



This Month's Meeting

Date: Wednesday, November 19th, 2014 @ 7:30 pm

Topic: **The Myth of Organic Gardening**

Speaker: **Dr. Iain E. Taylor**

Plant sales: Sue Klapwijk

2014 Officers

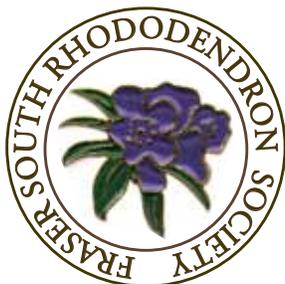
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<http://frasersoutherhododendron.ca/>

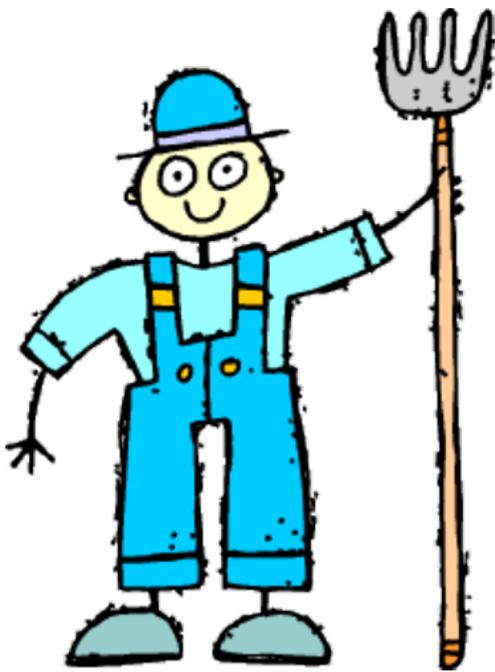
Quick Hits

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



Since next month's meeting will be our annual Christmas Potluck, I offer a reminder that it will occur **one week and one hour earlier** than our regular general meetings. Our Christmas Potluck will be on **Wednesday, December 10th at 6:00 pm**. More information may be gleaned inside these tidings on page 5.



President's Remarks :

Though the year may be winding down, your executive continues to wind itself up looking for new, informative and entertaining speakers, more fingers-in-the-dirt ideas and engaging garden tours. The topic for this month's talk, "The Myth of Organic Gardening," by Dr. Iain Taylor of UBC, promises to be both entertaining and maybe even a little controversial. Good! Next month, on Dec 10 to be precise, we'll hold our annual Xmas dinner where we pull out all the stops. More on upcoming meetings elsewhere in this YAK.

And to keep everyone busy between meetings, we've arranged a few homework projects. (OK, stop that groaning there in the back row!)

First, we invite members to each bring sprigs and blossoms of plants of current interest in their garden. We'll have a separate table set aside for them. Winter blossoms are especially appreciated at this time when little else is in bloom. We recall how much we have enjoyed (and hopefully will continue to enjoy) Vern Finley's monthly show-and-tells. This is an attempt to fill the gap on occasions when Vern can't make the meeting.

Second, we decided to make an addition to next year's April sale with a "Members' Table" at which members own plants will be available for sale. At an adjacent soapbox, garden advice will be cheerfully dispensed by two

of our best-known FSRS ambassadors, Bill and Carla Bischoff. The purpose is two-fold: to increase club revenue and attract new members. I emphasize that the intention is not to compete with our own growers. We definitely will not be selling rhodos, azaleas, camellias or acers. But companion plants (ground covers, perennials, ferns, hostas, heucheras, hellebores, cyclamens, etc.), grasses, herbs, bulbs, vines, shrubs and even vegetables (rhubarb?) are fair game; all taken as divisions and cuttings from members' own gardens. And 100% of profits from this table will go to FSRS. Members' Table will be an experiment for 2015, which if successful will be repeated in future sales. It will be a club project with all members encouraged to pitch in. So please get busy dividing those perennials before they disappear from view. And it's a great opportunity at the same time to get rid of some of those one gallon pots that are cluttering up the potting shed!

Third, remember that sheet passed around at the October meeting, inviting suggestions for our nominations to the ARS for "Rhodo of the Year"? I think the sheet caught members by surprise, freezing up their mental hard drives and resulting in only four responses. So here's another chance to add your favourites to the list. Over the next day or two please do a garden walkabout, Greer in hand, and have a one-on-one debate with yourself over your favourite lepidote, elepidote, evergreen and deciduous azalea (you may choose up to two from each category). The sign up sheet will be made available again at the November meeting to record your responses. It should be an entertaining exercise.



R. erosum
image: Warren Berg

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One final thought. The most recent edition of JARS included an article by Bengt Karlsson of Sweden, titled "We are Only in it for the Leaves" in which the author praises the incredible beauty and diversity of leaves of species rhododendrons and their first generation hybrids. To that I say "Amen."

Chris Hodgson



FROM THE EDITOR

Last Month:

Pruning was the subject and Janis Matson was the perfect individual to handle the delivery. She held her audience in thrall, with her stage presence from start to finish, while explaining the science and demonstrating the art of pruning. Particularly enlightening was her transformation of two scraggly, nursery plant specimens into very attractive, garden-worthy plants. It was a delightful and informative lecture and we should have her return at a later date to impart more of her wealth of wisdom.

Also last month some adventurous folk from our chapter trekked on down to Dunedin, New Zealand, in order to attend the International Rhododendron Conference. The Yak received a picture of the group and I was interested to note that five of the thirteen Canadian attendees were members of Fraser South.



From left to right: Glen Jamieson, Ginny Fearing, Bob Ramik, Dorothy Jamieson, Garth Wedemire, Laura Grant, Norm Senn, Elaine Derkach, Linda Derkach, Sue Grant, Harold Fearing, Margaret Charlton, Charlie Sale.

This Month:

Dr. Iain Taylor, Professor Emeritus of Botany at UBC and the Project Director of the UBC Botanical Gardens will speak to us on the myth of organic gardening. Iain lectures on a wide range of horticultural topics and I very much look forward to what he has to say on this topic. His bio follows:

Iain Taylor was born on the Welsh side of the border with England at Chester. He was educated in North Wales and at the University of Liverpool where he graduated with a B.Sc (1961) and Ph.D. (1964) in Botany. After 2 years as a high school teacher, he returned to university research and teaching at the University of Texas. He moved

to UBC in 1968 and retired on January 1st 2004. He is now a Professor emeritus of Botany, and a volunteer project director at the UBC Botanical Garden, where he edits the Garden's journal, *Davidsonia*. He is also a Senior Research Fellow in the W. Maurice Young Centre for Applied Ethics. After 35 years studying the physiology and biophysics of plant growth, his current research and teaching interests are in science writing, journal editing and science ethics, including academic professionalism, and risks associated with plant rarity, genetic engineering, and pesticides.

He joined the Editorial Board of Canadian Journal of Botany in 1980 and was Editor-in-chief from 1989 to 1999. He was Assistant Editor-in-chief of NRC Research Journals from 1991 to 2006 and serves on the editorial boards of the BC Journal of Environmental Management and the Journal of Mountain Science. His edited book, entitled *Genetically Engineered Plants: Interim Policies, Uncertain Legislation*, was published by Haworth Press, NY, in March 2007.

Next Month:

is turkey time and our annual Christmas potluck dinner. Margaret Hodgson will prepare the turkey and trimmings and Joan McGiveron will bake the ham. I believe that few people realise that these two wonderful ladies are descended from family who were members of [L'Ordre des Chevaliers du Saint Esprit](#), whose name was



Merry Company, Three Men at a Table and a Woman Standing
Jan Miense Molenaer 1640-1650

synonymous with luxurious banquets, fine cooking and Le Cordon Bleu. It helps one to understand why our potluck is one of the most extraordinary feasts of the year. To aid in the merriment of the occasion there will be the traditional punches 'A' and 'B', and it is your choice in which one to imbibe, depending on the degree of merry you aim to achieve. Kirsten Martin will provide serviettes, table coverings and centre pieces. Chris Hodgson has a brain teaser quiz to present to us, and if you expect to do well in these sorts of things, please check the label on the punch that you are drinking.

All that you are required to do is bring along your favourite potluck offering to share and a plate to eat from, cutlery to eat with, a vessel to drink from and, if required, any serving utensils to help in dispensing your offering.

If you happened to whiz by page one of this epistle without absorbing the information under the *Quick Hits* header, please be aware that the December Christmas Potluck will be one week earlier than our usual general meetings and will start one hour earlier at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, December 10th. Feel free to adorn yourselves in festive finery and jump right in.

The setting-up crew at 5:00 pm, comprising the Hodgsons, Evelyn, Chuck and Kirsten, will be

pleased to let anyone join in with them at that time for the pre-party merrymaking.

Other Duties as Assigned:

This month will see Colleen Bojczuk tending to our tea and coffee needs and we shall all help her by bringing some tasty morsels for the calorie table. Also, we are all anticipating that the ever-popular raffle table will be groaning under a wealth of horticultural treasure.

The Business Stuff:

The American Rhododendron Society 70th Anniversary Convention

May 6-10th 2015

Mary Winspear Centre, Sidney, BC, Canada

The Rhododendron Chapters on Vancouver Island will be hosting the ARS 2015 Convention in Sidney, from May 6th through 10th. Registration will hopefully be ready by the time that you receive this newsletter, Check out the website .

There is most impressive group of speakers which will set the gold standard for all subsequent conventions to try and emulate, and there will be garden tours galore. This should be a fabulous event and everyone should make every effort to attend. Please visit their [website here](#). The wise among you will start to book their hotel rooms immediately.

Sean Rafferty

The BC Council of Garden Clubs Report:

I recently attended the fall meeting of the BC Council of Garden Clubs at Metro Town October 18th representing our club.

My companion for the day was Kirsten Martin who sat as the representative for the Vancouver chapter. We tried to leave early from Pitt Meadows since we knew the tables would fill up quickly once the doors were opened. Lucky for us it was smooth sailing and we arrived in good time to get a decent seat. No one really wants to sit with their backs to the various speakers.

The meeting started in a fairly chaotic fashion with computer issues and the itinerary all over the map but finally things got moving in the right direction. Once housekeeping was attended to we were able to listen to one of the scholarship recipients who received a grant of \$800.00 to go towards her education at the University of the Fraser Valley. These monies are provided by the B.C. Council of Garden Clubs Scholarship Trust Fund. Clubs like ours make donations to go towards students studying horticulture and any related sciences. It is important that these students get this type of recognition for their education and any other support that we can offer.

Membership in the BC Council is very healthy with 185 members. According to the secretary's report 171 of the members also opted to purchase group liability insurance through the Council. This year the Council has also included allotment and community gardens to the list in recognition of the huge interest in growing your own food.

After a detailed talk on using Facebook to promote your garden club we were able to dig into a tasty buffet lunch and connect with the vendors to check out their wares, including our very own Bill and Carla Bischoff.

After lunch was when we really get to enjoy ourselves. There were two speakers for the afternoon. Fred Collay gave us a talk on living walls including products for inside the home. My favourite though was Des Kennedy from Denman Island. A gentle man with a wonderful way with a pen, he read excerpts from his new book 'Heart and Soil'. Kirsten can attest to how much I enjoyed his reading, I was howling until tears ran down my cheeks. He had an uncanny eye for how a garden clubs function and described the membership with deadly accuracy. Luckily Mr. Kennedy brought several copies of his book to sell, so racing to the front with cash in hand and avoiding a major crash, I was able to obtain an autographed book blurring out nonsense as one does when is bedazzled. Horti worship at its best.

Finally came the raffle with ten tickets in hand and Kirsten ready to spring like a gazelle at any moment we walked away with one prize each and a sense of belonging to something special.

Rosemary Pruffer, Plantaholic

THE CALENDAR:

Wednesday, November 19 7:30 pm	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Dr. Iain Taylor: Myths of Organic Gardening
Thursday, November 20 7:30 pm Van Dusen	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Mike Stewart: Rhododendrons-Their Journey to your Garden
Wednesday, December 10 6:00 pm set up	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Annual Christmas Potluck
Wednesday, December. 10 7:30-9:30 pm Van Dusen	The Alpine Garden Club of BC Annual Christmas Potluck and Rare Plant Auction
Wednesday, January 14 7:30 pm Van Dusen	Alpine Garden Club of BC Botanical Illustration: Dana Cromie
Thursday, January 15 7:30 pm Van Dusen	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Annual General Meeting and members slides
Wednesday, January 21 7:30 pm	Fraser South Rhododendron Society AGM, Members slides, and Potluck Dessert Extravaganza
Wednesday, February 18 7:30 pm	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Steve Hootman, Plant hunter and Director of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden
Thursday, February 19 7:30 pm Van Dusen	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Steve Hootman, Plant Hunter, and Director/ Curator of The Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden
Wednesday, March 18th 7:30 pm	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Tammyanne Mathew, Sweetwater Garden Designs: Container floral design
Saturday, April 18 10:00 am-4:00 pm	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Plant Sale United Church Hall, 5673 - 200th Street Langley
Saturday, May 2 Park and Tilford Gardens	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Show and Sale Park and Tilford Gardens: 330 Brooksbank Avenue, North Vancouver
Wednesday, May 20 7:30 pm	Fraser South Rhododendron Society The Justly Famous Beer Bottle Truss Show



R. occidentale
RSBG

Incredible Edibles

There are ungenerous critics who may accuse me of being a month tardy with the recipes found below. My preference is to be perceived as brilliantly avant-garde and prescient in serving them to you eleven months in advance. (ed.)

Remember, remember the fifth of November
Gunpowder, treason and plot.
I see no reason why gunpowder, treason
Should ever be forgot.....”

With thanks to Margaret Hodgson for the following two recipes

Yorkshire Parkin (To be eaten on Guy Fawkes or Bonfire Night, Nov. 5)

- 8 oz/220g soft butter (1 cup)
- 4 oz/110g soft, dark brown sugar (1/2 cup)
- 2oz / 55g black treacle/molasses (1/4 cup)
- 7oz / 200g golden syrup/ corn syrup (3/4 cup)
- 5oz/ 120g medium oatmeal (2/3 cup)
- 7 oz/ 200g self raising flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 4 tsp ground ginger
- 2 tsp nutmeg
- 1 tsp allspice
- 2 large eggs, beaten
- 2 tbsp milk
- Prep Time: 20 minutes
- Cook Time: 90 minutes



Preparation

Heat the oven to 275°F 1

- Grease an 8” x 8”/ 20cm x 20cm square cake tin.
- In a large heavy-based saucepan melt together the butter, sugar, treacle, golden syrup over a gentle heat. Do not allow the mixture to boil; you simply need to melt these together.
- In a large, spacious, baking bowl stir together all the dry ingredients. Gradually add the melted butter mixture stirring to coat all the dry ingredients and mix thoroughly.
- Gradually, beat in the eggs a few tablespoons at a time. Finally add the milk and again stir well.
- Pour the mixture into the prepared tin and cook for 1½ hours until firm and set and a dark golden brown.
- Remove the Parkin from the oven and leave to cool in the tin. Once cool store the Parkin in an airtight tin for a minimum of 3 days if you can resist eating it. You can even leave it up to a week before eating and the flavours really develop and the mixture softens even further and become moist and sticky. The Parkin will keep up to two weeks in an airtight container.

Incredible Edibles

Spiced Pumpkin Soup (For Halloween)

Makes 8 servings

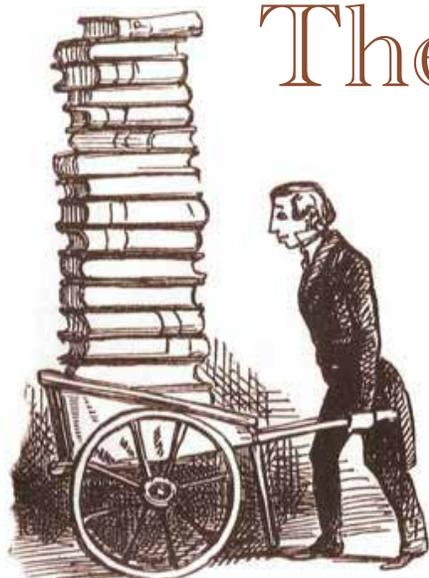
- 1 1/2 tablespoons butter
- 3/4 cup chopped carrot
- 3/4 cup chopped celery
- 3/4 cup chopped ripe banana
- 1/2 onion, chopped
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 whole clove
- 5 cups low-salt chicken broth
- 2 cups canned pure pumpkin
- 3/4 cup canned unsweetened coconut milk
- 1/4 cup sweetened condensed milk
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground coriander
- 1/2 teaspoon crumbled dried sage leaves
- 1/4 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1/4 teaspoon yellow curry powder
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro

Preparation

Melt butter in heavy large pot over medium-high heat. Add carrot and next 6 ingredients and sauté until vegetables are soft, about 10 minutes. Discard bay leaf. Transfer mixture to processor and blend until smooth. Return mixture to pot. Add broth and all remaining ingredients except cilantro. Boil soup over medium-high heat 15 minutes to blend flavours. Cool slightly. Working in batches, puree soup in blender until smooth. Return soup to pot. Season to taste with salt and pepper. (Can be made 1 day ahead. Cool slightly, then cover and refrigerate.)

Bring soup to simmer. Divide among 8 bowls. Sprinkle with cilantro and serve.





The Book Cart

The Gossler Guide to the Best Hardy Shrubs by Roger, Eric, and Marjory Gossler.

204 pages, 146 colour photos, Hardiness Zones in Detail, Shrubs for Specific Sites and Purposes, Index. Hardbound, Copyright 2009, Published by Timber Press, Inc., Portland, Oregon, USA. ISBN 978-0-88192-908-9 (hardcover) \$30.06 + tax Cdn. (Chapters)

Roger Gossler is one of those rare individuals who knew his career from birth. He became interested in plants at an early age and quickly became a leader in promoting the use of woody trees and shrubs. Roger is the buyer and main grower for Gossler Farms Nursery. He avidly researches what is new in the trade and worthy of inclusion in the nursery's catalogue. Gossler Farms Nursery is currently operated by two brothers and their mother and covers roughly 10 acres including the production facilities and the display

gardens. They have tried over the years to find the proper balance between being big enough to support themselves and small enough to still be a small family business. The family has been in the Springfield, Oregon, area for 120 years and have farmed this area for most of that. The nursery remained a side business to the farming until 1985 when they quit farming and established the nursery as the primary operation. In the 1950s an interest in ornamental plants started to develop in the family, and to help purchase more varieties of trees and shrubs they started to buy extras to sell to local landscapers. This quickly developed into a large collection of magnolias that is still one of the larger private collections in the world. Because of the magnolias, they became active in the Magnolia Society International and started to develop a customer base around the country and the world.

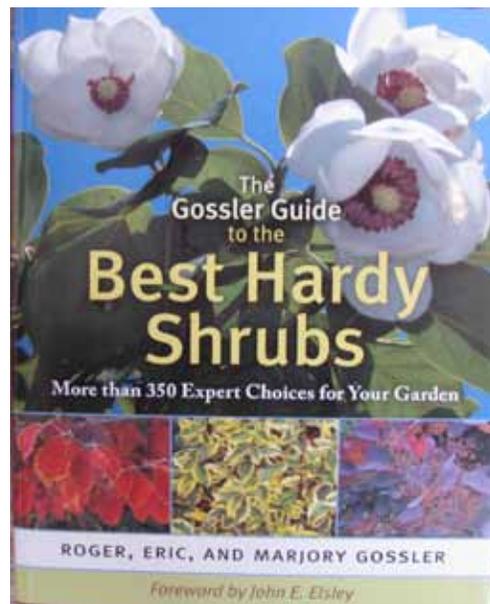
Eric Gossler grew up in the Gossler family farm and nursery. Eric is primarily responsible for physical operations, construction, and maintenance in the family enterprise. He is also the main packer for shipping, and boxes most of the orders personally.

Marjory Gossler is responsible for the office operations at Gossler Farms Nursery where she has worked for the past 55 years.

The Gossler Guide to the Best Hardy Shrubs, More than 350 Expert Choices for your Garden is an ideal book for our west coast climate as many of the shrubs suggested in the various chapters thrive here. For most homeowners, shrubs are an essential ingredient in the yard or garden. They provide shade, flowers, and attractive foliage throughout the entire year. Shrubs provide privacy and screen out eyesores, while giving a sense of solidity and permanence to the garden. Unfortunately at many garden centres, the choice of shrubs is often too predictable and many times not suitable for our climate. Too many gardens look so similar, but with a little research of the best shrubs, a garden can take on its own character and be transformed into a scene of beauty and serenity. This book includes a guide to more than 350 beautiful, versatile, and easily-grown shrubs. Included are time-tested favorites such as Japanese maples, witch hazels, and magnolias, as well as less common shrubs such as *Fatsia japonica* (Japanese Aralia) and *Corylopsis*. (Wich Hazel).

The Plant Profiles chapter describe the plant's main characteristics, give its height and spread, and lists the growing conditions the plant needs to thrive. The remaining chapters of the book comprise a very well-organized body of information over six chapters ranging from How to Think About Climate and Growing Conditions to a very long and excellent chapter, A to Z Plant Directory, which goes into great detail of many shrubs. The last chapter is followed by the information on the Hardiness Zones, the Shrubs for Specific Sites and Purposes and a good Index. The detailed photographs are very helpful in adding to information about the shrubs. Plant descriptions are also very detailed.

Margaret Hodgson



Rhododendron arborescens

(Epithet: Becoming treelike)

R. arborescens was discovered by the famous American botanist **John Bartram**, and described, in 1814, by **Frederick Traugott Pursh** from plants seen in the Blue ridge Mountains of Pennsylvania and in Bartram's garden.

It is a medium to large shrub to fifteen feet or more. *R. arborescens* has a very wide distribution from New York and Pennsylvania south to Georgia and Alabama and west to Tennessee, growing at elevations of 1,000-5,000 feet in stream sides, moist woods and mountain tops. This wide distribution

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



R. arborescens

Line drawing by Rodella A. Purves



results in *R. arborescens* being a variable species. It has branchlets which are yellow-brown and glabrous with smooth lustrous leaves 4 inches long by 1 inch wide. The inflorescence has 3-7 flowers which appear with or after the leaves. The corolla is 1.5-2 inches long and is white, often tinged pink, sometimes with a yellow blotch and a wonderful fragrance described as heliotrope-cinnamon. Style and stamens are reddish, prominent and twice as long as the tube, creating a very striking effect. It blooms very late in June and July, which to my mind assures its garden worthiness. Notwithstanding *R. luteum* and *R. atlanticum* and that fragrance is an entirely subjective matter, I find the sweet, fresh scent of *R. arborescens* to be the most appealing of all Subgenus Pentanthera. It is with great regret that our *R. arborescens* was one of the plants in the North Vancouver garden that was too large to relocate to the Island.

Some images of hybrids using *R. arborescens* are found on the following page.

Sean Rafferty



R. 'Ribbon Candy'
R. viscosum x *R. arborescens*
E. Mezitt, 1965



R. 'Weston's Innocence'
R. arborescens x *R. viscosum*
E. Mezitt, 1963



R. 'Sommerduft'
R. viscosum x *R. arborescens*
H. Hachmann, 1984



R. 'Pink and Sweet'
R. arborescens x unknown
E. Mezitt 1963



R. 'Popsicle'
R. viscosum x *R. arborescens*
E. Mezitt, 1963



R. 'Quiet Thoughts'
R. unknown x *R. arborescens*
E. Mezitt, 1980