



FEBRUARY 1995

The Yak

A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

FRASER SOUTH RHODODENDRON SOCIETY
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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1995 MEETING

8:00 P.M.

St. Andrews Anglican Hall
20955 Old Yale Road, Langley

RHODODENDRONS—GRAFTING AND GARDENING GUEST SPEAKERS: *VERN AND GORD FINLEY*

Our feature speakers will be our very own Vern and Doc Finley. The evening will begin with a demonstration of grafting by Gord using some of the skills he developed as a surgeon. This will be followed by a slide presentation of some of Vern's favourite rhododendrons.

The Finleys were founding members of the Fraser South Chapter and have a beautiful woodland garden in Surrey and a nursery in South Langley. Many of the plants that appear magically at our raffle are donated by the Finleys. One of their hybrids won a competition to select a new rhododendron to honour the centennial of the City of Burnaby. A picture of *R. 'Burnaby Centennial'* was featured on the cover of the Spring, 1994 ARS Journal.

New Members

We are pleased to welcome Georgina du Russell and Florence Emerton of Langley and Grant and Theresa Lund of Gibsons.

Reflecting Nature in our Gardens

Glen Patterson gave us an inspiring presentation at our chapter meeting in January. Rather than paradise gardens such as Persian water gardens, Glen

suggested that gardens should be an expression of our love for the earth. Rhododendrons are mountain plants and can be used to create a sense of refuge as part of our Pacific Coast mountain landscape.

Glen had some great tips on pruning trees and noted that trees such as sequoia and cedrus deodora can be cut right down to the ground and they will continue to grow. He believes that trees should be kept in scale with the rest of the garden and thus he is fond of dwarf conifers and bonsai methods for larger trees. Glen brought along some branches from some of his conifers and they were quickly snapped up by members after the presentation.

YAKALENDAR



Wednesday, February 15, 8:00 p.m.

Fraser South Chapter Meeting

Rhododendrons—Grafting and Gardening—Speakers: Vern and Gord Finley

Saturday, February 18, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

VanDusen Garden's 6th Annual Heritage Seed Swap

VanDusen Botanical Garden Floral Hall, 5251 Oak Street, Vancouver

Includes speakers, exhibits and demonstrations on seed saving and collecting, international seed conservation, organic gardening and seed exchange.

Wednesday, March 15, 8:00 p.m.

Fraser South Chapter Meeting

Vireyas—Culture and Propagation—Speaker: E. White Smith

Saturday, April 1, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Rhododendron Species Foundation Annual Spring Sale

Federal Way, Washington

Sunday, April 9

Fraser South Chapter Sale

Clay's Nursery, 3666 - 224th Street, Langley

Sunday, April 16

Fraser South Chapter Tour of North Shore Gardens

Deep Cove to Lion's Bay

Wednesday, April 19, 8:00 p.m.

Fraser South Chapter Meeting

Expedition to China—Guest Speaker: Peter Wharton

Thursday Evenings, April 20 to May 18

Members' Gardens Tour

Each Thursday evening one member's garden will be open to Fraser South chapter members. Our gardens vary from some only recently started to collections of established plants. These tours provide an opportunity to discuss successes and future plans and to exchange information and ideas. Anyone interested in welcoming visitors on a Thursday evening please contact David Sellars at 535-0763.

Saturday, April 22

Fraser South Chapter Sale & Truss Show

Willowbrook Mall, Langley

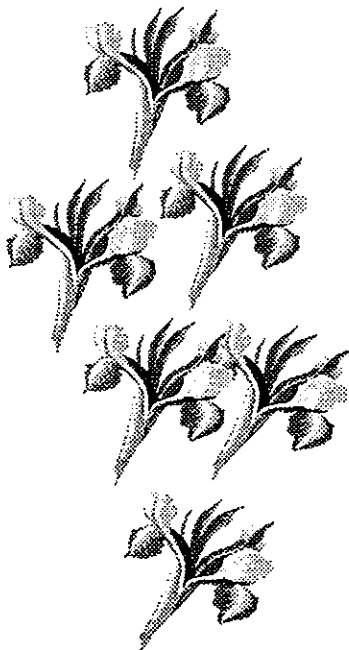
Sunday, April 30

Fraser South Chapter Tour of Victoria Gardens

May 10-14

50th Annual ARS Convention, Portland Oregon

SPRING ^{SEEN}
SPRUNG



The Search for *R.* 'Rimini' concluded...

Yes, yes she is found!! I am overjoyed to find that there is a resolution after all.

When I left you, dear reader (January edition of *The Yak*) the ball had been returned to the court of the Registry Office at Wisley. Dr. A.C. Leslie (registration officer) wrote very shortly after receiving my fax to say that an immediate search of Slocock catalogues had failed to show 'Rimini', but further search in their larger collection in London would be undertaken, and he noted that Exbury was listing a 'Rimini' in their new

catalogue. Within a few days a second letter arrived to tell me that Exbury was quick to claim "that 'Rimini' was indeed a hybrid made by the late Lionel de Rothschild in the 1930's; that they still had the original plant; parentage was indeed *apodectum* x *discolor*, and that they would register it in the spring."

End of story, a success eh? I just have a little niggle—a cross dating from the 1930's—might the name "Rimini" be a grex name? Will the plant they plan to register—their 'original plant'—be the same clone as the plants we have over here??

—Mike Trembath

Wild Seeds Available

Last year Fraser South Chapter gave financial assistance (\$500) to Peter Wharton's plant hunting expedition to China. Peter will give a slide presentation to Fraser South on April 19 and seeds collected will be available to Fraser South members. If you are interested in receiving some of the following seeds please contact our President, Norma Senn at 856-0075.



R. arboreum

PW #	NAME
32	<i>R. davidii</i> aff.?
100	<i>R. sp. Azaleastrum</i>
49	<i>R. sutchuenense</i>
20	<i>R. sp. Triflora</i>
41	<i>R. sp. Fortunea</i>
34	<i>R. davidii</i> aff.?
52	<i>R. davidii</i> aff.?
82	<i>R. sp. Fortunea</i>
77	<i>R. calophytum</i>
76	<i>R. sp. Fortunea</i>
86	<i>R. latoucheae</i> ?
50	<i>R. auriculatum</i>
81	<i>R. sp. Triflora</i>
66	<i>R. sp. ?</i>
78	<i>R. coeloneurum</i>
43	<i>R. sp. Fortunea</i> (large leaves)
10	<i>R. sp. Azaleastrum</i>
18	<i>R. sp. Fortunea</i>
21	<i>R. simsii</i>
30	<i>R. sp. Fortunea</i>
79	<i>R. sp. Barbata</i>
99	<i>R. simsii</i>
39	<i>R. sp. Fortunea</i>
51	<i>R. davidii</i> aff.?
27	<i>R. coeloneurum</i>
90	<i>R. agastum</i>
91	<i>R. arboreum</i> ssp. <i>delavayi</i>
92	<i>R. agastum</i>
93	<i>R. agastum</i> ?
94	<i>R. arboreum</i> ssp. <i>delavayi</i>
95	<i>R. agastum</i>
96	<i>R. irroratum</i>
97	<i>R. sp. Triflora</i>
98	<i>R. agastum</i>

Thanks to our outgoing Executive

The Fraser South Chapter is grateful to the members of the Executive who recently completed their terms of office. The work that these people have put in to the society has made the chapter such a successful organization.

Lillian Emerson served in a number of roles including Treasurer and Secretary since the founding of the chapter in 1988. She has turned over a beautifully organized series of files which constitute a valuable archive of the chapter.

Larry Chase took over temporarily as Treasurer in the fall of 1991 and has served ever since. Larry and Charlotte have been energetic contributing members to the society.

Mike Trembath has served on the Executive for several years as Vice-President. She has contributed so much in ideas for the chapter and articles for the newsletter. Keep the writing up Mike!

Fraser South Rhododendron Society

1995 Executive and Committees

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

1995 Members List coming

In the March issue of *The Yak* the 1995 Fraser South Members List will be included. Please advise Wendy Sellars at 535-0763 of changes to your address or phone (or fax) number since the 1994 mailing list. This information will be needed by the end of February.

Rootstalk

by Indumentum

During construction of our house in 1987 a deep hole was excavated into hardpan and to save money on trucking, we had the sticky, grey clay spread over the front garden. A few months later we proudly brought home our first red rhododendron from the nursery. Carefully following the instructions in our gardening book we planted it in a hole twice the width of the pot. It was a pity the hole was dug into the revolting clay but we didn't read the book that closely.

Fortunately the nursery had sold us *R. 'Vulcan'* which is a tough plant and can tolerate, shall we say, less than ideal growing conditions. A few weeks ago I decided to move the *Vulcan* to a newly developed area of the garden. The plant had grown about four feet high and had flowered reliably every year. I found that the rootball had not spread further than the original width of the dug hole (how could it?) but when I tried to lift the plant it wouldn't budge. It had grown tap roots, as thick as a pencil, down into the clay at the bottom of the hole which had to be sliced off in order to lift the plant. This demonstrates that rhododendrons do not only feed from surface roots. As Norman Todd noted, "rhododendrons, unlike animals, don't move around much in search of food" so the tap roots must have been finding something nutritious down there.

The *Vulcan* was moved into a luxury hole excavated into a rich topsoil and composted bark mulch mix. Bone meal and shredded copies of selected rhododendron books were added at the bottom of the hole to confound the experts and provide organic matter. The warm rains of the past few weeks are settling the roots in nicely and we are looking forward to enjoying our red rhododendron in May.