



*R. wiltonii* RSBG

**This Month's Meeting**

Date: Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 @ 7:30 pm (or earlier to register and set up your trusses.)



**“The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fraser South  
Justly Famous Beer Bottle Truss Show”**



## 2015 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
	Rosemary Prufer	604-466-4929
	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:	Kirsten Martin	778-846-6732
Hospitality:	Nancy Moore	604 859 3690
BCCGC Liaison:	Rosemary Prufer	604-466-4929

<http://frasersouthernrhodos.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

This month's newsletter has to do double duty for both May and June. Our Past President is bogging off to Asia again and the Editor has to tag along and carry her luggage.

In this issue, on page 6, are the ground rules for the long awaited FSRS Justly Famous Beer Bottle Truss Show. It is now time to sharpen your secateurs and fill the hall with gorgeous colour.

Also in this issue, are directions to our Annual Potluck Picnic and Auction. This year we are very fortunate to have it take place at Erica Nurseries, in Pitt Meadows. We shall be able to tour the nursery, purchase plants and picnic in the glorious surroundings of the farmhouse.

Now is the time to amass your fine collection of rare plants and useful garden equipment to auction off and fill the FSRS treasury with boodles of lucre.

Bid high and bid often.



## President's Remarks :

Well, it's now early May, many of our favourite rhodies have already bloomed and we're wondering if we'll have any trusses at all come the Beer Bottle Truss Show in late May. This may be the year John and Gael Dodd clean up on awards. They're constantly reminding us their garden is at least two weeks behind ours, something to do with cold running water in the back yard.

April was certainly a busy month at Fraser South. A great talk and slide show by Ron Long was followed in quick succession by the best plant sale in the past several years and two very enjoyable field trips. A huge vote of thanks to all members who volunteered at the sale and contributed plants to our Members' Table! Thanks to you our sale was truly a successful group effort. Wonderful sunshine on sale day and more effective advertising also helped. Total profits were almost double those of last year, with the Members' Table accounting for about 30%.

The field trips were well attended and enjoyed by all. We learn from every garden we visit, each a unique reflection of both its owners' whims and geographic setting. The garden creativity award has to be shared equally between the Bischoffs and Allan Davis/Sean O'Neill. Expect to

see their gardens featured soon in *Better Homes and Gardens*. The rambling Finley-Klapwijk garden in north Surrey is well-established, with oodles of mature rhodies growing amid huge native maples and conifers. The Nemanishen garden in Mission is charming, still in its youth but with great promise. At nearby Mission Heritage Park Garden we admired rhododendrons donated by the late Dr. Marsellus, including his registered *R. 'Caitlin'*, recently named the city flower of Mission.

I'm happy to report that three new members joined in April: Carol Stewart, Lucy Cleggett and Ian and Susan Morrison. Please extend a very warm personal welcome to them at our truss show in May and at our June picnic. And don't hesitate to invite friends to these upcoming events!

Our spring picnic this year will be held on Saturday, June 20 at Erica Nursery in Pitt Meadows. Kirsten Martin will guide us on a pre-picnic tour of the nursery and allow us to purchase fabulous plants at wholesale

prices. As in previous years, we shall have an auction presided over by everyone's favourite auctioneer, Sean Rafferty, back along with Brenda by popular demand from the depths of Shirley. Full details will be sent out shortly via e-mail.

A note on publication of the YAK. Our editor informs me that he is off to Sikkim in May on another rhodo hunting expedition with Steve Hootman. Thus this issue will cover two months, May and June, followed by a news blackout until September.

Lastly, if you haven't visited our website recently, please take a moment to do so at: [www.frasersouthernrhodos.ca](http://www.frasersouthernrhodos.ca). I think you'll be pleasantly surprised. The Homepage lists all upcoming events and the Facebook section has photos posted as recently as yesterday.

Meantime, happy gardening.



*Chris Hodgson*



## FROM THE EDITOR

### Last Month:

At our April 15 meeting we enjoyed an outstanding presentation by Ron Long, for 36 years science photographer at Simon Fraser University. Besides photography, his passion (he says it's an addiction) is exploring for and photographing exotic plants in extreme environments.

His talk, "The Unique Botany of Southern Oregon," focused on Steens and Siskiyou Mountain Ranges in southern Oregon. Neither range has been glaciated, so soils there have developed over the millennia by decomposition of the underlying bedrock. The Siskiyou Range, for example, is underlain by serpentinites, a rock rich in magnesium and trace metals but very poor in potassium, a basic element of plant life. Ron's exquisite photographs included not only many alpine wildflowers found in BC, but also species unique to these particular ranges: dicentras, lupines, erythroniums, fritillaries, phlox, saxifrages, and many others. Ron's photographic skill in capturing the minutest of these

beauties, not to mention the native fauna, from antelope to butterflies, left us in awe.

Many in the audience decided to add Steens and Siskiyou Mountains, a mere 500 kms south of Vancouver, to their "must visit" list.

*Margaret Hodgson*



### This Month:

Is the twenty-second Annual FSRS Justly Famous Beer Bottle Truss Show. The classifications are reprinted on page 6 and I shall reprint the rules for you here:

Rule 1 - bring some flowers in. Rhodos are nice, and they fit in the beer bottle vases quite handily, but if you have something else blossoming right now that is strange, spectacular, or possibly the only plant in your garden that the hail, cold rain, or prematurely warm weather have not ruined, bring it along. It may not win one of the rhodo categories, but it will be sure to gladden someone's heart.

Rule 2 - bring something you can fill with water to place the flowers in. Beer bottles (not cans) are often the vase of choice because they are usually ready to hand and sturdy enough to support the top-heavy trusses.

Rule 3 - sign up with the official show convenor - Wenonah March - obtain your personal entry number, mark your entry card with the name of the rhodo and your entry number, and place your contribution on one of the tables beside whichever of the category cards is most appropriate. (See page 6 for the category listings.)

Rule 4 - when all the contributions have been designated and placed, pick up your baggy of beads and start the voting! Remember: one category, one bead - no need for voting reform, them as has (the most beads), gets (the prize).

Rule 5 - having completed your democratic responsibility, retire to the tea room for refreshment while our team of auditors from the firm of Calyx, Sepals, Pistil and Style tabulate the results.

Rule 6 - Cheer and clap for the winners.

## Next Month:

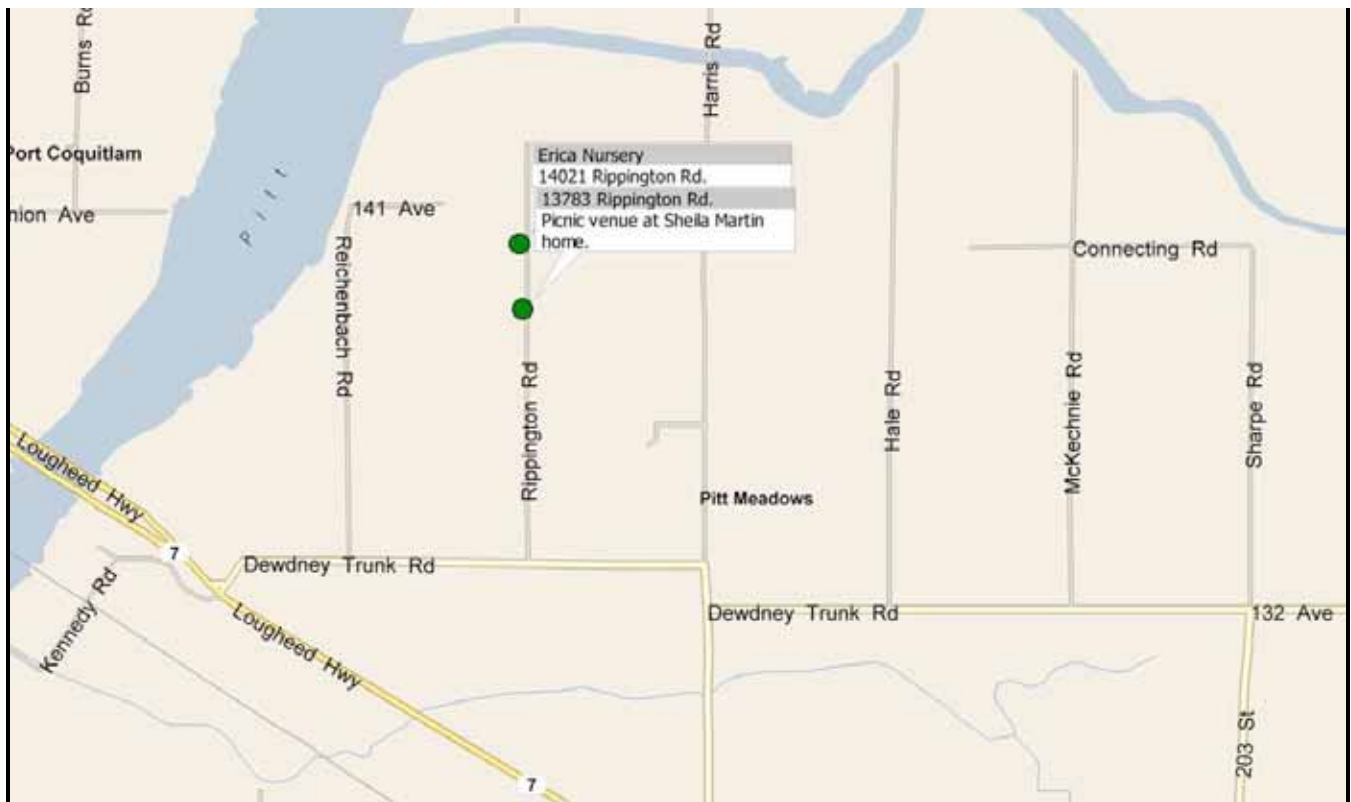
### June Picnic

This year's spring picnic will be held on Saturday, June 20 at the home of Sheila Martin, 13783 Rippington Road, Pitt Meadows. The fun starts at 1:00 pm with Kirsten leading a guided tour of the nursery further up the road, followed by our traditional pot luck picnic starting at 3:00 pm. The nursery is located at 14021 Rippington Road, about 300 metres north of the picnic venue, as indicated on the attached road map.

As last year, pot luck contributions will be totally unsupervised. Bring whatever you like, and hopefully we'll like it too. We may end up with nothing but salads and crusty rolls, but that's part of the adventure. Bring your own plates, cups and cutlery. As always, punch (and punchier), coffee and tea will be provided. Those requiring a stronger stimulant should bring their own paper bag. Sean Rafferty and Brenda Macdonald will be back by popular demand to oversee the auction of your donated prize rhodos, rare botanical wonders and miscellaneous garden items.

Bring your camera, lots of good cheer, and oodles of cash for plant purchases and the auction. And please invite a guest or two – they'll be most welcome.

*Chris Hodgson*  
604 541 2382



## Other Duties as Assigned

A big event such as the JFBTS requires the best of the best to handle the refreshment end of things. And we have them in spades for this month's big show. Ginny Fearing, Karen Linton and Larry Morton are event co-ordinators extraordinaire. Just bring in the goodies and let them loose to organise the party.

## Good Stuff:

Also, please be reminded that John and Gail Dodd will have their incredible garden open for visiting on Sunday, May 17, 10:00 am-4:00 pm. Their garden is a joyous experience so please take advantage of this special opportunity



**The world famous Fraser South Beer Bottle Truss Show will be held at our May meeting, Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.** This is a fun event in which everyone can participate.

1. Entry to the hall will be by bringing at least one truss. It is not necessary that it be a

rhododendron.

2. There will be three areas for display:

- a. **competitive rhododendron trusses**
- b. **non-competitive rhododendron trusses**
- c. **companion plant displays, including bonsai**

3. To assist in deciding which class to enter, an Advisory Panel will provide guidance and make any final decisions necessary.

4. All trusses must be in glass bottles. (Cans and plastic pop bottles are too unstable.)

5. Judging will be by member votes. Having given up on the too-sticky and too-tasty Smarties, we will be continuing with the counting beads used for the last few years. Just drop your bead in the receptacle in front of the truss you wish to vote for.

6. All entries to be rhododendrons (not azaleas) unless otherwise specifically noted.

#### Division I

##### Species Classes

- Class 1.** Sub-genus 'Rhododendron' (lepidotes)
- Class 2.** Azalea (deciduous and evergreen)
- Class 3.** Sub-genus 'Hymenantes' (elepidotes)

#### Division II

##### Hybrid Classes

- Class 4.** Any lepidote hybrid
- Class 5.** Any deciduous azalea hybrid
- Class 6.** Any evergreen azalea hybrid

##### Colour Classes (rhododendrons only)

- Class 7a:** Red - (small)
- 7b:** Red - (large)
- Class 8a:** White - (small)
- 8b:** White - (large)

- Class 9a:** Pink - (small)
- 9b:** Pink - (large)
- 9c:** Pink - (really, really, large)
- Class 10a:** Yellow & Cream (small)
- 10b:** Yellow & Cream (large)
- Class 11a:** Mauve & Purple (small)
- 11b:** Mauve & Purple (large)
- Class 12:** Orange
- Class 13:** Bi-colour

#### Division III

##### Special Classes

- Class 14:** "What's it Called" - best new non-registered hybrid - a special class for the hybridizer
- Class 15:** Truss with the Best Fuzzy Foliage
- Class 16a:** Best Blotched (small)
- 16b:** Best Blotched (large)
- Class 17:** Best Speckled
- Class 18:** Most Lurid
- Class 19:** Best Last Year's Truss
- Class 20:** Most Elegantly Weevil-Notched
- Class 21:** Best Hammerhead
- Class 22:** Most Flaccid
- Class 23a:** Best Miniature - under 6" (species)
- 23b:** Best Miniature - under 6" (hybrid)
- Class 24a:** Most Fragrant - Rhododendron
- 24b:** Most Fragrant - Azalea
- Class 25:** Bridesmaid (for anyone not previously an award winner)

##### Judged

**Lionheart Award:** best over-all yellow, any Class

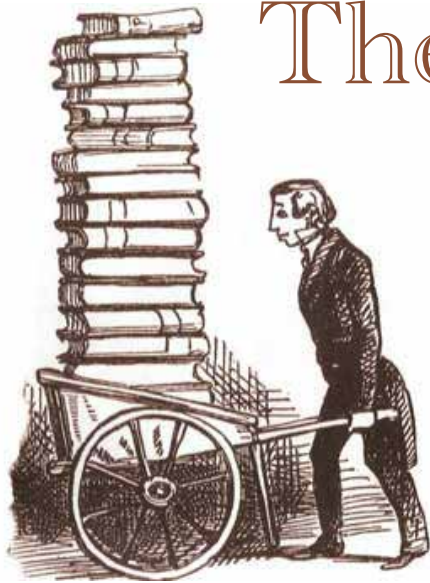
##### Definitions :

1. **Small** - 6" or under
2. **Large** - 6" to 10"
3. **Really, Really, Large** - over 10"
4. **Blotch** - each individual flower shows a solid colour mark on dorsal lobe (or three lobes), distinctly different from the base colour of the flower.
5. **Lurid** - most vividly garish
6. **Hammerhead** - an inflorescence which arises from more than a single flower bud
7. **Speckled** - distinguished from blotches by non-solid colour sprinkles and spots, either around entire flower, or at least on upper lobe(s) - e.g. 'Paprika Spiced'

## THE CALENDAR:

<b>May 6-10</b> Sidney, BC	<b>ARS Annual Convention,</b> Mary Winspear Center, Sidney. BC
<b>Wednesday, May 13</b> 7:30-9:30 pm Van Dusen	<b>Alpine Garden Club of BC</b> Anna Leggatt: Spring Wildflowers of Persia – the Zagros Mountains in Iran
<b>Wednesday, May 20</b> 7:30 pm	<b>Fraser South Rhododendron Society</b> The Justly Famous Beer Bottle Truss Show
<b>Thursday, May 21</b>	<b>Vancouver Rhododendron Society</b> A walk in the UBC Botanical Garden , to be guided by Douglas Justice.
<b>Sunday, June 14</b>	<b>Vancouver Rhododendron Society</b> Annual Potluck Picnic
<b>Saturday, June 20</b> Erica Enterprises Nursery	<b>Fraser South Rhododendron Society</b> Annual Potluck Picnic and Auction





# The Book Cart

*The Rhododendron Species Vol II, Elepidotes*, Part 1, Arboreum –Lacteum by H.H. Davidian, B.A., B.Sc. (Hons.) Timber Press, Portland Oregon, Copyright 1989 by H.H. Davidian, 344 pages, 159 colour plates, 7 pages black and white photographs, 46 line drawings and 5 maps. Glossary, Hardiness Zone maps, General Index and Index of Rhododendrons. Hardbound. ISBN 0-88192-109-2 (hardcover)

In *The Rhododendron Species Volume II, Elepidotes*, Part 1, H.H. Davidian continues the very careful and detailed taxonomic treatment of rhododendrons, devoting this volume and Volume III to the Elepidote Rhododendrons. Volume II, Part 1 covers Arboreum to Lacteum.

The core of this volume is a list of Elepidote Rhododendrons in their series, and a key to the Series and Subseries, but what is so very useful are the illustrated line drawings at the beginning of the book giving such detailed clear descriptions of leaf shapes of Lepidote and Elepidote Rhododendrons, the flower shapes of the two, the scales in minute detail, seeds, and hairs (drawn by H.H. Davidian from detailed microscopic examination of the indumentum). The Glossary is also located at the beginning of the book which is very practical when the reader is searching for new explanations of terminology.

The series are listed alphabetically, making this volume a useful tool in identification for any gardener with an interest in rhododendrons.

This volume includes Davidian's synopsis of Elepidote Rhododendrons species and some of their characteristics.

*Margaret Hodgson*

Editor's note: Should anyone ever encounter any difficulty in identifying a species rhododendron, the four volumes by H.H. Davidian contain the most detailed descriptions of rhododendron characteristics of any reference material that I have discovered.

