

The Oak

Newsletter of
the Fraser South
Rhododendron
Society

Volume 24 Number 10
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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, December 15, 2010

Fraser South's Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner and Festive Frolic

Time: (early) set-up at 6:00
commencement at 6:30

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:	Joan McGiveron	604-538-9347
Website:	Chris Klapwijk	604-581-0925



Quick Hits

The Welcome Kitty extends a paw of friendship to our new members: Michael Richards of White Rock, joining us as an Associate from the PARS Chapter, and Mai Leung, another of the select few who commute from that rhododendron heaven - the slopes of North Vancouver.



Notes From the Chair

As I write this, it's only ten more days to go to the FSRS Grand Christmas Dinner Party, one of the yearly highlights of our society; a friendly get-together, anticipated by all. At the last executive meeting it was established that all the planning for this event has been done, except the weather, that needs your prayers, lots of them. No doubt, you have been contacted by Karen Morton about your contribution to the potluck dinner. If you missed the call, please bring the tastiest food you can imagine, not to forget a nicely wrapped mystery gift. Perhaps read up on the Rhododendron names, as there will be again a test, conducted by Colleen Bojczuk.

Thank you to all that have agreed to help.

All that's left to do for all participants is to bring your food, utensils and an everlasting smile.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The FSRS executive is considering giving Rhododendron plant donations to possibly two park projects. More information on the proposal, and the opportunity to give us your approval, at a future meeting.

Our yearly plant sale is scheduled for Saturday, April 23rd, at the usual place. We have six vendors so far, which will give us an enticing variety of choice plants. If you belong to any another local clubs, we'd appreciate your help in handing out invitations to the members of these clubs. Please see Bill Bischoff for printed handout invitations.

One more note, please renew your society membership. It helps us with the chore of bookkeeping; it also assures that you get our newsletter on time.

Harold Fearing, the Election Chairperson, informs us that there are still a few positions on the Executive Board to be filled. One is to replace one of the Directors who has reached the end of the allotted term, and the other two are to replace members who held their respective positions for several years and are ready for a break. Please give Harold a call to offer your talents for the good of our society.

In addition, our Chapter would benefit greatly if we had a member that could set up trips and tours. These activities could be for just our club or could be coordinated with other clubs. They could be bus trips, carpools, or just setting up several destinations for a day's activities. Please let us know if this idea appeals to you, and thank you for your consideration.

And now, I'd like to wish all members and their families a very happy Christmas Season. I also want to thank all members on the executive board and others who helped during this past year with the tasks of keeping our society a smoothly operating group of Rhododendron Lovers.

I look forward to seeing you all on the 15th at the party.

Bill Bischoff

A picture of still-brilliantly coloured blueberry bushes, in front of the snow-capped Golden Ears mountain.

photo: Carlo Bischoff





Last Month:

Last month, President Bill gave us a whirlwind tour of several sites within the Olympic peninsula of Washington state. It was a rare treat to catch some glimpses of the garden of June Sinclair on Bainbridge Island, as well as to see the progress being made by Sue Milliken and Kelly Dodson at their wonderful nursery, Far Reaches Farm, located in Port Townsend. Sue and Kelly are committed species devotees and plant hunters, travelling all over the world to discover, return with, and propagate garden-worthy perennials of all kinds. Just cruising the catalogue is an education, and Kelly's blog on subjects ranging from trekking in NE India to elder care is always a good read: farreachesfarm.squarespace.com/kellysblog/

This Month:

Of course this month is our annual Christmas Potluck Dinner - no speakers, no plant sales, no lectures, and no decision making beyond whether to zip up to the buffet table and scoop the last few brussels sprouts

before anyone else gets them. Our newer members will be delighted to find that the little grey cells will be exercised only in the pursuit of fleeting fame as the possible winner of our annual postprandial "A Game on the Theme of Rhododendrons".

A few years ago we introduced our readers to the appropriate protocol and the mysteries of Punch Bowl A and Punch Bowl B with the following pithy outline:



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, or seasonal, or both, or neither, but do wear something. Things have both warmed up and wetted down since that first precipitous descent into winter a couple of weeks ago, so it is hard to know whether to re-black your wellies or make sure you wear your snow boots with the power traction treads. Twinkling lights (LED, of course, to keep the Ecology Monitors at bay) make a tasteful coronet, and if you use one of those rechargeable battery packs we should only need to plug you in once or twice during the evening. Santa hats are optional; Reindeer Antlers made of felt are discouraged - they tend to wilt as the evening progresses and the ends wind up skimming the top of the gravy boat.
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:

Next month is our AGM (Annual General Meeting) and Dessert Extravaganza. It is during this meeting that we elect the new Club Officers, present Awards, and review and approve our Annual Report - all of these activities being interspersed with frequent breaks to have a cup of tea or coffee and sample the wonderful treats brought by our members. It is also the date of our annual DIY program, when various chapter members provide short slide presentations on whatever tickles their fancy - their garden as it is, their garden as they want it to be, other gardens they have known and wanted, trips taken, scenic vistas captured, etc.

This is a necessary meeting, but interestingly enough, it is always a really fun meeting.

OK. More rules:

1. Bring a little something to share, something wonderfully decadent like Death by Chocolate if your Christmas over-indulgence is not quite complete, or something healthy like fruit salad if you are have already embarked upon your annual re-dedication to a healthy body and a healthy mind.
2. Do not worry about eating utensils, there are enough forks and spoons at the hall, but do bring appropriate serving utensils for your contribution if needed.

The Business Stuff:

✿ **Other Duties as Assigned - Recipes** - Don't forget that January is the month we attempt to obtain and publish recipes for any of the various treats or Christmas potluck offerings you deem essential to your future happiness. Think of it as "Gourmet" re-visited, with horticultural overtones. However, we don't know what to publish until you tell us. Let me know of any recipe you want to know about, and like cub reporters everywhere, I will get the scoop.

Brenda Macdonald



Many of you may be aware that Mary J. Parker is our District 1 Director, who took over from Ron Knight at the end of his term. She has been a member of the Mount Arrowsmith (MARS) Chapter, which meets in Qualicum Beach and draws its members from the Qualicum/Parksville areas on Vancouver Island, for a number of years. Her involvement, support and enthusiasm for the club are evidenced by the fact that she had made herself sufficiently indispensable to be awarded the MARS Bronze Medal back in 1999. Mary has a successful and busy Travel Agency over on Vancouver Island, and was most helpful when Sean and I were organizing our trip to China.

Mary included these photos in a recent email, of a Vancouver from a less hurried and less crowded (except for English Bay) time ... and ten extra Santa credits for anyone who remembered that the Englesea was the last remaining building on the sea-side of Beach Avenue. Located right at Sunset Beach, it was finally torn down after a mysterious explosion and fire 01 FEB 1981.



Prospect Point,
prior to the
construction of
the Lion's Gate
Bridge



Above: The entrance to Stanley Park, prior to the construction of the Lion's Gate Bridge or its causeway.
Below: Looking back at English Bay. Only part of that original bath houses still remains.

