



### **This Month's Meeting**

Date: Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015 @ 7:30 pm

Topic: **"The Unique Botany of Southern Oregon"**

Speaker: **Ron Long**

Plant sales: Les Clay



## President's Remarks :

April is the busiest month in the garden. At least it has been so far on this Good Friday, April 3. Everything green seems in a terrible rush to reach puberty, flower, copulate and reproduce before the arrival of summer heat. And that goes in spades for the weeds. Best catch those "Jumpin' J-" weeds, as Bryan calls them, now before they pop, or you'll be battling them all summer!

It's also a very busy time for FSRS, with our plant sale, two garden tours, truss show and picnic all crammed into little more than 60 days, April 18 through June 20.

Now is our best opportunity, when the genus *Rhododendron* is at its most spectacular, to encourage like-minded gardeners to join us. At the plant sale this year we will have a special tent where expert advice on any gardening issue will be offered up by resident experts Bill and Carla Bischoff. They will, of course, also be gently promoting the benefits of joining our chapter. On our garden field trips later this month, at our truss show in May and our picnic in June, I urge you all to invite a gardening friend or neighbour. Our first-year membership fee is a huge bargain and comes at significant cost to the chapter. But if it results in more members who stay with us, then the price will have been worth it.

My personal goal is to see the club gain ten new members by June 20. That's it - my hidden agenda, the 10 member challenge. With your help, we can do it!

This morning, rummaging through a box of FSRS memorabilia bequeathed by past president Brenda, I came across a soft cover book titled "Siftings from the Compost Pile" by David Sellars. It's subtitled "The Best of Rootstalk by Indumentum". To those whose membership in FSRS doesn't stretch back into the mists of time, David's wife Wendy took on the task of YAK editor in 1993, five years after our chapter's formation. She suggested David write a monthly column so the YAK would never be totally absent of content. Thus "Rootstalk by Indumentum" was born, and continued monthly for ten years and through Mike Trembath's time as editor. David says writing under a pseudonym was very liberating even though readers soon discovered the real author.

The present compilation was put together in book form in 2006 for the ARS Regional Conference at Harrison Hot Springs. The columns are wonderfully imaginative and absolutely hilarious, ranging from "Sixth Stage of Rhodoholism" and "Use of the Genus Porsche in Landscaping" to "Never Develop a Garden Bigger than Your Wife Can Maintain." As relevant today as 20 years ago. Hearty belly laughs inter-planted with sage garden wisdom guaranteed. What goes around comes around!

For those unable to make the ARS Conference in Sydney, May 6-10, I strongly urge you to attend talks by Kenneth Cox and Hartweg Schepker on May 1 at a VRS special meeting (7:30 pm, Van Dusen hall). Both are pre-eminent in the rhodo world as speakers, writers and explorers. There is no charge, and associate membership is not required.

*Chris Hodgson*

Erratum: In my last column I referred to *R. 'Yaku Princess'* as one of our favourite rhodos. Silly me. I meant to say *R. 'Yaku Angel'*. In my view it's far superior in both form and flower to *R. 'Yaku Princess'*



*R. 'Yaku Angel'*

image: Garth Wedemire



## FROM THE EDITOR

garden settings at many Vancouver homes and in the interior of B.C. Her advice: when it comes to containers, bigger is better; keep the colour scheme simple and spend time to seek out the best plants for the site from specialty nurseries.

## Last Month:

At the March 18, 2015, meeting of FSRS, we were delighted to welcome Tammyanne Matthew of Tammyanne Specialty Garden Design and Collaboration (formerly Sweetwater Garden Design). She began her career in 2008, combining her years of study of horticulture and garden design with an impeccable talent for combining colours and designer plants. She works on large suburban gardens, small urban gardens and commercial properties. Her work includes container gardens, installing irrigation systems and garden maintenance. She is fond of spectacular accent features through lighting effects, highlighted plants and sculptures in the garden, often working closely with the architect to create the desired aesthetic effect. The talk followed a complete year cycle, giving the audience many ideas of how our own gardens can be made more attractive throughout each season. Her slide show featured living walls at Joe Fortes Restaurant roof-top garden in downtown Vancouver and beautiful

*Margaret Hodgson*

## This Month

### The Unique Botany of Southern Oregon

“Southern Oregon is not that far from British Columbia in distance but geologically and botanically it seems much farther. The unique geology that is found there has allowed an unusual set of plants to evolve. The geological up-thrust that created Steens Mountain also created a spectacular high elevation habitat for alpine plants, some of which are familiar and many of which are absolutely unique.

In the Siskiyou Mountains Serpentine rock is toxic to many plants yet supports a complex and exotic flora that has evolved to survive and even require those poisonous elements. Many of these plants are found nowhere else.”

Bio: Ron Long worked as the science photographer at Simon Fraser University for thirty-six years. He began photographing flowers over forty years ago and soon developed an interest in floral photography that he admits borders on obsession. Now retired, Ron travels to wildflower hot spots around the world. Recent trips have taken him to Africa, South America and Australia multiple times and many locations within North America. Between trips Ron enjoys sharing his photos and adventures with interested groups by doing up to thirty presentations every year.

*Ron Long*



Rabbit Orchid: *Leptoceras menziesii*

image: Ron Long



## Next Month:

is, of course, the twenty-seventh annual *Justly Famous Fraser South Beer Bottle Truss Show*. Sharpen your secateurs and prepare thyself for the rules of engagement, beautiful in their simplicity, which shall be published in the May edition of *The Yak*.



## Other Duties as Assigned

The intrepid duo of Lois Williams and Gail Floyd will perform exotic acts of wizardry in the dark arts of coffee-brewing and tee-steeping. Let's bring along some goodies and have a party.

And don't forget to get down and dirty with contributions of plants for the greatest raffle table on earth.

## The Businessness Stuff:

### MISSING LIBRARY BOOK

A member was looking for *COLOUR ENCYCLOPEDIA of HOSTAS* by Diana Grenfell & Michael Shadrack last month but was unable to find it in the library. This book has not been signed out. Perhaps someone borrowed it but forgot to sign it out? If so, please let me know as this book is a valuable reference for members. To replace it may prove difficult as it appears not readily available now.

*Joan McGiveron*

Kudos to Carla Bischoff for winning second prize at the recent Vancouver Orchid Society show and sale for her *Paphiopedilum micranthum*, grown in her greenhouse.



# The Business Stuff: continued

The Vancouver Rhododendron Society invites you to attend a special meeting on **Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> 2015, at 7:30 pm** in the Floral Hall of Van Dusen Gardens, 5251 Oak Street, at West 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver. This extraordinary meeting will be **in lieu** of their regular meeting date of April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015. Admission is free.

Ken Cox (Glendoick Gardens) and Hartwig Schepker (director of Bremen Rhododendron Park, the largest collection of Rhododendrons in Europe outside of the UK) will be speaking on Plant Hunting in Arunachal Pradesh. Ken and Hartwig have made a total of 7 expeditions to this amazing part of India on the Tibet border, including one expedition together. Both will present their own stories and amazing pictures of triumph, disaster and danger. Ken will describe the discovery of a new rhododendron species, *R. titapuriense*, while Hartwig will cover his trip from hell as well as his successes.



The 2015 ARS Convention will be a fabulous event. The speakers are among the world's most entertaining and authoritative of the genus Rhododendron and are unlikely to ever be assembled at one venue again. This is one of the rarest opportunities to participate in such an extraordinary adventure.

In addition to these fabulous lecturers there are twenty-eight beautiful private gardens which will be opened for you to visit. If you have never attended a Rhododendron conference before, this is the one to be involved with. Please, do not pass up this wonderful opportunity.

Visit the Convention website [here](#) to check out the itinerary and register today.

**2015 ARS CONVENTION**  
**Sidney, BC, Canada**  
**May 6 – 10, 2015**  
**Fabulous Rhododendron Garden Tours**

**Location: Mary Winspear Centre**

Come join us at the convenient Mary Winspear Community Centre, 2243 Beacon Ave. in spectacular Sidney-by-the-Sea, BC, Canada.



**International Keynote Speakers**

- Jim Barlup, Washington State
- Marc Colombel, France
- Kenneth Cox, Scotland
- Harold Greer, Oregon
- Guan Kaiyun, China
- Lionel de Rothschild, England
- Hartwig Schepker, Germany

**Convention Sponsors:**



'Champagne Lace', the official convention rhododendron is a magnificent hybrid donated by Jim Barlup.

Check [www.2015rhodo.ca](http://www.2015rhodo.ca) for Registration Forms, Schedule and Garden Tours.



## THE CALENDAR:

<b>Wednesday, April 8</b> 7:30-9:30 pm Van Dusen	<b>Alpine Garden Club of BC</b> <b>Douglas Justice: My Colombian Magnolia Adventure</b>
<b>Wednesday, April 15</b> 7:30 pm	<b>Fraser South Rhododendron Society</b> <b>Ron Long: The Unique Flora of South Oregon</b>
<b>Saturday, April 18</b> 10:00 am - 4:00 pm	<b>Fraser South Rhododendron Society Plant Sale</b> <b>United Church Hall, 5673 - 200<sup>th</sup> Street Langley</b>
<b>Sunday, April 19</b>	<b>FSRS Members' open gardens, focusing on north Surrey.</b> <b>Details will be announced.</b>
<b>Saturday, April 25</b> 1:00-4:00 pm Van Dusen	<b>Alpine Garden Club of BC</b> <b>Pam Eveleigh: Modern Plant Hunting</b>
<b>Sunday April 26</b>	<b>Fearing's Farm Nursery open house and more.</b>
<b>Friday, May 1</b> 7:30 pm Van Dusen	<b>Vancouver Rhododendron Society</b> <b>Ken Cox, Hartwig Schepker: Plant Hunting in Arunachal Pradesh</b>
<b>Saturday, May 2</b> 10:00 am - 3:00 pm	<b>Vancouver Rhododendron Society Show and Sale</b> <b>Park and Tilford Gardens: 330 Brooksbank Avenue, North Vancouver</b>
<b>May 6-10</b>	<b>ARS Annual Convention, Sidney.</b> <b>Mary Winspear Center</b>
<b>Wednesday, May 13</b> 7:30-9:30 pm Van Dusen	<b>Alpine Garden Club of BC</b> <b>Anna Leggatt: Spring Wildflowers of Persia – the Zagros Mountains in Iran</b>
<b>Wednesday, May 20</b> 7:30 pm	<b>Fraser South Rhododendron Society</b> <b>The Justly Famous Beer Bottle Truss Show</b>
<b>Thursday, May 21</b>	<b>Vancouver Rhododendron Society</b> <b>A walk through Riverview Arboretum, to be guided by Douglas Justice.</b>
<b>Sunday, June 14</b>	<b>Vancouver Rhododendron Society</b> <b>Annual Potluck Picnic</b>
<b>Saturday, June 20</b> <b>Erica Enterprises Nursery</b>	<b>Fraser South Rhododendron Society</b> <b>Annual Potluck Picnic and Auction</b>



*M. 'Caerhays Belle'*



## FSRS Chapter Awards 2015

Bronze Medal

**Nancy Moore**

You have been a long term, loyal member of the Fraser South Rhododendron Society. You can often be found behind the desk, collecting money or running the raffle at our plant sales, recording sales at our June picnic auction, or helping with registration at conferences.

You have served as a Director, contributing thoughtful comments to our discussions. You have seen to publicizing our sales within the garden community and have shared your expertise on garden design. In a lighter vein, you have been an excellent Santa's helper at our Christmas parties in years past.

Most of all, when a job needs to be done, you can be counted on to be one of the first to volunteer.

In thanks, the Chapter is pleased to present you with our highest award, ARS Bronze Medal - 2014.



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Ella J. Crabb Memorial Award - 2014

**John and Gael Dodd**

John, you are known for your sober and thoughtful contributions during your term as Vice President and Gael for your free spirit and infectious laughter which enlivens our meetings. But most of all you both are known for your beautiful garden and in particular for the generous way you share that garden with our members, with the public, and as a fund raiser for local institutions.

Your garden is an inspiration. Thank you John and Gael for sharing it with us.

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Gerry C. Emerson Memorial Award - 2014

**Evelyn Jensen**

You have been a willing volunteer for the plant sale, for kitchen duties, and other activities of the chapter.

We particularly appreciate your willingness to step in as Membership Chair and later as Vice President when we were having difficulties filling those positions. You have performed the duties of both offices admirably and are a valuable member of the Executive.

Thank you Evelyn.

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Harold Johnson Memorial Award - 2014

**Kirsten Martin**

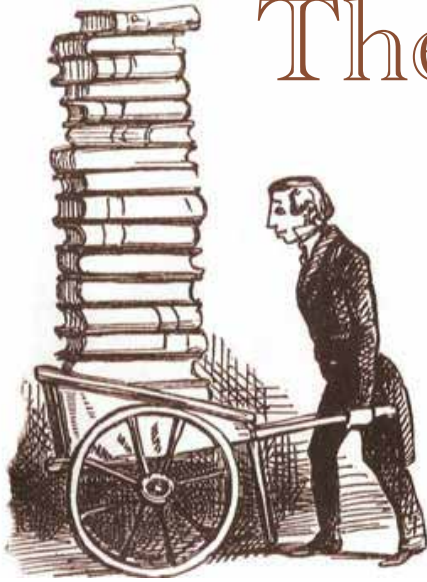
As one of our newest members you have wasted no time in becoming actively involved. You have sold plants at our spring sale and have regularly donated plants to our raffle table. You have opened your nursery for sales and tours and offered your home as a venue for our annual picnic.

You are currently serving as a Director, and have been quick to volunteer, for help with the Christmas party and for running our monthly raffle. More recently you have begun to push our chapter into the 21st century with the establishment of a chapter Facebook page.

Thank you Kirsten for all of this.



# The Book Cart



*Encyclopedia of Rhododendron Hybrids* by Peter A. Cox and Kenneth N.E. Cox. Timber press, Portland, Oregon. Copyright 1988 Peter A. Cox and Kenneth N.E. Cox. 318 pages, 201 colour photographs, arranged alphabetically. Glossary, Bibliography, Listing of Rhododendron Societies, and Index. Hardbound. ISBN 0-88192-108-4 (hardcover).

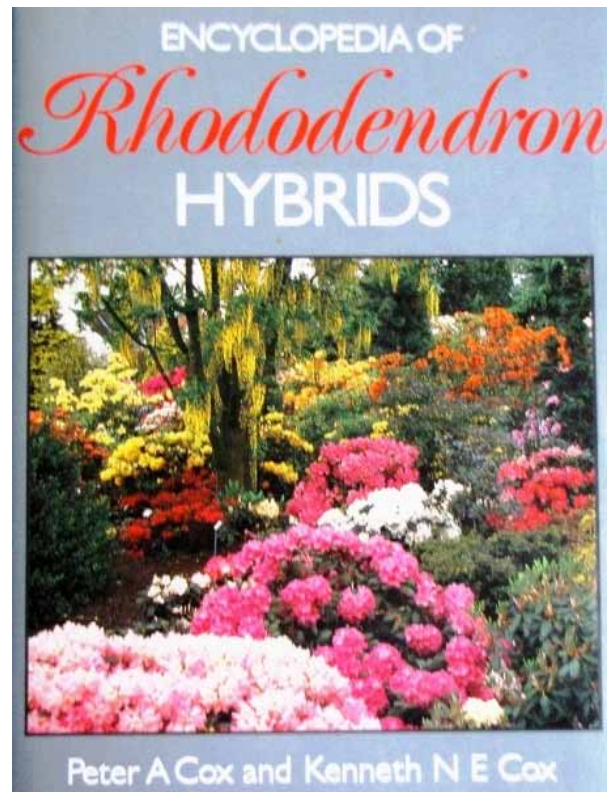
Peter A. Cox (father) and Kenneth N.E. Cox (son) are jointly and individually the authors of many books on Rhododendrons and Azaleas. Glendoick Gardens evolved many years after Euan Cox, Peter's father, returned from a trip to Burma in 1919. Three generations have contributed seed collections and hybridizing of rhododendrons to develop the Glendoick

Gardens which opened in 1953, and the Glendoick Garden Centre, opening in 1973, followed by the Glendoick Café and Foodhall. Internationally, The books written by Peter and Kenneth Cox are considered as offering the most comprehensive lists of rhododendrons available to gardeners.

*Encyclopedia of Rhododendron Hybrids* by Peter A. Cox and Kenneth N.E. Cox is a comprehensive study of over 1400 hybrids and a further 500 clones and sister seedlings, concentrating on commercially important hybrids. In the Introduction to this book, the two authors point out that the book deals only with rhododendron hybrids and azaleodendrons; hybrids of vireyas and azaleas are not included. To set the criteria for inclusion, the authors obtained the catalogues of 120 or more major rhododendron nurseries of Britain, Europe, U.S.A., Canada, Australia and New Zealand, which left out most of the Japanese hybrids. Extra weight was given to wholesalers and large retailers, which included the 2000 most commercially important hybrids available at the time. Then the cultivars that had received some testing and showed a promising long-term future were favoured for final inclusion. The evaluation information came from basic descriptions obtained directly from the *International Rhododendron Registry* at Wisely. From there, information was added from the extensive collection of hybrids in their own garden and nursery centre, as well as work experience and travel in major hybridizing areas of Holland, West Germany, U.S.A. and Canada, and, lastly, communication with other hybridizers and hybrid growers around the world.

A typical description conveys all relevant information concerning each hybrid as exemplified by the following: ILAM VIOLET(name) cl.(clone) (*R. augustinii* 'Electra' Stead form x *R. russatum*) (parentage) E. Stead 1947(Raiser) A.M.T. 1983(Awards), +5f/ - 15c(Hardiness) EM-M(Flowers early May to mid-summer) Low(80-135 cm. in 10 yr.) Deep violet-blue flowers in clusters of about 11. Small, dark, narrow leaves, reddish when young and bronze in winter on a fairly upright and compact but spreading twiggy plant. Foliage may yellow in too much sun and is pale with use. In some ways a better plant than 'St. Tudy' etc., but needs perfect drainage, which is perhaps why it is hard to keep going, with a tendency to die after a few years. Buds up young, free-flowering and easy to root. This is Edgar Stead's most distributed hybrid. Available Pacific West Coast, New Zealand, Australia and U.K.

This book is available in our library.



Margaret Hodgson





Fraser South Rhododendron Society

# Annual Plant Sale and Flower Show

Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015

United Church Hall

5673 200<sup>th</sup> Street

Langley, BC

10:00 am to 3:00 pm  
(rain or shine)

Saturday, April 18. is our annual Plant Sale and Show which will take place in the church parking lot. This is one of our largest and most important fund raisers of the year, and it would be nice to have all hands to the mast. We have several of our members already signed up for various duties, but it goes without saying that all are welcome to pitch in wherever they feel most comfortable; be it with traffic control, cashiering, set up and take down, or simply as a general dogsbody to answer questions, assist purchasers with their plant selections, and transportation of those purchased gems to their vehicles. And if you are one of those celebrated for the exceptionally fine taste you display in the purchasing of plants yourself, then, of course, you are doubly welcome .

## Members' Table Instructions for our Annual Plant Sale

We are now in countdown mode to our plant sale and here's the plan:

1. Now, the day you receive this YAK, is the very last day you can pot up perennial splittings and have them looking healthy and saleable by April 18.
  - Best are 4" or 1 gallon pots for table space and transport considerations.
  - Remove all previous labels from pots and give them a good scrub. But if it means hacking down a fine plant to size, use a larger pot by all means.
  - Garden soil and well-rotted compost is fine. No need to buy potting soil.
  - Plastic or aluminum label with common (and botanical names, if possible). A varietal name adds to the plant's panache, but don't fake it. You might also indicate if best for sun, shade or sun/shade mix.
  - What plants: any perennial ornamentals (ferns, hostas, heucheras, all ground covers, hellebores, cyclamens, English daisies, etc.), vegetables (heritage tomato seedlings are always popular), rhubarb, chives, all herbs, shrubs (2-3 gallon pots), grasses, vines, indoor plants for Mothers' Day, you name it. But definitely no rhodos, azaleas, camellias or acers.
2. April 16-17: Remove any weeds, cut out any dead foliage, spruce up the plants, final pot polish.
3. April 18: plant sale date. Pray for sunshine and please deliver your plants by 9:30 am. If you have plastic or cardboard flats, bring them along. We don't want our customers to be limited by their lack of carrying capacity. And don't worry about pricing. We'll sort that out on sale day with all plants on the table. Normal price range will be \$2-10, but with exceptions obviously.
4. April 18, post sale: At 2:00 pm we'll sell all remaining stock at half price. At 3:00 pm, donors can pick up their remaining stock members or donate them to Chuck and/or Evelyn, both of whom have other garden clubs with sales coming up.

Please call me if you have any questions,

Chris

604 541 2382



*R. 'Princess Abkhazi'*

## FSRS Open House Gardens Tour, Sunday, April 19

A tour of three gardens in North Surrey is planned for Sunday, April 19. The visits are timed so that the owners can participate also in touring the others' gardens. Here's the plan:

### 10:00 am – 11:00 am:

Bill and Carla Bischoff's garden, 15430 93A Avenue, North Surrey (604 589-6134). Those who have not visited their garden will be amazed by their choice of plants of unusual interest and how harmonious and natural it all appears. It is arguably the best compact garden in Surrey in my totally unprejudiced view. On-street parking is limited, so those who have no problem walking a block or two might want to leave the close-in spots for others.

### 1:15 am-12:15 pm:

Garden of Sean O'Neill and Allen Davis, 13583 Crestview Drive (604 583-1817). I have not visited their garden but it comes highly recommended by someone whose judgment in such things is impeccable (see above). Sean and Allan's garden is focused around water features and rockwork. I'm sure we won't be disappointed.

### 12:30-2:30 pm:

We visit the incomparable garden of Vern Finley, 10476 125B Street, North Surrey. Every year we've admired the trusses on display at our plant sale. Well, guess where they come from? I'm advised that Vern's garden is a bit overgrown, but that won't prevent us enjoying the incredible display of hundreds of rhododendrons at their peak on this large property.

Everyone should bring a personal sandwich and a pot luck shared dessert along with paper plates and forks. Sue Klapwijk has very kindly offered to have a big urn of coffee waiting for us.

## Fearing's Farm Nursery Open House and Tour, Sunday, April 26

This now annual, public open house (**starting at 10:00 am.**). Fearing's Farm features sale of species rhododendrons by Harold, and hybrid rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias and companion plants by Sue Klapwijk and Les Clay. Those not inclined to purchase can visit the greenhouses and tour the grounds.

Following this visit, we have plans to visit nearby Mt. Vernon Winery for a tippie, then a brief stop at Tanglebank Nursery where, I believe, many of Garth Wedemire's rhododendrons are featured, before moving on to Lepp's Farm Market for lunch. Final details will be e-mailed when it's all sorted out.

