



A Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society

Volume 13

Number 1

January, 2000

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

Meetings are held on the third **Wednesday** of the month at St. Andrew's Anglican Church Hall
20955 Old Yale Rd., Langley
* 8:15 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
- Membership : Wendy Sellars
phone & fax 535 0763
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- Newsletter: Mike Trembath
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* **NB - We have access to the hall at 8:00 - it seems that we are too eager and are making our presence known too soon, and seriously upsetting the Beavers who precede us in the Hall. Sooo softly softly, and stay out of the hall until at least 8:00 !!**



Sites

1. **ARS Home Page:**
<http://www.rhododendron.org>
 2. **Randa Newsletter:**
<http://members.aol.com/RandANews/news.html>
 3. **Hme Pages ARS District 1**
(this includes Fraser South)
www.hedgerows.com/Canada/clubbrochures
- Some other sites you might like to try:
- www.users.fast.net/~shening
 - www.rhs.org.uk/rhsgroups/memb.asp
- a vireya site - includes stunning pictures: <http://website.lineone.net~cjcallard>
- web site for MA Chapter of ARS
www.rosebay.org

- ☼ March 15, 2000
Speaker : Jim Greig
"The Story of the Royston Nursery"
- ☼ Saturday April 1, 2000
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
FSRS Annual Plant Sale
at Clay's Nursery, 224th St.

☼ April 8 - 10 - 3 **PARS**
6th annual plant sale Elgin Hall
Crres. Rd at 142A

- ☼ April 19, 2000 FSRS meets
Speaker : Frank Fujioka
- ☼ Saturday April 22, 2000
Annual Plant Sale and
Display of Trusses
to be held this year at St. Andrew's

☼ May 13, 2000
projected date for the
Great Garden Tour

☼ May 20-21, 2000
projected date for **Van. Is. trip**

☼ ARS Annual Convention
Burlington Massachusetts
May 24-28, 2000

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

Happy New Year Yakalendas

- ☼ **January 19, 2000**
AGM and election of officers
" Pictures from Windsor Great Park's **Valley Gardens.**"
courtesy of our President
- ☼ **February 16, 2000**
Regular meeting programme
TBA

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December Meeting

Every one had a great dinner and a great time. The Clays were their customary gracious hosts, and how can we ever thank them! There seemed to be rather a lot of those expected who failed to arrive - perhaps due to the nasty 'flu bugs people are fighting this season. We missed you and hope everyone is healthy soon. We held a raffle - thanks to Norma Senn for her prizes, and raised \$ 100. for the food bank



Your will recall that we told you of the probable loss of Victoria's Abkhazi property to developers, with the resulting destruction of the garden. It seems there is a campaign for the preservation and conservation of the Abkhazi Garden. Information regarding this effort may be obtained through the web site of the Land Conservancy:

www.conservancy.bc.ca and the e mail address :
admin@conservancy.bc.ca



Interestingly enough - I received a letter from Bill Dale of Sydney who knew the Princess quite well, and who recorded an interview with her 1987. At that time she felt that her garden was near the end of its life. Bill also remarked that the developer(an ex MLA from Prince Rupert) who bought the property for \$ 1 million, is quite happy to flip the property for about \$ 1.5 million - (not a bad return on an investment ?)

(From Victoria's Jan. Newsletter)

The Relationship Between Deer and the Yucca Moth by M. J. Harvey

You may not know this, but getting seeds to form on a yucca plant in Canada is a minor triumph. I was thus really pleased with myself ('chuffed' in Yorkshire dialect), when transferring pollen with my tweezers from yucca "Ivory Tower" to a similar but unnamed form resulted in four fat pods

The reason that yuccas in northern gardens rarely set seed is the absence of a drab little moth called the yucca moth. The life cycle of this moth used to be featured in biology books because it demonstrated the balance of benefits in a close ecological specialization. The female yucca moth gathers pollen from yucca flowers and deposits it on the stigma of another yucca flower. At the same time, she lays an egg or two on the yucca ovary. The net result is that the yucca sets seed and the moth grub lives safely inside the developing fruit eating some, but not all of the seed. They both benefit.

I used to tell our first year biology students at Dalhousie University that everything we would tell them would be untrue. That we had to deal in generalisations and that there were exceptions to all the rules - at least in Biology. (Only Physics and Theology deal in absolute truths.) Now I'm not sure that all of the 40 species of yucca in the Americas depend on the yucca moth, but in my experience alternate pollinators such as bees are not active on Vancouver Island. Pod development on yuccas is slow, so by November they were still somewhat green. Anxious to allow the seeds to plump up as much as possible, I left the capsules on their stalk, meanwhile confidently adding yucca seeds to the seed list.

By mid November the leaves on the salmonberry are yellowing, and the local deer turn to alternate plants for fodder. One particular doe which frequents our property had ignored the yuccas all summer (they are very fibrous). She now found them absolutely delicious.

The very day on which the seed list arrived in my mailbox, irrevicably printed, I walked down the path and saw the gaunt yucca stalks utterly podless. And that, my dear friends is why there are no yucca seeds available this year.

The next time I saw the doe - she was under the apple tree munching the last windfalls - I gave her a stiff dressing down. From about 10 metres away she looked at me with those big, soft eyes not even ceasing to chew her cud. I sometimes think she doesn't understand a word I say



From the President

Lynn Watts, the President of the ARS has sent a letter to all chapters with some information on running the society. The total cost to operate the society is US\$29.73 for each Canadian member. This seems to me quite reasonable, particularly considering the quality of the journal. However, the ARS only collects in membership fees US\$ 22 per member. The difference goes to the Chapter. The deficit per member is offset by donations, Journal advertising and investment income. There is clearly not much room for contributing from the National organisation towards the travel expenses of District Directors.

I misled you last month. An election is not required yet for the District Director because the Alternate District Director, Gifford Robb, automatically takes over. Let's all throw our support behind Gifford who has taken this on at short notice.

Victoria Chapter Seed List

How to Obtain Seed

By post from: Joe Harvey, 5061 Sooke Rd., Victoria, BC, V9C 4C3

Joe writes :1. We have no credit card facilities. Money, cheques or gold bars are acceptable.

2. We have never run out of choices but hope to do so this year. Please mention substitutes in any correspondence.

3. This list is open to all other chapters in British Columbia

(If you send for seed, you might mention your chapter affiliation . Ed.)

Donors

DM David Mackas
 FG Finnerty Gardens
 HC Horticulture Centre of the Pacific
 JH Joe Harvey
 KW Ken Webb
 RH Robin Hopper
 RR Hatley Castle

Abbreviations

Other
 OP Open pollinated
 HP Hand pollinated
 WC Wild collected
 S Requires stratification
 cv cultivar (i.e. a clone)
 v variety (i.e. distinct plant but not a clone)
 ssp subspecies

Miscellaneous Seeds

(Maple leaf colour is given: spring/fall)

- | | |
|---|------|
| 1. <i>Acer campbellii</i> ? green/red. Leaves larger than <i>A. Palmatum</i> | S RR |
| 2. <i>japonicum</i> v <i>aconitifolium</i> green/red. Large divided leaves | S RR |
| 3. <i>griseum</i> green/red. Paperbark maple | S RR |
| 4. <i>palmatum</i> v. <i>dissectum</i> red/orange. Weeping branches, cut leaves | S RR |
| 5. cv 'Hogyoku' green/yellow-orange, compact tree | S RR |
| 6. cv 'Shigitatsu-sawa' green/yellow. Small bushes | S RR |
| 7. cv 'Osakazuki' green/scarlet. Tall tree | S RR |
| 8. cv 'Umegae' red/red. Divided leaves, tall tree | S RR |
| 9. cv 'Villa Taranto' green/yellow. Linear left segments | S RR |
| 10. cv #15 green/yellow-orange, very small leaves, dwarf tree | S RR |
| 11. cv #16 green/yellow, tall, larger leaves | S RR |
| 12. <i>Agapanthus</i> 'Headbourne' hybrid. The hardy deciduous form | - JH |
| 13. <i>Arbutus menziesii</i> , the famous tree of Victoria, Colwood strain | ? JH |
| 14. <i>unedo</i> , the strawberry tree. Smaller than our own <i>arbutus</i> | ? JH |
| 15. <i>Camassia leichtlinii</i> v <i>alba</i> , white camus, drought resistant | S JH |
| 16. <i>Digitalis purpurea</i> yellow variety | - JH |
| 17. <i>Euonymus alatus</i> v <i>compactus</i> , dwarf spindleberry bush | S HC |
| 18. <i>Genista aetnensis</i> , Mt Etna broom, wonderful cascading branches | S HC |
| 19. <i>Hamamelis xintermedia</i> 'Arnold Promise' witch hazel, yellow | S JH |
| 20. 'Jelna', orange | S HC |
| 21. <i>mollis</i> , the Chinese species, early yellow | S HC |

continues overleaf

Victoria R.S. Seed List (con'd)

22. Helleborus xhybridus #24 Pictoe x Picotee HP	S JH
23. #27 White HP	S JH
24. #32 Yellow HP	S JH
25. #34 Large red	S JH
26. #40 pale pink HP	S JH
27. niger ssp macranthus, extra large white flowers	S JH
28. Menziesia ferruginea, false azalea, WC Kathleen L. Smithers BC	- JH
29. Oplopanax horridus, WC false azalea devils club, wet soil	S JH
30. Paeonia lutea v ludlowii, yellow tree peony, vigorous	S RR
31. Sorbus hupehensis 'Pink Pagoda' pink rowan, true from seed	S JH
32. 'Joseph Rock', yellow fruited hybrid, seedlings may differ	S FG
33. sitchensis WC Kathleen L. Smithers, large bush, red fruit	S JH
34. Spartium junceum, Spanish broom, fragrant, friendly non-spreading	? JH
35. Stewartia pseudocamellia, Japanese stewartia, white, smooth bark	S RR
36. Styrax japonica, Silverbells. A small tree	S FG
37. Wisteria floribunda cv 'Shiro Noda', the white, graceful form	- JH
38. the blue form, also true from seed	- JH
* 39. Yucca filamentosa, HP Unnamed x 'Ivory Tower', drought resistant	- JH
Rhododendrons Open-Pollinated	
40. R. calophytum #1460 Vaartnou	FG
41. decorum #1461 Vaartnou	FG
42. decorum sn	FG
43. degronianum ssp yakushmanum cv 'Whitney form'	FG
44. fortunei #1129 Vaartnou	FG
45. hybrid Buchanan-Simpson garden, large pink-peach flowers	DM
46. fulvum Stuart Holland	RH
47. insigne	JH
48. macrophyllum WC Shawnigan Lake, Vancouver Island	KW
49. makinoi (as "adenopodum" sic) #983	FG
50. oreodoxa #2032 (mislabelled "rex")	FG
51. pseudochrysanthum sn	FG
52. schlippenbachii sn	FG
Rhododendrons Hand-Pollinated	
53. R. degronianum ssp heptamerum cv 'Enamoto' x clementinae	JH
54. makinoi	JH
55. pachysanthum	JH
56. pseudochrysanthum	JH
57. roxianum v cucullatum	JH
58. tsariense	JH
59. degronianum ssp yakushmanum cv 'Exbury' x clementinae	JH
60. deg hept 'Enamoto'	JH
61. insigne	JH
62. pachysanthum	JH
63. pseudochrysanthum	JH
64. wiltonii	JH
65. degronianum ssp yakushmanum cv 'Yaku Angel' x makinoi	JH

* see article page 2

A Rhododendron Primer



is for *zeylanicum*

Subgenus Hymenanthum, Section Ponticum, Subsection Arborea, subspecies *zeylanicum*

This large Rhododendron, a sub-species of *arboreum*, has deep rose pink to red, bell-shaped flowers. Flowers have a small calyx, and can reach up to about 5 cm long. In P. Cox's The Larger Species of Rhododendrons, *R. zeylanicum* is listed as late-blooming (July to even August), while Greer's catalogue gives a blooming date of early May. I have not seen one in bloom (that I remember) in the Fraser Valley, so perhaps one of our species specialists can advise us of our local blooming dates. Unfortunately, this is not a reliably hardy plant for local areas.

R. zeylanicum is ultimately a tree-like plant, reaching heights of about 9 meters. The bark is rough; leaves are a rich glossy green above and with soft-brown indumentum. (Davidian makes much of the characteristic bullate foliage. Ed.) It is native to the mountains of Sri Lanka.

In looking at various references, it seems that *R. zeylanicum* has been the object of considerable re-classification efforts. The cultivar "Noyo Chief" was at one time listed as *R. zeylanicum*, but it is now thought to be a hybrid, and more probably from the subspecies *R. nilagiricum* (although this doesn't seem too certain either). No matter how it is classified though, this is a lovely plant, and certainly reflects some of the best attributes of *R. zeylanicum*.

Norma Senn



is for "Zuiderzee"

less than 5 feet -21 degrees C Med.

"Mrs. Lindsay Smith" x (*campylocarpum* x ?)

M. Koster AMT 1936

This is a slow growing plant and difficult to root. Its heavily veined leaves are rather light in colour, and are easily burned so it is best planted in light shade. Slow to bloom, the pale yellow flowers are lightly spotted with red dots and appear in rounded trusses. In some lights, the ball trusses almost glow, and the yellow coloring seems intensified

Siblings "Adriaan Koster" , "Harvest Moon" and "Diane" are perhaps better known

Vern Finley

ROOTS TALK

BY INDUMENTUM

I read a book about rhododendrons the other day that did not have the word rhododendron in it! The book is called "How Proust Can Change Your Life" and is by Alain de Botton. Basically the book summarizes some of the significant issues arising from Proust's monumental work "In Search of Lost Time". Botton's thesis is that there are a number of lessons to be learned from Proust's famous novel that are useful in leading a more meaningful life.

One of the key lessons is that we should learn to appreciate the beauty of the everyday things we find around us. We can appreciate things more by learning to look at the beauty of nature in different ways. One difficulty we have, however, is that we grow tired of things that are always present. It is easier to appreciate what is fleeting and unusual.

It reminded me of a conversation I had some years ago with a colleague at work who was interested in gardening but could not understand why anyone would have a strong interest in rhododendrons as they only flower once a year. His ideal plant would always be in flower.

Imagine how boring rhododendrons would be if they were in flower all year round! Rather like static beds of annuals adorning municipal parks in the summer. Instead we get to look at our buds all Fall and Winter in the anticipation of the flowering season. Once the first rhododendron flowers open in early Spring the beauty of the flowers is intensified by the excitement after the long wait. Moreover, we get an ever changing kaleidoscope of colour for several months even though each flower may only last a couple of weeks. By the time summer comes around we can enjoy the fascinating lances of new growth and the wonderful effects created by smotherings of soft new foliage.

There are even long term rewards for rhododendron lovers that last for years rather than seasons. When you buy a plant, it takes a number of years before it becomes established as a garden component so you have all those years of waiting to build up the excitement. If Proust had his time over again I am sure he would have been a rhodoholic.