

The Yak

Newsletter of
the Fraser South
Rhododendron
Society

Volume 24 Number 9
November 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, November 17, 2010
Topic: "Gardens of the Olympic Peninsula"
Speaker: Bill Bischoff
Plant Sales: Colleen Bojczuk

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

A warm welcome to our new members, Heidi and Garry Summers. The Summers joined at the September meeting, after being introduced to our organization by Heidi's sister Marg Mueller.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Notes From the Chair

Only one week and two days to our next meeting. How exciting. I will talk about a trip Carla and I took to the Port Townsend area by invitation of the Olympic Peninsula Chapter of the ARS, located in Port Townsend, WA. It will be a digital slides-supported presentation. What a trip, what unexpected hospitality. But more about it at the next meeting.

While we all look forward to our monthly meetings and special events throughout the year, there are several other fun events open to all of us, namely nearby horticultural societies and their activities. The speakers and

sales lists can be accessed at their respective websites or at the website of the BC Council of Garden Clubs. There is also the website of the "UBC Botanical Garden" at www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org/ and specifically a listing of upcoming lectures to June of 2011, at www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org/education/courses_lectures.php And you can put yourself on the UBC mailing list for lecture notifications and updates at <mailto:botg@interchange.ubc.ca>

Just contact them and have your name added to their email list. I have been listed there for many years and have enjoyed many very interesting and informative lectures, and free garden tours to boot. The meetings take place at the UBC Botanical Garden Reception Centre on West Marine Drive. Most meetings start at 12 noon for a duration of at least an hour. Coffee and tea are free, but bring a lunch. The cost is \$5 per person, and all the money goes the UBC Garden.

Just as an example, the theme of the talk on November 8 was "Biodiversity and Health". It was a history of plant-based medicine. It spanned a time from early Greek writings through the Middle Ages until the present. Following this lecture, participants were invited on a tour of the "Physic Garden", a 16th century medicinal herb garden, where plants are cultivated that were used for medicinal purposes several hundred years ago. Perhaps I will mention this lecture at our next meeting ... only if the speaker doesn't take too much time. Evening lectures and all-day lectures are also offered. More on that at their website.

At our next meeting I'll bring some small plants to display. If anyone has material like that please bring it to our show table. It will make the meetings much more interesting, especially to our new members.

And now a special thanks to Sean Rafferty for conducting our last plant draw. Of course, thank you to all the members who so eagerly bid on the rhododendrons we had received for our success in the ARS membership drive. This was really a fun time, especially when some members kept on edging the prices up, all to the benefit of our society.

Please come to the next meeting, this the last meeting of the year, before our so eagerly-anticipated Christmas Party. To go on a bit of a diet from now on is highly advisable.

See you at the next meeting

Bill Bischoff



As the days draw down and the glorious colours of the autumn foliage flame and die out, we need to remember that in only a few short months the pastels of spring will start to appear. Nothing lasts forever, not even the dun brown and wetted green of a west coast winter.



FROM THE EDITOR

Last Month:

Last month we had the pleasure of listening to Bill McMillan, Past President of the Victoria Chapter, as he described the extensive, and coincidentally private, garden tour he and his wife Theresa participated in last year. In one of those lovely bits of serendipity that come when we least expect them, the volcanic eruption that devastated so many others' travel plans last April meant that none of the other registrants, all arriving by air from one country or another, would be able to land, so Bill, Theresa, and the one of the two guides who was locally based comprised the entire group. Bill was able to collect some wonderful photos of the gardens they visited, including a number of great pictures of the birds he always watches for. His addition of some sound

files of the bird songs added to our knowledge and enjoyment.

This Month:

Our scheduled speaker having had to bow out at the last minute, President Bill has offered to bridge the gap with a presentation on a recent weekend trip he and Carla took down to the Olympic peninsula. They were able to visit the renowned garden of June Sinclair and also the eclectic and fascinating nursery at Far Reaches Farm in Port Townsend.

Next Month:

Next month is, of course, our annual Christmas Potluck dinner. The rules are simple and the fun is grand. We start a bit earlier than usual, so mark your calendars for 6:30, Wednesday, December 15th. There will be lots of good food, great company, a party game, and a visit by Santa, or at least one or two of his helpers. Ground rules and guidelines to be fleshed out in next month's issue.

The Business Stuff:

- **Membership Bonus:** As a follow-up to last month's notice about the auctioning of the rhododendrons we received in recognition of our move to an all-ARS membership Chapter, and the increased membership afforded by that decision, we are pleased to advise that over \$200 was raised. It was, as they say in trendy business circles, a win-win situation.
- **Other Duties as Assigned:** Joan McGiveron and Joan Bengough will be the ultimate Kitchen Aides for the year 2010, taking care of business for this last regular meeting of the year. Everyone should be sure to sign up for next year's roster when Cherry Groves sends round the clipboard.

Further to Bill Bischoff's information about events and lectures available at the UBC Botanical Garden, I have attached the schedule for the remainder of the this calendar year. Although the first one the lectures (A History of Plant-Based Medicine) is now past, I have left it on the listing so that you can get a better of idea of the sorts of things offered.

Brenda Macdonald



A History of Plant-Based Medicine Lecture

Monday, November 8, 2010

12pm to 1pm

Cost \$5.00 Location: UBC Botanical Garden Reception Centre

November's education theme is "Biodiversity and Health". From prehistoric times, through the Greek Empire, into the Middle Ages and modern day, plants have played a vital role in the development of medicine and thus are deeply entwined in the history and survival of humankind, both past and present. Following the lecture, Daniel will lead interested participants on a brief walk to the Physic Garden, a 16th century medicinal herb garden that historically would have been used for the education of physicians and apothecaries. Instructor Daniel Mosquin is UBC Botanical Garden's Education and Technology Manager. He is a naturalist and photographer who frequently travels western North America to observe & photograph biodiversity. Since April of 2005, he has been the editor (and often the author and/or photographer) of UBC Botanical Garden's Botany Photo of the Day. Please Note Bring a bag lunch. Coffee supplied. Fee collected at the door. Please call 604-822-3928 or email <mailto:botg@interchange.ubc.ca?subject=course%20registration> to book

Good for You, Good for the Earth Course

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

7:00pm to 9:00pm

Cost \$25.00 public, \$20 for Garden members.

Class Size: 40 people maximum. Please Note Advance registration required.

Location: UBC Botanical Garden Reception Centre

With most of our garden harvest complete, many of us will be heading back to the grocery stores to shop for our everyday foods. Considering 3/4 of the food found in stores is from outside of British Columbia, how can a person continue to eat a healthy diet as well as keep our impact on the environment to a minimum? To help answer these questions, Lori Petryk, dietitian and environmentalist, will help you find out which foods are good for you, as well as good for the earth. When you add up all the emissions from seed, to plate, to landfill, the foods we eat account for as much as 33% of global greenhouse gas emissions! These high CO2 emitting foods are often also the foods most responsible for a persons increased risk of developing chronic disease. Seminar participants will discover small steps to make big differences in their carbon "foodprint" and health. Instructor Lori Petryk, Registered Dietitian and Master of Science, has over 15 years experience providing nutrition coaching and chronic disease prevention education. She has appeared as a nutritional expert on CTV News Vancouver, CBC Radio Canada and can often be seen speaking about sustainable nutrition issues on Shaw Television's Urban Rush. When not providing wellness seminars to both private and public industry, Lori teaches Public Health at the Boucher Institute of Naturopathic Medicine and works with the BC Cancer Agency on a variety of cancer prevention and education initiatives. To Lori, whose healthy attitude is contagious, eating well is not just a personal interest—it's a value! Advance registration required: Please call 604-822-3928 or email <mailto:botg@interchange.ubc.ca?subject=course%20registration> to book.

Basketry - Wicker with Nature's Bounty Course

Saturday, November 13 and Sunday, November 14, 2010

9:30am to 4:30pm each day

Cost: \$175.00 public, \$165.00 for Garden members.

Class Size 12 people maximum

Location: UBC Botanical Garden Pavilion

Explore the exciting design possibilities of the wicker basketry technique in this 2-day course. In the process of weaving this basket, participants will learn control of shaping as well as a variety of weaving patterns. The emphasis will be on using an assortment of natural materials such as vines, barks, root and grasses with colourful dyed reed. The rich variety of materials makes for a fun and creative experience. Instructor Joan Carrigan, basketry specialist and artist, first learned basketry in 1991 and has since studied with many outstanding basket makers. She has acquired a broad-based knowledge of basketry techniques and materials, and has taught extensively. Her work has been exhibited internationally. Please Note Advance registration required. Please call 604-822-3928 or email <mailto:botg@interchange.ubc.ca?subject=course%20registration> to book. Please bring the following tools: scissors with sharp point (like embroidery scissors), an old towel, spray bottle, ruler and curved upholstery needle. Bring a bag lunch.

Wreath Making Course

Saturday, November 27, 2010

9am to 12pm

Cost: \$60.00 public, \$55.00 for Garden members.

Class Size 26 people maximum

Location: UBC Botanical Garden Reception Centre

Guided by the talented and experienced experts Moya Drummond and Judy Newton, you will learn tips and techniques for making your very own natural holiday creation. Participants will leave with their own beautiful and hand-made wreath to decorate their door or to gift to a friend. Instructors Judy Newton and Moya Drummond, Friends of the UBC Botanical Garden. Please Note Advance registration required. Please call 604-822-3928 or email <mailto:botg@interchange.ubc.ca?subject=course%20registration> to book. Participants will be outdoors for brief periods of time, so please dress appropriately. Please bring your own pair of secateurs and gardening gloves. It is optional to bring winter foliage and branches from your yard.

Plants Inspiring Technology Lecture

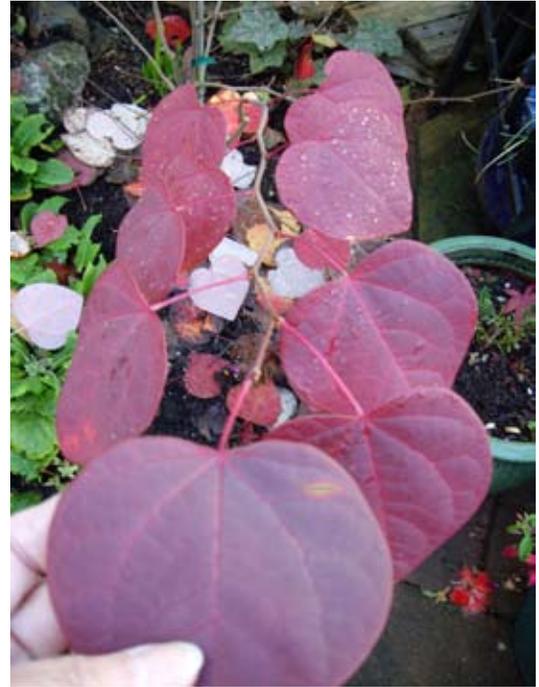
Monday, December 13, 2010

12pm to 1pm

Cost \$5.00 Location: UBC Botanical Garden Reception Centre

In the last lecture in the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity series, Daniel explores how plants have inspired and contributed to technological advances, particularly the development of novel materials. Instructor (Bio) Daniel Mosquin is UBC Botanical Garden's Education and Technology Manager. He is a naturalist and photographer who frequently travels western North America to observe & photograph biodiversity. Since April of 2005, he has been the editor (and often the author and/or photographer) of UBC Botanical Garden's Botany Photo of the Day. Please Note Bring a bag lunch. Coffee supplied. Fee collected at the door. Please call 604-822-3928 or email <mailto:botg@interchange.ubc.ca?subject=course%20registration> to book.

The Autumnal Garden



The rich wine colour on the right (from the Bischoff's garden) and the wonderful colour variation above, (from UBC's Botany Photo of the Day) show the very rewarding fall colour of *Disanthus cerdicifolius*, a shrubby tree with a relatively small distribution in parts of China and Japan. In summer the large, heart-shaped, blue-green leaves look remarkably like those of a *Cercis* or Redbud, but its fall colour is even more spectacular, and it is one of the few trees that will reliably colour up even in somewhat shady situations. Its blossoms are nondescript, certainly not the electric pink of the Redbud, and not even as showy as the strappy blossoms of its near relative the Witch Hazel. But its cold hardiness, resilience (*Cercis* wood is somewhat brittle and often sustains heavy winter damage due to snow load), affinity for the same acid soil as rhododendrons, and superb fall colour, make it an excellent choice for the Pacific Northwest garden.

Acer griseum, the Paperbark Maple, is another reliable source of fall colour. It colours up later than most other maples, prolonging the overall display period, and its vibrant reds contrast well with the increasing predominance of the evergreen conifers and rhodos. And there is, of course, the added bonus of the mahogany-coloured peeling bark to catch one's eye in the winter sunshine.





And here is the other good reason for using fall-colouring deciduous trees in the garden. Certainly the distant view of a blaze of gold or scarlet in the late afternoon sun is spectacular, but what could be nicer than the patterns and contrasts that occur when the leaves fall off the trees and sprinkle themselves about the garden beds. The spangle of the crimson maple stars, or these softly pink hearts draped over *R.* 'President Roosevelt' and a spiky fern in the Bischoff garden is not to be missed.

Brenda Macdonald

photo credits: all photos by Bischoffs, with the exception of the Botany of the Day photo noted on page 6.