

The Yak

a chapter of the ARS

Volume 9

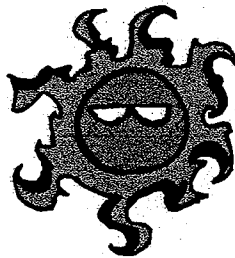
Number 6

June, 1997

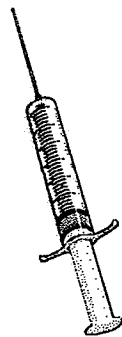
JUNE

WEDNESDAY

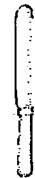
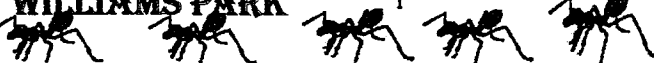
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PICNIC



WILLIAMS PARK



Arrive 5p.m. - or when you can
food served about 6.30

Don't forget your own utensils !!

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From the President

(continued from May newsletter)

The plan was, to send this letter from Israel - but, regrettably, my planned pilgrimage fell through.



There are no rhododendrons in Israel. The climate is too hostile. But there are many other beautiful horticultural specimen - especially the olive tree. Olive trees are plentiful around the countryside, and are known for their tenacity. They grow under almost any condition; on terraced hillsides or in valleys, in rocky or fertile soil. They can thrive in great heat with a minimum of water, and are virtually indestructible. Some trees grow from root systems two thousand years old, yet the olive producer must wait up to fifteen years for his first good harvest. It was an olive leaf that a dove from Noah's ark brought to Noah. Whatever else succumbed to the waters of the flood - the hardy olive tree was still alive. At least since the time of Julius Caesar, one of the universal emblems of peace has been the olive branch.

Olive oil was so plentiful in Israel that it was one of the products regularly exported. Solomon sent the King of Tyre 100,000 gallons of olive oil. One thousand years later, olive oil is mentioned in the writings of that day as the only export of the Jerusalem region. The Mount of Olives, located just east of the Old City of Jerusalem, attests to the prevalence of olive trees in the area.



Also, it was in the Garden of Gethsemane (Gat Shemen in Hebrew, literally the place of the olive press) where Christ and his disciples spent much of their time.

Primarily the olive tree symbolizes faithfulness and steadfastness. No matter what the conditions: hot, dry, cold, wet, rocky or sandy, the olive tree will live and produce fruit. It is said that you can never kill an olive tree. Even when cut down or burned, new shoots will emerge from its roots. The analogy of your children being "like olive plants all around your table" would tell the ancient Bible reader that his offspring would be plentiful, hearty, and even dutifully responsive to the parents. All you have to do is look at almost any olive tree and you will see ten or more new tree shoots sprouting from the surrounding root system.

Alas, our climate disallows the propagation of olive trees. We're stuck with rhododendrons and azaleas, which in turn, are incompatible with the climate of the middle east. I'm not complaining about the beauty of our flora - - but I don't think that I will try to eat them !

Bobby Ogdon

 **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS** 

Barb and Neil Wickstrom of
Langley
Donna Mackay of Langley



HODODENDRON



RIMER



is for *campylogynum*



is for *Carita Golden Dream*

This choice small rhododendron is perhaps my very favourite of all.

R. campylogynum is found growing at high elevations from north-east Burma to south-eastern Tibet and throughout a large part of Yunnan. High elevations - we're talking 8,000 to over 15,000 feet (2,400 to 4,900 m.) Peter Cox describes its native habitat as open moorland, with whole mats of plants found on and among mossy boulders and ledges. While usually found growing on granite outcroppings, *R. campylogynum* is sometimes found growing on limestone rocks in its native range.

In general, *R. campylogynum* grows to about 2 feet tall. It has small, rounded, shiny dark green foliage, paler beneath. I hadn't realized it, but according to my reference books, the foliage is aromatic. I will have to go out and smell it.

Its compact growth makes it suitable for any garden. This neat, and tidy plant has the most charming flowers! *R. campylogynum* means 'with bent ovary', referring to the long, bent pistils. Nodding, thimble-shaped flowers are borne individually on long pedicels. Colours range from white to deep burgundy reds. My own plant opens a brick-red colour in early May, and fades to a deep, dusty pink.

I have had to work at growing this species, but have finally found a good spot for it where the plant receives some morning sun, but is well protected from afternoon heat and direct sunlight. I have it growing in a well drained raised bed that is mulched with shredded bark.

The references list several varieties of *R. campylogynum*, and all are recommended as garden plants. They vary somewhat in hardiness, but are hardy to about -15 to -18 C.

Norma Senn

The Yak



June, 1997



R. Carita is a Rothschild hybrid - Naomi x *R. campylocarpum* of which several clones have been named. *R. Carita Golden Dream* received the R.H.S. Award of Merit in 1945.

A tall plant with rich, dark green, oblong leaves, it makes a handsome specimen. It blooms reliably, and profusely, in early April. The buds break pink, then open to a clear primrose yellow. Although the individual truss is somewhat open, the plant is usually very well covered with bloom, and the effect quite stunning.

Our *R. Carita Golden Dream* is planted in association with a large plant of *R. rubiginosum* (mauve), and blooming together they create a very pleasing sight.

Vern Finley

LIBRARY BOOKS

PLEASE RETURN OUTSTANDING LIBRARY BOOKS AT THE PICNIC

The Librarian wishes to catalogue, and reorganize our library during the summer hiatus. Your cooperation in returning books would be appreciated.

Convention

Seems to have been a pretty successful one. I certainly enjoyed the programmes. Bet some people are still trying to recover from their very heavy work load.

Hearty congratulations to Dot and Ken Gibson - awarded a silver medal by the ARS.

Also a very special congratulations to Les Clay - Vancouver presented him with a Lifetime Achievement Award - to a standing ovation by those present at the banquet.

May Meeting

Thank all of you who came to help in Ella's Garden - weeders and dead-headers, and those thoughtful people who brought shovels and garbage bags. We may need to fill a few holes where plants have succumbed.

There were more than 100 trusses in our 'competition' !! and some striking specimen were exhibited. Thanks to all who brought trusses. We will have to allow more time for 'looking' next year!
(con'd col 3)



Trophy Winners

Winner of the beautiful Loving Cup for BEST LAST YEAR'S TRUSS:

Lillian Emerson - with a lovely triple truss of 'Scintillation'

Winner of our NEW TROPHY for MOST ELEGANTLY WEEVIL NOTCHED - Bobby Ogdon

- with an unbeatable plant whose lower leaves were as lacy as a baby's shawl. This new trophy was designed and crafted by Reg. Scott and will be eagerly contested for years to come.

Class winners - receiving a tasteful certificate as follows:

RED - Bobby Ogdon - 'Mars'

PINK - Vern Finley - 'Coleen Barber' x 'Coronation Day'

PURPLE - Vern Finley - 'Purple Splendour'

WHITE - Mike Trembarh 'Queen Anne's'

YELLOW - Bobby Ogdon ARS /86 seed xch #913 'Elizabeth de Rothschild' x 'Karen Triplett' (very nice)

MULTICOLOUR - Alan Kilvert - 'Moonwax' (gorgeous)

MOST FLACCID - Norma Senn - 'Norma'

MOST LURID - Vicki and Mike Neyedli - 'Spring Dawn'

ADDED CLASSES (no certificates - sorry!)
BEST BLOTCH - Bobby Ogdon - 'Blue Peter'
ORANGE - Bobby Ogdon - 'Coccinea Speciosa'

It was a busy and fun meeting. In addition to our gardening, and truss show, members were selling plants - and we do hope they were successful - there seemed to be quite a number of plants go out the door with new owners

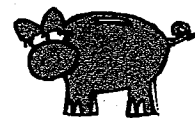
The evening was well completed by the slides Lillian Emerson showed of some of the UK gardens she had visited last year.

(I'm already scheming to go again!)

STOP PRESS

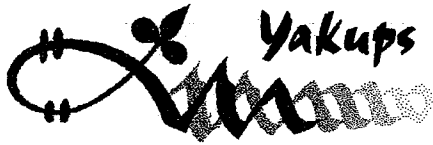
Picnic Raffle

A very special, super raffle is being planned bring your twonies and loonies - empty that



and come prepared to help our dwindling coffers, and to find some really especially good bargains for very special goods.





Letters to the Editor

To Fraser South Rhododendron Society, the Awards Committee, and the Executive:

It gives me great pleasure to sincerely thank everyone for the Bronze Medal award which you have bestowed upon me. It is a real bonus to be presented with an honour such as this while doing something you enjoy so much.

I hope to continue working with such a great group of people - for the the chapter.

Sincerely
Diane Scott

Open Letter to Indumentum

Hey man - you got a thing against Ginny? - you'd trade her in on a ROCK ?? Are you sure all the rocks are on your bank? - (your neighbours must be wondering.) What about some of the other blowsy old broads - Lady Clem too peachy for the colour scheme? No doubt Mrs. Betty Robinson hasn't a hope of living in your garden, let alone that luscious Apricot Fantasy, or Moonwax. (Since the show Alan Kilvert is mounting an armed patrol in his garden to protect Moonwax from the slaving rhodie-nappers - or if he isn't he should) I suppose Nancy Evans isn't allowed in the front gate, and what about poor Phyllis Korn - is she shut out too? Is Mrs Tom Lowinsky barred because of her golden eyes? Whatever do you do about deciduous azaleas? do without? You can't spend your entire gardening life cozying up to Cynthia and Pink Petticoats. Beware, some dark night some one might turn Medusa loose in your yard!

Pedicel



Yakalendas

June 18



FSRS
Picnic



Williams Park

Sept 9

CanWest Hort. Show
Friends of the Industry

Trade Show - 6.30 - 9.00 pm

Vancouver Trade & Convention Centre

Show office phone 604 574 7772

Sept. 17

FSRS regular meeting

TBA - ? Seminar on Propagating

- ? and, or speaker

Oct. 10 - 12 Western Regional Conference

San Jose, California



Are your green leaves yellow?

According to Clint Smith (report cadged from Cowichan news letter via North Is. newsletter!), local soils are deficient in magnesium which lack produces chlorosis. Treatment with mag. sulph solution helps. Recipe: 2 tbsp magnesium sulphate (Epsom Salts) dissolved in 1 gal.(4 litres - since talking US gals. I suppose) water. Add 1 tbsp. iron chelates. Wet the root area at two-weekly intervals for 3 applications while the new growth is forming. Probably needs to be repeated each year.

Slug (ugh) and



Time

Recipe: for 'non alcoholic beer' for slug traps - (courtesy North Island newsletter). Mix 1 cup water, 1 tsp. sugar, 1/4 tsp yeast. Place in dishes or slug trap bottles.

Ducks are marvelous slug eradicaters -(I could never keep mine from crossing the road to visit their wild cousins - with fatal results.)



DOES IT ALL

BY INDUMENTUM

British rhododendron books often warn about late spring frosts which do not seem to trouble us much here on the west coast of Canada. We are actually very fortunate as a late frost is devastating to the garden. The month of April was very warm this year in England and garden growth started about a month early. Then a hard frost hit around the first of May with the temperature sinking to about minus two degrees centigrade. It was enough to kill off the early rhododendron blooms and much of the new growth. We arrived in England the first week of May to be greeted by brown shrivelled shrubs. Even the trees were affected. A *Davidia involucrata* looked as if it had been torched and many magnolias were stripped of their leaves. By the end of the month growth was starting again and the late hardy hybrid rhododendrons came out in full glory. Perhaps because of the heavy texture of the flower, Loderi King George did not seem to be affected. Part of the reason we do not usually get late spring frosts south of the Fraser River is our southerly latitude. At 49 degrees we are the same latitude as Paris. London is at 51 degrees latitude, equivalent to somewhere off the north end of Vancouver Island. We also enjoy frequent rains off the Pacific Ocean such as the warm wet weekend of the VanDusen Garden Show. Perhaps our spring climate is closer to Cornwall which normally escapes frost.

The climatic condition that is generally most devastating for our gardens is a very cold snap in late fall after a warm spell. When the temperature suddenly drops from plus 10 to minus 10 or minus 15 degrees centigrade, soft growth will wither and sometimes the entire plant will die. This phenomenon has even been known to kill native plants such as the Bigleaf Maple. There have been several of these extreme events noted over the past forty years, about once every ten years. There may not be an equivalent condition in England because of the moderating influence of the surrounding ocean. Our extreme cold spells are caused by arctic high pressure spilling out from the centre of the continent. They probably get something similar in central Europe.

Another important aspect of our climate is the rainfall distribution. We get most of our rain in the winter when the plants do not need it and we can get very dry summers when new growth needs lots of moisture. It used to be that this was one aspect of the plant climate that we could control. However, with the advent of more and more politically correct sprinkler restrictions, we will soon have to start the Fraser South Cactus Club!

Fraser South Rhododendron Society Executive 1997

President	Bobby Ogdon	583 7434	Committee Chairpersons		
Past President	Norma Senn	856 0075	Gardens	Diane Scott	533 4378
Vice President	Mike Neyedli	931 1199	Hospitality	Phil Anderson	856 8139
Secretary	Janet Warner	857 0788	Library	Pat Dahl	534 5200
Treasurer	John Warner	857 0788	Membership	Vicki Neyedli	931 1190
Directors	Don Selman (3 yrs)	533 4960	Programmes	Les Clay	530 5188
	Trevor Badminton (2 yrs)	856 0046	Publicity	Hedy Dyck	530 6620
	John Anderson (1 yr)	820 0821	Refreshments	Melba Johnson	581 5253
				Lillian Emerson	888 2952
Newsletter	'Mike' Trembath	856 7261			
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