



The Yak

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRASER SOUTH RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

VOLUME 28 NUMBER 6 JUNE 2014

R. hippophaeoides



R. wardii 'Evelyn Jack'

This Month's Meeting

The Fraser South Annual Potluck Picnic and Auction

Date: Saturday, June 7th, 2014. Set up @ 1:00 pm

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
	Nancy Moore	604-859-3690
	Kirsten Martin	604-465-2307
Programme:	Sean Rafferty	604-990-5353
Membership:	Ginny Fearing	604-857-4136
Newsletter:	Sean Rafferty	604-990-5353
Librarian:	Joan McGiveron	604-538-9347
Website:	Garth Wedemire	778-882-3834
Hospitality:	Brenda Macdonald	604-597-1849
BCCGC Liaison:	Rosemary Prufer	604-466-4929

<http://frasersouthernrhodos.ca/>

Quick Hits

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

And the winners are? Please see page 6.





Last Month: was the much anticipated Fraser South Justly Famous Beer Bottle Truss Show which was, of course, absolutely fabulous. There was a grand crowd of ardent participants willing to vaunt the treasure of their gardens with a plethora of gorgeous trusses most elegantly displayed. Colleen Bojczuk of Aldergrove Nurseries and Kirsten Martin of Erica Enterprises provided the stunning selection of prizes from their respective nurseries which were awarded to all category winners. Results are on page 6. It was a lovely evening to be among such grand company and surrounded by the beauty of our favourite genus. Equally enjoyable, was to acquit ourselves, once again, as the best fed and pampered chapter of the ARS. Congratulations to all who attended.

FROM THE EDITOR



This Month:

is our Annual Potluck Picnic and Auction, which will be held, once again, at the lovely home and garden of Karen Linton and Larry Morton. Merrymaking and socialising will ensue at 1:00 pm. A map to their home and the festivities is appended to this month's *Yak*.

Not only is this event one of our most pleasant gatherings of the year, it is also one of our most important fund-raisers of the rhododendron season. The disagreeable weather during our previous plant sale didn't allow for the usual financial infusion to our treasury this year. However, if advantage is taken of the recently announced reduced mortgage rates, one could allow for a small one to be placed on the family pile in order to bring a wheelbarrow full of pecuniary resources to bid with at this year's auction. This should help steer our treasury toward the road to recovery. I can't imagine anyone not owning a wheelbarrow, but if such is the case, you will be able to bid on one of the many that will be there ... or just fill all your pockets with largish bills, cheque books and credit cards.

Once again, I shall include below, Past President Brenda's, pithy instructions for a successful Picnic and Auction.

Bring your treasures to the home of Karen Linton and Larry Morton, any time after 1:00 pm - tiny exquisite rockery specimens you have been clever enough to replicate, divisions of large robust perennial border plants that have begun to threaten your tiny exquisite rockery specimens, the occasional rhododendron that no longer fits into your planting scheme, any small John Deere tractors lurking about unused in your garage, decorative planters, bear-proof bird feeders ... you know, the usual stuff that somebody out there desperately needs and wants. Then you need to pick up a similar volume of goods and chattels to take back home with you by engaging in a spirited bidding war for the privilege of doing so. It's perfect, it's the steady state theory of home and garden maintenance. No carbon credits required. It is so green, it is blinding, and the club puts some money in the piggy-bank for next year. Come on, we are depending on you!

As for the picnic part, here is the cunning plan. Bring:

- a chair to sit upon
- a plate to eat off
- cutlery to eat with
- a wobbley-pop of your choice, if desired
- a mug for the wobbley-pop of your choice, or the tea and coffee that will be provided
- your potluck contribution, for sharing with others
- utensils to serve your potluck contribution, if necessary
- any friends, neighbours, or visiting relatives whom you think would enjoy meeting us and learning more about the FSRS

Next month:

and August as well, will be a time to give you a reprieve from *The Yak* and we shall return in September. As you enjoy the bliss of your gardens this summer, please manage to have some future consideration for the raffle table for those items no longer needed in your own garden. Enjoy, and happy gardening.

Sean Rafferty



THE CALENDAR:

Saturday, June 7
Any time after 1:00 pm

Fraser South Annual Picnic and Auction.
At the Linton/Morton Estate

Wednesday, June 11
7:30 pm, Van Dusen

Alpine Garden Club of BC
Kenton Seth: Caucasus and Crevices; from Georgia to the Garden

Sunday, June 15
2:00 & 3:00 pm

VRS Annual Picnic: Erica Enterprises Nursery, 14021 Rippington Road,
Pitt Meadows. 2:00 pm to purchase plants. Picnic at 3:00 pm.

In Bloom Today





And the winners are ...

Twenty-first Annual Fraser South Beer Bottle Truss Show, May 21st, 2014

CLASSES Division I

Species Classes

- Class 1. Rhododendron (lepidotes)
Les Clay - cinnabarinum
- Class 2. Azalea (deciduous and evergreen)
Chris Hodgson - R. kiusianum 'Komo Kulshan'
- Class 3. Hymenantha (elepidotes)
Chris Hodgson - R. scyphocalyx

Division II

Hybrid Classes

- Class 4. Any lepidote hybrid
No entry
- Class 5. Any deciduous azalea hybrid
Les Clay - R. 'Rebecca'
- Class 6. Any evergreen azalea hybrid
Scot Henney - R. '(orphan azalea)'

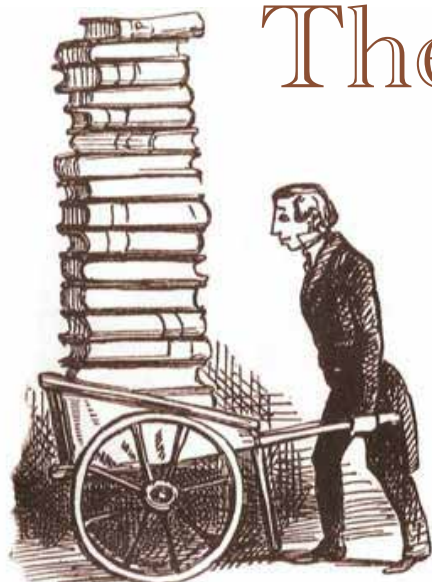
Colour Classes

- Class 7a: Red - (small)
Wenonah March - R. '(unknown red)'
- 7b: Red - (large)
Sean and Brenda - R. 'Lem's Stormcloud'
- Class 8a: White - (small)
Barbara Innes - R. 'Unknown'
- 8b: White - (large)
Sean and Brenda - R. 'Loderi King George'
- Class 9a: Pink - (small)
Wenonah March - R. 'Fantastica'
- 9b: Pink - (large)
Vern Finley - R. 'Britannia x yakushmanum'
- 9c: Pink - (really, really, large)
Chris Hodgson - R. 'Lem's Monarch'
- Class 10a: Yellow & Cream (small)
(Tie) *Sean and Brenda - R. 'Nike'*
Larry Morton - R. 'Apricot Fantasy'
- 10b: Yellow & Cream (large)
Wenonah March - R. 'Karen Triplett'
- Class 11a: Mauve & Purple - small
Colleen Bojczuk - R. 'Edith Bosley'
- Class 11b: Mauve & Purple - large
Vern Finley - R. 'A. Bedford'
- Class 12: Orange
Colleen Bojczuk - R. 'Peach Frost'
- Class 13: Bi-colour
Chris Hodgson - R. 'Ring of Fire'

Division III

Special Classes

- Class 14: Non-registered hybrid
Les Clay - R. 'Tally Ho x Polar Bear'
- Class 15: Truss with the Best Fuzzy Foliage
Sean and Brenda - R. 'Ellie Sather'
- Class 16a: Best Blotched - small
Chuck Floyd - R. 'Black Sport'
- Class 16b: Best Blotched - large
Harold Fearing - R. 'Grandma's Hat'
- Class 17: Best Speckled
Barbara Innes - R. '(unknown)'
- Class 18: Most Lurid
Larry Morton - R. 'Edwin O. Weber'
- Class 19: Best Last Year's Truss
No entry
- Class 20: Most Elegantly Weevil-Notched
Barbara Innes - R. '(unknown)'
- Class 21: Best Hammerhead
Harold Fearing - R. 'Midnight Magic'
- Class 22: Most Flaccid
Larry Morton - R. 'Thor'
- Class 23a: Best Miniature Truss (species)
Harold Fearing - R. camplogynum 'Patricia'
- Class 23b: Best Miniature Truss (hybrid)
Sean and Brenda - R. 'Cinkeys'
- Class 24a: Most Fragrant Rhododendron
Sean and Brenda - R. Loderi King George'
- Class 24b: Most Fragrant Azalea
(Tie) *Harold Fearing - R. 'Snowbird'*
Colleen Bojczuk - R. viscosum Antelope
- Class 25: Bridesmaid Class
Bryan Williams - R. 'Unknown Purple
- Judged**
- Lionheart Award: best over-all yellow, any Class
Les Clay - R. 'Karen Triplett'
- Aggregate Winners -**
- First** - Sean and Brenda
Second - (Tie) Chris Hodgson/Harold Fearing
Third - (Tie) Wenonah March/Barbara Innes/Larry Morton/Colleen Bojczuk/Les Clay
- All winners were awarded the plant of their choice from the wonderful selection provided by Colleen Bojczuk (Aldergrove Nursery), and Kirsten Martin (Erica Enterprises); The Aggregate Winners also each went home with a Brobdignagian bag of M&M's.



The Book Cart

Beauty by Design: Inspired Gardening in the Pacific Northwest

by Bill Terry and Rosemary Bates.

206 pages, 205 colour photos, Endnotes, Plant Index, Acknowledgements. Softbound, Copyright 2013, Published by Touchwood Editions, Victoria, B.C.

ISBN 978-1-77151-012-7 (softcover) \$24.95 + tax Cdn.

Bill Terry, a retired CBC executive, and his wife, Rosemary Bates, also formerly with CBC, have lived in Sechelt, on British Columbia's Sunshine Coast since 1994. Bill, whose broadcast career spanned thirty-five years in both radio and television management in four Canadian cities, is author of *Blue Heaven: Encounters with the Blue Poppy* (2009), *Beyond Beauty: Hunting the Wild Blue Poppy* (2012), as well as *Beauty by Design: Inspired Gardening*

in the Pacific Northwest (2013), which he co-authored with Rosemary. Bill specializes in plant propagation and has become well-known for his lectures on Asian Poppies (*Meconopsis*).

Rosemary Bates also enjoyed a career in production with CBC radio in Winnipeg and Toronto. She has been a volunteer for the Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden for many years and is also on the board of the Coast Recital Society. For several years, she was programming co-ordinator for the Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Arts.

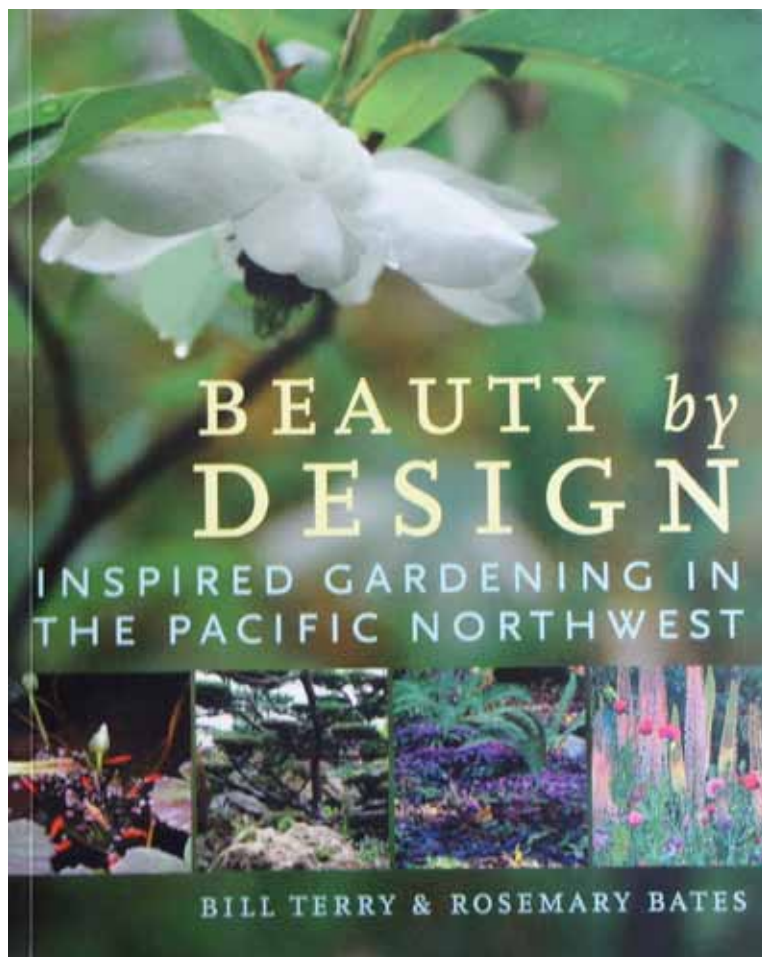
When the two of them settled on the Sunshine Coast, they endeavoured to create the perfect garden.

On the front page of our copy, Bill wrote a short note - 'For all our friends of the Fraser South Rhododendron Society, with best wishes. "Paint as you Plant," Bill Terry & Rosemary Bates, 20/November/2013. The words "Paint as you Plant" are perfect when reading this beautiful book as the gardens described, ranging from Bowen Island to the Kitsap Peninsula, the Sunshine Coast, Vancouver Island, Salt Spring Island, Bainbridge Island, Denman Island and finally the third-floor roof top garden of Glen Patterson in Vancouver, are all equally art treasures.

The writing is beautifully rendered and the photographs clearly explain the quote at the front of our book. Many of the gardeners are artists and/or many of these artists are gardeners. What a happy outcome, but right at the beginning of Chapter One, Kathy Leishman states that gardening is an art, but it is an art that can be learned.

The reader will pick up many useful ideas from this book as well as an unusually enjoyable experience reading about these beautiful gardens that Bill Terry and Rosemary Bates have visited. It is in our library.





Margaret Hodgson



Rhododendron catawbiense

(Epithet: After the Catawba River, North Carolina)

R. catawbiense was described by the french botanist **André Michaux (also spelled Michaud)** in 1803. It grows on the slopes and summits of mountains in North Carolina and Virginia at elevations of 3,900-6,500 feet, often in the open. In cultivation, *R. catawbiense* grows 8-10 feet tall and possibly 12 feet broad, but somewhat larger in the wild. Its leaves are dark green, broadly oval, 3-6 inches long and 1.5-3 inches wide, with an underside of downy, pale green hairs. The 2.5 inch flowers come in late May and early June with fourteen to twenty in a firm, symmetrical, rounded truss to six inches across. Their colour is lilac-purple, rose, to white with a yellow-green basal blotch.

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



R. catawbiense
Illustration from
Curtis's Botanical Magazine



R. catawbiense
image: Garth Wedemire



R. catawbiense v. Catalpa
image: Garth Wedemire

Rhododendron catawbiense was imported to Europe in 1800 and to England in 1809 where it has a long history of use in hybridisation, particularly for its quality of cold hardiness. Rated at -30° F. it was introduced to *R. arboreum* in order to improve hardiness in red flowered hybrids.

The British and Europeans made much better use in hybridisation of the American *R. catawbiense* than the American nursery trade itself. The European nurseries of Seidel in Germany, Koster and Den Ouden in Holland, Waterer, Veitch, and Standish and Noble in England were foremost in the production of the many hardy 'Ironclad' rhododendrons of the nineteenth century using *R. catawbiense* as a hardy parent. In the 1940's, Shamarello, started to produce many American hybrids that took advantage *R. catawbiense's* capacity to withstand cold, bitter winds and exposure in order to tolerate the severe climates of the midwest and northeast United States.

While *R. catawbiense* is seldom used these days by hybridisers, losing favour to newer Asiatic species, we shouldn't neglect the garden worthiness of some of the older *R. catawbiense* ironclads, several of which are on display in the following pages.

Sean Rafferty



R. catawbiense in the wild. Image: Blue Ridge Kitties, CC BY-NC-SA - 2.0



R. 'Atrosanguineum'
R. catawbiense x ?
H. Waterer, 1851



R. 'Caractacus'
R. catawbiense x ?
H. Waterer, 1865



R. 'Elie'
R. "Cunningham's White" x *R. catawbiense*
A. Shammarello, 1955



R. 'Fatuosum Flora Pleno'
R. catawbiense x *R. ponticum*
Francoisi Brothers, 1846



R. 'Marie Fortie'
R. catawbiense x ?
B. Fortie, 1925



R. 'Lord Roberts'
R. catawbiense x ?
Mason, 1900



R. 'Nile'
R. catawbiense x *R. wardii* ssp. *wardii*
D. Leach, 1954



R. 'Pauline'
R. fortunei ssp. *fortunei* x *R. catawbiense*
E. V. Mezzit, 1958



R. 'Quinte 11'
R. catawbiense x ?
T. J. Seidel, 1906,



R. 'Tuscany'
R. 'Mrs. Furnival' x *R. catawbiense*
D. G. Leach, 1953



R. 'Calsap'
R. catawbiense v. *Catalgla* x *R.* 'Sappho'
M. W. Michener, 1965



R. 'Straw Hat'
R. catawbiense v. *Catalgla* x *R.* 'Mars'
J. B. Gable, 1972



R. 'Mrs. Helen Koster'
R. 'Mrs J. J. Crosfield' x *R. catawbiense*
M. Koster, 1930



R. 'Roslyn'
R. catawbiense 'Purpureum Elegans' x *R.* 'Everestianum'
P. D. Vossburg, 1973 (Images: hirsutum.info)

FSRS Annual Picnic and Auction

Karen Linton and Larry Morton
8219 - 197 Street, Langley
604-888-6564

Saturday, June 7th anytime after 1:00 pm
from the south, on 200 Street exit, go left (west) along 82nd Ave and turn right on 197 Street, or
from the north, on 200 Street, go right (west) along 83rd Ave and turn left on 197 Street

