had been circulated for members to rate their favourite rhodos. Fraser South joined in the exercise last spring but, oddly, we were not mentioned in the article as a participant. Anyway, it is interesting to compare our results with the continent-wide survey.

Our top hybrid and species were identical to the ARS poll. Both selected 'Taurus' and *R. yakushmanum*. The three 'Garden Gem' Awards in the ARS poll went to 'Lem's Cameo', 'Helene Schiffner' and 'Taurus'. We had 'Lem's Cameo' second in our list of top fourteen plants but 'Helene Schiffner' did not even get a mention by Fraser South. What have we got against Helene? She received her F.C.C. in 1893 so maybe we thought she was a bit past it. The Finleys had some nice 'Helene Schiffners' at the Vancouver Chapter sale so anyone who hasn't got one should race down to 'the farm' and snap one up before the word gets around. Be sure to phone Gord and Vern Finley first—581-5100.

Yakuttings

The Cuttings Exchange worked very well and a number of gardens are now denuded as if a herd of goats passed in the night. Thanks to those who donated cuttings—Fred Banford, Mike Trembath, Gord and Vern Finley, and Diane Scott.

Fraser South Rhododendron Society

Executive and Committees

President:	Norma Senn
Past President:	Don Martyn
Vice President:	Mike Trembath
Treasurer:	Larry Chase
Secretary:	Lillian Emerson
Directors:	John Anderson Mike Bale Arnim Roeske
Membership: Programs:	Arnim Roeske Les Clay and David Sellars
Library:	Pat Dahl
Newsletter:	Wendy and David Sellars
Publicity:	Hedy Dyck
Hospitality:	Phil Anderson
Ways and Means:	Diane Scott

rootstalk

by Indumentum

It's that time of the year when those of us who are 'pushing the hardiness zones' are wondering whether the *sinogrande* will make it through the winter and what measures we can take to mitigate an extreme cold spell. Surprisingly, there is not a great body of literature on winter protection of rhododendrons so we have to rely on rose growers, to provide some insights. We used to buy hybrid tea roses imported from the States and the instructions on the label were to plant with the bud union two inches above ground level. In the freeze of January 1989 all of our roses died and we gave up growing hybrid teas. Later on we became interested in old garden roses which we obtained from Pickering Nurseries in Ontario. Winter protection is, of course, a big issue in that part of Canada and their advice is to plant the bud union two inches *below* ground level. In addition, it is recommended to mound some mulch around tender roses at the beginning of winter after the first frosts.

Now, we growers of Greek roses can't plant our rhodos any deeper but mounding a bit of mulch over the rootball of tender plants is pretty easy. The mulch will insulate the rootball and provide some protection from drying out during those bitterly cold spells with strong easterly outflow winds. The mulch must be removed in the spring otherwise root growth may be stimulated in the stem which may then soften and break. Protecting the rootball in the winter is consistent with the idea that the focus of rhododendron cultivation should be on growing a rootball rather than branches and leaves. Sometimes, a healthy looking plant conceals an inadequate root structure but we know that a sound, burgeoning rootball will always result in a healthy plant even if it has become defoliated.