



October 20, 1999
8:00 p.m.

St. Andrew's Anglican Church Hall
20955 Old Yale Rd., Langley, BC

NORMAN TODD

ARS Director for Off Shore Chapters
owner operator of Firwood Nursery of Sidney
(he's bringing some plants)
Author and Speaker par excellence

We look forward to Norman's Lecture

" A Tale of Thailand "



Yakalenda



*** November 5 - 7, 1999**
Williamsburg, Virginia
ARS Eastern Regional Conference
(see ARS Journal for details)

☼ November 17, 1999
FSRS Regular Meeting
programme TBA

☼ December 15, 1999
FSRS Party Time

*** ARS Annual Convention**
Burlington Massachusetts
May 24-28. 2000

**** ARS Western Regional**
Conference, Cowichan Bay
Sept.14 - 17, 2000

Despite the cost of living, it's still quite popular.



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Sites

1. ARS Home Page:
<http://www.rhododendron.org>
- 2.. RandA Newsletter:
<http://members.aol.com/RandANews/news.html>
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

*a new (to me) site on vireyas:
<http://website.lineone.net~cjcallard>

FSRS

Officers 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

Membership Secretary:

Wendy Sellars
16877 30A Ave.
South Surrey, BC
V4P 2V7
535 0763

email: pageset@intergate.bc.ca

Newsletter: Mike Trembath

phone & fax 856 7261

email VE7HV@planeteeer.com

Fraser South Rhododendron Society

is a chapter of the American Rhododendron Society.

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

Dues News

Time to consider renewing your membership in Fraser South and the ARS.

Membership chairperson :

Wendy Sellars
16877 30A Ave.
South Surrey, BC
V4P 2V7

Fraser South has been ' holding the line' on fee increases for several years now. This really means , thanks to the shrunken LOON, that our society has literally been subsidizing its members. Even good things must end, and the executive - with considerable reluctance has decided that this year our dues must be increased to cover our payments to the parent organization. You will have an enclosure with full details, but an increase from \$35 to \$40 is hardly exorbitant in light of the excellant journal we receive; access to books; the Rhododendron Species Garden and their special plants, and other priveleges..

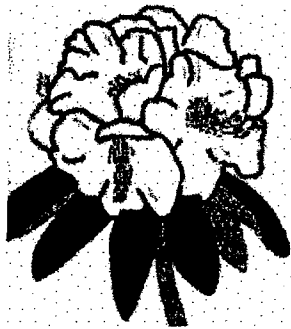
September Meeting

I'm sorry you missed it. Quite a lot of you did. Some of you on holidays I hear; some just away or not yet attuned to the new season and renewed meetings. We had a fine and very interesting presentation from Betty Kennedy. Having read about the Buchanan Simpsons and their garden, so famous in the "early days" it was fascinating to see some of it. Between Betty's pictures and the article by Alleyne Cook in an early JARS we could appreciate the tremendous task involved in moving some of these very large plants to a new home in Victoria. Many have since been moved again - into an area with better drainage. The Finnerty Garden (at the University of Victoria) is developing an excellent collection of species - through donations as well as judicious purchases from the Rhododendron Species Foundation. This site would be interesting to visit on our Island Tour.

Plans for Y2K tours - in the capable hands of Dr. Mike Bale - are beginning to look pretty inviting and exciting. A full report will be made in an upcoming newsletter

Sage observation sent to me by my older sister:

"You're getting old when getting lucky means you find your car in the parking lot".



The Rhododendron Species Foundation

Fraser South is an associate member of the R.S.F. and will renew membership for the year 2000. The Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden at 2525 S. 336th St, Federal Way, WA is operated by the R.S.F.

Membership in the R.S.F. confers the following benefits:

- 2 copies of the R.S.F. newsletter sent to the group. (One copy is placed in our library)
- One-time garden pass for free admission for each member (NB these one time passes must be requested in advance from the Garden)
- Discounted Garden admissions
- Pollen offerings
- Seed offerings (thought to be renewed this year after an hiatus)
- Open List offerings in plant distribution catalogues.

Copies of lists of plants available for distribution are placed in the Library as they arrive. Plants may be ordered - with the customary requirements of Dept. of Agriculture import licence and inspection. This is a source for hard-to-come-by species; the cost seems rather high with our poor exchange rate, and the plants rather small - but choice varieties are available. If you are travelling in the vicinity a visit to the garden is well worth while.



I am not at all sure that this is the place for a recipe - BUT - in view of the time of year - you might like to try it. (As soon as I saw the name - I was lost)



Peanut Butter and Chocolate Fudge

- 3/4 C (175 mL.) peanut butter
- 1 2/3 C (400 mL.) granulated sugar
- 2/3 C (150 mL.) Evaporated milk
- 2 tbsp (25 mL.) butter
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL.) salt
- 2 C (500 mL.) miniature marshmallows
- 1/2 C (125 mL.) chopped mixed nuts
- 100 gms dark chocolate (I used semi sweet)
chopped

Line 8" (2L.) square cake pan with foil; set aside. In microwaveable glass measure or bowl, microwave peanut butter on high for 1 minute or until softened; set aside.

In large heavy saucepan, combine sugar, evaporated milk, butter and salt; cook over medium heat, stirring, until at full boil; boil for 3 minutes, stirring constantly. Pour half into softened peanut butter; add 1C of the marshmallows and 1/2 the nuts, stirring constantly until marshmallows melt. Immediately spread into prepared pan.

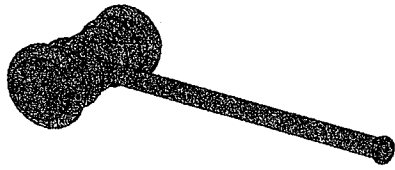
To remaining mixture in saucepan, vigorously stir in the chipped chocolate and remaining marshmallows until melted and smooth. Pour carefully over peanut butter layer. Sprinkle with remaining nuts; press gently into fudge.

Refrigerate for 3 hours or until firm. (Fudge can be refrigerated in airtight container for up to 1 week)*

* Ed. note - Oh Suuure -

!! Havoc !!

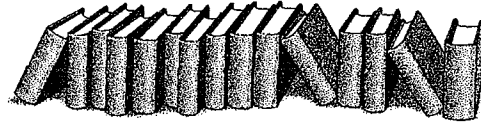
The high winds of September 24th left the Finley family not only celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in a house with no power, but attempting to assess the damage in the garden. A number of LARGE trees - cherry, big leaf maples crashed down, causing immense damage, and leaving great gaping holes in pathways and beds, and huge root systems waving in the air. The chain saws are still at work, and Vern says they have not yet been able to even see all the damage - plants squashed, limbs stripped off; literally tons of wood to cut up and try to move. A new garden for Y2K from the wreck of the old? I'm sure it will be equally beautiful. Meanwile we mourn with you.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

OUR CLUB IS A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY AND WE DERIVE CONSIDERABLE BENEFITS FROM THIS ASSOCIATION. IN ADDITION TO AN EXCELLENT JOURNAL, THERE ARE CONFERENCES, A SEED EXCHANGE, A REGISTRY FOR NEW HYBRIDS AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT WITH OTHER RHODODENDRON LOVERS AROUND THE WORLD. WHEN RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP THIS YEAR, PLEASE CONSIDER TAKING OUT A FULL MEMBERSHIP IN RECOGNITION OF OUR ASSOCIATION.

OUR CHAPTER IS PART OF DISTRICT 1 WHICH COMPRISES THE CLUBS IN THE LOWER MAINLAND AND ON VANCOUVER ISLAND. WE ELECT A DISTRICT 1 DIRECTOR TO REPRESENT OUR INTERESTS AT THE ARS BOARD MEETINGS. THIS IS A CRUCIAL FUNCTION FOR MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION IN THE ARS. THE DISTRICT 1 CHAPTERS HAVE AGREED TO FUND THE DISTRICT 1 DIRECTOR'S TRAVEL TO THE MEETINGS AT A RATE OF \$3 PER MEMBER. NOT A LOT OF MONEY FOR SUCH AN IMPORTANT ACTIVITY. IT IS SURPRISING, THEREFORE, THAT ONE OF THE RICHEST CHAPTERS, VANCOUVER, FINDS THIS CONTRIBUTION EXCESSIVE AND REFUSES TO PAY THE FULL AMOUNT. THIS IS PARTICULARLY IRONIC WHEN THE CHAPTER HAS RECENTLY BENEFITED FINANCIALLY FROM HOSTING THE ANNUAL ARS CONVENTION. IF YOU HAVE FRIENDS IN THE VANCOUVER CHAPTER, ENCOURAGE THEM TO DEMONSTRATE MORE LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT THE DISTRICT'S EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE ARS.



Library Report

Unfortunately, the anticipated report from our Librarian did not reach me in time for this news letter.

Do note our strong new library rolling cupboard - it is expected to be in place for the October meeting.

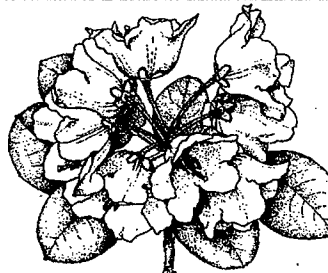
I remind you that you may order books through our Librarian - this is of benefit to you and to the Club - since if at least 5 books are ordered at one time, we are given special rates - savings for all involved since the club will share the rebate with the members who order books.

A Rhododendron Primer



is for *R. wardii*

Subgenus Hymenanthes, Section Ponticum
Subsection Campylocarpa



This wonderful Rhododendron was named after one of the great plant hunters, Frank Kingdon-Ward. It is native to Yunnan, Szechwan and Tibet, where it is found growing at high elevations (3,000 to 4,200 meters). *R. wardii* blooms in May and has clear yellow flowers, often with a red basal blotch, or flowers can be flushed with green. There may be up to 14 flowers per truss.

The slightly rounded, smooth leaves are dark green on top and paler underneath. Ultimate height is between 1 to 2 meters. In addition to being a fine species in its own right, *R. wardii* has been used as a favourite parent in many crosses leading to yellow - flowering hybrids.

Norma Senn



is for "Wigdon"

R. minus var. *minus* Carolinianum X *R. calastrotum* "Gigha"

Peter Cox, 1982 P.C. 1982 A.M.T. 1987

-10 degrees F, -23 C M Semi-dwarf

In our garden, this very pretty plant is growing in poor soil (clay) and moderate exposure to sun. It is vigorous, well branched and clad in grey-green leaves. Blooming profusely in May, it covers itself in rather small, saucer-shaped florets, dark lavender with darker spotting on the upper lobe.

The well shaped plant with its attractive foliage makes a very fine addition to 'the small shrub' area in any garden.

Vern Finley

ROOTSTALK

BY INDUMENTUM

September was a dry month and we were away for most of it. We did not worry about watering as the sun is at a lower angle, temperatures are cooler and anyway the books tell you to reduce watering at this time of year to discourage soft new growth that might get frosted later in the fall.

When we returned at the end of the month it was interesting to observe how the rhodos had fared and the findings were not entirely what you might have expected. Most showed no signs of distress, even those out in the open. Our north facing slope must help as it means the rootballs are generally sloping away from the sun. The rhodos that did suffer were those on the west side of our garden shaded from the late afternoon sun!

It is clear that there must be something other than shade influencing the dryness. The shade on the west boundary of our garden is provided by our neighbour's trees, a line of Western Red Cedar (*Thuja plicata*). Like most native trees, these have shallow greedy roots that get under (Ed. - or through) the rhododendron rootball and suck moisture from below. Rhododendrons are not happy with this. When drought conditions prevail, rhodos will tend to push their roots deeper to cool and moist soil below. So it must be tough to have dryness both above and below a rootball. To compound the problem, even when there is some rain, the cedar branches will intercept the rainfall and keep the ground below quite dry.

The moral of this story is avoid planting rhododendrons near native trees and use more attractive specimen trees for shade. We have learned to live with cedar trees and they do compensate with nice green foliage in the winter. However, the roots of Alder, Cottonwood and Bigleaf Maple are far greedier than cedar roots, and as long as you don't live in Surrey, BC, you should have these trees removed. These weed trees are also horribly brittle. There was a big wind storm in September while we were away. A huge piece of a Bigleaf Maple broke off and destroyed the powerline between the house and the road. My Irish mother always believed in "letting nature take its course" and a wind storm provides a less bureaucratic method of tree removal.