



APRIL 1995

The Yak

A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

FRASER SOUTH RHODODENDRON SOCIETY
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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 1995 MEETING

8:00 P.M.

St. Andrews Anglican Hall
20955 Old Yale Road, Langley

GUEST SPEAKER: PETER WHARTON
**"RHODODENDRON EXPLORATION IN GUIZHOU,
THE OVERLOOKED PROVINCE IN CHINA"**

Peter Wharton, Curator of the David C. Lam Asian Garden at the University of British Columbia spent five weeks in China last October on a rhododendron exploration expedition. His trip was in conjunction with the Nanjing Botanical Gardens which assisted with local arrangements. Many of our club members have acquired some of the seed that Peter collected so it will be fascinating to learn more about where the seeds originated.

Memorial for Harold Johnson

At our April Meeting the Executive will ask the membership for approval to proceed with the purchase of a park bench to be erected at Williams Park in memory of Harold. The cost of the bench is \$1,000.

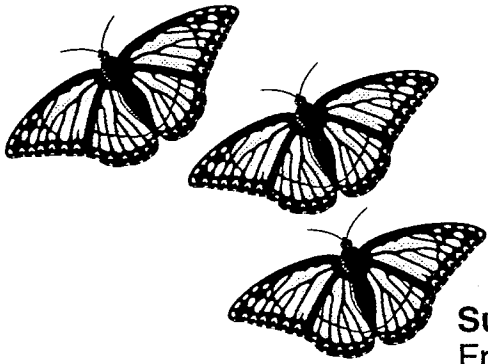
For new members who did not know Harold...

Harold was a founding member of Fraser South Chapter and served as a Director and Program Chairman for the club. He was very active in the ARS and was awarded the Bronze Medal at club level and Silver Medal at the national level for his contributions. Harold was one of the friendliest and most helpful people you could ever meet—he delighted in welcoming new members and sharing with us his considerable knowledge of rhododendrons.

Harold passed away in October 1993.

Virescent Vireyas

White Smith gave us a fascinating account of vireyas at our March meeting. Vireyas are a group of tropical rhododendrons that need a greenhouse to survive our cold winters. They typically have long tubular flowers which become more intense in colour the longer they last! Although they naturally occur in very rainy areas, such as the mountains of Papua New Guinea, they require exceptionally good drainage. White showed photographs of plant pots with extra drain holes bored in the sides with a soldering iron. One of the most outstanding slides was of *R. jasminiflorum* with long white flowers flushed pink and very fragrant. A beautiful vireya hybrid was *R. 'St. Valentine'*, a bold red which could be used as a house plant. We are very grateful to White Smith for travelling all the way from Tacoma to give us such an inspiring and unusual presentation.



YAKALENDAR

Sunday, April 9, 1:00 to 4:00
Fraser South Chapter Sale
Clay's Nursery, 3666 - 224th Street, Langley

S

Sunday, April 16
Fraser South Chapter Tour of North Shore Gardens
See page 3 for details

P

Wednesday, April 19, 8:00 p.m.
Fraser South Chapter Meeting
Expedition to China—Guest Speaker: Peter Wharton

R

Thursday Evenings, April 20 to May 18
Members' Gardens Tour
See page 3 for details

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Saturday, April 22
Fraser South Chapter Sale & Truss Show
Willowbrook Mall, Langley

N

Sunday, April 30
Fraser South Chapter Tour of Victoria Gardens
See page 3 for details

G

May 10-14
50th Annual ARS Convention, Portland Oregon

Wednesday, May 17
Fraser South Chapter Meeting
Members Beer Bottle Truss Show & Appreciation Night
Show your trusses; buy, sell or trade plants with other Fraser South members

Wednesday, June 21
Fraser South Chapter Picnic
Williams Park, Langley

Fraser South Tours

Tour of North Shore Gardens—Sunday, April 16 (Easter Sunday)

Car Pool—Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Park and Ride on south side of freeway (Hwy. 1) at 160 Street in North Surrey. Call David Sellars at 535-0763 if you plan to attend.

TIMES	GARDEN	ADDRESS
10:00 a.m.	Margaret Charlton	5414 Indian River Road, near Deep Cove
12:00	Glen Patterson	4761 Pilot House Road off Marine Drive and Picadilly Street
2:00 p.m.	Joe Ronsley	250 Oceanview Road, Lions Bay
3:00	Richard Mossakowski	155 Highview Place, Lions Bay

Bring a lunch.

Member Garden Tours, 7:00 p.m. until dusk

These events are a great way to meet members and pick up new garden ideas. Just drop in!

Thursday, April 20	Fred and Anne Banford, 4681 - 233 Street, Langley
Thursday, April 27	Mike Trembath, 25149 - 72 Avenue, Langley
Tuesday, May 2	Allan and Evelyn Morton, 13497 Balsam Crescent, South Surrey—take 24 Ave. to 136 St., head north on 136 St. which turns into Balsam Crescent
Thursday, May 11	Arnim and Mary Roeske, 19459 - 5 Avenue, South Surrey—take 8th Ave to 192 St., head south and turn left on 3A Ave., turn left at 194 St. and right on 5 Ave.
Thursday, May 18	Pat and Dennis Dahl, 2054 - 216 Street, Langley

Tour of Private Gardens in the Victoria Area—Sunday, April 30

Transport by rented mini vans. Cost: \$15 per person plus ferry. We will catch the 7:00 a.m. ferry. Space is limited. The first 14 people to sign up and pay \$15.00 at the April 19 meeting will be guaranteed a seat. If there is sufficient additional interest a third passenger van will be rented.

Bring a lunch.

Schedule:

6:30 a.m.	Own transport to ferry. Park and walk on. Meet in ferry's front cafeteria
7:00	Ferry departs Tsawwassen
8:30	Ferry arrives Swartz Bay
9:00	Visit Towner Crest, Nick and Evelyn Weesjes
12:00	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Visit Moonridge, Dave Dougan
3:00	Visit rock/alpine garden, Alf Smith
5:00	Catch ferry at Swartz Bay for Tsawwassen

Spectacular Species



R. fulvum

Fulvum means tawny and this species has beautiful cinnamon indumentum and glossy green leaves. The flowers are a gorgeous blush pink and are set off by the fabulous foliage. This spectacular species can be seen in flower in late March in Vandusen Botanical Gardens and in a beautiful grove in the U.B.C. Asian Garden.

The Rhodoholic

*'Twas ventricose and the dendroid scales
Were zygomorphic in the clone
All villous were the polyploids
And the colyledons were out sown.*

*Beware the rhodoholic my son
The viscid lobe, the pubescent gene
With scurfy hairs, fasciculate gland
And scabrid anthers green.*

*And hast though indulged the rhodoholic?
Come to my arms my coriaceous boy!
O glabrous fate! Stellate! Punctate!
He was floccose in his joy.*

Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, 1870

rootstalk

by Indumentum

During the Victorian era, a group of rhododendron enthusiasts used to meet once a year at the 'Pistil and Stamen' an unassuming pub on Tottenham Court Road in North London. Gathered around the oak table, drawing on their pipes and supping on flagons of beer were many of the plant explorers and nurserymen who are household names today: Robert Fortune, Sir Joseph Hooker, Sir Edmund Loder and the Waterer clan, John, Michael, Anthony and Gomer. On this particular night, December 9, 1870, a heated discussion was underway which seemed to revolve around the fact that Gomer was cheesed off because his Dad wouldn't name a rhodo after him. Sir Edmund was taking his side because he felt any rhodo with a name like that would be unforgettable and would surely last until the 21st century.

Sitting slightly apart and observing the exchange of botanical jargon with sardonic amusement was an Oxford don, Charles Dodgson. Charles was more of a writer than a rhododendron enthusiast but he was a good friend of Sir Edmund Loder and spent time at Leonardslee photographing rhododendrons. As the argument grew more and more obscure Charles began to develop an idea for a poem which blended science, botany, poetry and nonsense, the many obsessions of the Victorian leisure class.

The poem that was written that evening, 'The Rhodoholic' is not well known so we have printed it opposite. Unfortunately the origins of the poem were so arcane that, unlike 'Gomer Waterer' it never caught on. Never one to give up on an idea, Charles rewrote it under his pseudonym 'Lewis Carroll' and included it in a children's book 'Alice Through the Looking Glass'. The revised version is known as the 'Jabberwock' and the first verse is shown here.

*'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe;
All mimsy were the borogroves,
And the mome raths outgrabe*

Lewis Carroll, 1872