

# The Yak

Fraser South Rhododendron Society

a chapter of the A.R.S.

Volume 9

Number 3

March 1997

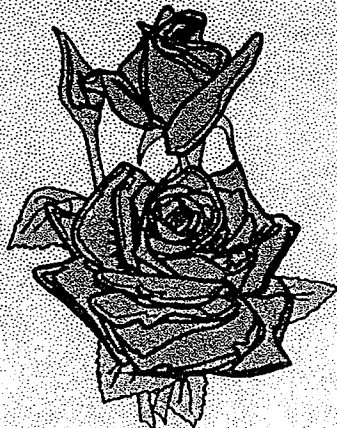
Wednesday March 19, 8:00 p.m.  
St. Andrew's Anglican Church Hall

20955 Old Yale Rd., Langley

## Brad Jalbert

### Roses and Rhodies

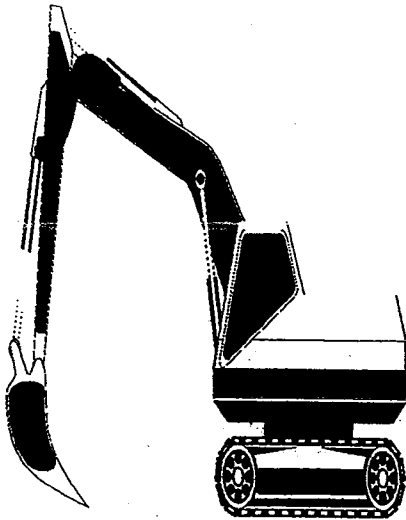
### Growing in Harmony



## February Programme

Well - whaja expec' ? - after all David is an engineer !!

I was impressed to the point of intimidation; a massive project, carefully designed and executed, and what a beautiful result. With the

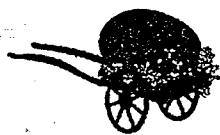


experience of building previous pools behind them, Wendy and David appear to have dotted all the "i"s and crossed all the "t"s this time. We were certainly made aware of the need for proper preparation, digging, drainage around the pool, and careful preparation of the bed for the pool liner. Thank you both, no one has any excuse for slip-shod pool construction now.

### March Meeting



We are fortunate to have Mr. Brad Jalbert to address us. Mr. Jalbert is a noted rose grower, and the President of The Rose Society. Here is our chance to learn to please the spouse who wants some real flowers not just rhododendrons, in the garden!



A portion of the meeting will be turned over to the Awards Committee. Full attendance is requested!

### From the President

#### The Grace of Gratitude

I offer thanks for just familiar things;  
The ruddy glory of the sunset sky,  
The shine of firelight as the dusk draws nigh,  
The cheery song my kettle sings,

The woodland music of the giant pine,  
The last sweet tokens that my garden yields,  
The mellow tints upon the autumn fields,  
The far-off mountains purple line,

The sense of rest that home so surely brings,  
The books that wait my pleasure, true and fine.  
Old friendships that I joy to feel are mine,  
I offer thanks for just familiar things.

"Thanks" - it is so simple. It is easy to spell, easy to pronounce, but we are so reluctant to say it. Often the more familiar the place and the person, the more we struggle with expressions of appreciation. Yet old friendships should be treasured in gratitude, rather than abused with thanklessness.

Of course there are many words and ways to say thanks. We, at FSRs, believe we have found one way to do this. Several months ago, the executive established an Awards Committee with the intent of acknowledging, with thanks, the contributions of those who make our society work. The committee, ( Vern Finley, Mike Bale, and Mike Trembath ), has been faithful to its mandate, and creative in its vision, and you will be hearing from this committee in future meetings.

We want to be comfortable with familiar things but not so that we take them for granted. Perhaps your time will come. Meanwhile, join us in expressing gratitude to those honoured by awards - we give a hearty "Thanks!" and "we love you".

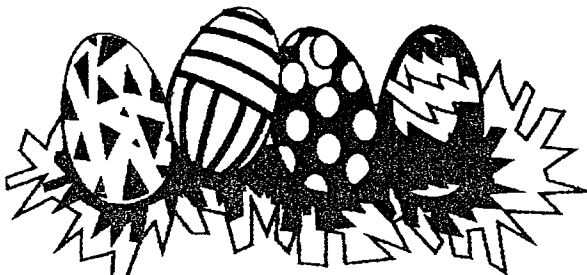
Bobby Ogdon





## YAKALENDAR

- ◆ Sat. March 29, 1997  
**VRS Early Show & Sale**  
VanDusen Floral Hall  
12.00 - 4.00 (entries 7.30 - 9.30)
- ◆ Sun. April 6, 1997  
**Fraser South Plant Sale**  
Clay's Nursery  
3666 224th St., Langley
- ◆ Sat. April 15, 1997  
**Peace Arch Rhodo Society  
Third Annual Plant Sale and  
Truss Show**  
St. John's Presbyterian Church  
1480 George St., White Rock
- ◆ Wed. April 19, 1997  
**FRRS Regular Meeting**  
Glen Patterson  
Dwarf Rhodies for the Rock Garden
- ◆ Sat. April 26, 1997  
**FRRS Annual Truss Show and  
Plant Sale**  
Willowbrook Mall, Lsngley
- ◆ Sun. April 27  
**MARS Annual Truss Show and  
Plant Sale**  
Parksville Community Hall, 10.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.
- May 7 - 11, 1997  
**ARS Annual Convention**  
Westin Bayshore Hotel  
Vancouver, BC
- ◆ May 17, 18, 1997  
**MARS Annual Garden Tour**  
in Nanoose, Parksville & Qualicum area  
for more info. phone Warren Moore - 205 752 5931



## The Catcher's Mitt

"Mean temperature results in colour variation in populations of rhododendrons." This postulation was made to Vern Finley by an acquaintance - citing the stands of *Rh. macrophyllum* in Manning Park (mauve) as against the Oregon populations (pink).

My own thoughts:

- a) I know there to be a considerable range of colours within a given species
- b) I don't know that all *Rh. macrophyllum* in Manning park are mauve, nor that all coastal stands are pink.
- c) It would seem to me that someone living in the coastal climate must have grown seed from Manning Park. If so - DID the colour alter?
- d) I believe there are many factors more likely to cause colour variation than temperature - eg. - soil pH and composition, and amount of light exposure.

Now it's your turn - your experiences, and comments please.

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# DOOTSTALK

BY INDUMENTUM

It is a singular moment when a hiker climbs out of the gloomy, dank forest into a sunlit alpine meadow. Suddenly the landscape expands into a splendid park and elaborate rock garden. The perfect detailing provides both inspiration and ideas for the landscape gardener: tumbling streams, reflecting pools, rock terraces, crevice plants, acres of groundcover and not a weed in sight. The occasional dwarf conifer, streamside shrubs and borrowed landscape of mountain peaks and valleys complete the picture.

Our city gardens are a curious blend of artifice and nature. We juxtapose plants from all over the world but instinctively strive for the illusion of a natural landscape. As we move plants, build rock walls and construct paths, each decision we make is fundamentally based on whether it "looks natural". Deep in our subconscious there is likely to be a vision of the natural landscape we are trying to emulate.

I became obsessed with mountains at an early age and was only truly content when exploring the hills and valleys of northern Britain. I was particularly fascinated by the waterfalls, mountain lakes and natural alpine gardens. As a youth, I moved on to rock, snow and ice climbing which provided some of the incentive to move to the West Coast of Canada. Certainly it was not the gardening! Now, in later years, landscape gardening has become an all-consuming interest though I still enjoy hiking in the alpine meadows.

Two years ago we constructed a large pond in the last undeveloped quarter of our lot. The pond is edged with large rocks and a gravel beach and a stream tumbles down at one end. There are no plants in the pond and its austere flat surface contrasts starkly with the terraced rock garden plantings. On sunny days in Spring the full impact of colourful reflections of rhododendrons can be appreciated. But this is a mountain pool, and when the Mallard Ducks and Great Blue Heron drop by for a visit they look woefully out of place.

Last summer we climbed Haystacks, a rugged mountain above Buttermere in the English Lake District. Near the summit there is a mountain pool called Innominate Tarn where the ashes of A.W. Wainwright are scattered. He wrote a series of beautiful guidebooks to the area, which were treasured reading in my early teens. Innominate Tarn is edged with large rocks and a gravel beach and although there were no rhododendrons, we realised we had unwittingly reconstructed this special place in our back yard in British Columbia!

In Victorian times, the first rock gardeners tried to imitate nature exactly. While we continue to use natural landscapes for garden inspiration, we are happy to create a scene that may not exist in nature such as hybrid rhododendrons planted around a mountain pool.

Striking the right balance between creative freedom and a "real" landscape is a subtle consideration in garden design.