



This Month's Meeting

Date: Wednesday, November 19th, 2015 @ 7:30 pm

Topic: The Importance of Biodiversity in the Garden

Speaker: Douglas Justice

Sales of cards and images: Sue Klapwijk and Wenonah March

2015 Officers

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<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:
Langley Mennonite Fellowship Church
20997- 40th Street
Langley BC



Quick Hits

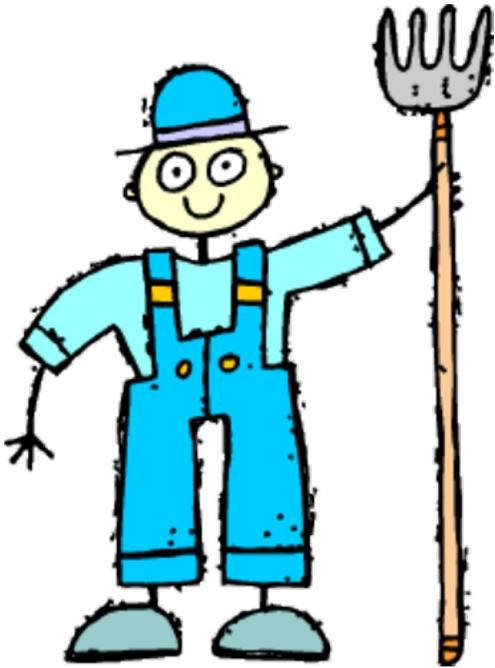
Our speaker this month will be Douglas Justice, Associate Director and Curator of Collections at the University of British Columbia Botanical Garden, speaking on The Importance of Biodiversity in the Garden. Douglas will be the inaugural lecturer at our new hall, the



Langley Mennonite Fellowship Hall, whose address is few inches to the left. For those unfamiliar with the new meeting place a map may be found on page 9.

At the bottom of page 4, there is a hyperlink to some video recordings of Douglas presenting his monthly 'Bouquet' at the Vancouver Rhododendron Society meetings.

President's Remarks :



I find it hard to get up a steam of enthusiasm on a cold day in November with the rain beating down. Thoughts wander to Robert Frost's poetry back in the day when memory work was actually part of school curriculum, about picking apples, raking leaves, walking in the rain and having miles to go before sleeping - all very conducive to curling up by the fire and nodding off...

So I'm walking around our garden looking for something to crow about in this dismal month. For one thing, our rhodos are loaded with buds, more and fatter than ever before, with lots of promising hammerheads. Perhaps thanks to oodles of sunshine and regular drip watering this past summer? Hardy fuschias, always reliable from June to first frost and the perfect complement to rhodos, are bravely soldiering on. And one of our hardy asters is in full bloom. The *Cardiocrinum* on the other hand, so majestic back in June, is now a forlorn blackened pole with some equally blackened seed pods up high.

But enough! Enthusiasm is called for and enthusiasm your president must deliver.

We had a very jolly time last month at our propagating session. Whether it makes propagators of us all is moot, but it may have nudged a few in that general direction. At this upcoming meeting we're delighted to have as guest speaker Douglas Justice, Director and Curator of Collections at UBC Botanical Garden. Doug has authored two well received books and is working on two more. He is a long-time member of The Vancouver Rhododendron Society and a popular speaker on a wide range of horticultural topics. His high energy presentations are guaranteed to generate enthusiasm in all but the most sleep-deprived listener. I urge you all to get off the couch and come out to hear Doug speak on *The Importance of BioDiversity in the Garden*. And don't hesitate to invite a friend or two. None will be disappointed! You can read more about Doug elsewhere in this *Yak*.

Your executive is starting to make plans for our April plant sale next year. Unfortunately, Aldergrove Nurseries, our biggest seller and biggest street presence for years, will not be present. However, in terms of direct club profits, last year the Members' Table accounted for the largest share (27%), with second and third places going to Aldergrove and Erica. Next year, we're counting on Erica to pick up from Aldergrove to give us a vibrant, colourful street presence. My main point here is to encourage members again, before the season completely shuts down, to get out there, divide and conquer those overgrown perennials and pot up those suckering *Callicarpas* and other shrubs so that all are in perfect selling condition come April. To command the best price, your plants must be out of the ordinary, healthy, and neatly – and correctly – labelled; in other words, exactly as we ourselves would expect from a seller

At the October meeting Kirsten Martin gave us a demo of a product designed to tide our potted plants over a dry spell while we're off on a summer cruise. It's called an Ollie Plant Sipper, of which eight models are available. Those interested may request a brochure or place an order at wholesale prices through Kirsten at Erica Enterprises: ericacenterprises@shaw.ca. The perfect stocking stuffer were it not so fat. Please note that this is not a for-profit advertisement.

Finally, please make a point of renewing your membership either at the November meeting or by mail directed to Ginny Fearing, Membership chairperson. Those passing the November 30 deadline will miss out on the winter edition of *JARS*, the *ARS Journal*. You holdouts know who you are.

Chris Hodgson



Cardiocrinum giganteum
image: Chris Hodgson

Last Month:

Our October meeting was the first at our new venue at the Langley Mennonite Fellowship Church on 40th Avenue in Langley. It is very welcoming and comes with a state-of-the-art kitchen facility. The meeting started with a lively question and answer session headed up by an in-house panel of rhodo experts: Les Clay, Colleen Bojczuk and Harold Fearing. Questions included which rhododendrons best survived our summer drought; timing, type and importance of fertilization; the causes of yellow chlorotic leaves on some plants but not others; what to do about frost damage and sunburn (nothing!); proper pruning techniques and how to handle the problem of leaf mildew. Kirsten Martin demonstrated a very useful system of automatic watering of containerized plants during holiday travels.

The members then moved to hands-on participation in rhodo propagation techniques, starting with a demonstration of seed propagation by James Worden. He uses rectangular plant pots with covers in a Lee Valley mini-greenhouse to accommodate his seedlings, providing controlled moisture and bottom heat conditions throughout the propagation process. He also demonstrated using pots and popping them in plastic Ziploc bags to achieve the same results. From there, we were treated to a demonstration by Kirsten Martin of propagation by cuttings as applied at Erica Enterprises: Use only new growth, three inch stems, four leaves maximum per stem, with the leaves cut in half to reduce moisture transpiration. Very gently scrape the stems to expose the cambium and apply No. 3 three rooting hormone. Then pot them up in starter mix, give them bottom heat, regular misting and success is guaranteed.

The last demonstration of the evening was presented by Les Clay on grafting of rhododendrons. Start with a good hardy root stock amenable to grafting (such as *R. 'Ana Rose Whitney'*, *'Cunningham's White'*, *'Grace Seabrook'*) and selected propagation cuttings (as above). Make a very careful splice of both root stock and graft material followed by equally careful alignment of the cambium between the two stems. Then secure the graft with an elastic band and Bob's your uncle!

Many thanks to all the dedicated panel members and demonstrators who made this an informative and entertaining evening for all. The meeting terminated with a healthy dose of calorific goodies, good conversation and a resolve to all become first rate rhododendron propagators.

Margaret Hodgson



Our panel of experts against a backdrop of art work by budding Rembrandts

This Month:

We are fortunate to have Douglas Justice visit us again to deliver a lecture on the Importance of Biodiversity in the Garden. As many of you know, Douglas is the Associate Director and Curator of Collections at the UBC Botanical Garden and Center for Plant Research. He is an authority on many genera with *Acer*, *Magnolia* and *Rhododendron* ranking high on his list of favourites. While his primary responsibility is the day-to-day operation of the garden and interpretation of the plant collections, he is also involved with public and industry outreach, and teaches horticulture and plant identification courses for the Faculties of Land & Food Systems and Applied Sciences. For the flavour of his relaxed and informative speaking style, please click [here](#), courtesy of the Vancouver Rhododendron Society.



Next Month:

Is the FSRS annual Christmas potluck party and rules and regs will be posted in next month's issue of The Yak. Please bear in mind that it will be an earlier date than usual, occurring on December 9th with a 6:30 pm start, an hour earlier than our regular time.

Joan McGiveron has agreed to cook a large ham and Art and Rose Prufer will prepare a quiz. No turkey will be cooked this year unless somebody wishes to volunteer to do so at the club's expense. Please bring to the potluck any dish that you are particularly fond of and that you think others may enjoy. Also please bring along your own plates and cutlery and vessel to drink from. Mention has been made for the need of more volunteers to help set up the tables for the dinner so please notify any of the executive of your availability.

Chris Hodgson has asked to please send him your best photos of your own garden which will be compiled into a PowerPoint presentation for background interest while we are enjoying the Christmas meal.

The Business Stuff:

Our club librarian, Joan McGiveron, offers us the following information below:

Since there are duplicates in the FSRS Library, I am offering two wonderful books for sale at the November meeting. These both are in excellent condition and are being offered at a little less than half the new price.

1. *Seeds of Adventure; In Search of Plants* by Peter Cox & Peter Hutchinson - \$25.00
2. *In Veronica's Garden* by Margaret Cadwaladr - \$15.00

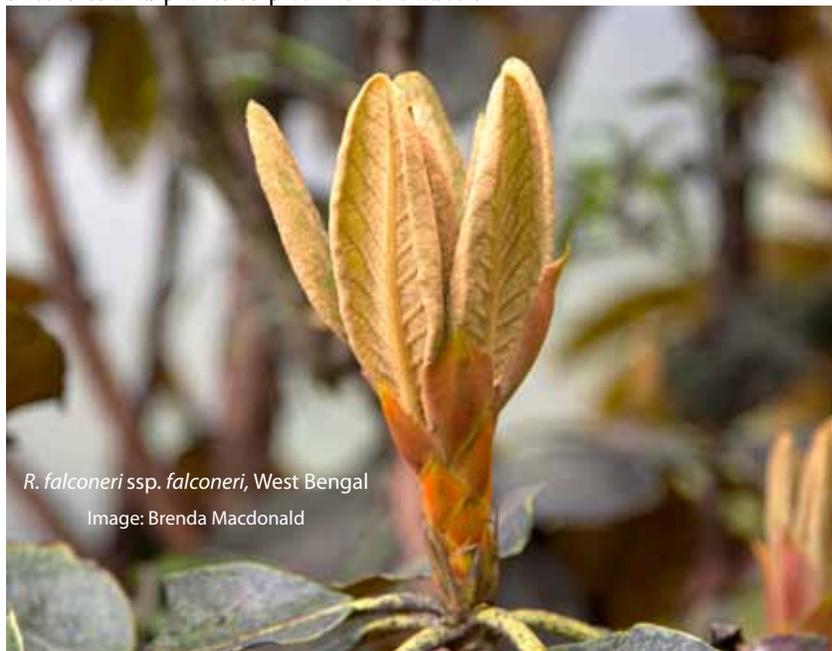
Please let me know if you are interested and see me at the November meeting.

Joan McGiveron

Please check out the [District One](#) website and view the latest entry of the Fraser Valley and Peach Arch Chapters list of Bronze Medal winners. While these chapters have dissolved, many of their former members are also members of Fraser South. It is pleasing to see that they are all now honoured on the website.

Other Duties As Assigned:

A perfect pair of propagators, Colleen and Kirsten, will provide premier percolations for the next meeting. The rest need to provide the profiteroles and plants to pitch for the auction



R. falconeri ssp. *falconeri*, West Bengal

Image: Brenda Macdonald

THE CALENDAR:

Wednesday, November 18 7:30 pm	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Douglas Justice: Importance of Biodiversity in the Garden.
Thursday, November 19 7:30 pm Van Dusen	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Sean Rafferty: Rhododendrons of Sikkim
Wednesday, December 9 6:30 pm	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Annual Christmas Potluck Party
Wednesday, December 9 7:30-10:00 pm Van Dusen	Alpine Garden Club of BC Howard Wills: Sempervivums and Related Plants
Wednesday, January 13 7:30-10:00 pm Van Dusen	Alpine Garden Club of BC AGM and Members Slide Night
Wednesday, January 20 6:30 pm	Fraser South Rhododendron Society AGM and Annual Dessert Extravaganza
Thursday, January 21 7:30 pm Van Dusen	Vancouver Rhododendron Society AGM and Members Slide Night



Incredible Edibles

Chocolate Zucchini Cake

Lovely moist zucchini cake. I tried this with almond flour for GF, and it works!

2 ¼ cups sifted all-purpose flour
½ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
1 tsp baking soda
1 tsp salt
1 ¾ cups sugar

½ cup butter room temperature
½ cup vegetable oil

2 large eggs
1 tsp vanilla extract
½ cup buttermilk
2 cups grated unpeeled zucchini
1 – 6oz package (1 cup) semisweet chocolate chips
¾ cup chopped walnuts

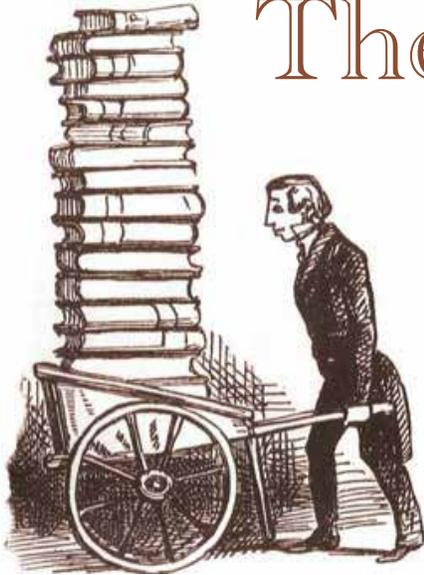
Preheat oven to 325°F. Butter and flour 13 x 9 x 2 inch baking pan. Sift flour, cocoa powder, baking soda and salt into medium bowl. Beat sugar, butter and oil in large bowl until well blended. Add eggs 1 at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in vanilla extract. Mix in dry ingredients alternately with buttermilk in 3 additions each. Mix in grated zucchini. Pour batter into prepared pan. Sprinkle chocolate chips and nuts over top. (Nuts can also be mixed into batter (about ½ cup and about ¼ cup on top))

Bake cake until tester inserted into centre comes out clean – about 50 minutes. Cool cake completely in pan. Serves 12.

Margaret Hodgson



The Book Cart

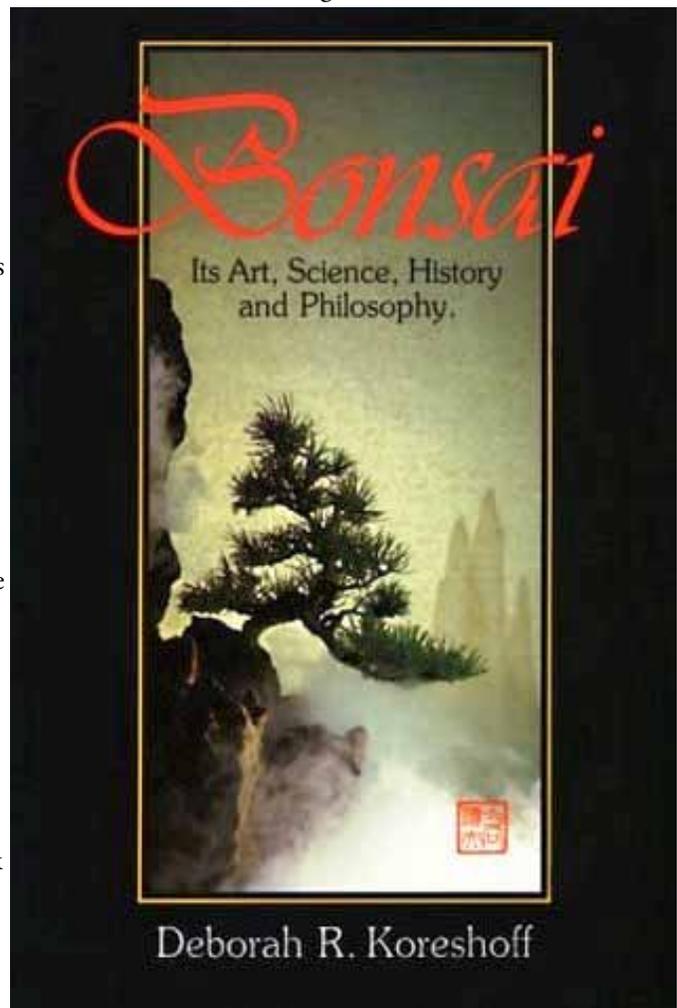


Bonsai, Its Art, Science, History and Philosophy by Deborah R. Koreshoff, 255 pages, 31 colour photographic plates, 223 black and white figures. Index. Hardbound. Copyright Deborah Koreshoff, 1984 and reprinted in 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1990 and 1992. Timber Press, Oregon, USA. ISBN 0-917304-68-3 (hardcover) American Library

Deborah Koreshoff, born in 1957, was immediately immersed in the world of bonsai, her parents both being involved in bonsai meetings, lectures and demonstrations. Her father was the holder of the largest and oldest collection of exhibition quality bonsai in Australia and this remained his major outlet of his artistic talents. She began her own collection at the age of seven, and, by the age

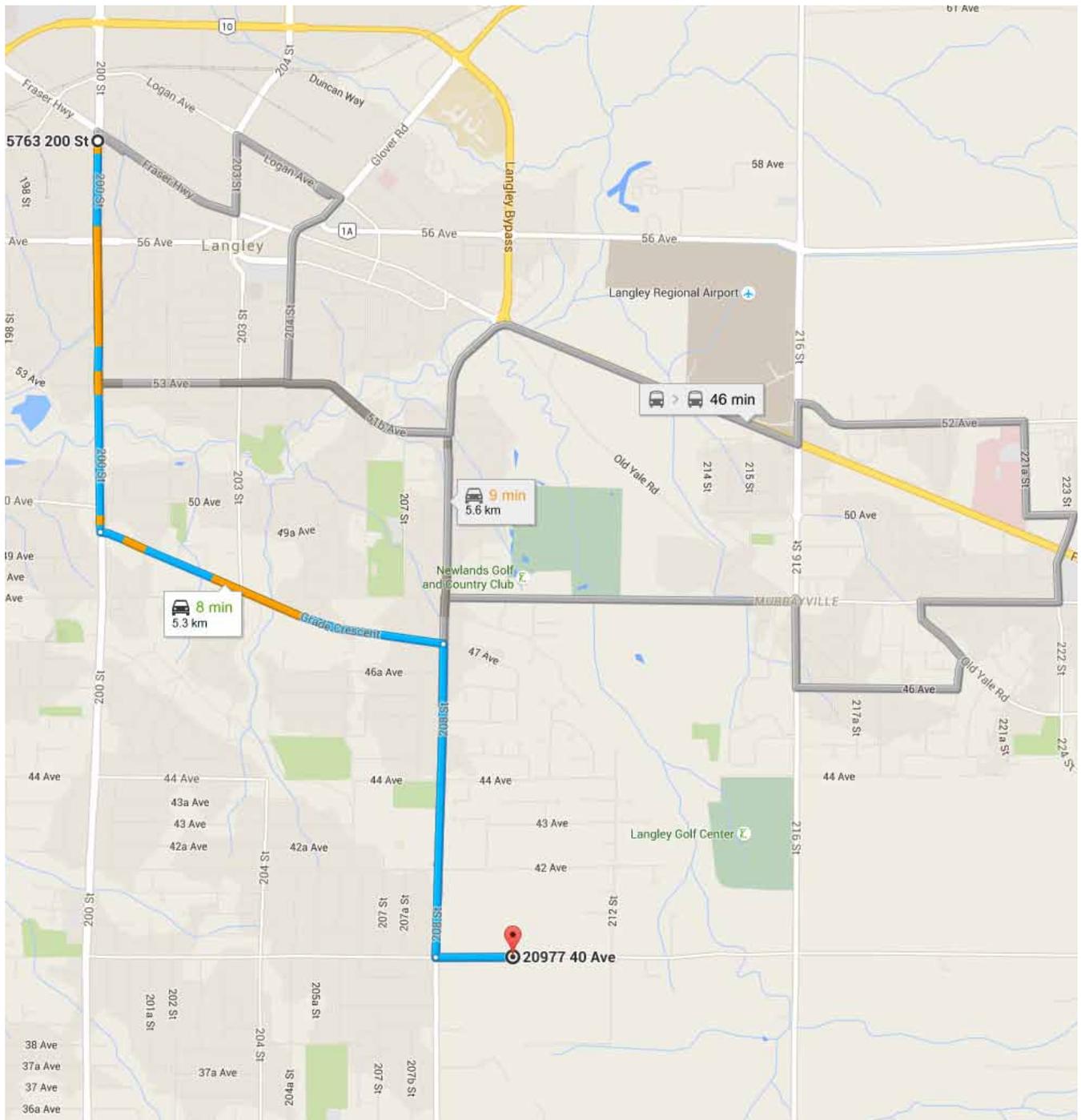
of fourteen, was giving lectures and demonstration of bonsai locally and throughout Australia. After graduation from Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia, her efforts went into writing this book, which has had nine reprints, such was its popularity. The book remains one of the most informative on the subject of bonsai. For many years she was the Education and Programme Officer for the Bonsai Society of Australia, as well as a major contributor to the magazine, *Bonsai Australia*. In late January, 2008, Koreshoff gave up the world of bonsai to take on other artistic pursuits.

In the opening pages of *Bonsai, its Art, Science, History and Philosophy*, the author makes special mention of the outstanding photograph used for the front cover, one of her father's pines which illustrates the beauty in the world of bonsai. The photograph is again repeated as the frontispiece, illustrating both the usual "Containerized form and as we see the tree in our imagination". The photograph was named "Dragon Flying Through the Clouds", and the author gives a vivid description of the significance of this name. As the title suggests, the author has given the reader practical information of the Art of Bonsai, but has added to the pleasure of reading this book by presenting the historical and philosophical aspects for the art as well. Each chapter follows detailed information of the mechanics of successful bonsai methods, material required, how to achieve proper shaping, notes on fertilizing, soil required, and expands into the artistic construction of developing group settings, containers which are appropriate to use and the qualities of achieving success in exhibition and display of bonsai. Koreshoff credits Penny Wright for the beautiful photography in the book. The colour plates are outstanding and almost make the book worthy on its own as an expression of great beauty. The black and white figures assist any reader who is considering trying a new art form, that of bonsai. This book is in our library.



Margaret Hodgson

Map showing the directions to our new meeting place at the Langley Mennonite Fellowship Church, 20997 40th Street, in relation to our former meeting place at the Langley United Church



Fraser South Rhododendron Society



2016 Membership Form

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.

- New Membership** - Have never belonged to an ARS chapter. (Includes ARS Journal) \$20.00
- Renewal Membership**
- Full Member** (includes ARS membership and quarterly ARS Journal) \$40.00
- Associate** (full member of other ARS chapter) \$15.00

Name of primary membership chapter _____

Your full color YAK newsletter will be e-mailed to your address (below).

Yes	No				
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you require a black & white paper copy of the YAK	(\$20)		<u>\$20.00</u>
Yes	No			Total	\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you require a Membership Card?			

Directory and Contact Information

All personal information collected by FSRS is for Society use only. May we include your contact information on our membership list, which is circulated to members only?

Yes	No		Yes	No		Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Address	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Phone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Email

Date _____

Name _____

Partner /Spouse's Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Province (State) _____

Postal (Zip) Code _____

Telephone Number _____

Email Address _____

All **cheques** should be made out to: **Fraser South Rhododendron Society**
 If **mailing**, send to: Ginny Fearing, 5376 Ross Road, Abbotsford, BC V4X1Z2

Membership questions may be addressed to the FSRS Membership Chair,
 Ginny Fearing at 604-857-4136, or to any other FSRS officer.