

The Yak

Newsletter of
The Fraser South
Rhododendron
Society

Volume 27 Number 5
May, 2013



www.flounder.ca/FraserSouth

Fraser South Rhododendron Society
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
Wednesday, May 15th, 2013

THE 20TH ANNUAL FRASER SOUTH RHODODENDRON SOCIETY JUSTLY FAMOUS BEER BOTTLE TRUSS SHOW



2013 Officers

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Vice Pres:	Chris Hodgson	604-541-2382
Secretary:	Margaret Hodgson	604-541-2382
Treasurer:	Harold Fearing	604-857-4136
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Membership:	Evelyn Jensen	604-857-5663
Newsletter:	Sean Rafferty	604-990-5353
Librarian:	Joan McGiveron	604-538-9347
Website:	Chris Klapwijk	604-581-0925
Social Convenor:	Karen Linton	604-888-6564
Refreshments:	Arlene Darby	604-597-1849
BCCGC Liaison:	Bill Bischoff	604-589-6134



Notes From the Chair

ALL RHODO'D OUT ...

Well, not looking at them, but perhaps writing about them. These past few weeks have been all about rhododendrons. Selling them at our annual Plant Sale, wandering about at Fearing's Open House and Sale (including the displays by Sue Klapwijk and Les Clay), looking at them in the garden tours and listening to lectures on them at the recent Spring Convention held in SeaTac, not to mention the almost overwhelming show as one simply walks around one's neighbourhood. Even our own somewhat-later-than-others garden is now in full glory. It is exhausting enough to look at them all, I cannot write about them also.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Let us talk of maples.

Maples, along with magnolias and rhododendrons, appear to be having a spectacular year. Perhaps it was the Goldilocks effect in regards to both moisture and cold (not too little, not too much; not too early, not too late) over the past winter, but whatever the cause, everything seems almost sumptuous this year.

Everybody likes maples for the rhodo garden. They are ideal companion plants, with the possible exception of our native *Acer macrophyllum*, whose dense canopy provides complete rather than filtered shade, and whose massive leaves can smother an autumn garden in a carpet of wet, immovable sludge faster than you can wave a bamboo rake. In an upright tree form they provide the dappled shade so beloved by many of the more delicate species rhododendrons, and the weeping cut leaf forms provide a nice contrast in texture to the substantial leaves of many of the hybrids.

Generally speaking the cut-leaf (*Acer palmatum* f. *dissectum*) varieties have a weeping or cascading habit. Older specimens can create quite an effect with their large mounding shapes, although, as former member David Sellars was wont to say, they can appear to "squat around the garden like cloaked goblins" if not used judiciously. There is a single upright dissectum: *Acer* 'Seiryu'. The light green leaves start out with reddish tips as they unfold, and regain some of the crimson blush at the tips of the bright gold and pale yellow leaf colours of fall. A happy tree can grow as much as 50cm (20") per year but



Acer palmatum 'Seiryu'



Acer palmatum 'Seiryu'



Acer palmatum 'Sango kaku'

will probably top out at 7m (22'). It never becomes excessively twiggy and retains an open and delicate look.

'Sango kaku', the "Coral Bark Maple" is widely chosen for its very attractive coloured bark. It is a green standard (non-dissected) palmatum type, with very attractive leaf colouration across the spring-summer-fall arc similar to that of 'Seiryu', but it is in the winter that this maple distinguishes itself. The coral red of the bark, particularly on the new branches, intensifies as fall progresses and is particularly stunning when seen against one of our somewhat infrequent snowfalls.

Acer palmatum 'Aureum'



Another palmatum that we get great joy from is *A. palmatum* 'Aureum'. There are quite a few palmatums that have peachy or orangy new growth in the spring, but 'Aureum' is the one we have and it is a ray of sunshine in the garden. It opens up with a peachy tone and progresses through gold to light green, reversing

the process in the fall. However one of the real joys with 'Aureum' is the wonderful cascading shape it takes on during a summer rain, resembling the smoothed bumps of a frozen waterfall.

More well-known by appearance than by name is *A. shirasawanum*. Although the common name for the mid-green species is "Shirasawa's Maple" the cultivar most often seen in a garden setting is the "Golden Full Moon" maple - *A. shirasawanum* 'Aureum' (not to be confused with *A. palmatum* 'Aureum' noted above). A number of other cultivars have recently been developed, including 'Autumn Moon' with an unusual burnt-orange colour overlying the base shade of green. The *shirasawanums* have a delicate tiered habit as they mature, providing a nice counterpoint to the sturdy roundness of many rhododendron plants.



***Acer shirasawanum* 'Golden Full Moon'**

Confusingly, "Fullmoon Maple" is the common name of an entirely different species, *Acer japonicum*.

One of its cultivars 'Aconitifolium' ("Fern-leaf maple") is so well established in the arboreta of the world that it is often referred to simply



***Acer japonicum* 'Aconitifolium'**

as *Acer aconitifolium*. The leaves of this small tree are multi-divided and deeply cut, resembling those of the dissectum group, but much more substantial. In full leaf it has an almost shaggy look, but is not unkempt or ungraceful. However, the true beauty of this cultivar develops in the autumn, when its leaves, even in considerable shade, develop brilliant scarlet tones with carmine and purple areas. The effect is quite jewel-like, and lasts for a considerable length of time as the leaves are not shed quickly.

And finally, a maple that doesn't look like a maple. *Acer capillipes*, from



Acer capillipes

Japan, is one of the Snakebark maples, a group distinguished by the vertical stripping on the bark, particularly evident, as with the Coral bark maples, on young branches. The leaves on the snakebark maples vary, but few of them are "maple" shaped.



***Acer japonicum* 'Aconitifolium'**



Acer capillipes

A. capillipes displays a three-lobed trident-shaped leaf, which while very attractive is sure to stymie many a budding botanist. Still it is a very attractive tree, small enough for a city lot, and with good winter interest above the evergreen rhodos.

Brenda Macdonald



FROM THE EDITOR

Last Month:

Norma Senn afforded us a wonderful and extensive tour of many Victoria private gardens. A presentation so lovely that the Victoria Chamber of Commerce will, undoubtedly, soon track it down and expropriate it for their own purposes.

Norma has certainly settled into her new home over on the Island and it seems unlikely that we shall be able to convince her to return to us. It is quite understandable, since their climate appears amenable for grapefruit farms and pineapple orchards, and the city even appears to be in full bloom on Boxing Day.

Thank you for a lovely, illuminating presentation, Norma, but please hurry back to us for a visit.

This Month:

Remarkably, as one who is riding on eagle wings towards a second infancy, I have managed to locate the rules for The Justifiably Famous Beer Bottle Truss Show, Edition 20. However, I am unable to recall how to get them on the same page as the Entry Categories. The rules, are described below but you may require help to escort you to page six where the above-mentioned categories are to be found.

The recent spate of sunny days has brought an abundance of bloom to the garden. All that is now required of you is to utilise those shiny, sharp secateurs to slice the perfect truss from the top of the plant and place it for display in its sparkling clean beer bottle. The rules are:

Rule 1 - bring some flowers in. Rhodos are nice, and they fit in the beer bottle vases quite handily, but if you have something else blossoming right now that is strange, spectacular, or possibly the only plant in your garden that has not already finished blooming, bring it along. It may not win one of the rhodo categories, but it will be sure to gladden someone's heart.

Rule 2 - bring something you can fill with water to place the flowers in. Beer bottles (not cans) are often the vase of choice because they are usually ready to hand and sturdy enough to support the top-heavy trusses.

Rule 3 - sign up with the official show convenor - Wenonah March - obtain your personal entry number, mark your entry card with the name of the rhodo and your entry number, and place your contribution on one of the tables beside whichever of the category cards is most appropriate. (See page 6 for the category listings.)

Rule 4 - when all the contributions have been designated and placed, pick up your baggy of beads and start the voting! Remember: one category, one bead - no need for voting reform, them as has (the most beads), gets (the prize).

Rule 5 - having completed your democratic responsibility, retire to the tea room for refreshment while our team of auditors from the firm of Calyx, Sepals, Pistil and Style tabulate the results.

Rule 6 - Cheer and clap for the winners.

Additional notes:

- a) there will be a display table for other companion plants, as well as bonsai rhodos/azaleas
- b) remember to label all personal vases/containers
- c) Class 4 - Lepidote Hybrids is a perennially under-represented category. Here is your chance!

Class 4 encompasses the hybrids of *augustinii*, *campylogynum*, *cinnabarinum*, *edgeworthii* and others.

- d) Class 11 - Mauves and Purples are now divided into 11a - (small) and 11b (large)
- e) Class 23 - Best Miniature Truss - is now divided into 23a - (species) and 23b - (hybrid)
- f) Class 16 - Best Blotched - divided into 16a - (small) and 16b - (large)

h) several experienced members will circulate prior to voting to ensure that all trusses are displayed in the proper categories.

Winners in the various categories are announced and plant prizes are awarded to all.

There is only one adjudicated prize, the Lionheart Award for the best yellow, any Class. This award was inaugurated in 2007 to honour the memory of Margaret "Mike" Trembath, a founding member of FSRS, a committed rhodophile, and an accomplished hybridizer. She named one of her registered hybrids *R. 'Lionheart'*, a warm, butter-yellow blossom with a substantial calyx that develops from a brick-red bud, blossoming late in the rhodo-year, usually from early to mid-June. The prize awarded for this category is a coffee mug with a photo of 'Lionheart' printed on it.

Next month:

The Annual Potluck Picnic and Auction

June is the time for one of our other major fund raising function of the year - the annual auction. It will be preceded as usual by our wonderful potluck picnic. Karen Linton and Larry Morton will again be our gracious (and most appreciated) hosts.

This year we shall start the festivities a little bit earlier than past years; at one o'clock for socialising and then dining at four o'clock. We shall then commence the auction at five thirty. Bid high and bid often as there are always many choice items.

Other Duties as Assigned:

This month's tea room and refreshment duty roster is comprised of the dynamic and energetic crew of Lois and Bryan Williams, Chris Klapwijk and Chuck Floyd. This will be an extremely busy evening for them requiring an Herculean effort to keep the goodies table laden. All that deciding, voting and displaying amplifies the appetite. I am sure that we are all ready and eager to pitch in and help them out.

The Business Stuff:

A goodly gaggle of canoeheads from British Columbia and the Niagara Region packed up their banock and pemican and paddled downstream to attend the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden AGM in Federal Way and the ARS Spring Convention at Sea-Tac, Washington. While such a large contingent of Canucks crossing into America was probably unsettling to U.S. Homeland Security, the convoy was greeted warmly and shown a fine time by the organisers of the grand potlatches. Much mingling, mirth and merriment were partaken of as well as lovely gardens visited, knowledge increased and treasure brought home. Were that not enough, we were all able to celebrate with Garth Wedemire, on his being awarded the American Rhododendron Society Silver Medal for his long term contributions and achievements. Hearty Congratulations, Garth.



THE CALENDAR:

Wednesday, May 15 7:30 pm	The Fraser South Rhododendron Society Justly Famous Beer Bottle Truss Show
Thursday, May 16 6:00 pm	Vancouver Rhododendron Society A Walk in the UBC Botanical Garden with Andy Hill
Thursday, May 30 7:30 pm	Vancouver Rhododendron Society and The Alpine Garden Club of BC Chris Chadwell, Alpine plants and Rhododendrons of Kashmir Van Dusen Floral Hall
Saturday, June 8 1:00 pm	Fraser South Rhododendron Society: Annual potluck picnic and auction Held at Larry Morton and Karen Linton's home, Langley, BC
Sunday, June 16 3:00 pm	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Annual potluck picnic and auction, at Jasbir Gill's home, Richmond, BC



Twentieth Annual Fraser South Beer Bottle Truss Show

The world famous Fraser South Beer Bottle Truss Show will be held at our May meeting, Wednesday, May 15th. This is a fun event in which everyone can participate.

Here are the rules, beautiful in their simplicity:

1. Entry to the hall will be by bringing at least one truss. It is not necessary that it be a rhododendron.
2. There will be three areas for display:
 - a. competitive rhododendron trusses
 - b. non-competitive rhododendron trusses
 - c. companion plant displays, including bonsai
3. For the competitive event, participants will be allowed to enter only one truss in each class. Additional trusses can be displayed on the non-competitive table.
4. To assist in deciding which class to enter, an Advisory Panel will provide guidance and make any final decisions necessary.
5. All trusses must be in glass bottles. (Cans and plastic pop bottles are too unstable.)
6. Judging will be by member votes. Having given up on the too-sticky Smarties, we will be continuing with the counting beads used for the last few years. Just drop your bead in the receptacle in front of the truss you wish to vote for.

CLASSES

Division I

Species Classes

- Class 1. Rhododendron (lepidotes)
- Class 2. Azalea (deciduous and evergreen)
- Class 3. Hymenantha (elepidotes)

Division II

Hybrid Classes

- Class 4. Any lepidote hybrid
- Class 5. Any deciduous azalea hybrid
- Class 6. Any evergreen azalea hybrid

Colour Classes

- Class 7a: Red - (small)
- 7b: Red - (large)
- Class 8a: White - (small)
- 8b: White - (large)
- Class 9a: Pink - (small)
- 9b: Pink - (large)
- 9c: Pink - (really, really, large)
- Class 10a: Yellow & Cream (small)
- 10b: Yellow & Cream (large)
- Class 11: Mauve & Purple (small)
- 11A: Mauve & Purple (large)
- Class 12: Orange
- Class 13: Bi-colour

Division III

Special Classes

- Class 14: "What's it Called" - best new non-registered hybrid - a special class for the hybridizer
- Class 15: Truss with the Best Fuzzy Foliage
- Class 16a: Best Blotched (small)
- 16b: Best Blotched (large)
- Class 17: Best Speckled
- Class 18: Most Lurid
- Class 19: Best Last Year's Truss
- Class 20: Most Elegantly Weevil-Notched
- Class 21: Best Hammerhead
- Class 22: Most Flaccid
- Class 23a: Best Miniature - under 6" (species)
- 23b Best Miniature - under 6" (hybrid)
- Class 24: Most Fragrant (Az. or Rh.)

Judged

Lionheart Award: best over-all yellow, any Class

Definitions: :

1. Small - 6" or under
2. Large - 6" to 10"
3. Really, Really, Large - over 10"
4. Blotch - each individual flower shows a solid colour mark on dorsal lobe (or three lobes), distinctly different from the base colour of the flower.
5. Lurid - most vividly garish
6. Hammerhead - an inflorescence which arises from more than a single flower bud
7. Speckled - distinguished from blotches by non-solid colour sprinkles and spots, either around entire flower, or at least on upper lobe(s) - e.g. 'Paprika Spiced'

American Rhododendron Society Silver Medal Award



Garth Wedemire, May 4th, 2013, Seattle Washington

You have faithfully served the chapters of District 1 and represented the interests of the American Rhododendron Society to a standard of excellence for more than 35 years. By using your many talents, you have been a soothing teacher, an aesthetic photographer, a masterful propagator, and a rational philosopher. You have been able to convey your ideas with a quiet and peaceful humility.

Your webmaster abilities, photographic experience, and your grace of lecturing have been invaluable to the chapters of District 1. Our members feel both grateful and fortunate to have been the benefactors of your multifaceted talent.

For your many contributions and your outstanding service, the American Rhododendron Society is pleased to award the Silver Medal to
Garth Wedemire.

Incredible Edibles

Not wishing to have combatants wilt from fatigue during the annual JFBTTS challenge, Wenonah March, has presented "The Yak" with a game-day breakfast guaranteed to keep you upright from the moment you climb to the top of your rhododendron to obtain your finest truss, unto the final bell at the end of voting. It has been suggested the recipe be prepared the evening before the big event, in order to have ready immediately at the start of day.

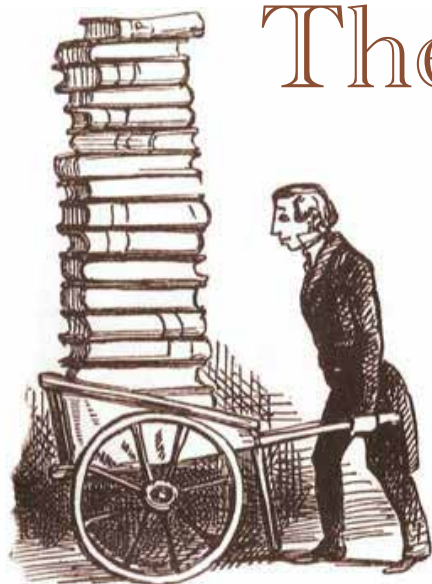
Blond Brownies

Sift together: 1 cup flour
1/2 tsp. double acting baking powder
1/2 tsp salt
Set aside
Melt 1/3 cup butter and remove from heat
Add 1 cup brown sugar, and mix well
Stir in: 1 egg
1 egg yolk
1 tsp vanilla
Add the dry ingredients
Spread in 8 X 8 pan, well-greased on the bottom
Sprinkle 1/2 cup chocolate chips on top, and bake at 350° for 25 - 30 minutes

Frost with Caramel Frosting

In a saucepan, combine 2 Tbsp butter, 1/4 cup brown sugar, and 2 Tbsp milk.
Bring to a boil, cook 2 min, stirring constantly.
Remove from heat, blend in 3/4 cup icing sugar and 1 tsp vanilla.
Thin with milk if necessary.





The Book Cart

Book Reviews (Margaret Hodgson)

Heucheras and Heucherellas, Coral Bells and Foamy Bells,
by Dan Heims and Grahame Ware
Timber Press, Inc. Portland, Oregon, 2005.

208 pages, approx. 49 pages of colour photos (116 plates). Nine chapters
in total, followed by a very short section on Sources and then an Index of
Heucheras and Heucherellas. \$37.95
ISBN 0-88192-702-3

Dan Heims is president of Terra Nova Nurseries, a wholesale
nursery specializing in choice perennials. He founded his nursery after
a career as a horticultural educator, plant
breeder, and owner of a “design and
build” landscape business. His articles,
photographs, and plant discussions have

been featured in print, television, and radio throughout the world and he was the
recipient of the Royal Horticultural Society’s Reginald Cory Memorial Cup in 2002,
recognising his achievement in Heuchera breeding. Terra Nova’s heucheras won
nine Awards of Garden Merit from RHS in 2003. Dan Heims lives and gardens in
Portland, Oregon.

Grahame Ware is a freelance writer and broadcaster for Canadian radio,
television, and print media. A lifelong gardener, he is a trained horticulturist and
has used heucheras extensively for over a decade in his, as well as his clients’ gardens.
He lives in a log and straw bale home that he designed outside of Vernon, British
Columbia.

Heucheras and Heucherellas, or, as the subtitle calls them, coral bells and
their hybrids, foamy bells, have become transformed from diminutive forest-dwelling plants with tiny white flowers
and unremarkable foliage to take their places amongst the most popular, colourful and award-winning plants in
today’s gardens around the world.

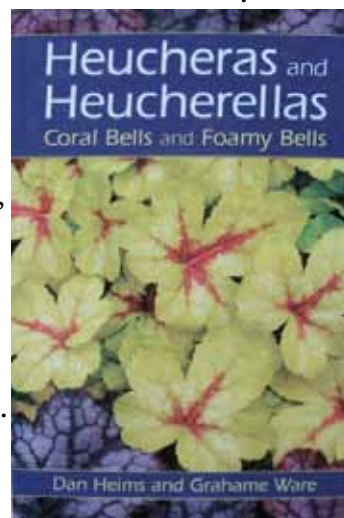
The two authors not only provide background on the wild species of Heuchera; they also tell how these
plants were developed into the garden stars that they are today, with an appreciative nod to the breeders who
revolutionized the plants’ characteristics.

The book’s main feature is extensive listings of the hundreds of choice selections and hybrids available
commercially, while practical chapters on garden care, propagation, and design uses, round out this fascinating
account.

The colour plates occur right at the beginning of the book from page 7 through page 64, before the main
chapters begin. In Chapter One, we discover the correct pronunciation for “Heuchera” is “HOY-ker-uh”, named
for Johann Heinrich von Heucher, (1677-1747), professor of medicine and botany at Wittenberg University in
Germany. Such interesting detail is added about the early explorers and botanists who visited, as early as 1791, the
northwest coast of what was finally named Vancouver Island, collecting various species of Heucheras.

As the book moves through the chapters describing the Heuchera cultivars and the Heucherellas, the colour
plates are used for reference. Unfortunately, not all the descriptions have an accompanying photograph.

As in the description of the Heucheras, the authors also follow a very logical sequence in the treatment
of the Heucherellas, starting in Chapter 6, some descriptions referring back to colour photographs in the colour
plates. Chapters 7 and 8 of the book deal with culture and care of the plants, plus propagation of the plants by
seed, division and cuttings, and tissue culture. The last chapter of the book suggests garden uses and combinations
that are very pleasing with Heucheras, such as various bronze plants, silver combinations, yellow plants. There are
also suggestions for Heucheras in floral design, the winter garden or woodland garden, or hanging baskets.



Margaret Hodgson

What's in Bloom?

At The Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden and
elsewhere in the Sea-Tac area



Anderson Garden, Enumclaw, WA.



*R. 'Loderi's King George and Venus'
Lakewood Garden, Wa.*



R. huianum, RSBG



*R. pingianum, with hat.
RSBG*



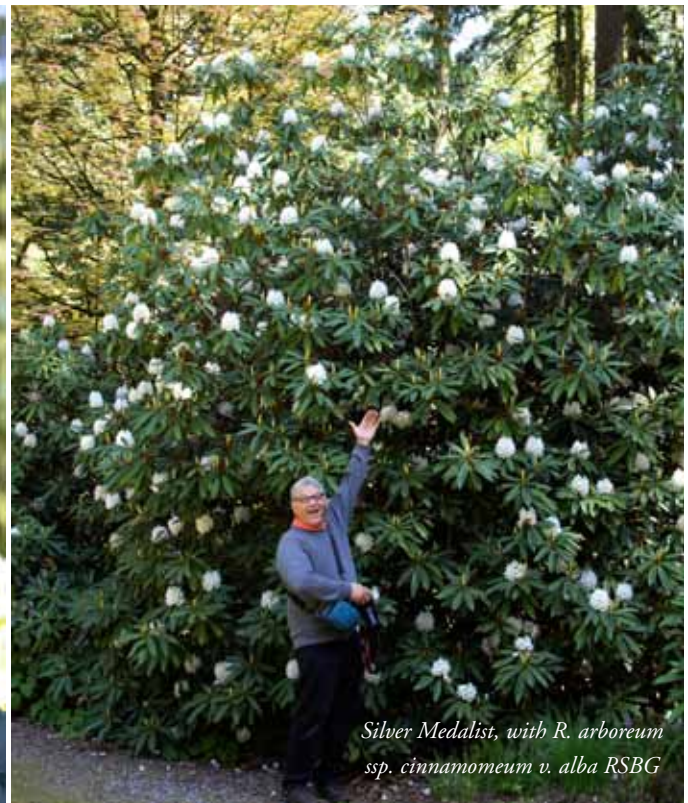
R. pendulum, RSBG



R. edgeworthii, RSBG



R. 'Not Kiwi Magic', Homestead Park, University Place, Wa.



Silver Medalist, with *R. arboreum* ssp. *cinnamomeum* v. *alba* RSBG