



Fraser South Rhododendron Society is a chapter of the American Rhododendron Society.

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at .St. Andrew's Anglican Church Hall
20955 Old Yale Rd.,Langley
8:00 p.m

FSRS

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

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Les Clay

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Sites

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

2.. RandA Newsletter:
<http://members.aol.com/RandANews/news.html>

New Issue

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

some other sites you might like to try:

www.users.fast.net/~shenning

www.rhs.org.uk/rhsgroups/memb.asp

☼ September 15,1999

We are fortunate to start our new season with

Betty Kennedy

as our guest speaker

Ms Kennedy will be telling us about the Finnerty Gardens of the University of Victoria

Some of you may remember that some plants from the Buchanan Simpson collection were moved (with considerable difficulty) to the Finnerty Garden

☼ October 20, 1999

Norman Todd

will tell us about Thailand and the Rhododendron Garden established in northern Thailand



Yakalendar



☼ **Sept. 15, 1999**
Regular meeting FSRS

* **Sept. 30 - Oct.3, 1999**
ARS Western Regional Conference
Eureka, California
for further information - see the summer 1999 Issue of JARS

☼ **October 20, 1999**
Regular meeting FSRS

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June Meeting

Aren't we the lucky ones ?!! -- to have Doreen and Trevor Badminton invite us to have our picnic at their very beautiful Rhodo Ranch. Beautifully landscaped, the property is a delight to explore. Their wide verandah held the buffet - stocked with a huge assortment - meats, vegetables, salads etc.etc. - so much that we were required to delay for a time after eating first courses until the serving table could be cleared to set up all the desserts (I wonder how many diets were shattered) We were fortunate indeed to skip between rain showers - and the sun came out as we enjoyed our picnic. While we were all sighing with repletion, our President began the pleasurable task of making our annual awards. This year Fraser South awarded a well earned ARS Bronze Medal to Bev and Les Clay. The Ella J. Crabb Memorial Award was presented to Janet and John Warner for their faithful service as Secretary and Treasurer; the Gerry C. Emerson Memorial Award to Dr. G. R. Finley for his kindness in regular plant donations, and teaching techniques; and the Harold Johnson Memorial Award to Phyllis Anderson, our faithful door-greeter and keeper of name tags. Phyl also keeps in touch with ailing or needy members and families on our behalf.

Letter to Editor:

I received a letter from long time friend and friend-of-all-rhodie-enthusiasts Bill Dale of Sidney . He told me that the beautiful and irreplaceable Abkhazi Garden is likely to be lost. He included clippings from the Victoria Times that tell of a possible sale to a developer for town houses. Prior to her death (in the early 1990s) the Princess Abkhazi had tried valiantly to interest the city, province or horticultural societies in overseeing the garden - but to no avail. The cost - taxes, water etc. is proving just too high for the owners, and so a piece of history is likely to disappear. What a shame.

(You may recall the article in the April /99 *Yak*. Ed.)

Our " Awesome Auction " was just that; and many thanks to you all. We had a marvelous diversity of materials - everything from small appliances, games, books, knick - knacks (the things I always think of when people talk about ' white elephant ' sales) to plant pots and plant material - also diverse and including plants grown from seed provided by Peter Wharton. Hilarious bidding wars developed over the most unusual articles . I'm not at all certain that our doughty auctioneer was above picking bids from those innocent souls who were merely swatting mosquitoes - - but every one seemed to be enjoying the fun.

President's Report

The Summer is over before it really began. True rhodoholics don't mind though as the rhodos have had plenty of rain and cool days to keep them happy. Now we can look forward to some really long continuous rain and cold weather to keep up the acidity levels and give our plants some rest from all this growth.

It was a pleasure to have yet another successful and enjoyable picnic in June. Trevor and Doreen are such wonderful hosts giving up their space for such a huge crowd. The setting could not have been better and the food was outstanding as usual. We made over \$400 on the auction which means either we had really good stuff to sell or people were too inebriated to exercise better judgement. Thanks to all who donated the items and brought the great food and wine.

Note:

There is a new issue of the Rhododendron and Azalea Newsletter on the web. Its editor Betty Spady lists the following as some of the articles it contains:

Wasps, Our friends in the Garden
Expedition to SE Tibet
Origin and Roots of the First Great Rhododendron Hybrids
The Ubiquitous Horse Tail
and much more

WE THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

**Awards received by members of Fraser South Rhododendron Society From the ARS
(* - signifies award from Vancouver Chapter)('A' signifies Associate Member of Fraser South)**

Year	Silver Medal	Year	Bronze Medal
1989	Harold Johnson 'A'	1983*	Melba & Harold Johnson 'A'
		1984*	Vern Finley 'A'
1997	Ken & Dot Gibson 'A'	1988*	Leslie K.C. Clay
		1989*	Alice & Robert Mann 'A'
		1990*	Mike Trembath
		1997*	Joan and Len Bengough 'A'

Awards made by FSRs to its members

Year	Bronze Medall	Memorial Awards		
		Ella J. Crabb	Gerry C. Emerson	Harold Johnson
1993	Ella and Dave Crabb			
1997	Wendy and David Sellars	Pat Dahl	Arnim Roeske	Les Clay
1997	Diane Scott			
1998	Pat Dahl	Lillian Emerson	John Anderson	Melba Johnson
1999	Bev and Les Clay	Janet and John Warner	Dr. G.R. Finley	Phil Anderson



Remembering



Win. and Ed. Trayling



Ed was a part of the Vancouver scene all his life. He told of riding his bicycle over a plank in the quarry that was to become Queen Elizabeth Park. Ed learned his father's trade as a gemsetter and a much-better-than-average baseball player became a leading designer and manufacturer of jewelry. Ed's early gardening interest was in growing prize chrysanthemum.

Ed's first rhododendron purchase was "Pink Pearl" which he acquired from Manson's Nursery. Not long after this, he read an article in the an R.H.S. journal about an American hybridizer named Larson. Since this man lived in Tacoma, Ed asked a friend going that way to drop in and take a look at the Larson Nursery. The thunderstruck friend reported that it had to be seen to be believed, and so Ed and Win took the next weekend to see for themselves. This was the beginning of a lasting friendship. Hjelmar Larson's Nursery existed on three levels - ground, benches and roof top - all covered with seedlings rhodo's (When I saw it some 25 or so years later - it was still bulging with plant material. Ed.) The Traylings spoke often of the annual picnics they used to hold with other enthusiastic American hybridizers - the Lems, Pierces, Ben Nelson, McLures and Siffermans - when people told of their new hybrids, and hopes for future crosses.

Ed was a charter member of the Vancouver Rhododendron Society -(or - the Vancouver Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society as it was initially known) Ed and Win were tireless workers for the Vancouver Society, eager to stress the promotion and distribution of rhododendrons and their proper care, and encourage nurserymen to import new hybrids, and superior forms of the species. Although not really approving of competitive shows, Ed thought that shows were a great way to spread knowledge about rhodies and their wide differences. He donated the Challenge Cup for the Best Red still a part of VRS's Award. He and Win would arrive at shows laden down with beautifully grown trusses all carefully labeled. none of which he would permit to be other than display trusses - and what a display they made.

Because of his great friendships with the noted hybridists of the day, many exciting new plants would appear in his garden - often before such plants were in commercial production. In one such case I recall him showing a spray of Mrs. Lamont Copeland at our show held that year in Burnaby....it was kept under lock and key! and caused great excitement and yearning !

Ed was a very generous man, willing to share his knowledge and enthusiasm as well as his plants. During the early years of addiction of the Trembath & Finley families - he heard of the (to our minds at least) very large rhodo plant moved - in full bloom - from Vancouver to the Trembath grounds in Surrey (at the urging of W. Murray Stephens who was busy landscaping our grounds Ed.). Immediatly a large plant (Lavender Girl) appeared in the Finley garden !!

Ed felt strongly that rare plants should be shared, not hoarded. He was happy that he was able to supply the North West area with cuttings from the beautiful hybrid "Cornish Cross" after it was wiped out in our area by a particularly hard winter. (He kept it for years - moving it into the

(continued page 6 col. 1)

A Rhododendron Primer



V is for *Rhododendron vaseyi* The Pinkshell Azalea.



This is a North American deciduous azalea, native to the mountains of North Carolina. In the wild, flowers range from deep pink to white. Flowers can be up to 5 cm across, and come in clusters of 4 to 8. It is fairly rare in the wild, but Peter Cox mentions two good named cultivated forms: "White Find" and a pink flowered plant, "Suva".

R. vaseyi comes true from seed. It does well in a variety of soils, but prefers abundant available soil moisture. In addition to being a free flowering plant from a young age, *R. vaseyi* has good scarlet to yellow fall colour. The growth habit is open and upright; leaves are willow-like. It is hardy, and flowers before the plant leafs out in the spring. According to P. Cox, this is one of the finest American azalea species and should be more widely grown.*

Norma Senn

*(I wholeheartedly concur - this is a most delightful, delicate beauty. Ed.)



V is for "Vulcan" " Mars " X *R. griersonianum* 1938 Water & sons & Crisp AM 1957

5', -15F, ML, 4/4/4

A very good garden plant. At maturity this variety becomes a dense mound - leaves are dark green oblong-lanceolate. Flowers are bright red, in neat round trusses. It usually blooms heavily and appears to be disease and weevil resistant. The plant grows happily in shade or sun or shade being sun tolerant. It makes a beautiful bright red display in late May.

Altogether a thoroughly good natured plant for anyone's garden

Vern Finley

(continued from Page 4)

cool greenhouse for the winter) Gardeners should not be miserly, he felt; plant material , especially new and rare should be shared lest it be lost.

As one might expect, the enthusiasm of the hybridist rubbed off on Ed, and he made several crosses. To the best of my knowledge, none of these was registered. One of his hybrids, which he named "Coleen Barber" after a daughter, is reported to be growing in Windsor Great Park as part of a Canadian hybrid collection. R. "Coleen Barber" is a cross of R. "Grosclaude" X R. "Lady de Rothschild" This, along some others of Ed's crosses, are grown locally - mainly in the Finley garden. Hopefully some of these will be registered and propagated, (you might remember a truss brought in by Vern for one of her excellant 'show and tell' displays , and called by her "Midnight Magic")

The Finley garden is home to plants that are being assessed as worthy to be called "E.J.T." and "Win" in honour of these very special people.

(My sincere thanks to Vern Finley for permission to use material from her article about Ed. Trayling in the Vancouver Chapter of the ARS Annual Report of 1982-83. Ed.)

Saturday Sept 25, 1999

A plaque honouring George Fraser will be unveiled in Beacon Hill Park, Victoria, BC.

The ceremony will be open to the public, and any of you planning to be in Victoria would be most welcome to attend.

This occasion has been organized by Mr. Bill Dale of Sidney, who has done so much to ensure that people are aware of the large contributions made by Mr. Fraser. It would be nice if other Rhododendron enthusiasts could be present.

ROOTSTALK

BY INDUMENTUM

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Hey Where are you ??????