



Sunday, June 23, 2002 Fraser South's Annual Picnic and Auction

3.00 p.m. until dark - (or until the mosquitos carry you off)

The Rhodo Ranch (see map on page 10)



Yakalendar



☼ Sunday, June 23, 2002

Picnic, 3.00 p.m.

BRING 1. Plates and cutlery for yourself and family and or guests.
2. The food donation requested by our busy organizer.
3. **MOST IMPORTANT** - we need your material for the auction - be prepared to bring and buy. The success of this fun endeavor is totally dependent on having interesting items to auction, and WE are the people who need to bring these objects - desirable plants, crafts, tools, appliances, preserves, baking, there seems no limit to the items our auctioneer is prepared to sell. Sooo - look in your garden, garden sheds, garages, attics, basements, 'junk drawers' china cabinets, linen closets, book shelves.....
It seems we have hit upon the same date as has Vancouver Chapter, (and also PARS !) for our 'end of season' activities, and so it is doubly important that we provide outstanding auction material - to lure all comers. See you there!! ? with bells on?

☼ September 18, 2002

Regular meeting of Fraser South This is the first meeting of the new season and we will have all our tried and true specials in place - pre programme tid-bits, plants for sale, raffle, Twoonie Table, and our usual 'coffee and calories' Plans are to have a 'round table' of our own experts discussing rhodo propagation, by seed, cutting, grafting and perhaps even layering.

May is always a busy month for rhodoholics, but this year it has seemed positively stuffed with exciting things to see, and places to go In fact there is so much to talk about, that this entire edition of The Yak may consist of reports !!

☼ Sept. 20-22, 2002

Western Regional Conference
Bellingham

We will never have a better opportunity to enjoy a Western Conference so close to home (unless - or until we host one ourselves!!)

Details are available at:
[www.arscascade.org/
Conference/](http://www.arscascade.org/Conference/)

Mountain_to_sound.htm
and full information in the summer
Journal of the ARS

Do plan to go - it promises to be an outstanding programme

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The Show

I wish I had been there. Sounds as though there were lots and lots of entries, with more of you bringing trusses - good - it wasn't so bad after all was it ?!

I gather there was still the usual slow down at the beginning and the occasional glitch that always seems to occur regardless of efforts by the hard working show committee. A post mortem will be performed and perhaps there will be some suggestions to alleviate some of these annoyances. After all - a fun show it is meant to be, but it should also perform the useful function of 'educating' us painlessly as to what can be and is grown to good effect. No doubt you departed with an enlarged 'want list', or even a 'have to have list'.

Our organizers did an excellent job, and many delighted winners appreciated the lovely prizes they were able to select. Here then is a list of the happy winners.

Division I Species

- Class 1. Rhododendron (lepidotes)
Vern Finley - *cinnibarinum* .
Roylei group
- Class 2. Azalea
Bobby Ogdon - *viscosum*
- Class 3. Hymenantha
Dalen & Lori Bayes -
sanguinum

Division II Hybrids

Lepidote Hybrids

- Class 4. Dixie Mueller
'Mood Indigo'

Azalea Hybrids

- Class 5 Deciduous Azalea
Wendy Sellars
'White Lights'
- Class 6 Evergreen Azalea
Bobby Ogdon
X *Obtusum* var *amoenum**

(*for those of you who, like me, thought this a variety of the species *obtusum* - *obtusum* is now said to be a hybrid - perhaps between *kaempferi* and *kiusianum* - ever changing !)

Elepidote Hybrids

Colour Classes ('a' truss 6" or less 'b' truss 6-10")

- Class 7a Red Mary Murphy
'Burnaby Centennial' (hard to believe it's under 6" !!)

7b Wenonah March
'Halfdan Lem'

- Class 8a White - Karen Linton & Larry Morton

'Helene Schiffner'
8b Wendy Sellars
'Loder's White'

- Class 9a Pink - Dalen & Lori Bayes

yak. x 'Corona' 3
9b Dalen & Lori Bayes
'Noya Brave'

9c mega truss- Vern Finley
'Point Defiance'

- Class 10a Yellow or Cream
Colleen Forster

'Creamy Chiffon'
10b Bobby Ogdon
'Phyllis Korn'

- Class 11 Mauve, Purple
Wenonah March

'Bariton'

- Class 12 Orange

John Anderson
'Trewithin Orange'*

(*note that this is a lepidote hybrid, and slipped into this class in error)

- Class 13 Bi-colour

Trev. Badminton
'Naselle'

Division III Special Classes

- Class 15 Unregistered Hybrid

Les Clay
yak hybrid

- Class 16 Best Blotched Hybrid

Colleen Forster
'Bariton'

- Class 17 Best Speckled

equal first to :

Bobby Ogdon - Reid Ogdon
Dalen & Lori Bayes -
'Irroratum's Idiot' (?)

- Class 18 - Most Lurid

Vern Finley
{('Fabia' x *bureavii*) x
'Crest' } x Mrs. Lamont
Copeland

- Class 19 - Best Last Year's Truss
Bobby Ogdon

'George Watling'

- Class 20 - Most Elegantly
Weevil Notched

Paul & Henriette Pieron
unnamed

- Class 21 Best Hammerhead
Colleen Forster

'Alice'

- Class 22 Most Flaccid

Karen Linton & Larry
Morton

'Medusa'

- Class 23 Best Miniature Truss
Vern Finley

'Merganzer'

- Class 24 Most Fragrant

Vern Finley
luteum

The winners of our spectacular trophies are:

The Plastic Urn for Best Last Year's Truss - Bobby Ogdon

The Beautiful, Hand Created Trophy for The Most Flaccid Truss - Karen Linton

The spectacular brushed aluminum Trophy for the Most Elegantly Weevil Notched - Paul and Henriette Pieron

The Useful Trophy for Best Hammerhead - Colleen Fortser

The unique trophy for High Aggregate - shared by Vern Finley and Bobby Ogdon.

May Visits to Members Gardens

Bayes Residence

WOW! – Where to start? – the dazzling collection of species, especially the really BIG-LEAFED ones, or the clever spacing of the hybrids throughout so that each one could be enjoyed in its entirety; the ever-changing topography seductively revealing many secret vistas, or the cute-as-heck gatherings of faeries and frogs arranged by their grand-daughter? The adventure of the drive up the switchbacks of Sumas Mountain and the gentle rain only added more to the evening, culminating in a look at fabulous photos of northern canoe trips. And by the way Lori, we're still waiting for the recipe of that yummy strawberry pie!!

Dodd Residence

The rain miraculously held off for the entire afternoon to afford us a look at what companion planting is really all about. Lush meandering borders of rhodos in glorious bloom were carefully interplanted with drifts of forget-me-nots and roses, peonies galore, Japanese Maples, and a host of other shrubs and perennials. A natural stream was diverted into a series of lovely ponds and then allowed to return to the forest. Sturdy log bridges and stumps lovingly colonized by huckleberry and ferns lured us subliminally down and around from tailored plantings into the arms of nature herself. We could tour this garden each month of the year and surely see it as if never before. And kudos to those hardy souls that still had the stamina to come out again after the island tours.

One view of the Dodd Garden 'Wingswept' :



Photo courtesy of Chris Klapwijk - check out our web site* for more pictures of this outstanding garden
*<http://www.flounder.ca/frasersouth/index.asp>

Ballyn Residence

Who would have believed that discarded Langley sidewalks could be transformed into retaining walls of such artistry? The 'garden rooms' that Chris and brother Paul have created on this property would keep any sane person out-of-doors 24/7 (on the odd chance that you are 'unhip' like me that means 24hrs./day, 7days/week ! Ed.)

if that were possible. Under the towering canopy of giant fir and cedar, the rhodos are able to bloom unobstructed but gently sheltered. Top marks to the massive English Laurels pruned up to reveal the trunk structure – a practice almost unheard of in these parts. Also to the Smaragd Cedars placed in such positions of accent as to rival any Italian Cypress in more southern gardens. We surely look forward to another visit when stages two, three and four are completed (hint, hint)

Many many thanks to all our hosts and hostesses for their generosity and knowledge, and to Mike Bale for the arm-twisting that allowed us all such pleasures

Colleen Forster

From your President

We have a great need to encourage contributions for the auction. Unfortunately, the Vancouver and Fraser South picnics are both on the same day and we will be competing for members

VANCOUVER ISLAND TRIP: We would particularly like to express our sincere thanks for all the efforts made by the following individuals to make this venture a success: Allan & Liz Murray of the Cowichan Chapter; James Fuller of the Victoria Chapter; Bill Dale and the congenial staff of the Abkhazi garden and every one of the host gardens who went out of their way to guide us through their gardens and provide full details of their plant material and many other interesting anecdotes.

ELLA CRABB GARDEN: Special thanks to Sue Klapwijk, Pat Dahl, and John Anderson.

TRUSS SHOW: A huge thank you to Pat Dahl for refreshments at the truss show. Pat was kept busy throughout the evening and had little opportunity to join in the fun. We all appreciated the goodies and the constant supply of coffee and tea.

To Wenonah March This year's truss show proved to be an enormous success with almost 200 entries. Everybody seemed to be having a good time and many of us already established a "have to have" list. Very special thank to Wenonah for all her efforts and to Dave Sellars for coordinating the evening. We already have plans for a bigger and better show next year.

Many thanks to Les Clay and to Colleen Forster for bringing in a wonderful selection of plants to the meeting. It requires a lot of effort on the part of the growers to select the plants and then bring them to the meeting and take home any unsold material and we are deeply indebted to them for their efforts.

Mike Bale

Species Study Days

The concept of these seminars, instigated by Mike Bale, was to further our knowledge of the genus rhododendron. The proposal was to make use of the rich resources available to us at the Rhododendron Species Foundation Garden, not only in plant material, but in the person of the garden's very knowledgeable curator, Steve Hootman, who was willing to conduct a series of informal lectures and demonstrations.

Format – one Saturday per month – Feb., March, April and May (as it happened we did two sessions March rather than the Feb. session) - a morning of lectures, questions and answers and hands-on learning, to be followed, after lunch, by a conducted walk through the garden examining the plant material which had been the subject of our morning study.

When this idea was first floated - to all District 1 Chapters - there seemed a regrettable lack of interest, however, with the enthusiasm from Vancouver Island chapter members, the desired number of 30 participants was reached.. Some people were unable to make a commitment for all four sessions but as events evolved, other people became interested and a full compliment was achieved for all four sessions. Members of the local Chapter (Bales, Finleys and Pierons) graciously provided overnight accommodation for the participants from Vancouver Island making the venture a little more affordable than it might otherwise have been. However, the trip from the Island added considerably to the effort involved in order to attend the sessions. Participants came from several Island Chapters, Vancouver and Komo Kulshan as well as from Fraser South.



part of the group studying the many maddenias

We met at the library of The Rhododendro Species Foundation at 10.00 a.m. Steve Hootman spoke for an hour or so outlining which sections we would

be studying; their locations in the wild, and specific notes about the groups. Then, with the help of the original works of Cullen and Chamberlain published by the Royal Botanical Garden of Edinburgh, we were set the task of identifying selected specimen. This hands-on exercise proved very humbling, but over the course of four sessions gave us an appreciation of the immense amount of work done by the taxonomists, and the amount still to be done. Personally, having come to rhodos with the Balfour System in place, and with the massive treatises of Davidian as a bible; a splitter, and a believer in the horticultural worth of such splitting, I had found the 'new' revisions less than pleasing. But to learn is to live, and I am fond of both. I have come away from these sessions with an understanding of the necessity for changes in the nomenclature and an appreciation of the tremendous, and on going task. I am not certain just what I expected from these days of study but I am immensely grateful for the expanded understanding I received.

I know I speak for all participants when I say that the sessions were enjoyed, and found of interest. Steve proved to be not only an excellent teacher, but a very patient one, and his background of knowledge, and his experience studying rhododendrons in the wild, enhanced our understanding of 'species' rhododendrons.



Steve in full cry over *R. orbiculare*

Did I hear someone say – let's do it again next year?? (after all, there are many sections we didn't explore.) I hope that we can do so, and I really hope that I can again be part of it

'Mike' Trembath

Visiting PARS Gardens

On Sunday May 5 members of our club were kindly invited to join the garden tour of PARS (Peace Arch Rhododendron Society).

Being in the process of transforming a juniperus-overgrown acre into something worthy of membership of the FSRs, we have a great curiosity in other people's gardens.

So we set out for the first garden of Dennis Kynaston, just off 184 Street on 18th Avenue. Apart from a beautifully landscaped property with lots of interesting rhodo's and companion plants, the most interesting feature was probably the barn owl's nest in the attic of his big barn. We were allowed to climb a ladder to have a good look at the (noisy) young owls. It had taken a few years before a barn owl used the nest built for her, but now she is coming back every year. Dennis Kynaston does sell some of his plants by the way.

The next garden was on 20th Avenue, owned by Hart and Tina Weilmeir. We live very close to this commercial nursery and yet we had never heard of it. A relatively old garden with a lot of very tall trees, which gives it a very special quality. Beautifully landscaped with an interesting water feature and many attractive and (at least for us) unusual rhodo's. They specialize in rhododendrons, azaleas and bonsai and are called : Wrenhaven Nursery. When we were almost through we had an enormous downpour and the umbrellas we had been carrying along were extremely useful.

After a cup of tea at home, to wait out the rain, we drove to the third and last garden: Darts Hill. This garden does not need any recommendation, since I'm sure everybody has seen this garden at some point. For us it was the second time. And again we were in awe of the work and vision of the Darts. How lucky we are that the garden was donated to the city of Surrey and we will all be "heirs" of this spectacular property. We met Mrs. Dart in the garden and she told us that their own gardener was still working in cooperation with the Surrey Park's Department. " He had to be included, otherwise there would be no deal" she chuckled. It was quite an encounter.

We can indeed be very grateful that we were allowed to take part in this garden tour.

Henriette Pieron

THE FIELD TRIP TO VANCOUVER ISLAND MAY18-19, 2002

The lucky people who went on this trip have eight more unique gardens to add to their memories. It all went by in a blaze of colour and shape, beautifully organized by Mike Bale's team and generous garden hosts. This year there were 48 participants, about a third were from Fraser South, and the rest from Vancouver, other parts of the lower mainland, the U.S., and even abroad.

Pick-up was as usual at the crack of dawn for those in Abbotsford, though Mary Berg, executive organizer, confessed she had been up since 3 a.m!. Other pick-up points were in Langley at the Church Hall and at Van Dusen Gardens in Vancouver. Then on to the 9 o'clock Tsawwassen ferry, where some enjoyed breakfast. It was a lovely morning with dappled skies, and the weather grew sunnier throughout the day.

By mid-morning we had arrived at our first stop, the **Garden of John and Ruth Trelawney** at Deep Cove. Here, in a stunning slope to the sea, is a connoisseur's garden whose mild climate allows John to grow special plants.



One's first impression, walking through

blooming rhododendrons down the slope and looking back, is of tall evergreens reaching for the sky, selectively thinned to provide high shade. Here are many colours of green from the deep tones of douglas fir, hemlock and arbutus, to the sage of eucalyptus and lime of dawn redwood.

Then comes a layer of colour: lavender wisteria, red tree peony, the pink bells of *R. campylogynum*. The curvy paths around the beds lead to lovely surprises: many magnolias; a pink dogwood 'Spring Song' near a wisteria grown as a standard; the memorable yellow puffs of *azara serrata* with its shiny oval leaves. Here too is a large *R. macabeum*, which John told us bloomed last year with twenty-five trusses—but not one this year.

The house, high above the beach, displays wisteria again, this one in full bloom climbing over the side entrance, set off by surrounding yellows and oranges of azaleas. A blooming *fremontodendron* climbing up the ocean side of the house, and a nearby fig tree, attest to the mild climate enjoyed in this garden. The Trelawneys have owned the property since 1953, but have done most of the gardening since retirement in 1986.

Our intrepid bus driver, Jo Huizinga, known to us from previous tours, manoeuvred our vehicle with great skill and guided by John Trelawney brought us to our second destination of the morning, the **Garden of Paddy and Ethel VanAdrichem** also in North Saanich.

Here is a garden on a small city lot, its chalet style house perfectly in tune with the carefully proportioned plantings.



This is a new garden, mostly developed since 1999. Beside a gravel path with stone edges are borders densely planted with small varieties, such as *R. cephalanthum* with its glossy green leaves, the lilac-purple *R. fastigiatum*, and yellow 'Wren'. On the left as one enters

is a border of various shrubs and dwarf conifers, with *Clematis montana* 'Freda' in full bloom, travelling along the fence behind. All plants here are beautifully tagged with metal markers, and many are special, like the dwarf *Pieris* 'Silver Flame', or the *R. Kiusianum* 'Otome No Mai', "a little jewel".

There is height in this garden, not only by trees which are focal points, but by steps made of natural stones, so that one can climb up to see a fern collection, and view the balcony of the house which displayed an unusual delicate spider sculpture. All the stone work in the garden was done by our host.

A feature of the VanAdrichem's garden is miniature collection: a stone bed devoted to cyclamen, a trillium collection, and seen through the house window, a collection of pine cones which are being catalogued. Behind the house are more dwarf conifers and plantings of gentians. The small scale of the plants in this charming garden allows for a great variety, and demonstrates that a small space need not inhibit any keen gardener.

By one o'clock we had arrived down the long leafy drive of blooming rhododendrons and ferns that herald Towner Crest, the **Garden of Evelyn and Nick Weesjes**. This is one of B.C.'s famous gardens, ten acres of Pacific Northwest Woodlands.



Here should be mentioned the useful information packet that our organizers have provided,

with reprints of articles and useful maps. The Weesjes garden has been much described, and for good reason, but to a newcomer, it is not the fact that 3,500 rhododendrons grow here on seven of ten acres, but that a wonderful serenity pervades this space. It is like walking in a forest alone in dappled sunlight—there were 48 of us in this garden and one could walk many minutes and seldom see anyone else.

The rhododendrons are of impressive size: the garden is known for its fine forms of species and hybrids. Bill Dale has written an excellent article in this Spring's ARS Journal describing some of the specific species and hybrids here, and he also mentions that watering the whole garden once takes three days between turning the valves on and then off. There are many surprises—a dell of hellebore, a patch of rhodos all mauve and blue. One comes across a little bridge over a boggy bit, and looks down over a river of candelabra primulas.

Like all our hosts, Evelyn Weesjes was generous with her time and cheerfully led groups around and about, and she also provided us with tea and coffee and delicious homemade muffins and cookies to supplement our lunch, which we enjoyed under the trees near the house and pond.

Our fourth garden of the morning was the **Garden of Ken and Marjorie Payne**. Here was a totally different experience—a Sun garden, in a Japanese style .



Behind the cedar hedge at entry we are greeted by fine gravel and interesting mosses, punctuated by a little pine pruned into a candelabra shape, judiciously

placed rhodos and other dwarf evergreens. Especially pretty was a lacy, low *chamacyparis pisifera aurea*.

Up some stone steps and around the house brings us to a vista : a strip of lawn with perfectly manicured edges flows like a river under a huge pine, with nearby yellow 'Crest', 'Nancy Evans', and 'Lem's Cameo'. On either side are beds of fine gravel and cushions of absolutely weed-free wooly thyme, thymus minor, and other interesting ground covers surrounding stone statuary. A lovely focal point is a cherry pruned to bend over and flower at the ends of its branches, surrounded by a dry stone pond. A little pavilion behind sports a blanket of white candytuft at its base, and to the right a little bridge and waterfall.

In the "work area" behind a lattice fence are beds of vegetables and asparagus, and except for this, there are no straight lines in this garden. It has taken the Paynes eighteen years to achieve the contemplative oriental atmosphere here in what had been an acre of oaks. A unique human imprint has been imposed on nature here.

After a scenic drive south around the perimeter of Victoria, we arrived at our last garden of the day, **The Abkhazi Garden**. This has been a well known private garden on Fairfield Road , but since the deaths of Prince Nicholas and Princess Peggy Abkhazi, a Trust has been formed to renovate and maintain it for the public. It is not far from the beach, high up on a rocky height. Again, Bill Dale has written an article published some years ago before the death of Peggy Abkhazi, which our organizers provided for us. This tells the romantic story of the Abkhazis—he a prisoner of war in Germany and she interned in Shanghai, reuniting in Victoria and marrying there in 1946.

When the Abkhazis purchased the property, wrote Dale, it was a vacant lot covered in blackberry

vines, but its two outstanding features were sloping outcroppings of rock and a stand of Garry Oaks, a perfect setting for rhododendrons and azaleas. Today we can still see surviving Garry Oaks, and some of the rhododendrons are like trees themselves, particularly the 'Beauty of Littleworth' at the garden's entrance. One emerges from this canopy of rhododendrons to a view of lawn and more bloom, and then to the north, the stony outcropping with the house on the top. Below it an

enormous Colorado Blue Spruce seems to weep over the stone, one of many special conifers here.

As one proceeds up the heather-bordered concrete path, the magic of the stone garden is on the right, turned into a sequence of rock pools with iris, thyme and dianthus clinging to the crevices, as well as yew trees. At the top of the garden, the little summer house for tools has been restored, and here one can pause and look back on the vista of the garden as the Abkhazis would have done. Many volunteer hours go into restoring this property.

The house has been turned into a tea room and gift shop, and here we enjoyed a reception in the late afternoon, hosted by Victoria Chapter (thanks to James Fuller), relaxing with wine and sandwiches on the sunny patio, while a guitarist played for us. .



Mike says
- Nancy Moore said
it best - "great
companionship,
setting sun over
the ocean, the
Abkhazi Garden,
sipping wine, AND
a classical
guitarist - it
doesn't get much
better than that."

Mike Bale presented our hosts with \$500 on behalf of the tour participants for the garden restoration. Late in the evening our bus drove us through Victoria to the Tally Ho Motel which seemed to be billed as five blocks from the harbour, but seemed in reality half way to Sydney!

(Most accommodation in Victoria had been booked a year ahead by a major band festival). Some of us enjoyed a meal in the Pub before turning in. We don't know if anyone took the opportunity to do some off-track betting— a special feature of the inn.

Sunday we were up to a rainy dawn and a pleasant buffet breakfast. By 9a.m we had driven up the scenic Malahat Drive to Moonridge, the **Garden of Dave and Lurana Dougan**. On rocky bluffs high above Saanich Inlet, this garden, according to Dave, is "the best it's ever been". The Dougans have been gardening here twenty years on one and a half acres of solid rock, bringing in tons of soil for their rhododendrons, camellias and magnolias. While Lurana saw that we had hot coffee and great muffins and carrot cake, Dave led groups around, full of exuberant stories about the garden. They had the worst breakage in 20 years this

winter in a garden that usually has very little frost, but little seemed evident in the beautiful blooms we could see. Dave told us, however, that the huge leafed *R. praestans* had for the first time in twenty some years set buds this year—and then it froze.



At the gate one is greeted by 'Cream Glory' with a flowering cherry and a magnolia behind, and then as one turns to look at the front of the house, there is a huge evergreen on a stone mound full of rhododendrons and dogwood. Here we clambered around, enjoying the plants—a pink 'Loderi King George', the little orange bugles of 'Cinnkeys', a fine specimen of 'Ken Janek.' Dave does not believe that 'Ken Janek' is a hybrid

because he has grown a *yakushmanum* from seed collected in the wild, and the two plants are identical. Much admired—even though not in flower—was *R. globigerum* with its silverleaf buds, dark green leaves and brown indumentum

There are surprises in the Dougan's garden. You can bend low under a canopy of bloom on the hillside and come upon a mossy outcrop dominated by a huge brilliant red 'Etta Burrows' close to a tall Sequoia. Yet it is the impression of brilliant colour and intriguing three dimensional shape that stays with one after the visit.

The Dougans led the way through winding lanes North to Cobble Hill and the 13acre garden of **Allan and Liz Murray**, Misty View Farm. The sun emerged as we entered the property, about 500 ft above sea level, with a lovely pastoral vista falling away before us. This fourteen-year old garden is full of



Magnolias and Rhododendrons and dominated by a lovely Alpine garden grown on a rocky outcrop, punctuated with tulips and forget-me-nots set off by a magenta Japanese maple.. We were told that the rock had been shoveled off by hand and then power washed, crevices filled with soil and mulched with rock scree. All manner of tiny plants, sedum and sempervivum embroider the surface. A stream bed was lined with rock to enhance the winter running water. In spite of "frost every morning for the last five days " Allan cheerfully described his veritable orchard of unusual Magnolias, especially the fragrant *Magnolia wilsonii* which is about 14 years old. Magnolias can

The Yak

handle frost better than rhododendrons, so he has replaced some rhodos with them. Lovely colour combinations abound with clematis climbing over the barn and along split rail fencing, and a glorious Dawn Redbud in flower. Allan said one of his favorite rhodos is 'Schubert', an old hardy hybrid with a purple tinged edge. 'Phyllis Korn' was lovely here, as it had been also at the Dougans'.

In this garden we had our delicious lunch of chili and salads hosted by the Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society, topped off by a plant sale and raffle to which we had contributed plants.

Then both Allan Murray and Dave Dougan led our bus on the half-hour drive to the **Garden of Etta and Ruth Cook**. Here is Tolkein's Middle Earth, with lush grasses and a mini-lake sized pond . The drive, with a long perennial border, sweeps up to a large Edwardian house, where very tall cedars edge the lawn .



The Rhodos are old and densely planted, all pink, red white and yellow. Along side the house hydrangeas will extend the bloom, and at the back of the house a continuous sweep of beautifully edged lawn terminates in a wonderful

Bog Garden, with primulas. Behind a little summerhouse almost concealed, we find a clear lemon yellow 'Hawk var.Crest 'about 15 feet tall and 20 feet wide. There are other little wooden pavilions secluded here and there , and near one we saw the unusual 'Pacific Sunrise'. While the perennials are getting ready to bloom, the tall evergreens are waiting on the edge of this mysterious garden, ready to move back.

Late afternoon found us at **the Garden of Peter Stone**, on the shore of Lake Quamichan. Here is a forty-five year old Estate Garden and Farm in the

traditional English style, complete with a large grey Manor House at the head of a wide welcoming drive. From here a view of water and mountains draws us into the garden, where mature rhododendrons are closely banked around the edge of the lush lawn, providing a kaleidoscope of colour. The house and lawns are important features of this garden, balancing each other, and anchored by an exquisite Atlas Blue Cedar. Clematis thickly growing at the steps bordering house and lawn will bloom later and there are choice hybrids



here as well as interesting companion plants like enkianthus—but the main focus is the rhododendron border. At the side of the house in small areas named for family members, one can walk beneath 'Beauty of Littleworth' 'Susan,' or a purple 'Naomi' hybrid. This garden was impressive even in the light rain which finally caught up with us.

With senses sated from all the lovely gardens of the Cowichan Valley, we headed North to Nanaimo and the Ferry to Horseshoe Bay. Mike Bale and Mary Berg must be congratulated once again on superb organization; they want to thank many others for their help, especially the host gardeners, Bill Dale, Norma Buckley, James Fuller, Norma Senn, members of the Victoria ARS Chapter, members of the Cowichan ARS Chapter, staff of the Abkhazi Garden, and especially Allan and Liz Murray.

Janet Warner with Norma Senn.
