

a chapter of the ARS

The Yak

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May 20, 1998

St. Andrews Anglican Church Hall
20955 Old Yale Road, Langley

Members Appreciation Night

do you feel undervalued ?
do you have things to sell us ?, show us ?
take this opportunity
(there will never be a better one)

THE FIFTH ANNUAL FABULOUS BEER BOTTLE TRUSS SHOW

For Show Rules and Classes - see Page 3

AWARDS NIGHT

Presentation of our terrific trophies for winners
in certain classes of the show.

Our own very special Memorial Awards will
be presented to those worthy members
selected for these honours..

Yakalendas

* May 28-30 ARS Convention
in Niagara Falls Ontario

* June 17, 1998 FSRs Annual
PICNIC

This year at The Rhodo Ranch

be ready to !!- bring your own chair
(cutlery and plates supplied this year)
HUGE Raffle again - what can you add
in the way of special articles to be
raffled - anything from baby booties to
granny glasses - speak to Diane.

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April Meeting

How very fortunate we are to have available two such interesting rhodo sites as the Sino-Himalayan Garden at VanDusen, and the Asian Garden at UBC. I found Mr. Gibbens presentation most interesting - amazing the micro climates that can develop with care and placement of windbreaks and shelter belts. Bet I'm not the only one who remembers when the site was a pile of dirt and rocks! - doesn't seem all that long ago either!!

May Meeting

1. Rules - such as they are - for the SHOW and a list of show classes will be found next page.
2. If you have trusses for the show, and we hope you all will be part of this - please come early - we hope to have the hall available for 7.00 p.m. - It always takes longer than we hope it will to set up the display.
3. Please look at the classes, and have in mind in which classes you plan to enter your exhibits.

4. Judging as ever, will be by popular vote, so we need to be set up in time to let everyone have a good scout about .

Willowbrook Sale

I managed to drop by in the morning, and again later in the afternoon, and was mightily impressed by the number of busy people there, working like Trojans, selling plants, talking to interested people and making FSRs known. I have heard that the sale was a good one, and certainly it deserved to be so, with so many helpers. Thanks to all .

Garden Bees

Ella's Garden is now weed free, and, thanks to Les for providing the material, has been fertilized. A very good crew turned out to help at William's Park. Les made the trip to Melba's to dig and transport the plants. He was met at the Park by Trev. Badminton, John Anderson, John Warner, Arnie Roeske, Diane Scott, Sue

Klapwijk, and , as soon as she finished work, Colleen Forster.

Unfortunately, the Parks Board had failed to provide the promised bark mulch.

All the workers were duly grateful to Melba Johnson for her muffins and coffee - most appreciated.

Tours

For a group who assured us on their questionnaire that they wanted to visit gardens, there seemed to be very few of you who took advantage of the opportunity to visit The Glades, and Dartshill May 2nd. It was a super day and both gardens well worth the visit. I have not been at the Glades for many years, and cannot but marvel at the amount of work done by the DeWolfs to restore and enhance this beautiful site.



New Members

**Laura Lynds of Langley
Jamie & Barbara Nelson**
(Barb has been a 'working' member for years! - Now it's official !!)
Happy to have you as members.

FSRS Fifth Annual Beer Bottle Truss Show

Show Rules

1. Any person may exhibit (**Please - all of you join the fun - that's what it is FUN**)
2. Exhibits limited to trusses this year - no plants
3. Exhibits limited to rhodos - we have no provision for azaleas this year.
4. For the colour classes ONLY -i.e. classes 1 - 7 inclusive - exhibitors may show up to three clones per class - for eg. - if you have two pinks rhodos you are proud of - you may enter both in the pink class - as A) & B)
remaining classes - only ONE ENTRY per exhibitor

CLASSES

Colour

1. Red
2. White
3. Pink
4. Yellow - to include cream
5. Mauve - all shades of purple
6. Orange
7. Bi- or Multi - or designer colours

Special Classes

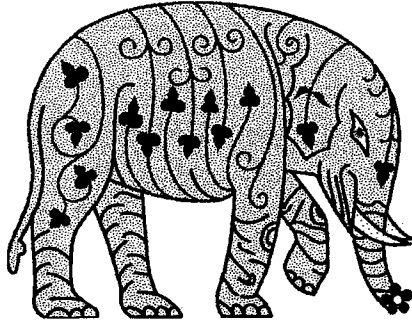
8. Blotch - each floret to show on dorsal lobe (or three lobes) a solid colour- mark of distinctly different colour than the base colour of the florets.
9. Most Flaccid
10. Most Lurid - lurid defined as vividly garish
11. Best Last Year's Truss
12. Most Elegantly Weevil Notched

General Notices

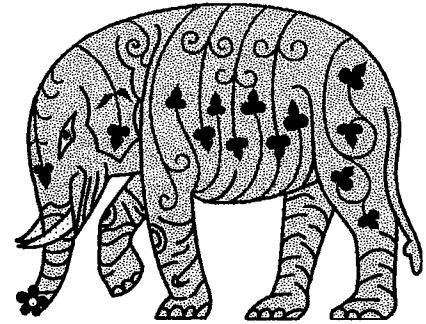
1. On arrival - please register with show chairperson : You will be issued an exhibitor number, and a number of cards (one for each of your entries) . On each card you must record your number, the Class number, The varietal name of your entry, and if more than one entry per class - indicate as A (with varietal name) B. or C. (* example below) The cards then to be secured to the beer bottle containing the entry.

2. Please decide before arriving, in which class each of your entries will be placed, since time for set up is limited

Exhibitor Number (eg. 5)	Class Number (eg. 3 in this case Pink)
Entry Name (eg. Naomi Nautilus A)	(if you have other varieties for Class 3 -they would go as B & C



Let's Remember

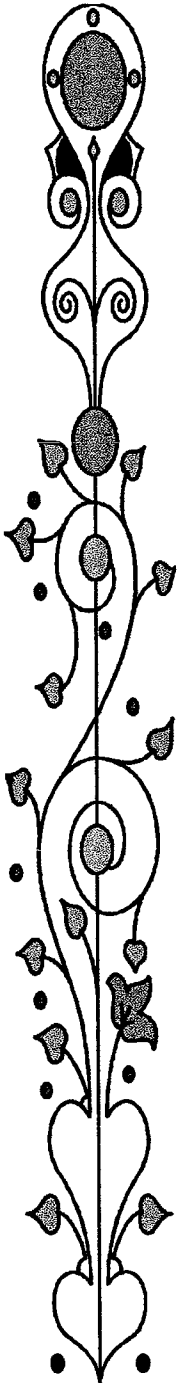


Whether it is age, infirmity, or the advent of our own ten year anniversary -I am suffering from a large dose of nostalgia.

Ergo:

I propose to start a series of articles about people who have had much to do with the growth of enthusiasm for the genus rhododendron in the province of British Columbia. Over the years, there have been many people, some names may be very familiar, others new to you, but all have been players in the story. I have asked a number of our notables to write vignettes, (or more) about people they have known, or know of, and I hope to have a series of these articles over the next issues of the Yak. The article last month on George Fraser was something of a beginning.

**YOUR LIBRARIAN HAS ASKED ME TO REMIND YOU
TO PLEASE RETURN LIBRARY BOOKS AT THE
MAY MEETING**





A Rhododendron Primer



According to both our experts:



is for *kiusianum*

Norma Senn writes:

According to Greer's catalogue and Co. Guide To Choosing Rhododendrons, *R. kiusianum* is one of the best azaleas for the small garden also suitable for bonsai or, because of its size, can even be used as a ground cover.

R. kiusianum is native to the Japanese is growing in open, sunny locations at elevation growing on pumice. According to Cox, in his book The Smaller Rhododendrons, this is a very good plant for areas with cool summers and cold winters.

The plant is semi-deciduous to evergreen, and can have flowers ranging in colour from white through light pink into many shades of red. Greer's catalogue lists several named cultivars of the species. As well, *R. kiusianum* has been used to breed such popular hybrids as Nakaharae and Mother's Day.

The plant itself generally remains small, to a height of 0.6 meter, with a densely branched and spreading habit. Greer describes the two leaf types that appear during the growing season. In spring, the leaves are about 3 cm long and fairly wide, while the leaves produced in summer are smaller. Flowers are funnel-shaped and appear in May when the plants will be covered in flowers.

It is reliably hardy in the Fraser Valley, although the colder the temperature, the more likely the plant will behave as a deciduous plant.

Vern Finley writes:

R. kiusianum s azalea, ss obtusum 2', -10 degrees F., 5/5/4

Originating on the island of Kyushu, Japan, at a height of 4,000-5,000 ft. this small semi-deciduous shrub is reportedly the best of the native Japanese azaleas.

It is spreading and densely branched and sets bud early. The plants are fully clad with flowers - one and one half inches wide, funnel form, and two to five per truss. Colours range from pink to crimson, purple and rarely white. (Ideal for ground cover)

My plants look a little naked in the winter with little tufts of leaves at the ends of the branches - you can see why they are excellent subjects for bonzai enthusiasts.

We find they bloom more heavily if planted in sunny areas of the garden.



ROOTSTALK

BY INDUMENTUM

We stopped by the local nursery on the weekend to pick up an apple tree and were amazed to see a native Big Leaf Maple on sale for \$19.99. Don't they know that the Big Leaf Maple is one of the biggest weeds in the garden? With its shallow, greedy roots, brittle branches that drop off in the slightest breeze and huge, difficult-to-compost leaves, I can't think of a worse tree to garden under, except of course for the biggest local weed, the Black Cottonwood. The cottonwood does not even make good firewood but the maple at least redeems itself in this regard.

These weeds are protected by the Surrey Tree Bylaw which forbids their removal for aesthetic or horticultural reasons. In a few years' time, no doubt, we will have a Surrey Weed Bylaw which will protect all the wonderful, trendy native species that invade the garden in the Spring. Nurseries will promote four inch pots of chickweed and buttercup and the City will issue educational pamphlets on the advantages of cultivating Surrey's native flora. Native plants do not need watering in the Summer so promoting them will save the City the bother of supplying adequate water to the residents. Naturally, the nursery perennial collection will not include dandelion as it is really an exotic import which is a pity as it does have such nice yellow flowers.

The only natives that are all over the place in our garden are large rocks. Even these are not really native so they may not be allowed in the future. Our local rocks are glacial erratics which were transported 10,000 years ago by huge glaciers and unceremoniously dumped here mixed in with a load of clay. I was in a Japanese garden shop a few years ago and rocks are sold in Tokyo for thousands of yen. We should be thankful for our free rocks and the freedom (at present) to include them in the landscape.

FSRS Officers 1998

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