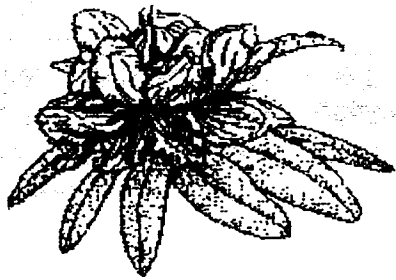


Fraser South Rhododendron Society



a chapter of the ARS

The Yak

Volume 11

Number 1

January 1998

Happy New Year



January 21, 1998
St. Andrew's Anglican Church Hall
8.00 p.m.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Our own resident experts will be part of a

Round Table Discussion
culture, propagation, diseases, problems and successes.

Questions from the floor will be fielded, and hopefully,
answered



Yakalendar



- Feb. 18, 1998 FSRs
Regular meeting Pgm TBA
- March 18, 1998 FSRs
Regular Meet
Clint Smith
Visit to Ireland and the U.K.
- April 15, 1998 FSRs
Regular Meeting Pgm TBA
- April 18, 1998 FSRs
Annual Plant Sale & Truss Display
Willowbrook Mall
- May 9 & 10 Vancouver R.S.
Annual Flower Show
Floral Hall Vandusen Garden
- May 27-30, 1998 A.R.S
National Convention
Niagara Falls, ON

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December Meeting

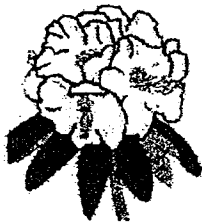
Seemed like old times, to be back having our Christmas 'bash' at the Clay's. What a spread of delicious food, an embarrassment of riches indeed. Bev. did her usual excellent job cooking turkey, and Melba's roast beef was to die for; unusual salads, vegetables, and incredibly sinful desserts !! - Wow !! Les presented his annual picture puzzlers, and you should know that your president was over- all winner - he identified a full 50% !!- bravo Bobby - no mean feat.

WARNING

Received from ARS headquarters :
Twenty four (24) FSRS members had failed to renew membership as of Dec. 15/97.

It is to be hoped that this number has decreased substantially by the current date, otherwise - there may be **no** Fraser South Rhododendron Society in 1998. There is a basic minimum number of members required per chapter.

Rhododendron and Azalea News



The first issue of the R&A News is now available. This is an electronic newsletter designed to give members news of other chapter's doings, dates of shows and events, want lists, book reviews, and articles of interest. There will be links to other pages of interest on the web. It will be updated about every three months. Address <http://members.aol.com/RandANews/news.html>

(I have downloaded and printed this first newsletter, and will have it available at the meeting for your interest. Ed.)

While "in the net" you might be interested to look at Victoria Chapter's new web site <http://www.victoria.tc.ca/rhodo/>

El Nino ?

Recently Bev and Les Clay had reason to be driving north from California home to BC. Les reported seeing bloom colour showing, not only among the stands of *R. macrophyllum*, but even the native *R. occidentale*. Has anyone ever seen or heard of deciduous azaleas sporting premature blooms?

ARS Hardiness Study

Several months ago, I noted in our newsletter a request for members to take part in this study - to develop a more useful method of rating hardiness. To the best of my knowledge none of our intrepid gardeners has agreed to be part of this study. I now have literature on the criteria being used, and it would seem to me that many members of our chapter could add information to this undertaking - the broader the base, the more accurate the results - right? It does not appear that it would be a very onerous task. I will be happy to give details to anyone interested. If I fail to hear from YOU, YOU may hear from ME - now you don't want that, do you?

The Yak

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From the President

The beginning of a new year brings the opportunity to look back. In retrospect, I am motivated to express my profound appreciation for the many friends and acquaintances in Fraser South Rhododendron Society who have made our general meetings so pleasurable, and our executive meetings so provocative. Special thanks is due to Les Clay (and David Sellers before him) for providing stimulating speakers, and exciting educational programmes. Further, all members of the executive have worked diligently to make F.S.R.S. meaningful and rewarding.

Thanks to John Warner (with behind the scenes help from Barb Nelson) for his meticulous financial records to Janet Warner for her careful record keeping, correspondence and minutes of our meetings. We also benefit much from Michael and Vicki Neyedli : Michael stepping in to assist as Vice-president, and Vicki keeping tabs on membership. Mike Trembath gives time to the newsletter (continuing to try to maintain Wendy Sellers level of excellence) All the directors have been faithful in attending meetings and sharing the load. We owe a big thank you also to: Melba Johnson , for coffee and calories each meeting; to Phil Anderson as official greeter, keeper of name tags, and sender of caring wishes to those in need of cheer; to Hedy Dyck for needed publicity; to Pat Dahl for an orderly library; to Diane Scott for bringing us together for picnics, parties AND plant sales.; to Arnie Roeske for his years of membership management; to the appointed awards committee; - and the list goes on - thanks to each one.

The New Year also stimulates us to look forward. Most of you are involved in F.S.R.S. because of a love for gardening and a love for rhododendrons particular. You plant gardens. You propagate plants. You establish friendships. You grow in knowledge. Let me encourage you to add one more folder to your

portfolio. You may contribute to your own education while assisting others in their pilgrimage by greater involvement in the Society. Elected positions await your willingness to serve. Appointed positions need your talents.

Most positions are for a limited duration, some just for a year. However, you might get hooked. Serving may become habit-forming, but it is a great habit. While it is an horticultural (and spiritual) aphorism, "you reap what you sow ", it is borne out on the challenge "you only get out of our society what you are willing to put in ". We meet each month to inspire, to socialise, to educate. We love to see faithful attendance and are strengthened as you get involved, take part and help us lead.

I have enjoyed working with each one of you the past two years. I look forward to an even more inspiring 1998.

Bobby Ogdon.

From our nominating committee chairperson:

Suggested slate of officers:

Pres. - Les Clay (for one year only, and after arm twisting)

Vice- pres. - Don Selman

Sect. -Janet Warner

Treas. - John Warner

Directors :

3 years - Colleen Forster

2 years - Michael Neyedli

(note, Don and Michael are swapping jobs)

1 year - Trevor Badminton

It is hoped that most of our 'appointed' committee chair persons will continue to serve - but this will be left to the new executive to implement

A Report
by District 1 Director Les Clay

A.R.S. Board Meeting
Northeast Regional Conference

Last fall Bev and I travelled to the east to attend the fall A.R.S. Board Meeting in Allentown, PA. En route we visited with relatives in Ontario and Quebec, and drove through parts of New Hampshire, Vermont, New York and Pennsylvania. While autumn colours were still reasonably good in Ontario, Quebec and New Hampshire, they improved as we travelled south through Vermont and New York. In the Allentown PA region, fall colours were just commencing.

The fall meeting of the A.R.S. Board of Directors, was held in conjunction with the Northeast Regional Conference.

- The new chapter of Hawaii was accepted into membership as part of District 5
- The proposal to change the name of the Society to "Rhododendron and Azalea Society" was defeated. The question of name change has been sent back to the committee for further deliberation.
- In an effort to determine why the loss in memberships, the Office of the A.R.S. - (hereinafter designated as OARS) will endeavour to contact members who are still delinquent by May 1, 1998.
- Because of government fiscal policies in India, the H.G. Hooker Chapter is unable to send funds out of the country. The membership fees for this chapter are currently being supported by a "Sikkim Sanctuary Fund" set up by the Tacoma Chapter.
- The Western Regional Conference will be held at Florence, Oregon, October 2 - 4 1998. Since accommodation is somewhat limited, those planning to attend are urged to book accommodation early.
- Future plant registrations will require that measurements in metric units be included as well as imperial standard measurements.

Northeast Regional Conference

At the conference itself, there were a number of interesting presentations.

Dr. Gary Moorman - of Rhodo Diseases

Peter Girard - New Evergreen Azaleas

Dr. Richard Jaynes - Kalmias - (I managed to get an autographed copy of his newly revised book on Kalmias). Some of the interesting new varieties are: Galaxy, Heart's Desire, Keepsake, Madeline, Peppermint and Star Cluster.

The plant sale was a little smaller than those at most of our Western Conferences, but did offer some newer 'eastern' varieties. I managed to come home with some of these:

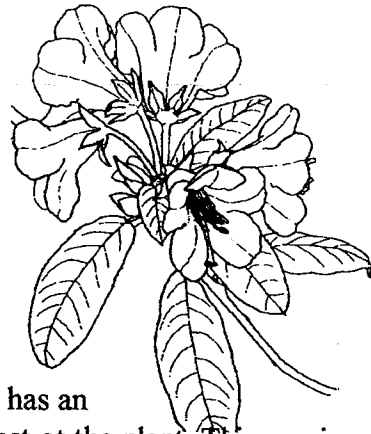
April Song, Charmont, Checkmate, Cloud Nine, Connecticut Yankee, Gordon Jones, Helsinki University, John Paul II, Kiusianum Beni Chidor and Thunder.

(we will be waiting eagerly to see these! Ed.)

A Rhododendron Primer



is for *glaucophyllum*

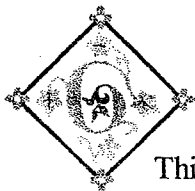


The species name reflects the bluish-coloured undersides of the small leaves of this dwarf rhododendron. In addition to their attractive colour, the leaves of *R. glaucophyllum* are aromatic. The plant can reach a height of three to five feet, and has an open habit. With age, the peeling, reddish bark adds extra interest of the plant. This species is reliably hardy in our area.

Flowers are arranged in loose trusses, and vary in colour from white to pink, or even mauve-pink. Corolla are two to three cms long, and most are bell-shaped although there is a form with tubular flowers - *R. glaucophyllum* var. *tubiforme*. Bloom time is late April early May.

R. glaucophyllum is native to eastern Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, and south east Tibet. According to Peter Cox, it is found growing between 9,000 and 12,000 feet and forms large colonies in its native range, where it grows in association with *R. ciliatum*. In P. Cox's book The Smaller Rhododendrons, he recommends *R. glaucophyllum* for the "edge of the woodland" planting.

Norma Senn



is for *Gomez Waterer*

This *R. catawbiense* hybrid (other parent unknown) was produced prior to 1900 by J. Waterer, and earned an A.M. (R.H.S.) in 1906.

This broadly upright plant is free flowering, sun tolerant and attractive year round. The leaves are large, glossy, dark green, and the plant is well furnished. Buds are slightly pink, lilac-tinged; the flowers maturing white, with a pale golden flare on the upper lobe. The flowers, of good substance, are held in large, round trusses.

Flowering in June, this plant will help extend your season of bloom.

Vern Finley

DOGS

BY INDUMENTUM

It has now been ten years since we started gardening with any serious intent. The more we have learned over the years the more we have become aware of how little we know. It's rather like exploring a wilderness and for each mountain you climb you realise there are fifty more peaks to discover. Nevertheless it seems a long time since we attempted to mix mushroom manure with sticky clay excavated from the house foundation in the hopes of adding organic content and producing good growing soil. Now screened bark mulch is the mainstay of our garden; grow your rhododendrons on it, in it or under it, you can't go wrong.

We would have been lost without gardening books but it is surprising the number of things they gloss over or omit entirely. For example, they do not generally tell you that grass is the easiest groundcover of all despite the need to do the occasional mowing. Unless you are really fussy, grass does not need weeding or mulching, can be walked on and dumped on and it always comes back smiling and green. In fact the most resilient and drought resistant grass can be developed without planting grass at all. Just level the area and keep mowing the weeds for a few years. Believe it and the grass will come. We use this technique to maintain undeveloped areas of our garden. New beds are created or existing beds extended, by turving out the grass when time and energy permits.

Buying trees is another neglected topic. Most of us like to purchase Japanese Maples and other trees of Asian origin as happy companions for our rhodies. The nurseries like to develop bushy multi-branched specimens that look like miniature trees because presumably the public are more willing to buy them. The problem is that they will grow into multi-trunked monsters without form and will be highly susceptible to winter damage. When we buy a nursery tree we look for a single trunk specimen or one that can be easily pruned and trained so that when it grows, it will look like a real tree in ten years time.