



This Month's Meeting

Date: Wednesday, January 21st, 2015 @ 7:30 pm

Fraser South Rhododendron Society Annual General Meeting and
Dessert Extravaganza

2014 Officers

President:	Chris Hodgson	604-541-2382
Past Pres:	Brenda Macdonald	778-528-3647
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:	Rosemary Prufer	604-466-4929
Membership:	Ginny Fearing	604-857-4136
Newsletter:	Sean Rafferty	778-528-3647
Librarian:	Joan McGiveron	604-538-9347
Website:	Garth Wedemire	778-882-3834
Hospitality:	Vacant	
BCCGC Liaison:	Rosemary Prufer	604-466-4929

<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



This month's meeting is our Annual General Meeting, presentation of awards and "Just Desserts" Extravaganza. Throw together your favorite dessert to share and bring it along to the party. Any images that you have of your or someone else's garden that you might like to show to the group would also be very welcome. Let us ring in the new year on a sweet note.





President's Remarks :

Mid-January in the garden is a time of hope, especially on a nice day like today. Although at first glance not much is happening, we know there is a tremendous bustle going on underfoot as plants extend their roots and send up tentative shoots. Above ground, buds on our rhodies are swelling in anticipation. Think of mid-winter as the moment just before a marathon, when runners line up at the starting gate and gird their loins, anticipating the crack of the starter's pistol. You can just imagine our plants nervously eyeing their neighbours, jockeying for position and wondering who will ultimately win that coveted place in the sun.

Three rhodies we're particularly fond of at our place are *R. rex*, *R. calophytum* and *R. 'Lem's Monarch'*. Our *R. rex* promises a banner year, sporting two flower buds, the first ever since planting out 12 years ago. Yay! And if buds on our *R. calophytum* get any fatter we'll have to put them on a strict Atkins diet. The *R. 'Lem's Monarch'* was purchased in 2000 from Koco's Nursery in south Surrey (now

a condo development). It was a great choice for our large lot. It is huge and handsome, with dependably magnificent trusses and loads of hammerheads.

But enough daydreaming, it's time for business: First, our January 21 regular meeting is reserved for elections, desserts and slide presentations. Please bring your favourite dessert and garden or nature photos, or better still, e-mail them to me (the photos, not the desserts) so I can set them up beforehand. Your presidents' contribution will be a brief show on magnificent *Araucaria* in the wilds of southern Chile and elsewhere.



R. calophytum



R. calophytum
image: Garth Wedemire

Second, our bus to Seattle Flower and Garden Show is filling up, thanks both to our members and those of several neighbouring garden clubs. The bus ride should give us a great opportunity to compare notes with members of other clubs. There are a few seats left; late joiners can call me at 604 541 2382 to reserve a seat. Please note the date in your agenda: Thursday, Feb 12. Those who have already signed up for \$40 should bring a cheque for an additional \$20 to the January meeting to cover the cost of group admission. We have two bus pickup spots: Langley United Church on 200th street (8:00 am departure) and Campbell Valley store at Pacific Highway and 8th Avenue (8:20 am departure). The latter offers pay parking at \$5.00 for the day. Remember, you won't be allowed to board the bus without a passport, Nexus pass

or Enhanced Driver's License, and evidence of out of country medical insurance. You can purchase travel and out-of-country medical insurance for the day at BCAA. Final confirmation of the tour will be announced at our January meeting.

Third, the ARS Conference May 6 to 10 in Sidney, BC, promises to be a tour de force. Keynote speakers from all over the world include rhodo heavy-weights Lionel de Rothschild, Kenneth Cox, Hartwig Schepker, Harold Greer and others. Tours include over 30 public and private gardens stretching from Victoria to Tofino and Campbell River. Daily plant sales, rhodo round tables and social hours round out the program. Those who sign up before April 1 get in for \$50 (\$65 after April 1). Check 2015rhodo.ca for full details and on-line registration.

Finally, one suggestion I omitted in December's *Yak*. Why not consider gifting family and friends with a one year trial membership in FSRS at the stupendous bargain price of \$15? An easy solution to the problem of gifting for any occasion: think birthdays, St. Valentine's Day, Mother's (And Dad's) Day, a thank you for minding Puddy while you're off in Hawaii, or elsewhere.

Chris Hodgson



FROM THE EDITOR

Last Month:

Reflections on our Christmas Party

Harlan Miller, a Yorkshire writer and artist, said, "I wish we could put up some Christmas spirit in jars and open one every month". We are so fortunate to be able to "open a jar of it every month" because we are blessed with so many loyal supporters who never fail to lend a hand at every meeting.

Our annual Christmas Potluck dinner on December 10th brought us together in friendship and celebration of another year in the enduring history of our chapter. We arrived to find tables miraculously transformed from utilitarian drab to eye-popping elegance with tablecloths, colourful centrepieces, tiny sleighs stuffed with candy canes and sweets and with special gifts for the chance lucky ones, all thanks mainly to the artistic touch and generosity of Kirsten. From the kitchen wafted enticing aromas of turkey, ham and the many

scrumptious side dishes and desserts.

Members were dressed in seasonal reds and greens and the tassels of more than one Santa hat bobbed gaily about the room. A corsage of flashing lights attracted attention and Bryan even sported heirloom horse bells.

Table groups formed teams for a quiz. This year it was all about local history and geography. Where was the Smugglers' Trail, who was the famous local train-robber and where did he rob the train? Ah! Those raised and schooled in the Lower Mainland certainly had an advantage.

Above all the Christmas dinner was a chance in a relaxed and joyful atmosphere to meet and chat with friends old and new. Many thanks to all who helped make this a successful evening.

Scot Henney and Margaret Hodgson

This Month

is the month of our Annual general meeting where we shall elect the officers and directors of Fraser South who will manage the-day-to day business of the club, and free the rest of us to continue to simply enjoy ourselves. The state of our fiscal health will be revealed. It is also the time that we honour our members who have risen above and beyond the regular call of duty, and we shall pass out our yearly awards to those deserving individuals. These are important matters that need dealing with, however true Fraser Southians know that these matters require panache. Hence the Dessert Extravaganza. We shall all bring our party-piece, favourite dessert to share and dispatch our business with sumptuous indulgence. Yes, we shall initiate the new year with enough caloric intake to hold us until December.

Please search out any garden images that you are fond of and that you think may be of interest to the rest of the gang, bring them along to share as they are bound to enhance and edify the evening festivities. Come along and enjoy the camaraderie and join in the merriment.

Next Month:

Steve Hootman, bold-spirited plant hunter, brilliant public speaker, discoverer of new rhododendrons, expert on the family Ericacea, finest mind in the world of rhododendron species, Director of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, kind friend of Fraser South and all-around great guy will again visit us to deliver a wealth of rhododendron knowledge. Definitely attend.

Other Duties as Assigned

The divine desserts and fine camaraderie will be augmented with refreshments created by the talented crew of Bill and Carla Bischoff along with Maureen and Richelle Renton.

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](#). The wise among you will start to book their hotel rooms immediately.

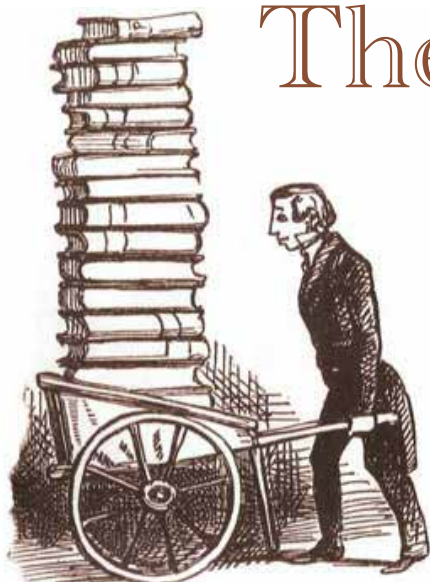


THE CALENDAR:

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
Thursday, February 12 8:00 am & 8:20 am pickup	FSRS Seattle Garden Show bus tour. Call Chris Hodgson for details @ 604 541 2382
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
Thursday, March 19 7:30 pm Van Dusen	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Harold Fearing of Fearing Farms
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
Friday, May 1 7:30 pm Van Dusen	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Ken Cox, Hartwig Schepker: Plant Hunting in Arunchal 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



R. wiltonii RSBG



The Book Cart

100 Best Plants for the Coastal Garden, The Botanical Bones of Great Gardening by Steve Whysall
 229 pages, 30 colour plates, Appendices – 100 Best Plants by Types, Terms for New Gardeners. Bibliography. Index. Softcover, Copyright 1998 by Steve Whysall. Published by Whitecap Books, Vancouver/Toronto, Canada ISBN 1-55110-704-X

Steve Whysall, born in 1950 in Nottingham, England, moved to British Columbia, Canada where he continued his career as a reporter for the Vancouver Sun and has gained a popular following for his well-known gardening columns.

His enthusiasm for gardening is very evident in this book which gives the reader good information about those plants which are especially suited to the

Pacific Northwest coastal gardens.

The book is divided simply into three main sections, composed of a brief introduction, followed by a lengthy descriptive section of the 100 best plants, which takes up the bulk of the book, and completed by a very useful appendices section that offers the 100 best plants by type as well as terms for new gardeners. The 100 Best Plants by type gives the Latin names as well as the common names, making the list very useful. The index similarly arranged.

The individual descriptions are detailed and the following is an example of what the reader will find:

Buddleia davidii common name: Butterfly bush, summer lilac

Location: full sun

Type: Deciduous shrub

Size: 8 to 13 feet (2.4 to 4 m)

Conditions: Average to poor soil

Flowering time: July to October

Chief characteristics:

Where to plant it:

How to care for it:

Good companions:

For your collection: reasons why this bush is worthy of consideration to be added to a garden collection.

Margaret Hodgson

