



Fraser South Rhododendron Society is a chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. It meets on the third Wednesday of each month (except July and August)  
Meetings now held in the United Church Hall, Langley, 5673 200th St.  
7.30 p.m.

### FSRS 2002 Officers

Pres. - Dr. Mike Bale  
604 853 8839  
Vice Pres. - Colleen Forster  
604 534 1840  
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Treas. - Trev Badminton  
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Directors - Dalen Bayes  
Norma Senn  
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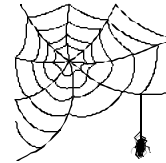
### September 18, 2002, 7:30 p.m.

Here is a list of inducements to lure you to the first fall meeting

1. Educational Forum : Propagation  
Colleen Forster - preparation and care of cuttings  
Norma Senn -Harvesting, planting and care of seeds and seedlings, in general
2. Twoonie Table - bring your 'xtras'-plants or ??
4. Plants for Sale - Rhododendrons from -The Rhodo Ranch  
Companion Plants - Colleen Forster
5. Raffle
6. Show and Tell -
7. Coffee and Comestibles



### Yakalendar



### SITES OF INTEREST

- ☼ September 18, 2002  
First meeting of the fall session
- ☼ Sept. 20 - 23, 2002  
Western Conference of the ARS  
"Mountain to Sound"  
Bellingham WA  
Don't miss this opportunity  
(page 2 - details)
- ☼ October 16, 2002  
Regular meeting FSRS  
Programme TBA

#### 1. ARS Home Page:

<http://www.rhododendron.org>

#### 2. RandA Newsletter:

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

Lots of excellent Links to other Rhodo sites in both of the above. The ARS Home Page is developing a data base which includes information on both species and hybrids.

#### 3. Fraser South Web Site

<http://www.flounder.ca/frasersouth>  
this site is changing and growing all the time, you need to keep checking it ! You might give some thought to what our site might contain - one suggestion - notes on local hybridizers and their plants. Possibly a set of photos about foliage ..... See Page 8 for a note from our webmaster  
Note that the *Yak* is available for download from the web site.

#### Our apologies:

In our report (June Yak) about the Weesjes Garden, Bill Dale felt he had been given more credit for the article about Towner Crest in JARS than was his due. He wanted us to make certain it was recognized that, altho' the pictures were his, the article was written by Sonja Nelson, editor of the Journal of the American Rhododendron Society

And have you had a happy summer ? I sincerely hope so.

#### Things Past:

1. I know it seems long long ago - but remember the picnic ? . Not only was it fun - but our auction was successful in providing us with some income - thanks to all who participated-in any way.

As ever- the Rhodo Ranch provided not only a beautiful setting, but with an efficient 'mistress of ceremonies'. Doreen managed to keep lines moving, and projects advancing - in spite of our general untidiness, and tendency to gather into yakking clumps (no pun intended!) Our sincere gratitude to host Trev., and hostess Doreen.

2. SOD - ie Sudden Oak Death The Canadian Government Food Inspection Agency has been conducting a survey of Rhododendron Nurseries, botanical gardens, and collections of rhododendrons in private gardens in our area. The aim is to be certain that we do not already have the pathogen present in our area. As you will be aware from past notices in *The Yak*, as well as other sources, this 'new' phytophthera has caused extensive damage in California, and is known to have spread to one area in the southern part of Oregon. In order to justify the continued ban on importing susceptible plant material from the know infected areas, Agriculture Canada is carrying out the above survey.

3. The family of Melba and Harold Johnson have very generously donated books from Harold's garden library to the library of Fraser South. Our librarian is rating them for inclusion in our library cart. The entire list of the books donated may be seen on Pages 3,4.

#### Things Present:

The ARS Western Conference - "Mountain to Sound".

If you have not already registered, it is still possible. Since the Conference is being held so close to us, this is a marvellous opportunity to attend, listen, learn, see and meet your fellow rhodo enthusiasts. Don't miss it Full information in the Summer Issue of JARS - (Vol.56 Number 3) or on the conference website: [http://arscascade.org/Conference/mountain\\_to\\_sound.htm](http://arscascade.org/Conference/mountain_to_sound.htm)

#### Things to Come:

1. Peruse the following letter from your president regarding the Species Study Days.

2. Are you ready for it ?? check out the information regardig the proposed bus trip 2003 - page 4.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Species Study Days**

My understanding is that because of the success of last year's Species Study Days Steve intends to introduce a similar teaching model at the Species Foundation next year for enthusiasts in the US. Steve has also advised me that he is willing to repeat a similar study program next year for our group if there is sufficient interest. To do this it is essential that we have sufficient lead time in order to set aside the appropriate days as it is quite certain that Steve's schedule for next year is already filling up.

At the present time there has already been considerable interest from many of last year's participants to repeat the program next year. If there are other individuals from any of the District 1 Chapters who are interested in the program please contact me as soon as possible.

It would be most helpful if a cheque in the amount of \$50.00 dated 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2003 could be forwarded to me as a gesture of commitment. When there is enough support, we can finalize details with Steve . The format would likely be similar to last year.

The sessions would be held from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on a weekend either Saturday or Sunday, one day each month from February through to May. The anticipated costs will also be the same as last year \$140.00 for the entire program or \$35.00 for individual sessions if this can be accommodated.

We will probably arrange car pooling which worked well last year but if there is sufficient interest and lead time transportation by mini bus could also be considered.

We are hoping that there will be interest from members on Vancouver Island and in order to assist them with the costs of attending the study days it is hoped that members from the mainland will be able to host the islanders overnight on the Friday evening. Again, this worked well last year and I am fairly confident that we would be able to host Vancouver Island members again this year.

Time is of the essence for formalizing the arrangements. The maximum number of participants that the RSF can accommodate is 30. At the present time, the program is almost 50% committed.

Please advise as soon as possible.

Mike Bale

33623 Wildwood Drive

Abbotsford BC V2S 1S2

(604) 853-8839

## From the Library of Harold Johnson

### Rhododendrons

- A Brocade Pillow.....1984  
American Rhododendron Hybrids.....Kraxberger.....1980  
Compendium of Rhododendron and Azalea Diseases.....American  
Phytopathological Society.....1986  
Dwarf Rhododendrons.....Peter Cox...1973  
Encyclopaedia of Rhododendron Hybrids...Cox & Cox..1988  
Greer's Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons.....1982  
Phenology of Cultivated Rhododendrons in BC's Lower Mainland.....  
Keith Ward...1979  
Rhododendrons and Azaleas for your Garden...C. Fairweather...1979  
Rhododendrons in America.....Ted Van Veen ...1st ed. 1969  
Rhododendrons of China.....Binfort and Mort.....1980  
Rhododendron Hybrids.....Salley and Greer.....1st ed. 1986  
Rhododendron Information.....ARS....1967  
RHS Rhododendron, and Camellia Yearbooks No.10(1956), 11(1957), 19(1965)  
Sunset Books – Rhododendrons and Azaleas....1<sup>st</sup> edition 1969, 5<sup>th</sup>  
printing 1872  
Azaleas Rhododendrons and Camellias.....1982  
The Rhododendron Species - Vol. 1 - The Lepidotes....Davidian  
The Rothschild Rhododendrons.....Phillips and Barber.....2<sup>nd</sup>  
edition, 1979

### Catalogues:

- Benjamins – 1987 and 1991  
Rhododendron Species Foundation – 1989  
Weston Nurseries – 1980

### Greenhouse & House Plants

- Cacti and Other Succulents.....Kramer with Worth 1977  
Cacti – The Flowering Desert.....Smithmark.....1995  
Cactus Culture.....Schulz.....1942  
Gardening Under Glass.....Jerome A. Eaton.....1973  
Greenhouse Gardening as a Hobby.....James Underwood Crocker....1961  
In Your Greenhouse..... Percy Thrower.....1963 (5<sup>th</sup> imprint- 1971)  
Orchids & How to Grow Them.....Gloria Jean Sessler.....1978  
The ABC of Indoor Plants....Jocelyn Baines & Katherine Kay..1973  
The New Greenhouse Gardening for Everyone...Ernest Chabot....1955

### General Gardening

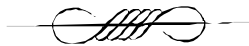
- A Book of Lilies...(Gallery Books).....Mark Smith...1988  
A Gardener's Guide to Pest Prevention and Control in the Home and  
Garden...Ministry of Agriculture & Food of B.C. – revised 1986  
A Gardener's Guide to Plant Names....Healey....1972  
All About The Perennial Garden....Montague Free....1955  
A Treasury of American Gardening ...John Whiting (editor) 1<sup>st</sup> ed.  
1947,54,55  
Bonsai ..... Sunset Books.....1976  
Complete Book of the Garden.....Reader's Digest....1968 (and clippings)

## General Gardening (ctd)

Flowers and Plants...Shosteck...1974  
Garden Heritage of New Zealand.....Mary Bernard.....1984  
Garden Problem Solver .....vegetables, fruits and herbs....Rodale...1988  
Jarrold Wild Flowers Series (UK).text by E.A. Ellis  
    No. 1 – Hedgerows  
    No. 2 – Waterways and Marshes  
    No. 3 – Coast  
    No. 5 – Moor and Heaths  
Pest Control for Home and Garden .....B.C. Ministry of Agric. & Food  
    Revised 1982, ....Reprinted 1985  
Plant Propagation – Principles and Practices....Hartman & Kester....1975.  
The Garden Book - Designing Creating and Maintaining Your Garden  
    Editor ....John Brookes.1984  
The Gardens of the Royal Park at Windsor.....Lanning Roper 1959  
The Plants...Fritz W. Went...Life's Nature Library.....1963  
Trees and Shrubs of Virginia .....Gupton & Swope.....1981  
Vancouver is a Garden...McClement .....1983  
Winterize Your Garden.....Taloumis...1976

## Miscellaneous

How to Arrange Flowers for All Occasions.....Katherine N. Cutler...1967  
JARS – Vol. 53 Number 3 (1997)  
Pacific Horticultural Magazine.....Summer 1987  
The Ladies Flower Garden.....Wendy Hobson.....(1993 diary)



## PROPOSED PORTLAND GARDEN TOUR May 17, 18, 19, 2003 (Victoria Day Weekend)

In previous years a group of rhododendron enthusiasts and friends from the lower mainland have visited spectacular gardens in Victoria and Nanaimo( 2002), Whidby Island and the Olympic Peninsula ( 2001) and Parksville and Tofino ( 2000). Next year we are looking at organizing a trip to the magnificent gardens in Portland which is surely the garden capital of North America. There are many extraordinarily fine gardens in Portland and the surrounding district, including an exceptional internationally renowned Japanese garden and also an exceptional Chinese garden. In addition, there are the well known Crystal Springs garden, Cecil Smith Rhododendron Garden and the Oregon horticultural growers garden on 157 acres.

It is anticipated that the group will leave Vancouver early Saturday a.m. and travel leisurely to Portland visiting interesting gardens on the way in order to break up the drive. The group will overnight in Portland for two nights and return on Monday, again visiting gardens en route to Vancouver. We would expect to arrive back in Vancouver in the early evening.

The anticipated expected cost would be about \$325.00 Canadian bearing in mind that the hotel accommodation will have to be paid for in US dollars. Details remain to be worked out and finalized. We would anticipate that members from the Portland ARS Chapter would assist with the planning arrangements.

If you have the slightest interest, without any commitment at this time, please let me know at the number below.

If there are any interested from Vancouver Island they would be more than welcome to join us.

Mike Bale

(604) 853-8839

## ULMUS

Family: Ulmaceae

The Elms as a group are a fairly utilitarian type of shade tree, and although not widely planted here, are still evident in older landscapes. Throughout Europe and eastern Canada, they were considered a street tree staple, but since the onset of Dutch Elm Disease in the last century, their populations have been severely reduced, if not wiped out. Here in the Pacific Northwest we have been thankfully spared to a great degree, but the scare is in, and growers have stricken them from their inventory. The chances of a person finding one on the market are slim, but we can at least appreciate the ones that exist.

One that really stands out to me is that truly spectacular Camperdown Elm (*Ulmus glabra Camperdownii*) that graces the front lawn of the Riverview Hospital on Lougheed Hwy in Coquitlam. It has been planted in exactly the right place to show off its form – a tidy dome of foliage on branches that trail gracefully to the ground. Even in winter the pattern of the branches is a wonderful sight to see. This tree should be only situated where the full canopy of the tree can develop, and not be crowded by other plants, as with any plant of architectural form. There are several impressive specimens in Vancouver – at UBC; near Lost Lagoon in Stanley Park; and at the Justice Institute on 4th Avenue. (This information thanks to *Trees of Vancouver*, by Gerald Straley, published in 1992 by UBC Press).



*Ulmus glabra 'Camperdownii'*  
Photo courtesy of Susan M. Murray

Elms are fairly easy to identify in the growing season due to their unique leaves – they have double toothed edges, and the base of the leaf is very offset on either side of the midrib (called oblique). The fruit, a samara, is flat and papery, with a small round seed in the center, but blooms are insignificant. Anyone interested in these or other elms of note would do well to check out the aforementioned book, and maybe when Susan Murray's new venture is ready, we'll learn of more.

## Companion Plants



## UVULARIA

Family; Liliaceae

The Merrybells, even though native to eastern North America, are rarely seen offered for sale in our area, but are readily available in Britain. Go figure! A lovely spring blooming perennial, very much at home in a woodland border in moist humus soil, and associates well with ferns, hostas, our native bleeding hearts, and other understory plants. They grow 12 to 18 inches tall, the stems arising from creeping rhizomes that are not invasive, and may be easily divided in fall. The showiest species, *U. grandiflora*, has pendulous blooms of a bright lemon yellow, with twisted petals 2 inches long. They dangle in ones from amid soft grey-green foliage that appears a bit wilted when the plant is blooming, but fear not! all is well, and the leaves perk up throughout the summer. For maximum effect, they can be planted up-slope from a walkway to afford a better look at the unusual blooms. There are no apparent disease problems, and they naturalize well. Apart from not being readily available in local garden centers, for those of us who love to seek out the small and interesting places, I'm sure they will be found.



*Uvularia grandiflora*  
(At Kew Gardens, 1998, editor)

Happy Planting

Colleen

# A Rhododendron Primer

## Book 2



X is for....*xanthostephanum*

SUBSECTION TEPHROPEPLA

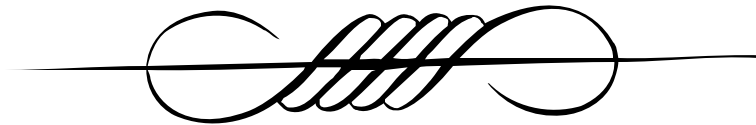


R. *xanthostephanum*  
courtesy Cox Encyclopedia

X is for *xanthostephanum* which is usually a small plant, reaching just over a metre in height. It has shiny dark green leaves reaching up to 4 inches in length, with blue-grey undersides and densely glistening scales. The flowers come in various shades of yellow. They are tubular and bell-shaped with the pistil being longer than the petals. It blooms from late April to early May. The variety 'Yellow Garland' is a rich deep shade of yellow.

The plant grows best with some overhead shade. It can become leggy over time and benefits from judicious pruning. *R. xanthostephanum* is native to high elevations from south eastern Tibet through Yunnan. It is hardy to about -10C.

*Norma Senn*



Since 'X' hybrids are rather thin on the ground -  
how about a *xanthostephanum* hybrid -

'Goldilocks' *xanthostephanum* X *rupicola* var.  
*chryseum*

This delightful, bright little hybrid seems to be perfectly hardy in our area. Although the individual flowers are small, the plant puts on a great show each year and, at least in my garden, is problems free. Bloom time, as you see by the *yunnanense* behind it is mid to late April. (Ed.)



R. Goldilocks  
(in my garden - Ed.)

## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

It always seems to me that the new season begins in September but for administrative reasons our season starts in January. The September meeting will provide a great insight to the mysteries of propagating from seed and cuttings by our resident experts Colleen Forster and Norma Senn. Those of you who followed the recommendations of Bobby Ogdon for hybridizing will be able to get a lot of help at the September meeting for the growing on of seeds and seedlings.

Our June picnic was perhaps the most enjoyable yet and we owe a great deal of thanks to the hospitality of Trevor and Doreen Badminton. The details proceeded flawlessly and the garden truly looked magnificent. Many thanks to Sue Klapwijk for coordinating the event and to those people involved in the set up and take down. David and Wendy Sellars did a great job again as auctioneers and coaxed every remaining dollar from our pockets for the auction. We are also extremely grateful to all those individuals who provided such wonderful items for the auction and without whose participation the effort would be meaningless. The proceeds from the Auction were substantial and greatly offset the Chapter's ongoing expenses.

Please remember that the Western Regional Conference will be held in Bellingham on September 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>. Dalen & Lori Bayes are greatly valued Fraser South members and are hosts at the September meeting. Please give them your support.

Congratulations are due to Colleen for her international recognition as a result of publication of her article on Nandina in the current ARS Journal. It is extremely pleasing to know that the efforts of our members are recognized by fellow rhodoholics and plant enthusiasts in other Chapters.

Many members will have already been contacted by the Department of Agriculture as part of their study to determine whether or not "Sudden Oak Death" is a potential problem for B.C. The coordinator has agreed to advise us of the results of this survey.

At the last executive meeting a revision to the format for plant sales was agreed. In future, the vendor at the plant sale will be responsible for establishing the price of their plants and collecting the funds but will make a contribution to the raffle instead of the club taking a percentage of the proceeds. This arrangement

relieves the Chapter from the burden of collecting and auditing funds and also allows the vendor to make whatever arrangements with the purchaser that he or she may decide.

A revised schedule has been prepared for looking after refreshments so that no one individual is burdened with the responsibility or is obliged to miss parts of the meeting. This will continue to be coordinated by Diane Scott.

Details regarding Species Study Days and bus tours are detailed elsewhere. A report on the recent District Presidents meeting is also enclosed.

### PLANTS FOR SEPTEMBER:

Trevor Badminton will provide rarely available plants for sale at the September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. As you all know, Trevor Badminton specializes in particular, dwarf rhododendrons and I can assure you personally that they do very well, even in full sun and during the long, dry summer which we have experienced this year

At the June party, Bobby Ogdon announced that his property had been sold and invited members to acquire some of his plants, many of which were thirty years old and included some of his species grown from seed and his own hybridized and registered plants. Many of the members from Fraser South, PARS and Vancouver have acquired plants and hopefully these plants will do well in their new homes and Bobby's hybridizing program can continue. Bobby intends to continue his involvement with Fraser South and his expertise will be available to all of us. We wish him well in his new endeavors.

Finally, it is with a great deal of distress that I am obliged to inform you that Mike Trembath has tendered her resignation as editor of "The Yak", effective January 2003. Under Mike's guidance for the past years "The Yak" has become one of the most highly regarded Chapter newsletters in the ARS organization. The newsletter is widely distributed throughout North America and even overseas and some of our articles are even reprinted in other journals and internationally (see Nandina by Colleen Forster in the ARS Journal) We have come to expect a

newsletter which is informative, invigorating and inviting and has, in many ways, helped establish the Fraser South Chapter as a presence within the ARS organization. It will be impossible to find some one who has had both the commitment and passion for "The Yak" that Mike has demonstrated over the past few years but, never the less, we desperately need a volunteer. "The Yak" is perhaps the foundation for the whole Chapter and a new Editor will help to maintain the high regard and reputation that this Chapter has established. Please volunteer your help and you can be assured of the full support of the Executive, the other newsletter contributors and Chapter members.

It is a pleasure to announce that a bulletin entitled "Fraser South Rhododendron Society – The First Ten Years 1989-1998 inclusive is in the final stages of completion and will be available for distribution shortly. The purpose of the bulletin which has been prepared by Mike Trembath details the history and activities of the Chapter during its first ten years. The purpose of the project was to provide a historical perspective, especially for new members but also to refresh and enlighten existing members with respect to the Chapter's activities. It has been a sterling effort on the part of Mike Trembath and she has, again, done a great job.

Mike Bale

### **WANTED.....INPUT !!**

Although for the moment I have limited server storage space, enough space is available to add a "Local hybridizers & their hybrids" section. Some names immediately come to mind: Les Clay, Gordon and Vern Finley, Harold Johnson, Jack Lofthouse, Bobby Ogdon, Ed Trailing, Milton Wildfong, to name but a few.

So if you are cultivating a locally produced hybrid and would like to see it included, I need to hear from you.

Preference will be given to hybrids that are registered or are about to be registered.

Unregistered hybrids will be considered for inclusion if parentage is known.

Email your submissions, comments or suggestions to [ChrisK@flounder.ca](mailto:ChrisK@flounder.ca)

### **REPORT OF CHAPTER PRESIDENTS' MEETING Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2002**

Arrangements for this meeting were arranged and hosted by the Mt. Arrowsmith Chapter. Kay Burgoyne and her colleagues were again, as usual, wonderfully organized and the meeting took place at the magnificent facilities of the Milner Garden. We were collected from the ferry at Nanaimo by members from Victoria who then escorted us to our meeting site. The meeting proceeded very cordially and there were no contentious or controversial issues. The meeting was well organized and presided over by the district director, Gifford Robb. The only incident of note was on our return journey when the windshield of our vehicle was shattered by an object propelled at great force from an adjacent golf course! Highlights of the meeting:

1. District Directors expressed their enthusiasm and support for the Species Study Days
2. A calendar of District garden events and plant sales were distributed and many of the Chapters had already determined their programs for 2003.
3. Details regarding the Swisher Foundation were discussed
4. Members were advised that the Department of Agriculture was conducting a study of the possibility of "Sudden Oak Death" in BC and at the time of the meeting various members and gardens of Vancouver Island had already been inspected. It was advised that mainland members would also be contacted
5. The motion from the last meeting forwarded to the B.O.D. Conference in April regarding the attendance of another Chapter member in the absence of the Director or alternate was voted down as this would require a by-law change. It was recommended that a motion to this effect be submitted to the by-law committee for review.
6. Web sites – much discussion occurred with respect to the establishing of web site by the various Chapters and all were operating well and creating a great deal of interest. Concerns expressed by Chris Klapwijk of Fraser South with respect to security measures



were reviewed and his concerns were well supported. It was agreed that the web site should omit

1. directions to gardens

2. Email addresses and

3. road maps

7. The development of a speakers list was discussed. Island Chapters are disadvantaged with respect to the availability of speakers because of cost of transport. A speakers list will be established and made available on the websites.

8. details regarding the Western Conference to be held in Victoria on April 27<sup>th</sup>-May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005 were already well advanced. Organization was headed by a triumvirate.

9. A motion presented by Fraser South that "in order to partially offset the expenses of attending B.O.D. conferences the District Chapter I presidents authorize the payments, when sufficient funds are available, of \$1,000 per annum for meetings held on the East coast or overseas and the sum of \$500 per annum if the B.O.D. meeting is held on the West coast.

*passed by a vote of 8:1.* The purpose of this motion was to precisely define the availability of funds for the District representative and also so that the District can anticipate and predict its expenses on an annual basis.

The group was generously treated to a magnificent working lunch by the MARS group and at the conclusion of the meeting a brief tour of Milner Gardens was conducted by Geoff Ball. We were all very impressed by the progress that had been made and the garden was clearly a delight to visit. Many plants and mementos were available for purchase and many of the participants took this opportunity to add to their inventory.

*Mike Bale*

Here is another in our series of the hybrids of George Fraser

### **R. Fraser's Pink**

Fraser was trying to develop hybrid rhododendrons, which he could sell at an early age, yet be confident of their color when they bloomed. He had a breeding system from which he could produce plants that would reliably produce red, white or pink flowers.

From his correspondence with Gable we learned that they had produced at least 19 hybrids none of which he named and none of which are now known.

One that he called Fraser's Pink he gave to his friend Bud Thompson in Ucluelet. This plant is still growing where it was planted in Bud's garden, and when Bud showed it to Stuart Holland and myself in 1986 it was a mass of pink blooms on a plant at least 15 feet tall.

Last year, Bud's son D'Arcy, brought some cuttings of this plant to me and I asked Evelyn Weesjes if she would try to propagate them. Evelyn was very successful in doing this and gave me several good plants. D'Arcy now has one of these he planted beside the Fraser Memorial Stone in Ucluelet when it was dedicated on May 19, 2001; and I have one in my garden with my other Fraser hybrids.

*Bill Dale*

**FREE TO GOOD HOME** - R. 'Hjalmar Larson' approx 5' x 5'; soft yellow / peach shading. We are redesigning the front yard so a new home is needed ASAP. Bring your shovel & transportation. Terry & Joan McGiveron; phone 604-538-9347; or e-mail [jmcgiv@telus.net](mailto:jmcgiv@telus.net)

# ROOTSTALK

BY INDUMENTUM

So you thought that the April Rootstalk column on the grandiose plans for Van Dusen Garden was some sort of figment of Indumentum's fertile imagination. Rest assured that the capacity for self-parody by Van Dusen Botanical Garden Association is much greater than even I could imagine.

While pondering a topic for the September Rootstalk, I was delighted to receive the September 2002 issue of the Van Dusen Newsletter the other day. The front page is entirely devoted to plans to use the garden as a used car lot. No I am really not making this up. The banner headline is "Prestigious Porsche Event Comes to Great Lawn" and there are photos of particularly choice Porsche specimens.

I have consulted a number of references on using the genus *Porsche* in landscaping but the literature is quite thin. Most classify *Porsche* a groundcover for its ability to rapidly cover the ground in a short space of time. Most commentators refer to the variety of colours available, the ground-hugging characteristics and, of course, the high maintenance. There is no doubt that various species and hybrids of *Porsche* are showy perennials (until late winter rust gets to them). *Porsche* is definitely not weedy but can be invasive in crowded areas. This is a very thirsty genus but it mostly consumes hydrocarbons. Whereas other plants consume carbon dioxide and contribute additional oxygen to the ailing planet, this delightful charmer does the reverse.

The cost of obtaining choice species is prohibitive for most of us but the opportunity will be available on September 21 to view some particularly nice specimens. As noted in the newsletter, they are "hoping that Mike Reno from the rock band Loverboy will be displaying his *P. carrera*." This is reputed to be a particularly rare species, not often seen and would grace anybody's herbaceous border. The photo of the hybrid *P. "Roadster"* is very attractive and displays the remarkable capability of this selection to shed the top growth as soon as the sun comes out.

I think what we are seeing here is yet another example of the trend to "convergence" where disparate organizations get together to be greater than the sum of the parts. Filling the garden with old cars fits so well with the Van Dusen stated aim of environmental sustainability. Visitors to the garden will be able to enjoy the sweet smell of burning hydrocarbons which goes so well with the scent of roses at this time of year. And from the tone of the article announcing the event in the Van Dusen newsletter, they are proud, so proud. Others would consider it a betrayal of the public trust.