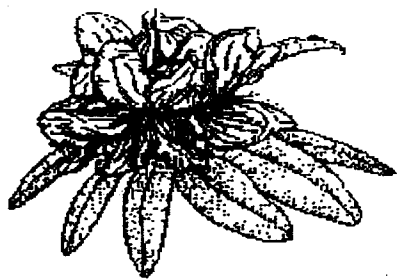


Fraser South Rhododendron Society



a chapter of the ARS

The Yak

Volume 10

Number 9

November 1997



November 19, 1997
St. Andrew's Anglican Church Hall
8.00 p.m.



Speaker
Mr. Charles Sales



Building a Garden



Yakalendar



- Nov. 19, 1997, 8.00, p.m.
regular meeting FSRS
- Nov. 19, 1997, 8.00 p.m.
Langley Campus Auditorium
Kwantlen University College
Public Lecture
Ruth Olde
" Great Garden Rooms "
- Nov. 29 & 30 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.
The B.C. Floral Art Society
Flower Show 'Tis the Season'
Auditorium- Oakridge Mall
Demonstrations and sale of
Christmas Decorations.
Admission \$ 3.00 Spot Prize
- **Thursday, Dec. 18th , 1997 8.00 p.m.**
at St. Andrew's Hall
F.S.R.S. Xmas Party.
Please note: **Thurs. not Wed**

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October Meeting

Guest Speaker Pam Erikson of Erikson's Daylily Gardens.

My knowledge of 'day lilies' began, and ended, with my recollections of untidy clumps in Ontario farm yards of 'Orange lilies' and 'Lemon lilies' - the former always in bloom for the celebration of the 'glorious' 12th of July - the Orangemen's day. In my childish ignorance, I was uncertain whether the Orangemen were called after the lily - or the lily after the celebrating men! What a marvellous eye-opening feast of form and colour, size and shape Pam showed us. Her enthusiasm was infectious. I, for one, was impressed by the apparent good nature of these tolerant, showy plants and their long-lasting blooming period. Just what we need to brighten a post-bloom rhodie garden with its occasional area of unrelieved green.

It is exciting to know that Pam, an active hybridizer has several plant introductions to her credit. She showed us some of her new hybrids, and explained some of her goals
Questionnaire

Circulated at the Oct. meeting was a short questionnaire asking members for some of their thoughts about the club. Twenty-one forms were completed and returned, and we are grateful for your input. Results - see page 3

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Membership

Please note :

Dues must reach the ARS by December 1, 1997 else the Winter issue of the ARS Journal will be missed. Postal service being what it is, to leave this until the Nov. meeting will probably be **TOO LATE**. You may mail your cheques (payable to Fraser South Rhododendron Society) to our membership secretary. Please include : correct name and mailing address, phone number, fax number and e-mail address (if you have same)

Vicki Neyedli
3221 Main St.
Balcarra, BC, V3H 4R1

LIBRARY

The new book (definitive?) on the species rhododendrons by the Cox father and son (The Encyclopaedia of Rhododendron Species) has now been added to our library. (See Rootstalk in the Sept. issue of The Yak)

Will you each please look over your own library for the following book :
Creative Propagation - by Peter Thompson - this book has gone missing from the library, and we have no record of who has borrowed it. Also missing is the video **New Zealand**

Rhododendrons

Please make certain this one isn't hiding in your video cabinet - we would like to have it back for others to view.

Questionnaire

Twenty one were completed at the meeting, and we nailed one other at the executive meeting.

1. Reasons for attending meetings:

It seems that every one likes to hear from the experts. Of those who numbered their selections - 50% gave this as their first reason for attending meetings. (We hear you !) Many (17) come to socialise with like minded enthusiasts, and for plant sales. Half of you come to learn basic skills and to share knowledge. One person admitted to coming only from habit (J.P. are we failing you so badly?)

Interest in our library was listed by seven people.

2. Lecture subjects

All but one of you said you were primarily interested in hearing about rhodos - of those who numbered their choices (10) all gave it number one. There was considerable interest (17 of 22) in hearing about companion plants, less interest (about 50%), in general gardening subjects or gardening techniques. One of you suggested workshops- but didn't specify possible topics (how about enlarging on this and letting me know?)

3. Presentations educational, or fun, or a mix:

The largest percentage (15 of you) hedged your bets by asking for a mix; but six preferred educational presentations..

4. Possible 'mini-presentations' by our club members.

Almost everyone seemed to think this was a good idea, so I assume each of you will be ready to produce when asked ! Some good topics were suggested, and your programme chairman will see what can be implemented.

5. Interest in garden tours:

One hundred percent want to tour -

locally, and about half are willing to travel beyond our own confines. Best of all - five (5) of you have offered to help arrange tours - now we need your names please.

6. Plant Sales

Everyone interested, mostly in rhodies from members or nurseries. One suggested we might have a bargain table at meetings - to include all types of plant material and supplies.

7. Newsletter material

Some suggestions: report from club members of trips and tours; reprints from magazines (we have to be aware of copyright laws) or newsletters from other clubs; personal gardening experiences - (good or bad). (I would be delighted to receive any such articles from any of you - some one said people might be a bit hesitant about trying to write out material - if you are shy about writing - phone me and tell me about it, and I will try to report it as you would wish - okay ? - Ed.)

8. Other comments or suggestions:

Are you all too shy - ??

9. Newsletter Logo old or new:

Those few who responded here were almost evenly split. Since our original logo is just that - original - selected and created by Gerry Emerson, one of our charter members, it seems best to continue to use this logo for newsletter, letterhead etc.

↳ It is not too early to begin thinking about elections. Elected positions to be filled for next year - President and one Director (3 yr.). Nominations can be made for other positions as well. Think about it !

Protection of Plants from Winter Injury

(by special request - the following has been edited from an article reprinted in the V.R.S Oct. newsletter)

Winter injuries are mainly caused by Freezing or by Drying.

❖ Prevention of freezing injuries.

1. Selection - select plants that are suited to your area. Gardening books give hardiness zones for various species.

2. Site selection - your garden may have areas where more (or less) protection is available - from wind, winter sun or poor air drainage. Some smooth barked trees (and some rhodies) can develop longitudinal cracks in the bark when subjected to warm temperatures in winter, followed by freezing cold. A strong winter sun can cause the sap to flow, then cold night temperatures will freeze it, splitting the bark, killing the tissue layer closest to the bark, and so restricting the flow of nutrients.

3. Trunks may be wrapped in burlap or other types of cloth - to help maintain a more constant temperature. Imperfectly hardened off new growth is subject to frost damage.



4. Avoid the use of high nitrogen fertilisers in summer or early fall, since this will promote new growth

5. Avoid pruning in the fall - this also can stimulate new growth.

❖ Causes and prevention of drying injuries.

1. Salt - plant well away from roads, sidewalks or driveways that may be de-iced using salt in the winter. You can erect barricades around plants that might be drenched by salty snow from traffic splashes, or from snowplow heaps. If doing your own de-icing, use sand or a melter containing urea rather than salt.

2. Watering.- Plants should be well watered prior to freeze-up. Warm winter days, especially if breezy, can cause drying - water lost above ground cannot be made up from the roots if the ground is frozen. Leaves may show scorched tips as a result of drying - unsightly but rarely

fatal, save in young plants. Antidesiccant sprays are sometimes used to prevent this drying, but they tend to be washed off in rain or snow.

3. Mulch - around trees and shrubs will reduce moisture loss in areas with little snow cover.

4. Windbreaks - young or delicate plants can be protected by actually wrapping them with burlap or landscape fabric. As well as preventing winter drying, this will protect against early spring frosts.

In the Cowichan Valley R.S. newsletter, Ken Gibson writes :

" October - transplanting: the energetic gardener will have already shifted the plants that are overpowering others. Leaving it to next year only adds more work - if it even crosses your mind that it should be moved then move it ! I certainly wish I had taken this advice years ago.***** time to change your garden, pair up colour combinations, or flowering dates *****separate the Volkswagens from the Cadillacs - move the poor doers out - to someone else's property - a park or even a cemetery ***"



A Rhododendron Primer



is for falconeri

When I was visiting the Younger Botanical Garden in Scotland on one of the ARS conference tours in 1996, I saw the most beautiful mature specimens of this large leaved rhododendron

The flowers, which appear in late April, are usually white or pale yellow in colour, occasionally pinkish white. English reference books list bloom time in April (we saw it blooming at Inverewe in late March Ed.) but one hardly minds missing the blossoms because the foliage is so spectacular. On the upper leaf surface, the leaves are quilted, bright matte green, but underneath, they are coated with a luscious cinnamon-red indumentum. The trunks and main scaffold limbs are covered with smooth brown bark with flaky patches of lighter brown.

In Scotland we saw plants well in excess of 25 feet in height growing under the shelter of various conifers. They grow even taller in their native habitat. Hooker first described *R. falconeri* to the west in 1849, and I think we were told that some of Hooker's seed was sent back to the Younger Garden (I may have got this part wrong, because we saw lots of plants on the tours). The plant is native to Sikkim, Nepal and Bhutan at about 8,000 feet. *R. falconeri* is a large plant, and unfortunately, my garden is too small and, I think, too cold to be able to grow it reliably. However, it would be worth trying locally in a garden spot where *R. falconeri* could be sheltered from the cold dry eastern winds that roar through the Valley in winter.

They are fairly easy to grow from seed, but they do take many years before they begin flowering. However, they are well worth growing just for the foliage

Norma Senn



is for Fire Bird

L. de Rothschild - 1938
(Norman Shaw x *griersonianum*)

Fire Bird is a tall plant with light green leaves, the margins of which are slightly up-turned, giving a two-toned effect. Free flowering, it blooms in June. The medium-sized, full trusses have salmon-red blossoms, the anthers are bright yellow and appear to emit a soft radiance in certain lights

New growth emerges from long crimson leaf bracts, adding another feature to this lovely old hybrid..

Vern Finley



DO NOT STALL

BY INDUMENTUM

Reclamation is defined as vegetative restoration of disturbed lands to restore wildlife habitat and control erosion. You will see reclamation on new road cuts but its application is most important in mining. After strip mining is completed, mining companies are required to carry out a reclamation plan to restore the disturbed land.

Carol Jones of Victoria, B.C. is a reclamation specialist and provides consulting services to the B.C. Ministry of Transportation and Highways and major mining companies. She gave a talk to the Victoria Chapter last year on the use of *R. macrophyllum* for reclamation of road cuts on the new Island Highway. *R. macrophyllum* has potential for use in reclamation on the east side of Vancouver Island because, as a native plant, it is extremely drought resistant. Carol Jones told me that native plants are almost always used for reclamation because of their ability to survive summer droughts and the fact that they need no care and attention once established. In other words they are low maintenance plants.

Gardeners are currently being made to feel guilty if they do not follow the politically correct fad for xeriscaping by planting drought resistant native plants that do not need watering. However, it seems to me that xeriscaping bears more resemblance to reclamation than gardening. When you move into a new house you are faced with a moonscape of rocks and clay with no organic topsoil as if the lot had been strip mined. The choice you have is to establish a real garden with a lot of effort or to use mine reclamation principles to establish a low maintenance xeriscape. The alternatives are quite different in philosophy and represent different degrees of interest and commitment by the home owner. The error made by the bureaucrats promoting less water use is to confuse xeriscaping with gardening. Xeriscaping is reclamation and has very little to do with real gardening.