



This Month's Meeting

Date: Wednesday, September 17th, 2014 @ 7:30 pm

Topic: **Beneficial Insects**

Speaker: **Conway Lum**

Plant sales: Sue Klapwijk

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	778-846-6732
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://frasersoutherhododendron.ca/>

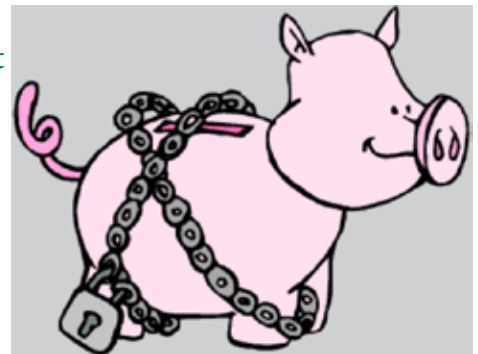
Fraser South Rhododendron Society
is a chapter of the
American Rhododendron Society

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



Quick Hits

Listen up, guys and gals, as it is that time of year again. The time to break open the piggy bank or dig up those coffee tins which are filled with loot out in the backyard, and then mosey on down to the last page of this month's *Yak*



and fill out your membership form. Please bring it, along with the swag, to Ginny at this month's meeting.

President's Remarks



'The times they are a-changin.'

Welcome back to another season at our favorite rhodo club. I trust you all have had a very enjoyable gardening season, although if your garden is anything like ours it's definitely suffering from the late summer blahs: droopy rhodos, wilting perennials and loads of weeds. No matter, we live in hope.

Remember that Bob Dylan tune from the sixties? It seems appropriate, as we've had a number of changes in the club over the past several

months. Sadly, we've lost valued members Arlene Darby, Mike Bale and Dalen Bayes, all long-standing members who contributed so much to the vitality of Fraser South. More recently Garth Wedemire and Sue Grant moved to "The Island", along with Brenda Macdonald and Sean Rafferty who are in the process of moving to the metropolis of Shirley, reported to lie somewhere west of Sooke, but we are not quite sure. So we're looking for new programme and hospitality chairs, a new barker for the raffle and new members. Any volunteers to fill the above vacancies will be welcome. And don't be shy to invite friends to our meetings, no strings attached.

The good news is Garth has revamped our website and will continue as webmaster until we can manage on our own. And Sean and Ratso have very kindly consented to continue their role as co-editors of *The Yak*. They request that we feed them on a regular basis with articles of interest. Both have e-mail access over there: <seanraff@shaw.ca>. By the way, Ratso is totally fine with catnip, mice and mole stories. We will certainly miss Sean's entertaining performance as MC and plantsman supreme at our monthly raffle, one of our monthly highlights. As program chair, Sean has also mapped out an almost complete program of speakers for this coming season. I think you will be as impressed as I was to hear the lineup.



R. dendrocharis



R. campylocarpum ssp.
campylocarpum

And due to executive absenteeism, our September meeting will have Past-President Brenda officiating once again, with Sean running the raffle.

Finally, your executive is looking into coming up with a field trip or two in the not-distant future, preferably by bus (your Pres. hates driving). Stay tuned.

And one final suggestion: this fall, before all your perennials have died back and become unidentifiable, please consider dividing and potting up the surplus for spring raffles or plant sales. A varietal name attached would add considerably to the cachet and value of your plant. More on this subject later.

Chris Hodgson



FROM THE EDITOR

Last Month:

or at least when last we met in June at the Potluck Picnic and Astonishingly Awe-inspiring Auction, was a marvelous gathering of comrades and plant loving junkies.

The picnic part was magical, as always, with so many of the kinds of delicious foods that you love but never make for yourself, all set out beautifully before you akin to a dining table belonging to Henry the Eighth. I believe that I am rather well endowed with all of the seven Deadlies but Gluttony is really my true strength and where I excel. Pot lucks just work for me. No formula, rhyme nor reason, just sublime satisfaction.

Potluck Picnics work anywhere but with the ambience of Karen and Larry's grand garden and lovely home they become haute cuisine. We can not be too effusive with our gratitude to the both of them for their continuing generosity in providing us with such a wonderful venue.



The auction part was also prodigious and proving to be, possibly with an assist from the "jolly punch", our biggest fund-raiser of the year.

We seem continually to outshine ourselves with the largesse of our donations to the auction each year. The bounty is unrivalled and such a great boon to our group's financial health. Please continue with the generosity and please take notice of the rewards for successfully bidding on some of these treasures.

Rumour has it that Evelyn, with funds accumulated from the sale of shot-glass portions of the elixir from the 'Fountain of Youth', of which she was the successful bidder, is now negotiating to purchase Costa Rica.

A fine time was had associating with the loveliest of people and



everyone should pat themselves on their back for work well done and a successful day.



This Month:

Beneficial Insects

Conway Lum, speaks on an extraordinarily wide range of garden topics and has been doing so locally for a great many years. This month he will speak to us on beneficial insects. We all have a pretty good idea which insects wear the black hats but it would be of great benefit for us to know who the good guys are.

Conway submitted the following biography to *The Yak*:

Currently working for GardenWorks@Mandeville (originally Mandeville Garden Centre located at the corner of Nelson Street and Marine Drive, Burnaby) since 1988.

I started out in nursery but now garden supplies/information desk conducting most of the in- house seminars/workshops.

Recipient of the "Garden Communicator of the Year Award" by BC Landscape and Nursery Association (BCLNA) for 2012.

Contributor to the "Ask-the-Pro" column in BC Living (GardenWise) Magazine.

Evening instructor for New Westminster Continuing Education for gardening classes.

Past recipient of the "Garden Communicator Award" by BC Landscape and Nursery Association (BCLNA) for 2006.

Past recipient of the "Environmental Star Award" by the City of Burnaby for European Chafer public education.

Previously served on the European Chafer advisory committee.

Currently serving on the provincial certification committee for BCLNA and Canadian Nursery and Landscape Association (CLNA).

One of the first three candidates to receive the "Certified Horticultural Technician for Retail" in Canada (CNLA).

Recently obtained "Landscape Industry Certified" technician for ornamental and turf maintenance (CNLA).

Honorary member of "South Burnaby Garden Club".

Professional agrologist.

Graduated from UBC with Bachelor of Science in plant science (ornamental horticulture) and botany.

Next month:

We shall have a lecture on *The ability to prune: the art and the science*, from Janis Matson. In my opinion there is no one better on this subject from whom to learn. Be there.

Other Duties as Assigned:

My notes indicate that the tea room duties for this month are to be handled by Chris and Margaret Hodgson along with Bob and Jo Wright. Ratso, who has been busy proofreading as we go, informs me that if I had read the President's Remarks on page three carefully, I should recall that the Hodgsons are not to be around to serve us our refreshments. I am gobsmacked that Ratso is so on top of things with her home being turned so upside down lately. Truly remarkable. Hopefully the Wrights will be reading this news and be making preparations to go it alone. Let us all chime in to give them a hand with the delectables and other attendant chores.

And Santa is already, at this early date, preparing to tick the nice column for all those bringing materials for the raffle table



The Business Stuff:

The ARS Western Fall Regional Conference 2014 will be held in Everett, Washington - September 26 - 28th
District 2 invites you to [Fall Into Rhodies](#)

The Rhododendron Chapters on Vancouver Island will be hosting the ARS 2015 Convention in Sidney, from May 6th through 10th. Registration will take place in October.

The American Rhododendron Society Convention

May 6-10th 2015

Sidney by the Sea

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 the effort to attend. Please visit their [website here](#). The wise among you will start to book their hotel rooms immediately.

Sean Rafferty

Many of you will remember Lauren Evanson, our former tenant and Capilano University student. Lauren is now enrolled in the University of British Columbia nursing program. She worked this summer for Parks Canada, alternating between Revelstoke and the Rogers Pass, an ideal placement for Lauren who was born to be in the mountains. She may have had to do more than just drive around and count squirrels and elk but it was an environment wonderfully suited for her makeup.

Of the adjacent image, she wrote rather enthusiastically on July 14th this year:

“This is the only picture that turned out. I really like it! That is Mount Cheops in the background. Elevation of this picture is 1706 m. I’m glad you like the picture! I told Patrick that morning, there is one plant I want to identify and find before the summer’s over, and it’s *R. albiflorum*. Then, there we were, a couple hours later, at a viewpoint and voila, I look and I think, hey! is that it? Right there in front of me just like that! And it had the flattened red hairs too on the leaf.”



R. albiflorum
image: Lauren Evanson

THE CALENDAR:

Wednesday, Sept. 17 7:30 pm	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Conway Lum: Beneficial Insects
Thursday, Sept. 18 7:30 pm, Van Dusen	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Philip MacDougall: A Beginners Guide to Yunnan
Saturday, Sept. 20 12:00-4:00 pm, Van Dusen	Alpine Garden Club of BC Annual fall sale
September 26-28, 2014 Everett, Washington	ARS Fall Conference, Everett, Washington See here for details.
Wednesday, Oct. 8 7:30 pm Van Dusen	Alpine Garden Club of BC Erica Wheeler: Wild Onions from the Wild West
Wednesday, Oct. 15 7:30 pm	Fraser South Rhododendron society Janis Matson: The ability to prune. The art and the science
Thursday, Oct. 16 7:30 pm Van Dusen	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Egan Davis
Wednesday, Nov 19 7:30 pm	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Dr. Iain Taylor: Myths of Organic Gardening
Thursday, Nov 20 7:30 pm Van Dusen	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Mike Stewart:
Wednesday, Dec 10 6:00 pm set up	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Annual Christmas Party



R. rubiginosum,
Laojunshan, Yunnan

Dalen Bayes: 1941-2014.



I first met Dalen about 10 years ago when he talked at PARS about a canoe trip that he had taken through the Northwest Territories, living on grayling, fending off grizzlies and 747-size mosquitoes. He even encountered some native rhodos up there in the barrens: *R. groenlandicum*, aka Labrador tea. That was Dalen: adventurer, plant hunter, collector, nature photographer par excellence and raconteur. For close to five decades he explored much of Canada's north from Yellowknife to the Arctic Ocean and Hudson's Bay and climbed dozens of mountains in the Rockies and Cascades.

He was an avid supporter of The Rhododendron Species Foundation and over the years acquired more than 400 species. His was perhaps the only garden I can recall with numbered streets and lettered avenues to keep track of the rhodos. That was the "old" garden of mainly hybrids. The one he loved most was his newer garden in the woods, much less formal, with many big leaf species, huge meconopsis, rare and unusual understory plants and whimsical garden art.

Another side of Dalen was his humour and playfulness, perfect qualities for his role as Santa at our FSRS annual Christmas parties in years past. Dalen's presence always added a spark to our monthly meetings, especially at the Beer

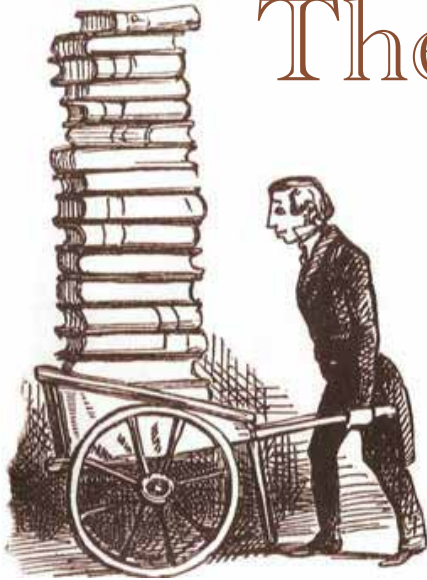
Bottle Truss Show where he could be counted on to win, among other awards, that for the most elegantly weevil-notched leaf.

The last time I saw Dalen was at his treasured Whatcom County garden on a rainy day in May. He'd known about his illness for a number of months, but that would not prevent him from inviting friends for one last tour. Quite the opposite, he invited friends and garden groups to his garden almost every week throughout the summer months. Back in May, he'd just finished a new garden plot for grand-daughter Brianna: thinking of others to the end.

His favourite expression was "If you're lucky enough to be in the woods, then you're lucky enough". His like will not pass our way again.

Chris Hodgson

The Book Cart



The Smaller Rhododendrons by Peter A. Cox

271 pages, 8 colour plates, 41 black-and-white photographs, 26 line drawings, 6 maps showing distribution of subsections.

Appendix A - Rhododendron Societies, Appendix B - Rhododendron nurseries, Glossary, Bibliography, General Index, Index of Rhododendrons. Hardbound, Copyright Peter A. Cox 1985, First published in USA by Timber Press, Beaverton, Oregon, USA
ISBN 0-88192-014-2

Peter A. Cox was a director of Glendoick Gardens, a specialist nursery and garden centre in Perthshire, Scotland, the responsibilities having been largely passed on to the third generation of the family. He has travelled widely in search of rhododendrons, and has discovered and collected new

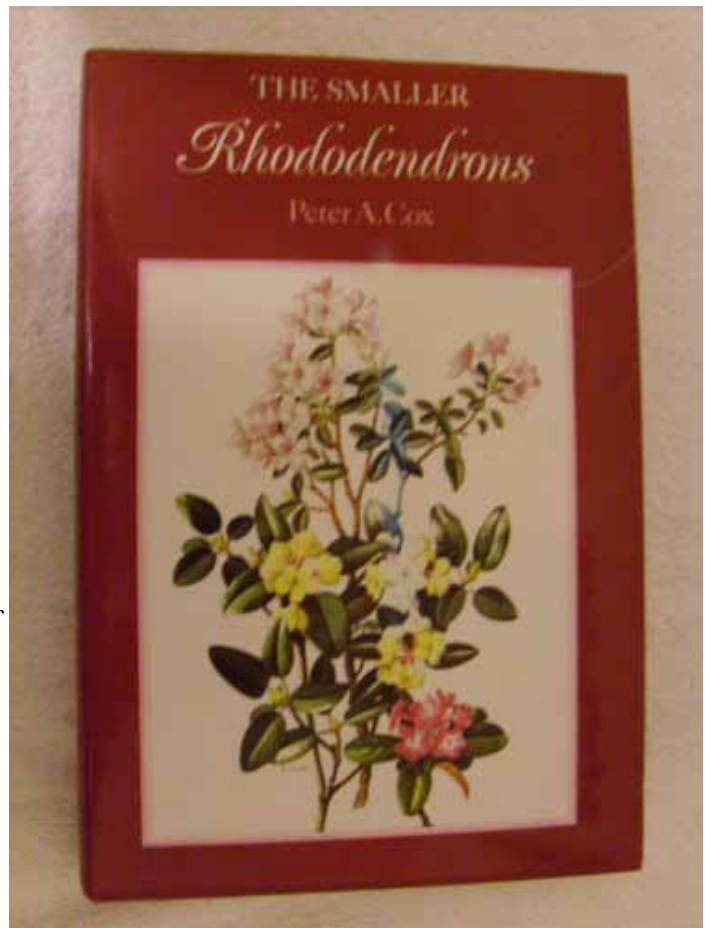
species in the Far East. Author of *The Larger Species of Rhododendron*, *Dwarf Rhododendrons*, and *Wisely* handbook on the subject, he is an honorary director of the Rhododendron Species Foundation.

He was awarded the Victoria Medal of Honour, plus the Gold Medal of Honour from the ARS, the Nurseryman and Garden Centre Lifetime Achievement Award, awards from the Institute of Horticulture and the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society. In June, 2005, he was awarded an honorary doctorate of Science from St. Andrews University.

The author, in the introduction of the book, explains that since *Dwarf Rhododendrons* was published in 1973, much had happened in the rhododendron world, and, thus, he decided to rewrite it from beginning to end. *The Smaller Rhododendrons* attempts to incorporate many of the new developments into one volume, such as Cox did in his *The Larger Species of Rhododendron*, following the *Edinburgh Revisions*. *Dwarf Rhododendrons* had included plants normally under 1.52m (5Ft), and the same specifications generally apply in this book.

The organization of the chapters is well laid out with the first chapter discussing dwarf rhododendrons in their natural habitat, distribution of species, ecology and introduction into cultivation. From there, the following chapters go through the natural guide of dwarf rhododendrons in the garden, choice of site, soil preparation, maintenance, deadheading, disease, and pests.

The author expands the chapters to give the reader good knowledge on species and hybrids of the smaller rhododendrons and follows up with two chapters on propagation and lists of recommendations. This book is in our FSRS library.



Margaret Hodgson

Membership Form



As in previous years it continues to be the intent of the Chapter officers to ensure that membership fees be kept as low as feasible in order to make our club accessible to all who wish to join.

It is through the American Rhododendron Society umbrella that many of the educational activities and sharing of information and resources is made possible. A strong ARS, supported by Full Memberships all across the continent, is what makes our rhododendron community possible.

All membership questions should be addressed to our Membership Chair, Ginny Fearing at 604-857-4136, or to any other of the FSRS officers.

Fraser South Rhododendron Society 2015 Membership

- New Membership - Have never belonged to an ARS chapter. \$15.00
- Renewal Membership
- Full Member (includes ARS membership and quarterly ARS Journal) \$35.00
- Associate (full member of other ARS chapter) \$10.00

Name of primary membership chapter _____

Do you require a Membership Card? Yes _____ No _____

DO YOU REQUIRE A BLACK & WHITE PAPER COPY OF THE YAK? FEE \$10.00
(Otherwise the full color Yak will be sent via email to the email address below).

Directory and Contact Information

All personal information collected by FSRS is for Society use only. Chapter members who DO NOT want this information to be included in the FSRS Member List - to be distributed to FSRS members only - should check the appropriate spaces here. Please DO NOT include my ___Address; ___Phone; ___Email in the directory.

Date _____

Name _____

Partner /Spouse's Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Province (State) _____

Postal (Zip) Code _____

Telephone Number _____

Email Address _____

All cheques should be made out to:
If mailing, send to:

Fraser South Rhododendron Society
Ginny Fearing, 5376 Ross Road, Abbotsford, BC V4X1Z2