

The Yak

Newsletter of
the Fraser South
Rhododendron
Society

Volume 20 Number 10
December 2008



www.flounder.ca/FraserSouth

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

Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the
third Wednesday of each month at:
United Church Hall
5673 - 200th Street
Langley BC

This Month's Meeting

Date: Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Fraser South's Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner and Festive Frolic

early date, early time:

set-up at 6:00

commencement at 6:30

2008 Officers

President:	Harold Fearing	604-857-4136
Vice Pres.:	Sean Rafferty	604-990-5353
Secretary:	Mary-Anne Berg	604-853-5737
Treasurer:	Alan March	604-532-9062
Directors:	Larry Morton	604-888-6564
	Lori Bayes	360-966-4596
	Arlene Darby	604-597-1849
Past President:	Dalen Bayes	360-966-4596
Programme:	Les Clay	604-530-5188
Membership:	Wenonah March	604-532-9062
Newsletter:	Brenda Macdonald	604-990-5353
Website:	Chris Klapwijk	604-581-0925



Quick Hits

More of a Yak Bulletin
than a Yak Newsletter
this month, but the
early meeting date
and the press of other
responsibilities has
constrained the usual
literary contributions. Full
publishing to resume in
the New Year.



From the President

Notes From the Chair

It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of the year. It has been a good year for the Fraser South Rhododendron Society. We have had many interesting programs and had a chance to learn about rhododendrons and related plants, and to vicariously participate in expeditions to visit rhodos in their native habitats.

We organized a bonsai workshop with Roger Low, which attracted quite a group of participants. We had a successful plant sale and auction at the picnic, so we are in good financial shape. We have had fun at our beer bottle truss show and at the June picnic and can look forward to our usual enjoyable holiday party coming up. We have had a chance to buy interesting and unusual plants at most of our meetings and to win plants and other interesting things at our raffles. We have been able to visit gardens of our members, to see how they do it, and perhaps to gain some comfort in the fact that our own gardens are not the only ones which face weed and weevil problems.

We are the best fed chapter in the lower mainland. I am always pleased at our meetings to see the socializing in the kitchen or around the goodie table. That is part of what makes our group a good one. I have always been amazed at Fraser South to see how good things just seem to happen, without the micromanagement that seems to be necessary in many other organizations I have belonged to. That is because we have a lot of good people working in the background.

It seems appropriate at the end of the year to recognize those who have contributed so much and to thank them for their efforts. On the executive, Lori Bayes, Arlene Darby, and Larry Morton have all served as directors, which involves contributing ideas at our meetings and taking on a variety of tasks not specifically assigned to one of the other officers. Dalen Bayes, as past president, contributes his experience, and as head of the nominations committee has been responsible for finding candidates for vacant positions. Sean Rafferty has been our vice president, and while so far this year there haven't been very many specifically vice-presidential duties, Sean has pretty much single handedly taken on the raffles - selling tickets and providing the commentary which has made them fun and informative. Alan and Wenonah March handle the treasurer and membership positions, with Alan paying the bills and keeping the books in shape and Wenonah handling the membership contacts. Wenonah also organizes the voting and recording for our truss show. Mary-Anne Berg as secretary keeps the minutes and prepares the meeting agendas, but is really the one who keeps us organized, as well as pitching in for all sorts of other tasks. Finally Brenda Macdonald edits our newsletter. Thanks to all those who have written for the newsletter - I am sure Brenda could use more contributions. However it is Brenda who ties things together and who has made *The Yak* I think the best newsletter around.

Lots of others, not formally on the executive, have contributed this past year too. Karen Linton organizes the food for our potlucks, and Karen and Larry graciously hosted our June picnic. Chris Klapwijk manages the website, which contains a lot of very useful information as well as many of Chris's excellent rhodo pictures. Les Clay has helped organize the program for a number of years and Bev and Les have provided the legendary turkey for our holiday party. Colleen Bojczuk has provided the equally legendary rhodo puzzle for our party as well as doing many things for the chapter. Thanks to Cherry Groves for organizing the tea volunteers, as well as to all those volunteers, including even some of the fellows, who have done kitchen duty and brought goodies at our meetings. Joan Bengough has run the library, and has just audited our financial reports. Thanks to Sue Klapwijk for lending both artistic and framing skills to produce the framed awards each year, and to Vern Finley for her beautiful show and tell bouquets.

Last, but certainly not least, I want to thank those who have brought plants for sale to our meetings and sales - Les Clay, Colleen Bojczuk, Sue and Chris Klapwijk, Trevor and Doreen Badminton, and Bill and Carla Bischoff - as well as those who have brought plants and other contributions to our raffles. Thanks also to those who opened their gardens this past year - John and Gael Dodd, Mike and Patti Bale, and Lori and Dalen Bayes. So, many, many people have contributed to making this a successful year for Fraser South. Thanks to all! If I have forgotten someone, forgive me. It was not intentional. Hope to see everyone, along with spouse, partner, friends, etc. at our holiday party. And... Ginny and I want to wish you all the very best for the holiday season and for the coming year.

Harold Fearing



From the Editor

This Month:

Christmas is almost here, so it is time to party hearty (or party hardy, depending on your age and inclination) with the rhodophiles!

I am pretty sure everyone remembers the protocol from last year, but just in case, here are the rules:

1. Be festive, or merry, or mellow, or all three, as the spirit moves you.
2. Come early, festivities start at 6:30, but you can come earlier if you want to help set up
3. Bring a dish of food to share, with serving utensils if required
4. Beverages will be provided: tea, coffee, and the usual Punch Bowl A and Punch Bowl B. Members wishing to move sedately from festive, through merry, and on to mellow should hover around Punch Bowl A..
5. Bring your own plates, mugs, and cutlery, then remember to take them home again.
6. Wear something festive, even if not seasonal. This must be one of the first years in which the weather has been so mild I expect to see more than a few

rhodo-blossom coronets. If all else fails, wear your green wellies and wrap yourself up in a red plaid mackinaw. You will look splendid. Santa hats are optional.

7. Come bearing gifts, or at least one small gift (value under \$10.00), for Santa Dalen to redistribute, remembering that this is a reciprocal arrangement - those who give, also receive.

6. Be festive, merry, or mellow, but above all, be present. There will be good food, a fun game, intriguing presents, and loads of bonhomie. Come early, stay late, enjoy!

Next Month:

Our 20th Annual General Meeting, including the election of new Chapter officers, adoption of the annual fiscal report, and recognition of outstanding service by Chapter members, all interspersed with the conspicuous consumption of yummy calories during our 6th annual Dessert Extravaganza. This is also the meeting at which you get to shine as entertainment. Toastmasters be damned - you can do it! Bring along a few slides of your latest triumph, or your blunder in the garden: things that worked, things that should have but didn't, things that you have no idea whatever possessed you to embark upon in the first place. Or places you've been and things you've seen. It has been 363 days since the last time we asked, and we're pretty sure you have something to report on.

THE CALENDAR

Wednesday, January 21	Fraser South Chapter - Annual General Meeting, Dessert Extravaganza, and member slide show
Monday, January 26	Fraser Valley Chapter - Garth Wedemire - "Lu Zhu, A Plant Collector's Passion"
Wednesday, February 18	Fraser South Chapter - David Sellars "Chaos and he Rock Garden"
Thursday, February 19	Vancouver Chapter - Fred Whitney - President ARS "You Grow Rhododendrons for the Blooms?"

Brenda Macdonald

