



A Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society

Volume 13

Number 5

May, 2000

Meetings are held on the third **Wednesday** of the month at St. Andrew's Anglican Church Hall  
20955 Old Yale Rd., Langley **8:05 p.m**

**May 13 - FSRS First Annual Mother's Day Weedend Garden Tour**

each member of Fraser South has a job to do to make this the huge success we need . Full explanations given - Page 3 & 4

**May 17 Regular Meeting -**

1. 7.00 p.m. - regular spring tidying in Ella's Garden at the church
2. Member Appreciation Night - any member may bring plants, crafts or garden related objects for sale - all funds retained by vendor
3. The Big Beer Bottle Truss Show - classes and show regulations Page 5-6 ( Special Prizes this year !!!! )

Note from organizer "**Tofino Trip**": We have had a full complement of passengers for this bus trip on three occassions , but now, once again, find ourselves with two spare seats. If you are aware of anyone who would care to join us please let me know ASAP. A detailed itinerary and list of participants together with other details will be forwarded shortly.

Mike Bak e  
853 8839  
853 4100



June 2, 3, 4, 2000  
VanDusen Flower & Garden Show

Saturday May 13,2000  
**FSRS First Annual Mother's Day Weekend Great Garden Tour**

June 21, 2000  
**FSRS Annual PICNIC**  
at The Rhodo Ranch  
6.00 pm - ??

Sundays May 14, 21, 28  
FVRS Garden Visits  
\*see April Yak page 3

June 25, 11am to 4:30 pm  
Millenium Garden Tour  
hosted by:  
Maple Ridge Garden Club  
on behalf of the  
Make a Wish Foundation  
Info or tickets phone 462  
9394 or 462 7888

May 17,2000  
FSRS regular meeting AND  
**BEER BOTTLE TRUSS SHOW**

May 20-21, 2000  
Fraser South's  
Van. Island Bus Tour

September 14-17, 2000  
Western Regional Conference  
Duncan, BC

May 24-28 ,2000  
ARS Annual Convention  
Burlington Massachusetts  
(see ARS Journal for details)

**PULEEZE !!!!!**

Those of you who won our glorious trophies in 1999 - please bring them to the **BIG SHOW** on Wed. May 17, 2000

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### April Meeting

We were regaled with the plant progeny of Mr. Frank Fujioka, and what a marvelous collection of pictures he had for us. As a 'closet' hybridizer I was humbled by the immense amount of thought, planning, and patience that has gone into his plants. Not only has he been prepared to wait years for a plant to develop - but he has carried out planned crosses of specific plants for specific features even unto five, six or even seven generations. He shows immense restraint in the select few plants he registers. He culls plants he considers to be inferior with such abandon that I'm sure we all winced to see some relegated to compost which we would have been happy to grow in our gardens. An educating as well as a very enjoyable evening.

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### Library Report

It is that time of year again - we have to remove all the library books from the Church Hall for insurance reasons. This is when we do our inventory. Will all members who have books out at present PLEASE return them at the May meeting. If unable to be at the May meeting, they may be returned to me at the June picnic - if neither is possible for you, please phone me at 596 8740, and I will arrange to pick up the book(s) from you.

Joan Bengough  
Librarian

I was appalled to hear from our Librarian, that we are missing three (3) books - they appear to have been taken out without the "lender" signing the register. All three have been missing for some time. Surely someone must have one or more tucked on their shelves and forgotten - easy enough to do as I well know. Please look and return same if found. The books are :  
The Encyclopedia of Rhododendron Species - P. & K. Cox  
Creative Propagation - Thompson ( it has an orange cover)  
Perennials for you Garden - Bloom

(The Cox book alone represents almost half of our yearly Library budget !!)

\*\*\*\*\*

### Picnic and Auction

Once again Doreen and Trev Badminton are willing to act as hosts for our June Picnic. They have made us welcome to their lovely grounds for several years, and we do appreciate it. Entertainment for the evening will include the Presentation of Awards and the Awful ( as in engendering Awe) Awesome Auction.. Start scouring your attics or basements for material for the auction -( someone even suggested going to garage sales to pick up juicy items for recycling !) Anything is acceptable, and it is quite surprising what ordinarily sane people will bid on. Not only are you expected to bring "stuff" - but to buy "stuff" - you are to take home someone else's 'treasures'  
Your ever able organizers will be in touch with each and all re contributions for 'pot luck'dinner.

### President's Report

The Executive Committee has planned a lot of activities this month and all members are encouraged to take part. This is the first year we have tried a public garden tour and we need your participation to make it a success. Right now you can promote the tour with your friends and colleagues, sell tickets and help out at one of the gardens. On May 13, if you are not guiding friends and relatives on the tour, please come and assist at one of the gardens to stamp tickets and help supervise. We need to make sure people stay on the paths and don't get so excited that they pinch a few flowers!

One of the main objectives is to promote rhododendrons and the club so we need you to answer questions and encourage people to join. It will be a fun day and everyone should come out and enjoy it.

\*\*\*\*\*

### New Member

Please welcome new member:

Lorie Misson  
23138 Old Yale Rd.  
Langley, BC  
V2Z 2V3

Phone: 604 539 2822

### FSRS Officers

Pres. David Seelars 535 0763  
V.P. Trev. Badminton 856 0046  
Sec. Wendy Sellars 535 0763  
Treas. Les Clay 530 5188  
Directors: Colleen Forster  
Mike Bale  
Wenonah March  
Newsletter Mike Trembath  
Phone&fax 856 7261  
e mail: ve7hv@planeteer.com or  
trem@quik.com

## Mothers' Day Weekend Garden Tour

### Ticket Sales:

The hosts for this year's Mother's Day Weekend Garden Tour will have spent many hundreds of hours preparing their gardens for visitors. Oftentimes, this energy and expense prevents the host gardeners from participating in other more leisurely and enjoyable activities. It is incumbent on all chapter members to help justify this effort by selling the tickets and getting guests out to see the gardens. Without your participation, this venture will not be a success. Please make an effort and sell tickets!

It would be helpful to the organizers to know how many visitors are to be expected at the gardens and therefore would all chapter members please contact either Dave Sellars at 535-0763 or myself at 853-4100 as soon as possible in order to determine an approximate total.

The revised schedule for assistance at the Garden Tour is attached.

### Reception Volunteers:

The reception volunteers are requested to:

1. provide assistance to the host
2. to check that all visitors have a valid programme and that this is cancelled at the time of the visit by a cross to prevent reuse.
3. to encourage guests to visit the smaller and perhaps less well known gardens rather than to the already well known gardens.
4. to encourage membership in the Chapter and to point out that new members would be welcome to attend the truss meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup> and also the BBQ and Auction on June 21<sup>st</sup>.
5. to sell a programme to any visitors who might arrive at the Garden without a valid programme,

These should also be cancelled and could then be used to visit other gardens.

6. to utilize whatever resources you might have available regarding rhododendron paraphernalia to promote the Society and local membership.
7. to advise that plants will be available for sale at the Badminton residence and also by Susan Klapwijk at the Emerson's residence.

Should a problems occur on the day of the garden tour both Dave Sellars and myself will be available by cellular phone as per the numbers listed in the programme.

### Garden Hosts:

It would be most helpful if you would kindly make available for the volunteer receptionist a small table for their use and a couple of chairs.

### Wind-Up:

Host gardeners, their guests and the volunteer assistants are welcome to attend a "post mortem" at Lu Zhu on a drop in, casual basis Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> of May between 1:00 - 4:00 for wine and snacks.

### Return of Tickets:

Please return any unsold tickets and cheques or cash for the sold tickets to the meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup> so that an appropriate accounting can be made.

One of the disadvantages of being a "host garden" is that it precludes participating in the garden tour and visiting and enjoying other people's gardens. I feel sure that all the host gardeners would have enjoyed sharing their knowledge and joy with like-minded individuals. Perhaps it would be possible to organize a "host gardeners" tour at a later date. Finally, a special thank you to the host gardeners for their generosity in participating and to the volunteer assistants for taking the time to be involved.

### Thank You:

A very special "thank you" is due to three ladies who have done most of the work and spent many hours in putting this venture together - Wendy Sellars, Colleen Forster and Mary Berg.

Mike Bale

### FSRS Mother's Day Weekend Garden Tour

GARDEN	Preparation	Reception, Saturday May 13	
	April - May	10:00 - 1:00	1:00 - 4:00
BADMINTON	arranged	Pat Dahl 534 5200 Rose Garlinski 858 0402	Vera Starka 856 8895 Karen Hinchey 888 8954
BALE	arranged	Carol & Ernie Schmidt 853-6639	Deena & Andy Vendrame 856 7042
BANFORD	John Anderson 820 0821	Chris Ballyn 857 0253	Katherine Schuss 536 7299
EMERSON	Sue Klapwijk 888 0920	Sue Klapwijk 888 0920	Mike Trembath 856 7261
MARTYN	arranged	John Anderson 820 0821	Mary & Chris Berg 853 5737
MORTON	Dixie Mueller 589 3833 Margaret Yeltman 930 8446	Phyllis & Cliff Anderson 856 8139	Karen Linton & Larry Morton 888 6564
OGDON	Janet & John Warner 857 0788	Vicki Neyedli 931 1199	Ruth Buurman 533 5756
ROESKE	arranged	Janet & John Warner 857 0788	Martie & Cy Irwin 263 3195
SELLARS	arranged	Alan & Wenonah March 532 9062	Ceal & Shannon Robertson 823 4627
TODD	Karen Linton & Larry Morton 888 6564	Norma Senn 856 0075	Colleen Forster 534 1840

## Show Rules

1. Any person may enter exhibits
  2. Entries in Lepidote Classes or Azalea Classes may be shown as sprays - not to exceed 18 inches in height.
  3. All other classes - to be shown as single truss (except class 20 which is specifically for hammerhead truss)
  4. You may make multiple entries in any class - so long as each entry is a different clone. ( for example - you may enter Crest, Hotei, Goldsworth Yellow and Gold Medal all in class 11, but you may not enter two trusses of Crest)
  5. If a variety might be eligible to enter more than one class - ( eg. Blue Peter as a mauve - Class 12 or as a blotched - Class 15)- you may decide where you want to show it - but once placed in that category - you may **not** enter another truss of the same variety the other class.
- .....

### CLASSES

#### Division I - Species

- Class 1 Rhododendron ( lepidotes)
- Class 2 Azalea (includes pentathera, & tsutsusi)
- Class 3 Hymenantha ( elepidote)

#### Division II - Hybrids

##### **Lepidote Hybrids**

- Class 4 Any lepidote hybrid

##### **Azalea Hybrids**

- Class 5 Deciduous Azalea
- Class 6 Evergreen Azalea

##### **Elepidote Hybrids**

##### **Colour Classes**

- Class 7 Red
  - Class 8 White
  - Class 9 Pale Pink
  - Class 10 Dark Pink
  - Class 11 Yellow - (to include cream)
  - Class 12 Mauve ( all shades of purple)
  - Class 13 Orange
  - Class 14 Bi- or Multicolour
- .....

#### Division III

##### **Special Classes**

- Class 15 Best Blotched Truss -\*
- Class 16 Most Flaccid
- Class 17 Most Lurid\*
- Class 18 Best Last Year's Truss
- Class 19 Most Elegantly Weevil Notched
- Class 20 Best Hammerhead\*
- Class 21 Best Speckled Truss\*

- \* Definitions :1 'Blotch' - each floret to show on dorsal lobe ( or three lobes) a solid colour mark distinctly differing from the base colour of the florets.
2. 'Lurid' - most vividly garish
  3. 'Hammerhead' an inflorescence which arises from more than a single flower bud
  4. 'Speckled' distinguished from blotches by non-solid colour sprinkles and spots either around entire floret, or at least on upper lobe(s) - eg. 'Paprika Spiced'
- .....

### General Notes

1. Please come early - setting up takes time, we may have to start outside !
2. Please make an effort to determine in which class each of your entries belong - (we are always frantic for time to get the show set up for judging)
3. Report to the 'Registrar' on arrival - you will receive the following:
  - a) exhibitor's number
  - b) entry cards - these are index cards, punched and with elastics attached - to be fastened to each bottle containing an entry. On each entry card you are to write: i. - your entry NUMBER, ii. - the name of the variety you are exhibiting, iii. - the number of the class ( \* See example next page )

- c) voting receptacles - you will place each bottle in the 'soup plate' which will act as receptacle
- d) a packet containing voting tokens - there are enough for each person to cast one vote in each class.

**N.B. If you eat the tokens, you will not be able to vote**

The right of arbitrary decisions belongs only to the show committee.

Tags to be completed as shown below:

Name of Variety  
 ( eg. *Purple Splendour* )

Class  
  
Number

( Your )  
Exhititor ' s  
Number

**Wasps, Our Friends in the Garden**  
by Lynn Watts

Unfortunately, the widespread belief that wasps are pests and should be exterminated persists even among otherwise knowledgeable gardeners. Contrary to this mistaken notion, wasps are very beneficial insects. Wasp are carnivorous insects, and as such consume a tremendous quantity of soft bodied insects such as aphids, caterpillars etc. Although the adult wasps are generally nectar eaters, they prey on many varieties of insects; they actually pre-chew these insects and bring them home to the nests to feed the young larvae.

In the spring a young, mated female chews wood to build a small, globular nest of wood pulp and saliva. The first generation to hatch consists only of female workers. These bring food continually to the larvae which have hatched from eggs laid by the over-wintered queen. The nest consists of many layers of cells covered on the outside with a wood pulp sheath with an opening at the bottom. Later in the summer, male wasps emerge from unfertilized eggs, and mate. During the late fall and early winter all the wasps die except for young, mated females who over-winter in the ground or under debris to emerge in the spring and carry on the cycle

As most people know, bees can only sting once as their 'stinger' is barbed and cannot be withdrawn without fatally injuring the bee. Unlike bees however, wasps can sting repeatedly because their stinger is not ripped out of their body when used.

The three most common varieties found in our gardens in the Pacific Northwest all belong to the genus *vespula* and are commonly called Yellow Jackets, Hornets , and Bald-faced Wasps.

The Western Yellow Jacket, *Vespula pennsylvanica*, build their nests in the ground or in rotting logs or stumps. Female Yellow Jackets can sting repeatedly and will do so if their nest is threatened or disturbed.

The Sandhills Hornet, *Vespula arenaria*, generally called yellow jacket by most people, is probably the most abundant wasp found in the Puget Sound region. The female builds paperlike, hanging nests of wood pulp and saliva. These nests, sometimes as large as a football can be seen hanging under the eaves of houses or built in shrubbery, sometimes high up in the trees, but generally closer to the ground.

Please turn to page 8.....

## A Rhododendron Primer



*O* is for *decorum*  
Subsection *Fortunea*

*R. decorum* has fragrant flowers ranging in color from almost white through various shades of pink. It blooms from a young age, with most flowers appearing in early May. As this is frequently grown from seed, there can be a range in flowering times.

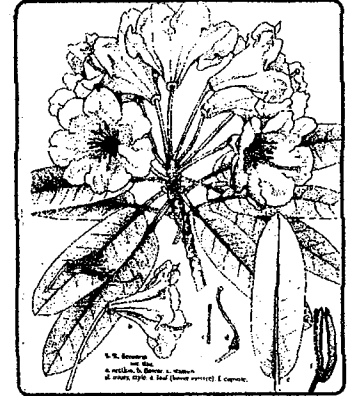


Illustration after  
H. H. Davidian

*R. decorum* is native to Yunnan and Szechwan, where it can be found growing between 2,000 to 3,400 meters. It is easy to grow from seed although Peter and K. Cox (Cox' Guide to Choosing Rhododendrons) recommend using seed sources from the higher elevations for maximum hardiness.

Foliage may have some bronze coloration when it first emerges, but it later changes to a medium green. Upper leaf surfaces are smooth, although there may be a few hairs on the undersides. Plants have a compact growth habit, and can reach almost 2 meters in height. This is a highly recommended species and it is more tolerant of less than perfect growing conditions than many rhododendrons.

Norma Senn



*O* is for "*Daphnoides*"

Parentage unknown - possibly a sport of *R. ponticum* or *R. catawbiense*  
P. A. & K. N. E. Cox in their Encyclopedia of Rhododendron Hybrids note "*Imbricatum*" as a synonym.

T. Methven cultivated 1868    4ft (1.2 m) -15F (-25C)    M/L 2/4

The unusual foliage of this rhododendron is its most interesting feature. The dark, glossy green leaves are rounded at the apex, irregular in length and tightly packed on stems of a very dense mounding bush. As the stems grow, the whorls of leaves separate along the stems. Small trusses of purple flowers appear in profusion in late May. A mass planting of "*Daphnoides*" can be seen at Canada Place - by the outdoor fountain.

Vern Finley

# ROOTSTALK

BY INDUMENTUM

Politically correct gardeners do not grow rhododendrons. They require too much water and do not belong here despite local efforts in multiculturalism. Rhododendron *macrophyllum* would be the one exception as it is a native plant in coastal British Columbia and tolerates drought conditions. Politically correct gardeners approve of native plants such as rotting alder trees, to provide habitat for wildlife and insects. To feel good about reducing water use they even move onto xeriscaping and create a landscape of desiccated cactus and gravel with a few pieces of dry driftwood to set the mood. Lawns are frowned on unless they are small enough to be cut with a hand powered reel mower. Politically correct gardeners wear Tilley hats, buy their tools at Lee Valley and save Steve Whysall's gardening pages in a non-plastic binder made out of recycled rose clippings.

The government likes politically correct gardeners because they can cut back on the amount of water delivered and claim they are reducing taxes. They can also be seen to be caring for the environment like the politicians in Halifax who have banned the use of perfume in public places. In Surrey, not to be out done, the politicians are thinking of banning scented plants unless they are native.

We are solemnly advised that one of the advantages of the native plant garden is that it will attract wildlife. In our garden, our selection of native plants is pretty thin but includes dandelion and chickweed and other plants most would classify as weeds. Despite this meager native plant display, we are infested with rabbits but they only seem to chew the imports. I planted out a seedling of *R. quinquefolium* a few months ago and it has been chewed to the ground by rabbits that don't seem to feel the need to be politically correct. The deer love to eat *R. chlippenbachii* "Sid's Pink" and one of the disadvantages of correctly pruning summer flowering Clematis is that the emerging growth is at just the right height for rabbits. In the autumn the jays bury imported walnuts in the mulch and then forget where they put them so we have walnut tree seedlings springing up everywhere.

Most wildlife we learn to tolerate but we do have difficulty coming to terms with the activities of moles. We have given up worrying about their tailings piles in the lawn and take some comfort that at least they are improving the drainage. However, they can create quite a mess in a nicely mulched rock garden and by disturbing the mulch they encourage the weeds to come back. If only the crows would eat the moles and the rabbits would eat the weeds. A profitable idea for biotechnology?

Wasps .....Continued from Page 6

The third most common species of wasp in the Pacific Northwest is the Bald-faced Hornet or Bald-faced Wasp, *Vespula maculata*. Generally a little larger than the other species, this wasp is distinguished by black and white, or yellowish-white marking on the face and thorax. Like the other two species of wasps common in the Pacific Northwest, the Bald faced Wasp is responsible for the destruction of large quantities of aphids, caterpillars, and

other soft-bodied insects pests.

In our garden, we try to leave one or two wasps' nests intact during the summer to assist in insect control, and we urge you to do the same. It is far better for all of us if we use natural predators rather than pesticides to control unwanted insect pests.

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