

The Oak

Newsletter of
the Fraser South
Rhododendron
Society

Volume 24 Number 8
October 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, October 20, 2010
Topic: "Gardens and Birds of England"
Speaker: Bill McMillan
Plant Sales: Harold Fearing

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 quick reminder that your annual membership fee is due by the end of October.

\$35.00 for Full Members
\$10.00 for Associate members



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Notes From the Chair

In just about four more months the first blooms of our beloved Rhododendrons will start to appear. Even so, we still have the odd rhododendron producing flowers from this year, even this late in the season. It must all be because of the weird weather we have had this year. Some of our other shrubs are blooming for the second time this year also. This is ok with us as long as they come back, in good health, next year.

The good news for our society is, that we won first place in the ARS membership drive, with 54% more members for the ARS over 2009. For that effort, we were given 36 Rhododendron plants donated by Briggs Nursery of Elma, WA. The plants came to us in excellent condition and will be made available to our members at our next meeting.

Thank you all: the ARS for conducting this competition, Briggs with their plant donation, our executive members who orchestrated this event and our members who so very enthusiastically gave us their permission to be part of this membership drive. To keep up the momentum on getting new members, we need to think of new ways to attract new members to our society. Please don't forget, we still have the rate of only \$15 per year in effect for new members. This includes membership with the ARS. Just getting our picturesque and so very informative YAK, as well the new version of the ARS bulletin should be enough incentive to become a member of our organization. Being part of other horticultural clubs or just visiting them is a good way to invite interested parties to our meetings.

In support of this process, Carla and I spent a weekend at Art's Nursery in Port Kells, where we handed out invitations to our club. The Saturday was rather pleasant and brought many visitors. The next day was very rainy and everything was moved inside, where we enjoyed fewer visitors, but of different quality. They were more inquisitive as a whole, and partook with noticeable enthusiasm in the different programs offered.

A word of thanks to Chris Hodgson who is the "Trip Coordinator for the PARS", for accepting some of our members to be part of a field trip to Devan Nursery and Aldergrove Nursery in September. At Aldergrove Nursery, our member Colleen Bojczuk entertained her visitors with a very educational plant propagation program. By all accounts it was a most enjoyable and educational event. The next day Les Clay conducted his Rhododendron propagation class at his home. Members of our society as well members of PARS took advantage of this opportunity. Thank you, Les, for sharing your vast knowledge so freely.

There is still time to be part of the next BC Council of Garden Clubs Fall General Meeting. It will be on Saturday, October 16th at St. Helen's Parish Church Hall, 3871 Pandora Street, Burnaby. (Just east of Boundary Road and north of Hastings Street). As always, it promises to be a most enjoyable day spent amongst plant lovers. Good food, a large assortment of plants for sale and interesting speakers. Just mail a check for \$22 per person to Mas Tanizawa, 9426 Dawson Crescent, Delta, BC, V4C 5G9. Late registrants will be accepted at the door, at \$30 per person.

During the last two days Carla and I were on a most enjoyable trip to Port Townsend on the Olympic Peninsula in WA. We went there by invitation of the local Rhododendron Chapter. Our host Mrs. June Sinclair, who owns a very comfortable house on a well-treed, waterfront lot of four acres, did everything to make us feel welcome - and welcome we felt, more so when we saw the many Rhododendron species of all sizes underplanting the trees. And the rhododendrons in turn gave shade to the many species and varieties of Cyclamen. Carla and I felt more than at home. To top it all our hostess prepared a freshly collected Chanterelle mushroom omelette for our breakfast next morning. One of her two dogs, a rather shy German Shepherd, made friends with Carla, much to her surprise and delight. Me, he just ignored, even when I spoke German to him to make him feel more at ease. That morning, we were invited to a rather interesting garden centre, "Far Reaches Farm", near Port Townsend. What a surprise that was. We very quickly ran out of pictures on our camera they had so many different plants on display. Plants of excellent quality and from all continents. Plants we had never seen or heard of. Only the knowledge that we had to cross a border on our way home prevented us from filling up our car with plants. I just knew that there was a reason for that border, now I am sure. Perhaps next spring we can organize a 2-day trip for our members to that area in Washington, including some other nearby Rhododendron nurseries. For now I will prepare a short slide program to be shown at one of our next meetings.

Bill Bischoff



FROM THE EDITOR

fauna (mostly avian) of England and the Scilly Isles. Bill, who also participated in the trips to China sponsored by the RSF in 2005 and 2006, spent April in England, touring gardens and other scenic spots with his lady wife Theresa.

Bill is a geologist by training, whose lifelong interest in the natural world began to sharpen its focus on rhododendrons upon his retirement in 1999. He is the Curator of the Rhododendron and Hosta Garden at Glendale Gardens in Victoria, and regularly gives talks to garden clubs and Master Gardener classes on rhododendron basics.

Last Month:

Unfortunately The Editor and The Program Chair missed the first meeting of the 2010_2011 year, having decided, all in a rush, the throw the canoe on top of the VW van and chase a few loons around some of the lakes up in the Interior. However, I have it on good authority that Bill's presentation on Hardy Orchids was most informative and well received.

This Month:

This month we will be welcoming Bill McMillan, Past President of the Victoria chapter, who will speak to us on the flora (partly rhododendrons) and

The Business Stuff:

EXECUTIVE MEETING - OCTOBER 6, 2010:

Here is a precis of the items discussed during this month's meeting:

- **Schedule:** the December meeting conveniently falls on the 15th this year, so there is no need to alter our meeting date for the annual Christmas Frolic. The Annual Plant Sale has been tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 23rd, subject to agreement by the church.

- **Membership Bonus:** the parent ARS sponsored a membership drive this year, with prizes to be awarded to any Chapter who increased their membership by 10%. And so we did! We have already received our flats of four different rhodos, supplied by Briggs Nurseries, and President Bill says they are very nice looking specimens.

In celebration of this accomplishment there will be a special auction of the 4-plant collections at the October meeting. The plant varieties are 'Eruption', 'Kodiak', 'Melrose Flash', and 'Victoria's Consort'. Bring a little extra cash this month and take home a fine collection of plants. No point in whining about lack of room, these are still babies and will fit in anywhere. Just think how much enjoyment you will get in bringing them along, and all for less than a couple of cups of upscale coffee. Join in the auction fun, four plants to a bundle, reserve bid of \$10.00 on each bundle.

See a display of the plants on the following pages.

OTHER DUTIES AS ASSIGNED:

- Ginny Fearing and Jo Wright will have their work cut out for them manning the tea kettles and coffee urns while the auction proceeds for the Bonus Plants. And in November, Joan McGiveron and Joan Bengough will be the ultimate Kitchen Aides for the year 2010, because in December Cherry will send round the sign-up sheet and we will start all over again!

THE CALENDAR:

Friday to Sunday October 8 to 10	2010 Western Conference - Florence, Oregon sponsored by Siuslaw Chapter, District 4
Sunday to Wednesday October 17 to 20	Australian Rhododendron Society Golden Jubilee Conference - Olinda, Australia (outside Melbourne)
Wednesday, Oct 20	Fraser South Chapter Bill McMillan - Plants and Birds of England

Thursday, Oct 21	Vancouver Chapter Mike Stewart - Hybrids and Hybridizers of the Pacific NW
Monday, Oct 25	Fraser Valley Chapter Dennis Bottemiller - Nursery Man's Nirvana
Tuesday, Oct 26	Peace Arch Chapter TBA

Brenda Macdonald



Chris Klapwijk contributes this stunning photo of *R. jasminiflorum*, one of the vireya rhododendrons whose intensely fragrant blossoms perfumed their house a couple of weeks ago.



And here is a snapshot of Mr. and Mrs. President, selling companion plants and handing out FSRS literature at the Fall Garden Event at Art's Nursery in Port Kells on the second weekend in September.

R. 'Eruption'



('Tarantella' x 'Seestadt Bremerhaven')

This award-winning hybrid from Germany has a compact habit, somewhat wider than tall, reaching 4' x 5' in 10 years. Deep rose flowers with prominent ivory centres present an almost picotee effect, blooming in trusses of 14 to 16 in late midseason.

R. 'Victoria's Consort'



(R. 'Nor'easter' x *catawbiense* hybrid)

Weston Nurseries, out of Boston, developed this hardy upright grower, originally naming it 'Mauve and Gold'. There is, however, a decidedly Victorian air to the large funnel-shaped flowers with the ruffled edges, and the muted but complimentary colours of the greenish-yellow eye and pink-tinged ivory blossom. Late midseason, to 4' tall.

R. 'Kodiak'



(*bureavii* x 'Ken Janeck')

Another one of the *yak* x *bureavii* ursine group (cf 'Teddy Bear', 'Bear Claw', 'Cinnamon Bear' etc.) this one also has the stunning foliage that lights up the bush with silvery-green new foliage and then develops into darkest green with a light tan indumentum. The apple-blossom colours of the ball-shaped trusses always look as clean as spring sunshine. Blooms mid-season on a densely leaved and compact, rounded bush, to 4'.

R. 'Melrose Flash'



{'Scintillation' x [('Mrs A. T. de la Mare' x 'King of Shrubs') x 'Holy Moses']}

This heat-tolerant 'Scintillation' hybrid will develop into a broad-based shrub that shows these spectacular blossoms off to great advantage.