

The Yak

Newsletter of
the Fraser South
Rhododendron
Society

Volume 24 Number 4
April 2010



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
(except June, July and August) at:
United Church Hall
5673 - 200th Street
Langley BC

This Month's Meeting

Date: Wednesday, April 21, 2010
Topic: "UBC Botanical Garden"
Speaker: Douglas Justice
Plant Sales: Les Clay

2010 Officers

President:	Bill Bischoff	604-589-6134
Past Pres:	Harold Fearing	604-857-4136
Vice Pres:	John Dodd	604-530-0153
Secretary:	Sandy Procter	604-857-0440
Treasurer:	Alan March	604-532-9062
Directors:	Arlene Darby	604-597-1849
	Lori Bayes	360-966-4596
	Matt Groves	604-856-2624
Programme:	Sean Rafferty	604-990-5353
Membership:	Wenonah March	604-532-9062
Newsletter:	Brenda Macdonald	604-990-5353
Librarian:	Dixie Mueller	604-589-3832
Website:	Chris Klapwijk	604-581-0925

Quick Hits



Lots of Public Service Announcements this month ... everything seems to be happening all in a rush.

We need your input on your favourite rhodos and azaleas in order to update the "Proven Performers" listing on the ARS site. See page 10 for the removable data sheet.

Also, see page 11 for a copy of the FSRS Plant Sale poster you can distribute about the neighbourhood

and impress your friends with; page 9 for a copy of the George Fraser Day information; and page 8 for two other horticulturally-related activities.



Notes From the Chair

Just looking on my calendar, it seems as if our local garden clubs have all at once come out of their winter sleep, just like the plants the members tended so carefully through the long winter months. There they are, filling my calendar with many interesting and inviting events, with our own society right in the middle of it all. Of course we are proud of being part of all this hustle and bustle.

The first to come along is our plant sale on a warm and sunny Saturday, April 24th. This year we have approached other local horticultural societies to share in our fun. After all, a good time is what we ought to have

when we have shows, sales and picnics. Two garden clubs in the Langley area welcomed the invitation to our plant sale very warmly. I was invited to both their meetings and was allowed to hand out invitations to our event. One club has a plant sale on the same date. We agreed to give visiting customers invitations to the other event as they leave our sales area. In our case, our cashiers will hand out these invitations.

This year we are going to pay more attention to the lay-out and the set-up of our sales and parking area. The church has offered to help by providing two persons who will direct traffic. This is where we will need your help and good will. We will direct all sellers and customers to the parking at the rear of the church and have the sales area in front of the church where passers-by can see our colorfully inviting plant and flower displays. The church will, just as last year, offer food and drink for a reasonable price. I am looking forward to the mouth-watering odours of their cooking. What a party it will be.

Good news in our effort to get new club members. A very prominent local garden centre has agreed to set up a table for our society to attract new members. This will be a 2-day event in the middle of May, possibly a weekend. We are asking you to be part of it. We need volunteers to hand out club information and advise customers on Rhododendron choices. The garden centre helps us, and we help them. More details at our next meeting.

More good news, several of our executives will hand out invitations to our plant sale, the next time being at the Bradner Bulb show. Thanks to everyone for their efforts. Always refer to the events calendar in the "The Yak", where it is all laid out for you, before making any decisions as to what to do on weekends. Don't forget to bring friends - especially if they like plants and have money. Just kidding, everyone is welcome to our club activities. In the future we will have lists of other clubs in our area and their activities, especially their monthly speakers. We in turn have started to give this information to these societies as well. Just last week I was invited to sit in on a very informative presentation on Clematis. This was a slide-supported presentation by the owner of a wholesale company that hybridizes and propagates these plants. Very informative and well received indeed.

If you are a member of other garden clubs, please give us this information at our monthly meetings or let Brenda Macdonald know so that she can add it to our events calendar.

We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting and very importantly, the plant sale. For now, happy gardening.

Bill Bischoff



These Bischoff photos show that even the colder weather we have had lately makes for some spectacular views.



This Month:

Douglas Justice will speak to us on the development of the UBC Botanical Garden. Douglas, whose renowned landscape architect and rhodophile father, Clive Justice, gave him his precocious start in plant identification and horticultural interest, is now the Associate Director and Curator of Collections at the UBC garden. He trained as a gardener in various nurseries, including Windsor Great Park in England, and then completed his undergraduate degree in Horticulture and his Master's in Botany at UBC.

Next Month:

The Justifiably Famous Beer Bottle Truss Show, Edition 17. Sharpen up your secateurs and oil the hinges on your stepladder so that you can reach that best-in-show straight-stemmed truss at the very top of your 15-foot rhodo. More about the rules next month.

The Business Stuff:

The ARS has sent round an inquiry to all member Chapters requesting that the "Proven Performers" data be updated. Proven Performers are listings of the rhododendrons and azaleas that have been designated by member Chapters as particularly desirable for their geographical area. The lists give plants with good form, foliage and flowers, that are hardy and resistant to pests and diseases for the given area, as well as being reasonably available in the retail market.

The "Proven Performers" section of the ARS website is one of the most utilized, allowing the general public to obtain some experienced opinions, not influenced by commercial gain, on what would be suitable for their gardens.

A "Proven Performers" sheet is included as an addendum to this month's newsletter. Unlike previous iterations of this list we decided that we would just ask for opinions on your favourite/greatest plants in the garden, whether they be rhododendrons, or evergreen azaleas, or deciduous azaleas. If you love your 'Hinodegiri' because it stays low and compact and every year covers itself with a cherry-red carpet of flowers, or you love your *R. 'Taurus'* because the buds are so attractive and it is disease-free, and has beautiful, large, upright trusses of a remarkable crimson red, then tell us about it. If you wouldn't have a deciduous azalea on your property as a gift, then you don't need to try and come up with one to complete your list, nor are we going to ask you to differentiate between lepidotes and elepidotes. Just tell us what satisfies your soul in the way of rhododendrons/azaleas, and why.

We will take all the information, collate it, and then pass it on to the ARS as requested.

OTHER DUTIES AS ASSIGNED:

* The gentlemen are on tea-pouring and mug-washing duty: Mike Bale and Dalen Bayes need to practice their grace and deportment for this month, while Patti Bale and Lori Bayes will see if they can surpass that performance next month.

* President Bill has already noted the need for help with our annual Plant Sale coming up in a couple of weeks. He will have the appropriate sign-up sheets available at the meeting. In addition to the job categories noted on his sheet, we will need cashier/raffle ticket sellers between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm, so don't forget to sign up for something! And lastly, particularly for those members located in the Surrey/Langley area, we need a few wagons or wheelbarrows available to transport the sold items to the purchasers' cars - we wouldn't want to constrain prospective purchasing with worries about lugging the stuff over to the car. Please see Bill if you are able to help in this regard. Finally, (which apparently comes after lastly) a Plant Sale poster, suitable for showing to friends and neighbours and being displayed in a corner of neighbourhood shop windows and bulletin boards, is attached as page 11. Try to ensure that your copy gets maximum exposure.

* Also, start thinking about possible items for contribution to our Annual Picnic with Auction, coming up on Saturday, June 12. Spring has come so early this year that there are probably lots of things that can be divided and potted up; or, as you review your plans for the patio this year, you may find you don't really need those decorative plant pots any longer. Keep your eyes open and your mind tuned to likely contributions.

Brenda Macdonald

THE CALENDAR:

Thursday, April 15	Vancouver Chapter Michael Hickson, retired Head Gardener, Knightshayes Court, Devon
Saturday, April 17	First annual Peter Wharton Lecture, Chan Centre, UBC Dr. Peter Raven, Director, Missouri Botanical Garden “China’s Biodiversity” 7:30 pm
Wednesday, April 21	Fraser South Chapter Doug Justice - “UBC Botanical Garden”
Saturday, April 24	Fraser South Chapter Annual Plant Sale - Church Parking Lot
Saturday, April 24	Earth Day, at UBC Botanical Garden 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, 25% off admission
Sunday, April 25	Open Garden - near Sumas, Washington home of Lori and Dalen Bayes, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
Tuesday, April 27	Peace Arch Chapter Ron Knight - “The Evolution of Caron Gardens”
Wednesday, April 28	Bloedel Conservatory Fundraiser - “A Little Night Music” 7:30 pm Bloedel Conservatory, Vancouver
Saturday, May 1	Alpine Garden Club of BC - Annual Spring Sale St. David's United Church Hall, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Sunday, May 9	Open Garden - “Wingswept Garden” in Langley home of Gael and John Dodd, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm
Sunday, May 16	Peace Arch Chapter-sponsored bus tour to the Bales' garden “Lu Zhu”, in Agassiz, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Contact: Chris Hodgson, PARS, 604-541-2382
Wednesday, May 19	Fraser South Chapter 17 th Annual Beer Bottle Truss Show
Saturday, May 22nd	10th Annual George Fraser Day, all day and evening Uclulet, on Vancouver Isl
Saturday, June 12	Fraser South Chapter Annual Picnic

KUDOS:

To Chris Klapwijk, webmaster extraordinaire, who will be travelling to Uclulet for the 10th Annual George Fraser Day celebration on May 22nd.

In recognition of Chris' efforts on their behalf he was awarded the attached Certificate of Appreciation



What's in Bloom ...



A Bouquet of Spring Beauties
from the garden of
Joan McGiveron

clockwise from the upper left:

Hepatica, *R. davidsonianum* 'Ruth Lyons', Primula, *Helleborus* 'Pink Beauty', *R. sutchenense*,
R. 'Dora Amateis'

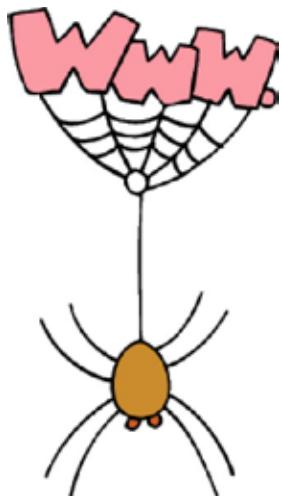


A Bouquet of Spring Beauties from the garden of Joan McGiveron

clockwise from the upper left:

R. schlippenbachii, *R. 'Rothenberg'*, *R. 'Blue Diamond'*,
Anemones, *R. fletcherianum*,

all photos by Joan McGiveron



From David Godfrey of the North Island Chapter, via our own member Garth Wedemire, comes the attached information about several websites domiciled in Holland that should be of significant interest.

Herman Van Ree of Holland is the webmaster of a website that the Nederlandse Rhododendron Vereniging (Dutch Chapter of the ARS) has taken on as a 10-year project. The goal of the project, at www.hirsutum.info, is to collect as much information and as many photos as possible concerning rhododendrons. This includes species, hybrids, azaleas, vireyas and azaleodendrons.

The website has grown quickly, and now contains over 2,850 photos of hybrids and 1,850 photos of species from contributors all over the world. Having such a wide contribution base increases not only the quantity of the images, but also the quality of the information - eight different photos of *R. 'Hotei'* grown under a number of differing circumstances gives one a much broader idea of the overall look and usefulness of the plant than photos from a single source ever could.

Garth goes on to say:

"With this website and database, we get an overview of the spread of rhododendrons worldwide. This website and the data that it contains, may help to 'find' cultivars previously thought to be extinct. Don't miss out on this exciting new website - you can set up your own virtual garden in the "Your garden" section. After adding your plants, you will be able to see pictures of your virtual garden."

[Hirsutum.info: About Rhododendrons, Azaleas and Vireyas; a virtual arboretum](http://www.hirsutum.info)

Why www.hirsutum.info?

Rhododendron *hirsutum* was the first rhododendron to be classified and named. It was discovered in the 16th century by a Flemish botanist, Charles l'Ecluse, who later became called Clusius.

The purpose of this website is to give an overview (photos and information) of as many rhododendron species and cultivars (hybrids) as possible.

A virtual botanical garden. A virtual arboretum.

An online database with information and pictures.

Everyone can help to build this database. Just send pictures of your rhododendrons.

See the list of contributors to the Hirsutum-project.

Absolutely non-commercial, no banners or advertising here!



Rhododendron hirsutum

Rhodo-finder by name:

enter at least 3 characters

Rhodo-finder by color:

purple

Photo Gallery
Rhododendron species (1246)
Rhododendron hybrids (9213)
Azaleas (4253)
Azaleodendrons (90)
Vireyas (912)

Rhododendron community
Plant Identification (2)
For hybridisers
Your garden
Rhododendrons worldwide
Various overviews

General Information
Basic information
Taxonomy
Bloomsite
Useful links
Contact

In addition, Mr. Van Ree has sent a link to his personal website, www.huize-zandbergen.nl/tuin/index.html showing his house and property, which while entirely in Dutch, provides many attractive rhododendron and other plant photographs, including a very large collection of leaves-only photos of rhododendrons, very useful for comparison.



ubcbotanicalgarden
& centre for plant research
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

EARTH DAY on the Greenheart Canopy Walkway Saturday, April 24, 2010 10am - 4pm

Experience Earth Day
at the Garden with
sustainability focused
garden and canopy
walkway tours

25% off
admission
all day!



Greenheart Canopy Walkway at UBC Botanical Garden: 6804 SW Marine Drive
ubcbotanicalgarden.org 604-822-4208

Dear Members

Please help save the Bloedel Conservatory.
See the following information:

"A Little Night Music"
Bloedel Floral Conservatory Fundraiser
Wednesday April 28th 7:30 - 9:30 pm
\$20 per ticket

Join the Friends of Bloedel Floral Conservatory for a glass of Champagne, some tropically inspired chocolates and live performances at "A Little Night Music", a mini-fundraiser under the dome, on Wednesday April 28th from 7:30 – 9:30 pm.

The West Coast Symphony trio, viola sensation Nathaniel Wong and up-and-coming Opera soprano Lucy Smith will perform throughout the Conservatory while participants sip their libations all under the watchful eyes of Bloedel's chatty parrots and over 100 free flying birds.

A Little Night Music will be a perfect after dinner event to enjoy, sans overcoat, while getting reacquainting with one of Vancouver's iconic public facilities. Located at Vancouver's pinnacle at 501 feet above sea level, The Bloedel Conservatory is the crowning glory of the city's public horticultural jewel, Queen Elizabeth Park (33rd & Cambie Street).

Tickets to A Little Night Music can be purchased in advance for \$20 each or at the door the evening of the event for \$25. Funds will go to saving the Bloedel Conservatory, which was targeted as a Park Board budget cut late last year.

Purchase \$20 Tickets in advance, in person or by phone at:

Hobbs Gift Store
2129 West 41st Avenue
604-261-5998

For further information please phone Terri Clark at 778-866-9875
www.friendsofthebloedel.ca <<http://www.friendsofthebloedel.ca>>



*10th Annual George Fraser Day
& Heritage Fair
Ucluelet BC*

Saturday, May 22, 2010

*Ucluelet Community Centre
500 Matterson Drive, Ucluelet BC
10:30 am - 4:00 pm*

10:30 - 11:30am

Grand Opening of George Fraser Community Room

Honorary Award Presentations

Bench Unveiling in Dedication to 'Coombs Old Time Fiddlers'

11:30am - 3:30pm

Guided bus tours to George Fraser Memorial Park, Fraser gardens & historical sites
to include photo-ops with heritage 'R. Fraseri' rhododendron

Noon - 2pm

Bistro Lunch

1 - 4pm

Heritage Fair

Hosted by the George Fraser Project Committee, Ucluelet BC

For more information please contact: Wanda McAvoy 250-726-7459 or Barb Millar 250-726-2425
Email: gfraserproject@hotmail.com

Proven Performers - 2010



Fraser South Rhododendron Society

Annual Plant Sale and Flower Show

Saturday, April 24 - 2010
United Church Hall
5673 200th St
Langley, BC

10:00am to 3:00pm
(rain or shine)

Plants for sale include

- rhododendrons and azaleas
- maples and other specimen trees
- companion plants

Plants are locally grown

Growers will be available to help you choose the right plant for your garden conditions

Growers and club members will be on hand to answer your gardening questions

Sponsored by the Fraser South Rhododendron Society

www.flounder.ca/FraserSouth
604-589-6134 or 604-857-0440

