



The Yak

FRASER SOUTH RHODODENDRON SOCIETY
a chapter of the American Rhododendron Society

Volume

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February 1997

FEBRUARY MEETING

St. Andrew's Anglican Church Hall
20955 Old Yale Road, Langley, BC
February 19, 1997, 8.00pm

Mr. David Sellars



Construction of a Pond and Stream for a Rhododendron Garden

David and Wendy have been developing their garden on an acre in South Surrey for the past 10 years. In the fall of 1994 they constructed a large pond and stream in the last major undeveloped part of their garden. The presentation will cover the development process from start to finish. David is a civil engineer specializing in water resources development. He has been a member of Fraser South Rhododendron Society since 1989.

EDITORS NOTES

The masthead may look similar - and many thanks to Wendy for letting me copy it - but please don't expect me to be able to produce as fine and professional a newsletter as the Sellars. Our club has been very fortunate in our newsletter editors. I am very aware of the large sized mukluks I'm trying to fill.

I fully expect all sorts of cooperation from all sorts of club members - as reporters, contributors, or any other job that may arise from my less than expert efforts.

With articles, information or questions you may reach me :

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Pitch us you questions - anything you want to know? (Well almost anything) If we (editorial 'we' that is!) can't find the answer, we will look for an expert in the field and toss it on he/she. Let's hear from you out there. Is there anybody out there?

From the President

'Don't mind criticism. If it is untrue, disregard it; if it is unfair, don't let it irritate you; if it is ignorant, smile; if it is justified, learn from it" - *Farmer's Almanac*

Critics look at the new year with pessimism, knowing that many resolutions rarely make it to February. As I write at the start of 1997, I encourage you to be more positive, especially toward your own garden. Besides, there is little work to be done until February anyway.

Resolutions usually involve a commitment to positive change, and I know few people more optimistic than gardeners. Currently you may be drooling over pictures in seed catalogues, designing that new garden you wish to install come spring, or simply vowing to grow better plants this year.

Let us help you with your plans and aspirations. Our meetings held on the third Wednesday of the month at St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Langley are inspirational, informative, and instrumental in enabling you to approach your gardening tasks with greater enthusiasm and expertise. This year you may resolve to:

- 1. Take more cuttings, or grow more seeds
- 2. Attend the ARS National Convention at the Wesson Bettor Inn - May 7-11 - or
- 3. Share more blooms with friends at home, or with those in hospital needing the cheer you can bring - or
- 4. Learn more gardening techniques - or
- 5. Just learn more. Grow in your knowledge of the genus rhododendron, and horticulture in general.

Education, like resolutions brings change, and perhaps criticism. Yet "if it is justified, learn from it" You will grow as well as your garden.

Bobby Ogdon



YAKALENDAR

- ❖ **March 19 Fraser South Chapter
Regular Meeting
Brad Jalbert
"Roses and Rhodos"**
- ❖ **April 6
Fraser South Plant Sale
Clay's Nursery
3666 224th. St, Langley**
- ❖ **April 19
Regular Meeting**
- ❖ **April 26
Fraser South Truss Show
and Plant Sale
Willowbrook Mall, Langley**
- ❖ **May 7-11
ARS Annual Convention
Bayshore
Vancouver, BC**

NOTICE

Any person wishing to sell plants at the ARS national Convention is asked to contact Les Clay at
530 5188

WARNING

- ❖ Have you renewed your membership in FSRS ??
- ❖ If not, this may be the last newsletter you will receive.
- ❖ Call Vicki Neydli at 931 1199.

Annual Meeting, January 15,1997

Following our customary whirlwind, hard-fought elections the new executive has been determined.

No doubt most of the struggle was carried out by our own nominating committee in the person of Norma Senn. The remaining whirlwind was, I suspect, the result of members trying to avoid the tap on the shoulder by Norma. The slate as presented by Norma, was elected by acclamation and here they are:

President

Dr. B.J. Ogdon

Vice President

Mr. Michael Neyedli

Secretary

Janet Warner

Treasurer

John Warner

Directors:

- Don Selman - 3 yrs
- Trevor Badminton - 2 years
- John Anderson - 1 year

Appointments

Hospitality - Phil Anderson

Librarian - Janet Warner
pro tem

Membership - Vicki Neyedli

Newsletter - Mike Trembath

Programmes - Les Clay,

David Sellars

Publicity - Hedy Dyck

Refreshments - Melba Johnson

Lillian Emmerson

Ways and Means - Diane Scott

Following the excitement of the election, Norma calmed us with pictures from her tour of Scottish Gardens, Lovely pictures (I want to go back), and lovely gardens. Thank you for everything Norma.

ROOTSTALK

BY INDUMENTUM

Most people know the five stages of rhodoholism, in which rhododendron lovers progress from admiring pretty blooms to obsession with species particularly the foliage of rare forms. In stage five, the rhodoholic becomes a Tibetan Monk and goes to live among his beloved rhodos.

I have recently discovered that there is a stage six which is not generally known in the rhododendron world as it is a fairly recent obsession.

Stage six is when you lose interest in even the foliage and become totally fixated with rootballs.

This latest rhododendron fetish has the clinical name of rootballphilia. As you can appreciate, this interest has largely been underground despite the fact that rhododendrons have shallow roots. Perhaps this is why this has only recently come to light.

The rootballphile does not care if the rhododendron leaves are brown and scabrous as long as the beloved rootball is thick and vigorous. As you can imagine, this interest is only for the connoisseur as the rootball cannot generally be seen. The rootballphile spends happy hours imagining the contented growth of the roots and does not even have to venture outside into the garden.

Every so often he satisfies his deepest urges and in the guise of moving a plant, digs up the rootball for a few moments of intense gratification.



Now is your chance

If you have never before attended a national convention, this is the one for you ! . Details and registration forms in the next ARS Journal, You will have an unparalleled opportunity to look and learn All chapters of District One are involved - and this means us. The 'sign-up for labour' sheet will be at the meeting again - there is bound to be some help you can give ,even just chatting up the 'foreign' attendees. You are invited to bring your prize trusses to the convention show - details next issue.

↳ N.B.

Down-sizing, and cost cutting being the current buzz words - your executive suggests that those of you who have fax machines might consider receiving you news letter by this route, I will have a 'sign up for fax' sheet at the next meeting, Ed.