



This Month's Meeting

Date: Wednesday, February 18th, 2014 @ 7:30 pm

Topic: **"New at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden"**

Speaker: **Steve Hootman, Executive Director, RSBG**

Plant sales: Colleen Bojczuk

2014 Officers

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Past Pres:	Brenda Macdonald	778-528-3647
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<http://frasersouthrhodos.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



We are extremely fortunate to have the renowned, world expert on species rhododendron and the Family Ericaceae, Steve Hootman, as our guest speaker this month. Steve is a modern day plant hunter of Asiatic flora and is also the Executive Director and Curator of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington. His lectures are always informative and entertaining. Please attend.





President's Remarks :

Even though this winter may go down as snowless, February rains on the other hand look to set a record. Full marks to the plucky little Galanthus, crocus and hellebores in our garden that gaily thumb their noses at the Pineapple Express. Still no rhodos in bloom, but *R. strigillosum* and *R. 'Snow Lady'* are just about to pop.



R. strigillosum

We managed to almost fill our charter bus to the Seattle Garden Show on February 12th, thanks to the support of our members and those half dozen other local garden clubs. In Steve Whysall's opinion the show is arguably second in the world in overall quality to England's classy Chelsea Flower Show. Wow! Thanks to Gail Floyd for bringing Steve's February 6th Sun column to my attention. There are still six seats available for any last-minute joiners. Please call me at 604 541 2382 if you're interested.

The featured speaker at our Feb. 18 meeting will be the always-popular Steve Hootman, the Indiana Jones of the rhodo world. This time he's filling us in on what's new at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Gardens near Seattle where he is Executive Director and Curator. Don't miss it!

I would be remiss in not giving another plug for the 70th ARS Conference to be held in Sidney-by-the-Sea (as the town now calls itself) on May 6 to 10. Check out the program on the web: internationally renowned speakers, many, many garden tours, plant sales, all-hours hospitality room. Accommodation in Sidney is limited, so if you plan to attend you should make reservations right away.

Finally, getting down and dirty, could those of you who have an excess of one, two and three gallon pots please bring them to our upcoming meeting? Those potting up plants for our Members' Table and who have a pot deficit will be welcome to help themselves. A table will be reserved for them.

Chris Hodgson



R. strigillosum
new growth



FROM THE EDITOR

awards.

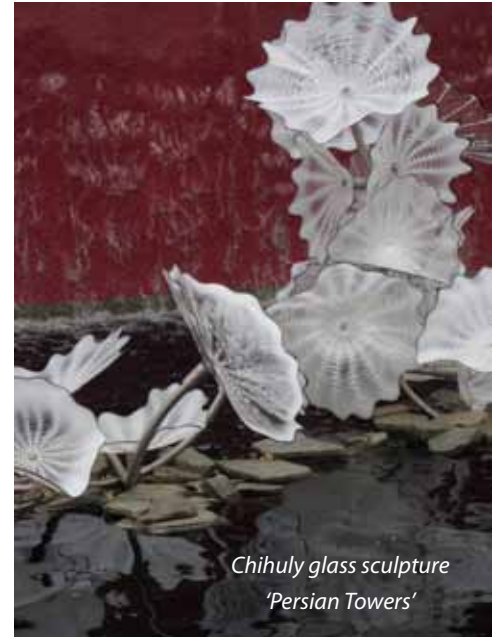
Scot Henney gave us a delightful tour through the gardens of Worcestershire; Margaret Hodgson treated us to a show of Chihuly glass sculptures in Denver Botanical Garden last September; Harold Fearing gave us his and Ginny's pictures from the International Rhododendron Conference at Dunedin, South Island, New Zealand, in October of last year; and Chris Hodgson presented a "Jurassic Murder Mystery", subtitled "the Rise and Fall of the genus Araucaria."

Last Month:

Was the Annual General Meeting of Fraser South alongside the equally celebrated Just Desserts Extravaganza.

We seem to have a financially stable canoe in which to float, although the strong breezes of U.S. currency exchange rates may require the need for stronger paddling. So, please consider the raffle table.

Several members were honoured with awards and the complete list will be published in the next edition of *The Yak*, when the absent recipients are in possession of their



Chihuly glass sculpture
'Persian Towers'

This Month



Steve Hootman is our guest speaker. Steve, is a modern day plant hunter of Asiatic flora and is also the Executive Director and Curator of the [Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden](#) in Federal Way, Washington. Aside from rhododendrons, he is also a leading expert of the Family Ericaceae with agapetes, gaultheria and vaccinium being among his favourite genera.

Steve has been plant-hunting in Asia since 1985 and has brought many new and rare plants from the wild to cultivation aiding in their conservation through distribution to other gardens and gardeners. Some of Steve's journeys and adventures are recounted [here](#).

His lectures are always fascinating, illuminating and spiced with his marvelous wit and valuable wisdom. His talk should be the highlight of our season.

Next Month:

We shall have Tamyenne Mathew, of Sweetwater Garden Designs, visit us and share her dazzling talents for floral design .

Other Duties as Assigned

The energetic Kirsten Martin and Cherry Groves have volunteered for kitchen duties at our meeting this month; help with providing the calories would be greatly appreciated.

Also, the raffle will be back in full swing and the contribution of plants and other prizes to the table will be well rewarded in the afterlife.

The Business Stuff:

The Vancouver Rhododendron Society invites you to attend a special meeting on **Friday, May 1st 2015, at 7:30 pm** in the Floral Hall of Van Dusen Gardens, 5251 Oak Street, at West 37th Avenue, Vancouver. This extraordinary meeting will be **in lieu** of their regular meeting date of April 23rd, 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 American Rhododendron Society 70th Anniversary Convention May 6-10th 2015

Mary Winspear Centre, Sidney, BC, Canada

The American Rhododendron Society Chapters of Vancouver Island will be hosting the ARS 2015 Convention in Sidney, from May 6th through 10th. Registration is now available online. Please register now to avoid any disappointments. There is the most impressive group of speakers from all parts of the world, which will set the gold standard for all subsequent conventions to try and emulate. There will be twenty-eight marvelous gardens to tour and terrific plant sales. This will be a fabulous event and everyone should make every effort to attend. Please visit their [website here](#). It is now time to register and to book your garden tours.

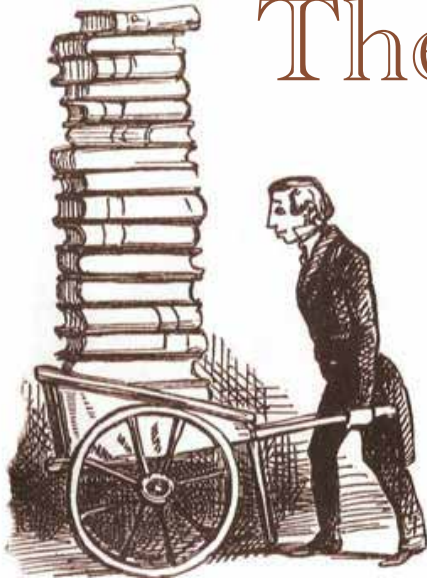


THE CALENDAR:

Wednesday, February 18 7:30 pm	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Steve Hootman, Plant hunter and Director/Curator 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
Friday, February 20 Van Dusen, 7:30-10:00 pm	Alpine Garden Club of BC Peter Korn, "Rock Gardens"
Wednesday, March 11 Van Dusen, 7:30-9:30 pm	Alpine Garden Club of BC Hans Roemer, "Alpine Treasures of Waterton National Park"
Wednesday, March 18th 7:30 pm	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Tammyanne Mathew, Sweetwater Garden Designs : Container floral design
Thursday, March 19 7:30 pm Van Dusen	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Harold Fearing, "Fearing Farms"
Saturday, April 18 10:00 am-4:00 pm	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Plant Sale United Church Hall, 5673 - 200th Street Langley
Friday, May 1 7:30 pm Van Dusen	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Ken Cox, Hartwig Schepker: Plant Hunting in Arunachal Pradesh
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
Sunday, June 14 Erica Enterprises Nursery	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Annual Potluck Picnic
Saturday, June 20 Erica Enterprises Nursery	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Annual Potluck Picnic and Auction



The Book Cart

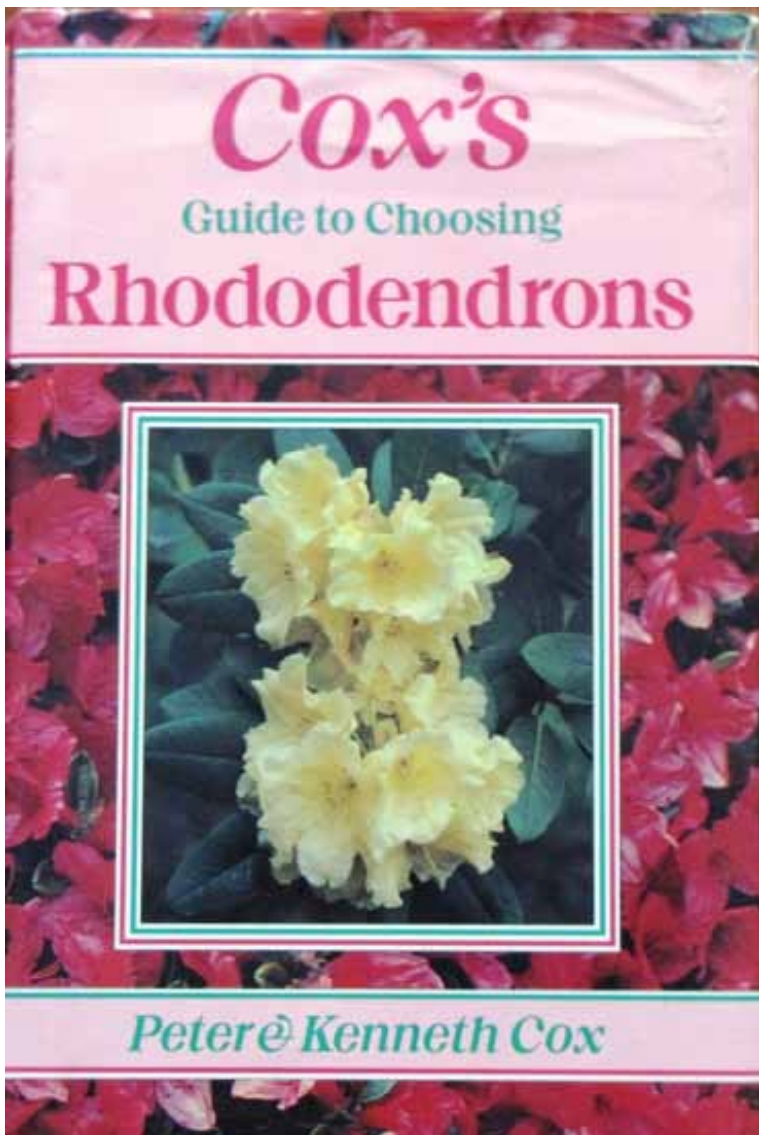


Cox's Guide to Choosing Rhododendrons by Peter & Kenneth Cox.
176 pages, 163 colour plates, Lists (covering Classification, Glossary, Further Information, Rhododendron Nurseries) and Index.
Hardcover. Copyright Peter and Kenneth Cox 1990. First Published in North America in 1990 by Timber Press Inc., Portland, Oregon
ISBN 0-88192-181-5

Peter (father) and Kenneth (son) Cox are jointly, and individually, the authors of many books on Rhododendrons and Azaleas. Glendoick Gardens evolved 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 Glendoick Gardens which opened in 1953, and the Glendoick Garden Centre, opened in 1973, followed by the Glendoick Café and Foodhall. The books written by Peter and Kenneth Cox are considered internationally as offering the most comprehensive lists of rhododendrons available to gardeners.

In the Introduction of Cox's Guide to Choosing Rhododendrons, the authors point out that they are often asked whether to concentrate on species or hybrids and quickly answer – grow some of both, and for very good reason. Without a doubt, as we know, the species rhododendrons provide some of the most interesting foliage that one is going to see in a rhododendron garden and often the comment is heard “Why even worry about the flower when the foliage is so beautiful”. The Introduction discusses in brief form, planting and cultivation, buying rhododendrons, cuttings, seed, species from seed, grafting, micro-propagation and layering.

The bulk of the book is divided into very useful alphabetical listings of the rhododendrons by a) Species and b) Hybrids c) Deciduous Azaleas d) Evergreen Azaleas The many colour plates accompanying the descriptions are excellent, as is the detail itself. Each rhododendron (or azalea) is clearly identified, having separate species or hybrid listings, assigned a hardiness rating which indicates its suitability for various areas, height and size, growth habit given and those rhododendrons which have received awards, which would indicate a reasonable guide to quality, are also indicated. The authors do mention that many species and hybrids have not received awards but are very worthy of consideration for our gardens. The lists and index are especially useful. This book is in our library.



Margaret Hodgson

In Bloom Today



R. dauricum RSBG



R. ririei RSBG



R. sarcodes RSBG



R. himantodes RSBG



R. mucronulatum