



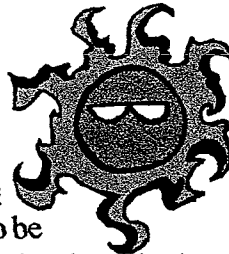
F.S.R.S Annual Picnic & Awards Night

Wednesday June 16th 18:00 hours at the

*Rhodo Ranch
25282 76th Ave



"Come one, come all"
(please bring your own
cutlery)



In place of our usual Remarkable Raffle - this year our Fund Raiser is to be An Awsome Auction. Accordingly you are requested and required to bring with you any and all articles suitable for auction. These are not necessarily required to be rhodo or even garden related - although plants and such would be highly acceptable - but may be anything from craft items, Christmas ties from Aunt Lena, no longer used books or tools, to gold or silver bars if you are so inclined.

SO - you will need to be prepared to not only eat-a-lot, but cough-a-lot - as in cough up funds for our auction.

Those who won classes at the show - for which no trophies were awarded - will receive their "certificates".

FRASER SOUTH RHODODENDRON SOCIETY AWARD PRESENTATIONS

(* see map - page 5)



Sites

1. ARS Home Page:
<http://www.rhododendron.org>

2.. RandA Newsletter:
<http://members.aol.com/RandANews/news.html>
New Issue as of June 1

3. Home Pages ARS Division 1
www.hedgerows.com/Canada/clubbrochures



Yakalendas



- * Sept. 15, 1999
Regular meeting FSRS
- * Sept. 30 - Oct.3, 1999
ARS Western Regional
Conference
Eureka, California



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May Meeting

Those of you who turned out to work in Ella's Garden are to be commended. I had not mentioned the request again after the April newsletter, since I was told that the garden looked in good shape and probably did not require a work bee. I'm sure it benefited from your attention. Les says he will make a run past with some fertilizer. Many thanks to you.

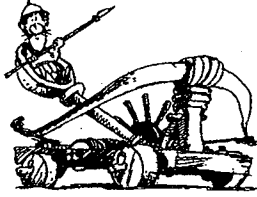
The Show - pretty good display of blooms wasn't it? I was too busy to count the number of entries we had - from something like 16 or so "competitors" - but each class had multiple entries, even our species classes - in part, no doubt, due to this spring's wierd weather.

It was wonderful to have so many willing hands to set up tables, mark off Class sites, and help exhibitors set up their entries. Even with all the help - we ran late, and were unable to get the winner's certificates ready for each class. Oh well - maybe next year - or maybe we should just use ribbons instead of the "People's Choice" certificates we have awarded in previous years.

Did the winners of classes eat the tokens their exhibits won? I just hope that Bobby Ogdon didn't make himself ill !!

Have a wonderful summer - see you at the picnic, and at the Sept. meeting.

The Yak



Why me ?



The Reluctant Gardener Part 2 By Anon

There is a vogue now for Natural Gardens: for instance, you mow a path through your overgrown grass and plunk a piece of statuary at the end. This trend suits me fine, though I understand that gardening guru Penelope Hobhouse thinks it a travesty of Real Gardening, which is, after all, taming the wilderness, not incorporating it. But now that I think of it, all my most memorable gardens were gifts of Nature, not Art.

I remember in child hood that we lived next an empty lot, which was overgrown with grasses tall enough to cover our six-year old heads. But it had once been a garden, because daffodils, and tulips and iris came up among the weeds. There were also real raspberries growing there, and we children used to mash them up and drink the juice, playing house. We played in that magical lot a long time, until one day a back hoe came along and before we knew it, someone built a house. And so we were cast out.

I think I am always trying to re-create that Natural Garden. When we first came to our property, there was a carpet of tiny pink star-shaped flowers with lacy leaves all over the ground near the house. Perfect, I thought. We'll just leave it as is.

"That is Filaree", said He Who Must Be Obeyed, "It's wild. You can't have that for a ground cover." But why not ?

Then we cleared a patch of low bushes in order to make a rhododendron garden, and before we could plant the following spring, up came a whole field of purple foxgloves. Even HWMBO liked that. But there was also spiky, tough grass that grew in rather interesting clumps. We began digging them up, but I wanted to leave a few for architectural interest.

"No Way", said HWMBO.

So out they came. But guess what I saw being carefully cultivated at a Grass Farm, the newest gardening craze? Those very same clumps.

I tell you, my time is coming.

Show Results

Trophy Winners

Most Flaccid - Bobby Ogdon - "Thor"
Best Last Year's Truss - Les Clay
Most Elegantly Weevil Notched - Vicki Neyedli
Best Hammerhead - Wendy Sellars - "Phyllis Korn"
Hi Ag - Bobby Ogdon

Division I - Species

Class 1 - Rhododendron (lepidote)
Joanne Bengough -
R. campylogynum
Class 2 - Azalea
Bobby Ogdon -
R. periclymenoides
Class 3 Hymenantha (elepidote)
Norma Senn -
R. smirnowii

Division II - Hybrids

Lepidote Hybrids

Class 4 Any lepidote hybrid
Bobby Ogdon - "Conroy"

Azalea Hybrids

Class 5 Deciduous Azalea
Keely Chalk - "Coccinea Speciosa"
Class 6 Evergreen Azalea
Colleen Forster - "Little Beauty"

Elepidote Hybrids

Colour Classes

Class 7 Red - Bobby Ogdon - "Lem's Storm Cloud" - (winning by a 'vote-off' over Joan Bengough's "Markeeta's Prize")
Class 8 White - Bobby Ogdon - "Beauty of Littleworth"
Class 9 Pale Pink - Vicki Neyedli - "Point Defiance"
Class 10 Dark Pink - Arnim Roeske - "El Camino"
Class 11 Yellow - Arnim Roeske - "Sunny Day"
Class 12 Mauve - Arnim Roeski - "Colonel Coen"
Class 13 Orange - Melba Johnson - "Apricot Fantasy"
Class 14 Bi- or Multicolour - Arnim Roeske - "One Thousand Butterflies"

Division III

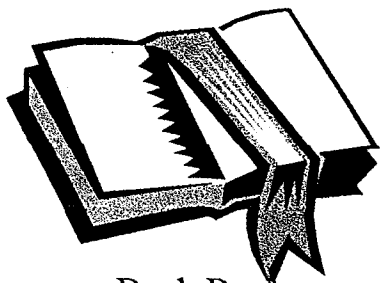
Special Classes

Class 15 - Best Blotched Truss - Colleen Forster - "Bariton"
Class 16 - Most Flaccid - Bobby Ogdon - "Thor" - (trophy)
Class 17 - Most Lurid - Colleen Forster - "Clementine Lemaire"
Class 18 - Best Last Year's Truss - Les Clay (Trophy)
Class 19 Most Elegantly Weevil Notched - Vicki Neyedli (trophy)
Class 20 Best Hammerhead Truss - Wendy Sellars - "Phyllis Korn" (trophy)
Class 21 Best Speckled Truss - Bobby Ogdon - "Reid Ogdon"

Fraser South Rhododendron Society

Officers & Committee Chair Persons for 1999

President: David Sellars 535 0763
Vice President: Trev. Badminton 856 0046
Past President: Les Clay
Directors: 1 yr. Michael Neyedli
2 yr. Colleen Forster
3 yr. Mike Bale
Secretary: Janet Warner 857 0788
Treasurer: John Warner 857 0788
Hospitality: Phil Anderson 856 8139
Caloric Intake: Melba Johnson
Lillian Emerson
Programmes: Trev. Badminton
Les Clay
Shows & Sales Chairperson :
Sue Klapwijk 888 0920
Membership: Wendy Sellars 535 0763
email: pageset@intergate.bc.ca
Publicity Hedy Dyck 530 6620
Newsletter: Mike Trembath
phone & fax 856 7261
email VE7HV@planeteer.com



Book Review

Garden City: Vancouver. Marg Meskle and Dannie McArthur . 1st PB ed. Victoria: Polestar Book Publishers, 1999. \$18.95

If one has not seen the book, the title, Garden City: Vancouver, might lead you to think it is a book for the tourist visitor to the city, extolling the virtues of Vancouver as a 19th century Town planner's layout, a la Port Sunshine, Cadbury or Reston. However, with the book in hand, the delightful cover illustration by Bernie Lyon of a Vancouver-garden-pot-pourri, with the subtitle "The Ultimate Guide to Everything Green in Vancouver and the Lower Mainland", there is little doubt that it is a garden book for those of us who live here, and for those visitors who might want to live here and garden as a matter of course as we do. For, as David Tarrant writes in the introduction, "Vancouver is a city of wonderful gardens both private and public and boasts an eclectic gardening population." The Ms's Meikle and McArthur have produced : a how and where to find, and a who to ask, compendium of information for the **assorted, complex, discriminating, diverse, many-sided, multifaceted and particular gardeners of Greater Vancouver.**

It is an indispensable source book for the particularist collector gardeners like the rhodoholics who have surpassed all other devotees- there being four rhodo societies (versus only two for roses) who have discovered the magnetic attraction of these easy to grow plants and have not yet tired of, as Germaine Greer puts it in Private Eye: 'bloated heads of rubbery blooms of knicker-pink, dildo-cream and gingivitis red'. Rhododendrons are

Vancouver spring garden exotica or erotica at their best. All the rhodo and companion plant growers are listed, rhodo web sites to contact along with the meeting times and locations of the four rhodo societies in the lower mainland.

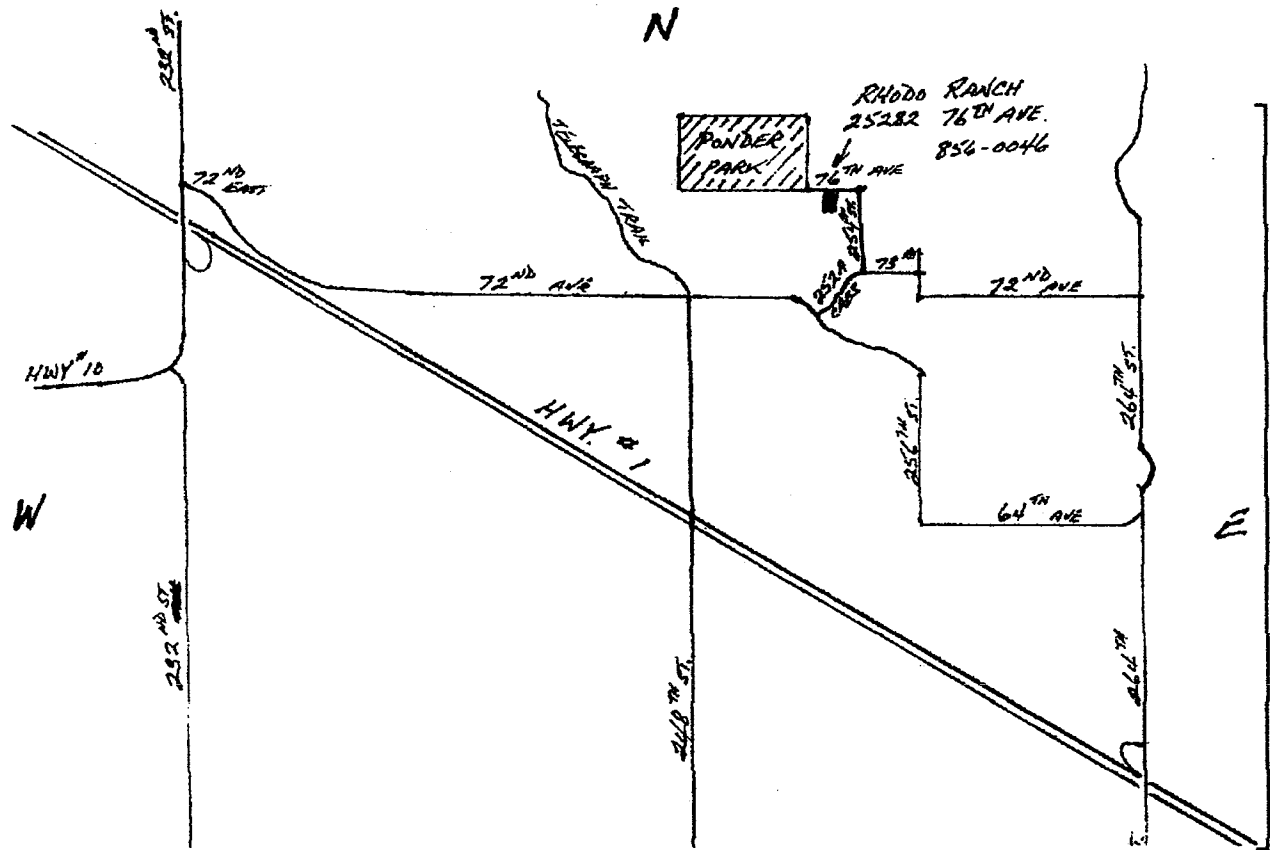
There are lists of favourite trees, shrubs, and flowers for greater Vancouver gardens by greater Vancouver master gardeners, landscape architects, growers and flower floggers. I'm sure that if you sent Marg your list of favourites she would have them for updating the 2nd edition. Her address and request are in the back of Garden City: Vancouver. Rely on the extensive index to get you into every area that the book covers. They are still working on the pagination beyond page 59 for the Table of Contents. Ah, those computer generations !

The page layout allows for serious stuff in the inside column, inside stories as it were, while the narrower column for browsing has announcements, gossip, trivia and clip art, not the Gatesian generated ones found in windows, but delightful vignettes and sketches by Bernie Lyons. Some of Bernie's art and the unposed snapshots of Vancouver's gardening family engaged in gardening pursuits spill across the inside columns. Several of these browser columns have la erotica escargot and other tidbits, some schoolboy howlers, down home garden witticisms and plenty of white space to write you own haiku or send it to Marg for the second printing. Get Garden City: Vancouver, it is a basic tool to understanding gardening in Greater Vancouver.

Clive L. Justice, MSc., FCSLA

Clive has been accepted an the Special Arrangements Programme at Simon Fraser Univerity starting in the fall os 1999 to do a Doctoral Dissertation on the history of Canadian Pacific- Northwesrt ans Prairie ornamental landscaoes and ghardens. It is his millenium project.

Here is your directional map. Any problems - phone Badminton's at 856 0046.
 (map courtesy of Trev. Badminton)



You are invited for 6.00 p.m. Remember - you do not need to bring chairs, or dishes - just cutlery, your contributions to the food table along with a healthy appetite for same, and your contributions to the AWESOME AUCTION plus an appetite to bid madly on the offerings of others.

 You want more recipes ??

This one also came along via FVRS - from Nanimo - courtesy of June Bouchard

Rhubarb a la June

- 1 cup white sugar
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1 cup water
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 4 cups rhubarb - chopped
- 1 cup flour (brown is better for you, but you can use white)
- 1 cup oats
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 cup melted butter or margerine

Put chopped rhubarb in the bottom of a 9"x13" pan. Mix sugar, cornstarch, water and vanilla in small saucepan and bring to a boil stirring constantly. Keep stirring until you get a creamy sauce which you pour over the rhubarb. In a large bowl, mix flour, oats, brown sugar, cinnamon and melted butter. Spread evenly with a spoon over the rhubarb. Bake in 350 oven for approximately 50 minutes. Great with vanilla ice cream.

Note: You can add any kind of berries to the rhubarb for something different. It has been tried with raspberries, blackberries, cascade berries and strawberries; all were delicious. Frozen rhubarb works too. (quantities in this recipe are very flexible)

Want to test yourself ?? as a rhododendron gardening enthusiast ??
Are you a NORMAL GARDENER - (NG)
or an OBSESSED GARDENER (OG) ??

The following quiz is reprinted with the permission of it's creator - Boris Bauer and the William Bartram Chapter (SC) of the ARS

Select the choice which best applies to you - (scoring will be individual)

NG: You won't leave town when your rhododendrons are in bloom.

OG:....or your native azaleas, you kalmias, your lepidotes, your elepidotes, your species, your bigenerics.....

NG: You have a charge account at (a local) Nursery

OG: Your spouse buys all your Christmas presents there.

NG: You invest in fine gardening tools.

OG: You keep spare tools in your car for gardening emergencies.

NG: You have a compost heap

OG: You take its temperature every day

NG: You are proud of you baby VanVeen juniors

OG: You carry pictures of them in your wallet

NG: You have given rhododendron cuttings to your friends.

OG: You have given strangers B&B 12' native azaleas

NG: You can crush a Japanese Beetle with your bare hands.

OG: You love to display coffee cans filled with collected beetles.

NG: You would never kill a ladybug.

OG: You bring them inside for the winter.

NG: You know the symptoms of Lyme's Disease

OG: You've had it twice and are proud of it.

NG: You have dirt under your finger nails.

OG: What fingernails?

NG: You know the pH of your soil

OG: All your friends know the pH of your soil

NG: You've had a soil test

OG: You studied for it.

NG: Someone says you have Rhododendron Acquisition Syndrome.

OG: You take it as a compliment.

NG: You buy well composted cow manure to top-dress your garden

OG: You buy a cow.

NG: You think Harold Greer is cute.

OG: You think Charles O. Dexter is cute.

NG: You teach your children the wonders of rhododendrons.

OG: You forgot to have children.

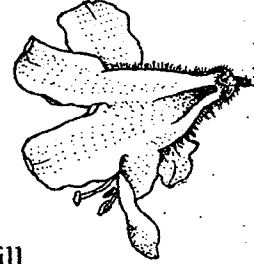
NG: You love rhododendrons more than anything else.

OG: **Is** there anything else?

A Rhododendron Primer



is for *uniflorum*



According to Peter Cox, in his book Dwarf Rhododendrons, *R. uniflorum* is only been found growing in the Doshong La Pass of southeastern Tibet. It is not widely grown, and there is some question as to whether or not this plant will ultimately remain classified as a distinct species. Cox suggests that nomenclature may remain murky until more specimens are available for study.

It is a dwarf plant, with singly borne mauve-pink flowers up to 2.5 cm. in diameter. In cultivation, it blooms in April, although in the wild it commonly flowers in October. It may be related to *R. pemakoense*, although *R. uniflorum* has a distinctive leaf and habit of its own.

R. uniflorum is a lepidote, with a low growing habit. It can reach a height up to a meter. Greer's description of *R. uniflorum* sounds more promising than that of P. Cox. Greer writes that the growth habit is tight and compact. Undersides of leaves are bluish-green, and dark green above. It is reported to be hardy throughout the British Isles, but becomes deciduous in Scandinavia. Greer reports it as hardy to -5 F.

Norma Senn



is for "Unknown Warrior"

'Queen Wilhelmina' x 'Stanley Davis'

C. B. van Nes and Sons pre 1922 5ft, 5F (-15 C) E to EM - 3/3

The plant is tall, upright and open. Leaves are pointed, dark green and fold at the mid-rib. Buds open as dark crimson flowers that fade to bright raspberry red. The flowers, 12 to 15 per large domed truss can last for three or more weeks in cool spring temperatures.

This floriferous shrub is always a focal point in the early spring garden.

Vern Finley

DOOISTALK

BY INDUMENTUM

What a fabulous truss show that was. The combination of enthusiastic participation by the members and dedicated organization by the show committee produced probably the best show we have ever had. Undoubtedly it was the broad palette of available trusses that inspired so many to participate which resulted in a splendid array of colour over all the tables. The cool wet Spring both delayed and prolonged flowering giving everybody more trusses to choose from than is usual in the third week of May.

At first, the morning touches of frost into early May were somewhat alarming but the extended cool period provided superb conditions for both trusses and new growth. We sometimes forget that rhododendrons in their natural habitat enjoy cool wet weather in the spring and summer up in the mountains. As Frank Kingdon-Ward noted, it is jolly sporting of rhododendrons to put up with the hot dry conditions in our cultivated gardens. In our garden, the new growth on the Loderis normally wilts on hot days in May eventually recovering and becoming erect by June as the stem hardens. This year, the cool rains have sustained beautiful erect new growth. This all sounds like a metaphor for something else but I had better change the subject, as this is a family newsletter.

I finally finished constructing my Millennium Rock Garden project without any Federal Government assistance from the Heritage Fund. So it is under budget and, as it was completed before midnight on December 31, 1999, it is well ahead of schedule. For the soil I used a magic mix of equal parts sand, pea (birdseye) gravel and compost. The mix seemed

incredibly dry when we planted it last weekend. Rock garden plants are very clever, however. They demand perfect drainage for their tops but grow long roots down into the gravel and under rocks searching out coolness and water. This is the key to their survival on dry wind-swept mountainsides with the occasional torrential rain. So it is also the key to survival in the garden. The special soil mix was placed up to three feet deep and is underlain by rock rubble for even more drainage. After planting, to simulate mountain scree conditions, we topped off the soil with a mulch of clean pea gravel to exclude competition from weeds. Every time it rains, every drop of water available will pass through the gravel and move directly down to the plant roots. Pea gravel is more efficient in this way than bark mulch, which absorbs rainfall when it is dry and therefore less water is available for the plants. Anyway, as I noted in a recent column, bark mulch should not be used in a rock garden as it induces conditions that are too acidic. Until the deep roots are established on the new plants we will have to ensure that the plants are well watered.

As we plan and build a garden, it is always helpful to be thinking about the natural habitat and climatic conditions of the plants we want to grow. We can help our plants to be happy and healthy by providing shade and moisture to the woodland growers, sun to the shrub roses and rock garden, and drainage and mulch all round. This is what they get in the wild so we should accommodate them as much as possible and they will reward us with lovely flowers and foliage.