



R. mucronulatum

This Month's Meeting

Date: Wednesday, January 15th, 2014 @ 7:30 pm

**The Annual General Meeting
and "Just Desserts" Extravagaza**

2014 Officers

President:	Chris Hodgson	604-541-2382
Past Pres:	Brenda Macdonald	604-990-5353
Vice Pres:	Evelyn Jensen	604-857-5663
Secretary	Margaret Hodgson	604-541-2382
Treasurer:	Harold Fearing	604-857-4136
Directors:	Chuck Floyd	604-541-2884
	Ginny Fearing	604-857-4136
	Nancy Moore	604-859-3690
Programme:	Sean Rafferty	604-990-5353
Membership:	Ginny Fearing	604-857-4136
Newsletter:	Sean Rafferty	604-990-5353
Librarian:	Joan McGiveron	604-538-9347
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Hospitality:	Brenda Macdonald	604-597-1849
BCCGC Liaison:	Bill Bischoff	604-589-6134

<http://frasersoutherhododendron.ca/>

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



Quick Hits

Hear Ye Hear Ye

The club is in dire need of a better six foot or larger projection screen. If you received two of these for Christmas and don't require them both, would you kindly think about donating one of them to the club? Or if you happen to know of one going cheaply (read free) would you please notify any of the executive and let them know of its whereabouts?

Many thanks,
Editor



Notes From the Chair

THE BATTLE COMMENCES ...

It is only January and already some of us (well, me, anyway) are planning this year's campaign against those brutes of the garden, the perennial weeds. The annual weeds discussed last month do not usually pose a great physical challenge. They are often relatively easy to remove, and simply irritate and exasperate one half to death with the constant appearance of new baby weedlings.

But perennial weeds such as blackberry, horsetail, dock, and thistle are the heavies of the garden, each requiring more in the way of brute strength than should be appropriate for anyone just trying to create a little beauty in their lives. The removal of even such seeming lightweights as morning glory (bindweed) and Bishop's weed often represent hours of hard physical labour.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Several years ago Ginny Fearing wrote a rather plaintive article for the Yak in which she bemoaned the increasing prevalence of horsetail in her garden. I have not checked with her lately, but I assume, somewhat sadly, that she has not yet eradicated the problem, and at best is probably only managing, through much effort, to keep the invasion in a holding pattern.

Equisetum arvense, or Field or Common Horsetail (equis - horse, setum - bristle, arvense - of the field) is a relic of the Paleozoic age, and while we are not saddled with the 30-foot specimens of that era, the 2-3 foot specimens that continue to plague us are ample evidence of this plant's ability to live long and prosper. And, when applied to weeds, the term "near-cosmopolitan" is not one of approbation, meaning in this case, that it is found everywhere except in Antarctica, although it was not originally native to Australia, New Zealand, or the islands of the Pacific.

Ridding a garden of horsetail (not to be confused with mare's tail, a similarly shaped but entirely different true-flowering, aquatic plant often seen in ponds or aquariums) is a long-term endeavour, involving constant vigilance and concerted effort.

The campaign used for most perennial weed eradication is to reduce the vigor of the plant by depleting its food stores with repeated and timely removal of top growth. The theory is that the plant will eventually weaken and die when it can no longer obtain energy for growth either from active photosynthesis or from storage in roots or other underground structures.

That's the theory. However one study I read showed that for horsetail, it took seven years of consistent removal of all top growth to have a lethal effect.

The other piece of received wisdom is that one should hand weed out not only the visible top growth, but also all parts of the root. However, our recent dismantling of a substantial garden retaining wall means I can personally confirm that the reported six-foot depth of that network of black and brittle roots is not an exaggeration. And results obtained by smothering with newspapers, black plastic, turf or other materials, (the other most widely advertised non-



Equisetum arvense
a fine crop of vegetative shoots (photosynthetic, sterile)
in amongst the rock mulch.



Equisetum arvense
these spore-bearing, non-photosynthetic shoots show up in early spring, before the vegetative shoots emerge. Unlike the widely spread seeds of the Himalayan Blackberry, the spores released by these fruiting bodies do not seem to have a significant effect on the spread of this weed. Almost all of the spread of horsetail is caused by the underground running roots.



Rubrus armeniacus
a well-armoured new cane



Rubrus armeniacus
a typical cane arch, ready to root at the
tip end



Rubrus armeniacus
cane tip end, showing adventitious roots

chemical means of weed control), have been uniformly negative.

Even for those willing to go the chemical route there is not much good news. Although the pre-emergent herbicide Casaron is apparently effective in suppressing new spring growth, it does not actually kill the plant, and it is virtually useless on sloped lands where it is difficult to maintain even coverage. In addition, it, like other herbicides such as Round Up or 2, 4-D have had mixed reviews, even if they were still available to the home gardener. So, what is left: while there is evidence that horsetail does not thrive when shaded out, and that it fares better on soil with low nutritional content, there are few of us willing to pile on the loam, plant a huge number of tall and dense perennials and wait 15 years for the horsetail's decline.

What I did see as a possible answer was vinegar. Apparently even the 5% acetic acid of the standard grocery store vinegar is quite effective in killing it off. The best approach appears to be to fill a pop bottle with vinegar, drill a couple of holes in the cap, and sprinkle it directly on and around the base of the plant. Spraying is not recommended since too much enthusiasm or even just ordinary wind drift will burn the very garden plants you are trying to rescue. It would be my guess that a single application is not going to accomplish complete eradication, but with repeated applications you might be looking at something less than 7 years. When combined with the addition of good organic material to raise the nutritional content of the soil, and the planting of some tall but dense perennials, this method might just be the way out of the horsetail jungle.

The other garden thug so many of us struggle with here in the Pacific Northwest is *Rubrus armeniacus*, (syn. *Rubrus discolor*, *Rubrus procerus*) the Himalayan Blackberry. Although no more Himalayan than the Canada Thistle is Canadian, this is a herbaceous perennial that looks and acts more like particularly vicious shrub. The canes can be over an inch in diameter, arching upwards to 4' with a length of 30'. The canes frequently take root at their tips and then arch out again, greatly increasing the speed and extent of vegetative reproduction, and presenting a picture not unlike that of a line of stitches from an enormous sewing machine with loose thread tension. It is not unusual to see a vigorous plant snaking its way half-way up a full-grown conifer. The seeds are easily and widely spread by birds and many native animals so that it is almost impossible to keep one's garden blackberry free through good garden hygiene only.

If only the picking of those luscious berries had a deleterious effect on growth, then all those jewel-like jars of blackberry jam would have a double benefit. As it is, the painful removal of top growth and then tedious and back-breaking grubbing out of root crowns and major roots is the most effective if

somewhat unpleasant method of eradication. Unlike horsetail, too many insects and animals use blackberry as a food source to allow one to feel very comfortable about the use of herbicides, even if they were available without special licence. Large and well-established thickets are probably best attacked, initially anyway, with heavy machinery to pull out the canes and dig out the majority of root crowns and large roots. Clean up will still require a lot of heavy labour over a couple of years, but at least blackberry roots, for the most part, are more easily visible, less brittle, and closer to the surface than horsetail. And, unlike horsetail, a 2" length of small diameter blackberry root will not result in a complete and vigorous plant six weeks later.

There you have it. Two good reasons to be grateful that you are still inside watching the cold rain fall down rather than outside dealing with perennial weeds.

Brenda Macdonald



FROM THE EDITOR

Last Month:

We had the grandest of times at our annual Christmas Potluck dinner and Festive Frolic. And, being able to resist all but temptation, I naturally fell victim to the sin of gluttony. Hey, it's Christmas, right and Fraser South potlucks are always absolutely fabulous. Heaps of praise to all of us for contributing so well to the festive banquet and particular praise to the Hodgsons and McGiverons for their respectively resplendent skills with turkeys and hams.

All good feasts require fun and games, even a mild bacchanal such as ours, and to that end we were marvelously served by Art and Rosemary Prufer's creation of their hybrid mind bender; a cross of Bingo pollinated by Trivial Pursuit. A great game and loads of fun and if my brain hadn't been so stuffed with turkey I might have got one or two of the answers correct.



Painting courtesy of Jan Steen; a masterpiece entitled 'Revelry at an Inn' painted at the Langley, United Church Hall, December 11th 2013

This Month:

is our Annual General Meeting and Dessert Extravaganza. A time for our treasurer to inform us if our ship is still afloat, give form to democracy by electing our new executive committee and to be entertained by some of our members and the slides that they will present. Between events it is very important that all those not involved in a presentation sidle up to the dessert table and partake of as many different desserts as possible while, of course, taking the odd break to sip some tea or coffee.

Here are the instructions: Just dust off and prepare your favorite recipe; Madeira Cake, Lemon Sponge, Rhubarb Fool or any other that you wish to share with everyone else, and we shall usher in the New Year in magnificent fashion. Along with your creations, please remember to bring along some serving utensils if required, and a plate and cutlery for you to consume these delights with.

Also, for those of you aspiring to a life in politics, please don't be shy about throwing your hat in the ring for a seat on the FSRS executive committee. Garden Club politics is a hard game but it can steel you for the rough and tumble of snarly pits like Ottawa. Who knows, perhaps a Senate appointment is not far off?

Next month:

We shall have as our speaker, Jaquie Bunse, Chief Apiary Inspector for the Fraser Valley. All you ever wished to know about bees but were afraid to ask.

Sean Rafferty

The Business Stuff:

The Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington, is preparing a special event to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Garden! This event is being held April 24-26, 2014, and we would like to invite all members of the American Rhododendron Society to attend. Speakers include David Chamberlain, Harold Greer, Douglas Justice and Steve Hootman. The full schedule of events as well as registration information and a link to the hotel is available on the RSF website, RhodyGarden.org.



2015 Convention

In preparation for our District 1, 2015 Convention, we are able to get several articles in the Journal to advertise to the world that we are holding it in Sidney, BC. Glen should be able to print any articles about gardens or garden articles with tourist attractions in our area. To all you writers out there, this is your chance to get published in a worldwide publication. This is the 70th anniversary of the ARS and we want to make it extra special. The ARS Board has just voted to increase the color pages in the Journal from 16 up to 36, so there should be lots of room for beautiful colour pictures with your articles. Anything that promotes our beautiful District 1 will be considered. Articles should be submitted ASAP during the next few months so that Glen can work them in over the next few journals. We should be able to get articles in the summer 2014 issue and fall 2014 too. So pick some of your favorite places and write a small article with pictures and submit it to Glen at: ars.editor@gmail.com

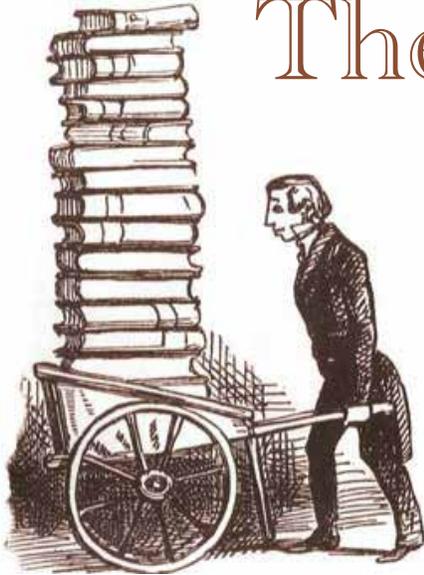
Ken Webb

Director, District 1

THE CALENDAR:

Wednesday, January 15 7:30 pm	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Annual General Meeting, Elections, and Potluck Dessert Extravaganza
Thursday, January 16 7:30 pm, Van Dusen	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Annual General Meeting, Elections, and Member Slides
Wednesday, February 12 7:30 pm, Van Dusen	Alpine Garden Club of BC Ken Marr: Plant Collecting in the Altai Mountains and Far Eastern Russia
Wednesday, February 19 7:30 pm	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Jacquie Bunse, Regional Apiary Inspector for the Ministry of Agriculture
Thursday, February 20 7:30 pm, Van Dusen	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Sylvia Mosterman: Maples and the World Maple Society conference
Wednesday, March 12 7:30 pm, Van Dusen	Alpine Garden Club of BC Rex Murfitt: Waterperry, a Unique English Estate with Saxifrages
Wednesday, March 19 7:30 pm	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Dennis Bottemiller: Species Rhododendrons for Our Gardens.
Thursday, March 20 7:30 pm, Van Dusen	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Dennis Bottemiller, propagator, Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden
Saturday, April 5 12:00-4:00 pm, Van Dusen	Alpine Garden Club of BC Annual Spring Show and Sale
Wednesday, April 9th 7:30 pm, Van Dusen	Alpine Garden of BC Nicola Ripley: Bringing the Mountains Home
Wednesday, April 16 7:30 pm	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Rosemary Prufer: Horticulture, the Crown Jewel of Oregon
Thursday, April 17 7:30 pm, Van Dusen	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Sean Rafferty: Rhododendrons and Companion Plants of Sichuan, China
Saturday, April 19 10:00 am - 3:00 pm	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Annual Spring Plant Sale: United Church, 5673-200th Street, Langley
April 24 - 26 Friday and Saturday 9:00 am - 10:30 pm	Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden 50 th Anniversary, Federal Way, Washington. Everyone Welcome. See here for details.
Saturday, May 3 10:00 am - 3:00 pm	Vancouver Rhododendron Society, Annual Show and Sale Park and Tilford Gardens, 333 Brooksbank Avenue, North Vancouver,
Wednesday, May 14 7:30 pm, Van Dusen	Alpine Garden Club of BC Richard Ramsden: Wild Flowers of Washington and the Wild Places They Grow
Thursday, May 15	Vancouver Rhododendron Society A Walk in the Park
Wednesday, May 21 7:30 pm	Fraser South Rhododendron Society The Fraser South Justly Famous Beer Bottle Truss Show

The Book Cart



Butterfly Gardening by Thomas C. Emmel, Ph.D.

Cavendish Books Inc. Vancouver, B.C. 1997
by Michael Friedman Publishing Group, Inc.
112 pages, approx. 104 colour photos, Index, Hardbound
ISBN 0-929050-87-8 (hardcover)

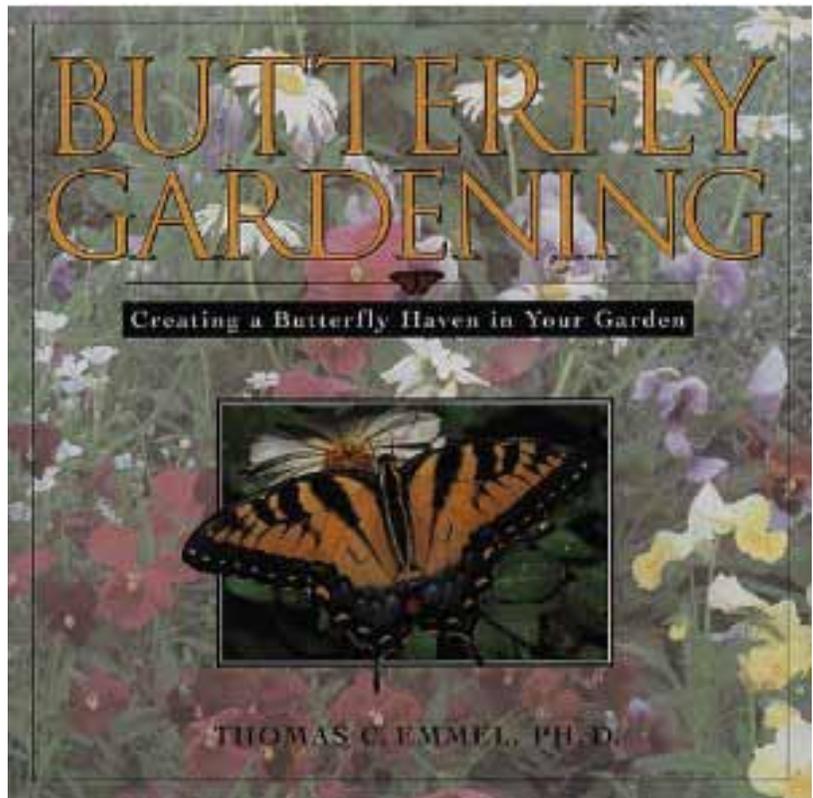
Dr. Thomas C. Emmel has been a professor of zoology and entomology at the University of Florida, Gainesville, since 1968. He is particularly interested in the ecology, biology, and conservation of butterflies, and travels annually to countries such as Malaysia, Kenya, Russia, Ghana, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, and Costa Rica to pursue his interests. He has done a number of projects with endangered species, including captive propagation and reintroduction of the Schaus' Swallowtail butterfly to the wild. Emmel is the author of 300 articles and more than 25 books, including *Butterflies*, *Butterflies of the Florida Keys*, *Florida's Fabulous Butterflies*, and *The Butterflies of Southern California*. He lives in Gainesville with five dogs, one Shetland pony, and four geese.

Butterfly Gardening, Creating a Butterfly Haven in Your Garden is dedicated to Mr. Ronald Boender, founder and director of Butterfly World in Coconut Creek, Florida; Mr. Clive P. Farrell, co-partner with Mr. Boender of Butterfly World; and Mrs. Deen Day of Georgia who played an instrumental role in founding the Day Butterfly Centre at Callaway Gardens, Georgia.

Butterfly gardening is a recent development in North America, as late as the 1980s, when a growing interest in butterflies started to develop and along with this interest, the desire to plant gardens specifically to attract butterflies. *Butterfly Gardening* is planned to help you organize your garden design and develop a butterfly garden appropriate to your home area and your local environment.

The book takes the reader through the steps of planning the butterfly garden and includes several practical plans for rectangular front and back yards, water sources, ponds, waterfalls, rocky crags, fruit trees to be incorporated into the design and special structures in the garden. An entire chapter is devoted to maintaining the butterfly garden and the handling of problems of pest control. The author has included a chapter on butterfly conservation and an additional chapter with a colourful gallery of butterfly photographs which are very useful for identification.

The Index covers butterfly names as well as plant names discussed in the various chapters of the book.



Margaret Hodgson

Rhododendron auriculatum

(Epithet: eared or auriculate)

Rhododendron auriculatum was discovered and collected in 1885 by Augustine Henry near Ichang in western Hubei, China. Four years later the species was described by [William Hemlsey](#), but was not introduced into cultivation until 1901 when Ernest Wilson collected it while working for the Veitch nurseries. It was reintroduced by him in 1907 and 1908. It first flowered at Caerhays, Cornwall in 1912.

R. auriculatum is a magnificent species with huge leaves and large fragrant white or pinkish-white flowers. It grows to towering heights between 18 and 35 feet and although it grows at relatively low altitudes (1,600 - 7,500 feet) it is quite hardy if not exposed to desiccating winter winds. Since it blooms

Species and their Hybrids		pollen ♂	
		B	b
pistil ♀	B	BB	Bb
	b	Bb	bb



very late in the season (late July and August) there is sometimes a danger of early frost damage if hardening off is incomplete.

R. auriculatum is very similar to members of Subsection Fortunea, especially *R. glanduliferum* and *R. fortunei* ssp. *discolor*, each sharing large, white, fragrant, late blooming flowers. *R. auriculatum* has long conical buds which have long, red perulae (bud scales) which are an attractive feature when the new growth starts to shoot. The branchlets are densely glandular, hairy and sticky. The leaves are oblong to oblong-lanceolate, up to one foot in length with an auriculate (eared) base, and are hairy and glandular on the lower surface.

This species stretches the blooming season by a meaningful amount and has the potential to parent a fine race of late-blooming fragrant hybrids, and indeed there have been some fine results.

Sean Rafferty



R. 'Polar Bear'

R. decorum ssp. *diaprepes* x *R. auriculatum*

J.B. Stevenson, 1926



R. 'Aladdin'

R. griersonianum x *R. auriculatum*

J. J. Crossfield, 1930

R. 'Argosy'

R. fortunei ssp. *discolor* x *R. auriculatum*

L. de Rothschild, 1933





R. 'Edna McCarty'
R. 'Alice' x *R. auriculatum*
E. Ostbo, 1960



R. 'Daisy Mae'
R. 'Mrs. Horace Fogg' x
R. 'Argosy Group'
unknown



R. 'Haag's Fabulous'
R. fortunei ssp. *fortunei* x
R. auriculatum
unregistered



R. 'Summer Summit'
R. maximum x (*R. auriculatum* x
R. fortunei ssp. *discolor*)
D. Leach, 1956



R. 'Lodauric Iceberg'
R. auriculatum x
R. 'Loderi Group'
Slocock, 1936



R. 'Summer Snow'
R. maximum x
(*R. ungeronii* x *auriculatum*)
D. Leach, 1969