



The Yak

FRASER SOUTH RHODODENDRON SOCIETY
A Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society

May 1996

In The Garden



*Rhododendrons are like
children and puppies.
You never know what
they will do next.*

—F. Kingdom Ward



Wednesday, May 15, 1996
8:00 P.M.

St. Andrews Anglican Hall
20955 Old Yale Road, Langley

Members' Sale Night & Third Annual Fraser South Beer Bottle Truss Show

Come sell your plants and enter your trusses in the various fun categories. Judging will be done by members using voting sheets. One entry per category please.

The categories are:

- Best Pink
- Best Red
- Best White
- Best Yellow
- Best Blue/Purple
- Best Multicolour
- Most Lurid
- Most Flaccid
- Best Last Year's Truss
- Most Elegantly Weevil-Notched

YAKALENDAR

*MAY 12, 1:00 P.M.

Tour—Mike Bale's Garden in Agassiz. See April issue of *The Yak* for details. R.S.V.P. to David Sellars at 535-0763.

*MAY 15

Fraser South Chapter Meeting
Members' Night and Truss
Show

*MAY 26, 1:00 P.M.

Tour—Thomas Hobbs Garden
4585 Bellevue Drive,
Vancouver. See April issue of
The Yak for details.

*JUNE 19

Fraser South Chapter Meeting
Annual Picnic, Williams Park,
5:30 p.m. to dusk

*Early September

The Yak will be back
at the beginning of September.

April Meeting

Our thanks to Lillian Hodgson for a fascinating talk on the Gardens of Britain. Also Bobby Ogdon and Fred Banford treated us to a fine display of interesting trusses from their gardens.

June Meeting

Our June Meeting will be a potluck picnic in Williams Park. Bring your own plates, cutlery, glasses and a favourite dish. You will be contacted in early June to see if you are coming.



BY INDUMENTUM

You need a dead head to deadhead. Norman Todd's aphorism is a timely reminder of the pleasures that await us at this time of the year. It is even more sobering to ponder how many more trusses will have to be deadheaded this year than last. We have about 200 rhododendrons that require deadheading and as the average number of blooms last year on each plant was about 20, it means that 4,000 trusses had to be broken off. Some branches produced three new buds and some only one. If we assume, for simplicity, that the average number of new buds per branch is two, it means that we have double the number of deadheads to deadhead every year. In 10 years the number of deadheads will have exponentially grown to 4 million! It may be worth considering the school of thought that says "Why deadhead? It only makes the critters bloom better next year".

In the Valley Garden in Windsor Great Park they have special deadheading step ladders that have three legs so that one leg can be carefully inserted through the bush. According to Bill Herbst, they go at it with two hands, presumably so they can finish deadheading before the next Spring—rather like painting the Forth Bridge. By the time they get to one end, the other end needs painting again. This type of job security would no doubt be supported by the NDP in this election year.

Who does the deadheading in Nepal? According to the Ganges North Maple Society, they gave it up some time ago on the suggestion of Mustapha Notherplant. He observed that the profuse blooms all over the mountains were interfering with his appreciation of his beloved maples.