



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

**Date:** Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015 @ 7:30 pm

**Topic:** Panel of Experts Q & A, and Hands-on Propagating.

**Plant sales:** Kirsten Martin

## 2015 Officers

President:	Chris Hodgson	604-541-2382
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Vice Pres:	Evelyn Jensen	604-857-5663
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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:  
**Langley Mennonite Fellowship Church**  
**20997- 40<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Langley BC**



## Quick Hits

### Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

There is news of great import concerning the changing of our meeting place. Before consigning this newsletter to the bottom of your virtual cockatiel cage, please avail yourselves of the President's Remarks on the following spread, and then consult the attached map on the penultimate page for directions.

And for those of you who wish to remain upstanding, the last page reprises the Membership Form, to complete and to return with the appropriate dues to Ginny, either in person at the meeting, or by mailing in should you wish to help out the folks at Canada Post.

Thank you.





## President's Remarks :

Well, judging by all those noisy phalanxes overhead, it must be fall, right? But have you noticed that for every flock heading south, there's another heading east, or west, or even north? Personally, I put it down to pre-flight carbo-loading in secret marijuana plantations around the lower mainland. Hopefully, those misguided honkers will sort themselves out before the snow flies.

The big news this month is the change in our meeting venue. We were reluctant to leave our home of many years at the Langley United Church on 200th Street, but I think you will like the new venue our executive has selected, at **Langley Mennonite Fellowship Church, 20997 40th Street**, about two miles to the south of our old digs. The new venue is well-maintained, spacious, with no steps to negotiate and a beautiful, fully-equipped kitchen. A map showing the new location is attached on page 9.

We have a great programme this season. However, our next meeting will be something that I have wished for some time; a double whammy of question-and-answer session with an in-house panel of experts (Colleen, Les and Harold) together with a hands-in-the-dirt demonstration of

rhododendron propagating techniques (cuttings, grafting and growing from seeds) with another group of our experts (Rose, Kirsten and James). Your questions can relate to rhododendrons or to any other botanical problem or issue,

but please try to keep them of general interest. You may e-mail me your advance questions ([chodgson@telus.net](mailto:chodgson@telus.net)) and I'll pass them along so the panel arrives well prepared. Fraser South is very fortunate to have so many knowledgeable and experienced horticulturalists! And you should each end up with some starter plants to take home!

In November, Douglas Justice, curator of collections at UBC Botanical Garden, will speak

on "The Importance of Biodiversity in the (Rhododendron) Garden". You will find all the speakers for our January through April meetings posted on our website at [frasersouthernrhodos.ca](http://frasersouthernrhodos.ca).

Finally, while sorting out your perennial beds and shrubberies this month, please remember to pot up any leftovers for sale at our "Members' Table" in April. Always popular are hostas, ornamental grasses, vines and small shrubs. And named cultivars always command a better price. Keep in mind we're talking about companion plants, not rhododendrons.



*Chris Hodgson*



## Last Month: Hydrangeas in South Surrey.

Barry Roberts' career in Britain was mainly in the world of publishing, but upon retiring, Barry and his wife left England to take up residence at their present location in South Surrey. Barry's interest in hydrangeas was sparked in 2006, and as he told us at the talk, his hydrangea garden is the second largest such garden, following on the heels of a large hydrangea garden in Norfolk, Virginia. His endeavour is to overtake this garden by accumulating the last few remaining species which he does not presently have in his collection, and upping the number of cultivars in his garden. His garden houses 15 of the 17 species commonly available and he has 130 cultivars. The talk followed a comprehensive outline of the three main types of hydrangeas, accompanied by a very clever PowerPoint presentation of these three different types. The audience also received good information on which hydrangeas were of the "Best Plant Picks" category. Included in the talk was a description of the basic botany of hydrangeas (the sepals are what most of us refer to as the "flowers" on hydrangeas, the flowers are very small in comparison to the showy sepals), methods of pruning (or not pruning), the many cultivars available, and a question period. The entire presentation offered the audience much information about hydrangeas, and we were directed to check out his [website](#) for more on this topic.

Following Barry's Hydrangea talk, President Chris Hodgson guided the audience through a PowerPoint presentation on our new meeting venue at the Langley Mennonite Fellowship Church located at 20997 – 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Langley. We are looking forward to this move in time for our October meeting and will enjoy the spacious tidy meeting room with the well-equipped kitchen which is also available to us.

For the October meeting, we are hoping for more calorific offerings to the food counter as we had a rather sparse display at the September meeting. Margaret Hodgson and Nancy Moore will do the honours of coffee service for the October meeting.

*Margaret Hodgson*

## This Month:

As mentioned above in the President's Remarks we shall have an in-house panel of experts to respond to our most pressing rhododendron queries, together with a demonstration of propagating techniques encompassing cuttings, grafting and growing from seed.

## Next Month:

We are most fortunate to have Douglas Justice, a most engaging and knowledgeable speaker on horticultural matters near or far. Douglas is the Curator of Collections at the UBC Botanical Garden and a world renowned expert on maples, rhododendrons and a host of other genera. He will be speaking on the topic of Biodiversity in the Garden and all should do their utmost to attend.

## The Business Stuff:

If you have managed to navigate this far, you should now be aware that you will be very lonely should you find yourself at the Langley United Church at the time of our next meeting.

You are urged to bring lots of money to the next meeting. The delinquent among you can have a nice chat with Ginny, while the rest will be able to buy boodles of raffle tickets.

There is a golden opportunity for some kind soul to step up to the plate and become a hero or heroine. A volunteer is required to cook a fifteen pound turkey for the Christmas party on December 9<sup>th</sup>. The club will reimburse for the cost of the bird. Please let any of the executive know of your decision.

Harold Greer has now confirmed that they will hold a 2016 Western Regional Conference in Newport Oregon from September 30<sup>th</sup> to October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016. This has been a marvelous venue for several conferences in the past and the organisation has been superb. Start planning now.

## THE CALENDAR:

Wednesday, October 14 7:30 pm Van Dusen	Alpine Garden Club of BC Egan Davies: Plants of the Strandzha Mountains
Thursday, October 15 7:30 pm Van Dusen	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Harold Greer: Topic to be announced
Wednesday, October 21	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Expert Panel and Propagation Workshop
Saturday, October 24 7:30 pm Sooke Community Hall	Sooke Philharmonic Orchestra Celebration of Young Artists, Sibelius, Bartok, Dvorak
Wednesday, November 11 7:30 pm Van Dusen	Alpine Garden Club of BC Paul Spriggs: a Great Scott!! – Some Cool Stuff about David Douglas
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



*R. barbatum*, new growth  
Singalila, West Bengal



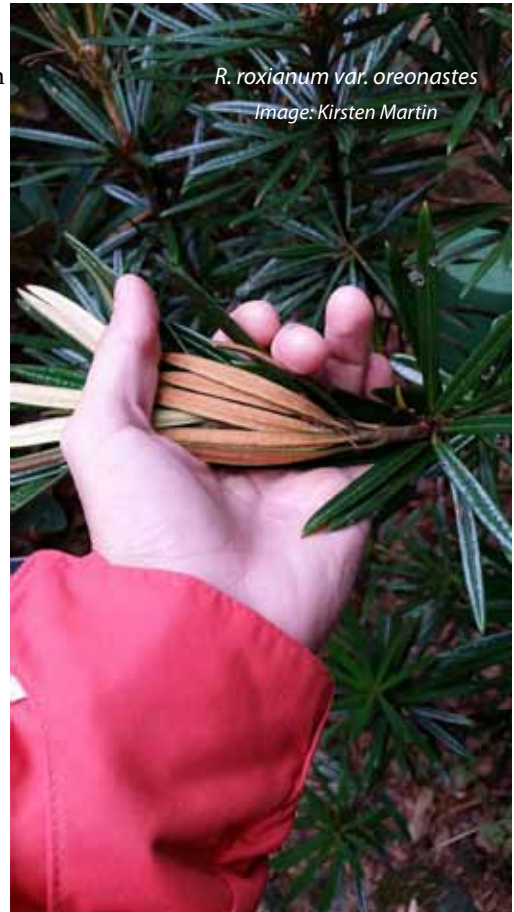
## The Hemminger Rhododendron Collection

Lilli Ann and Ed Hemminger moved to their 2.5 acre property in a wooded area of Maple Ridge over 35 years ago. Their home and garden is located between two stunning parks (the UBC Research Forest and Golden Ears Park) and the mountains. They have been long time members of the Vancouver Rhododendron Society and they have collected, sold, and grown rhododendrons for a large portion of their lives. Lilli Anne's truss entries in the annual



show have won countless awards over the years. They are now moving from their home and are leaving behind a collection of over 1,500 *Rhododendron* hybrids and approximately 500 species.

I have had the opportunity to visit their garden twice, and each time I was stunned by the canopy of large and complex *Rhododendron* foliage. The texture and variety was astounding. I found the bluest foliage of *R. campanulatum* ssp. *aeruginosum* with contrasting, tawny brown indumentum and *R. rex* towering overhead with large leathery foliage. Others that pulled my attention were *R. 'Ken Janeck'* and *R. 'Teddy Bear'*, both broad and stout with foliage divinely fluffy and glorious. The garden also boasts a fabulous collection of *R. augustinii*, which in bloom would surely rival any sunrise in colour and complexity. The Hemmingers would like to sell as many of these magnificent, large, established plants as possible. They do not want to see their life work succumb to bulldozing



at the hands of the city developers who have purchased the land. If you are interested in purchasing any plants of this large collection, you will be required to dig and make arrangements to transport them yourselves.

Lilli Ann has requested that you contact her directly at: 604-463-3867. A full list of plants that the Hemmingers have available is attached, as an Excel file, to the email which delivered this edition of your *Yak*.

Kirsten Martin

# *Incredible Edibles*

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## **Peach and Red Pepper Relish**

Tasty with pork, chicken or cheese. Also can be used as a glaze over pork or chicken for last five minutes of roasting.

### **Ingredients:**

6 cups chopped, peeled peaches – about 6  
6 sweet red peppers, finely chopped  
1 jalapeno pepper- seeded and finely chopped  
1 lemon cut n half  
1 1/2 cups cider vinegar  
3 cups (I use less) granulated sugar

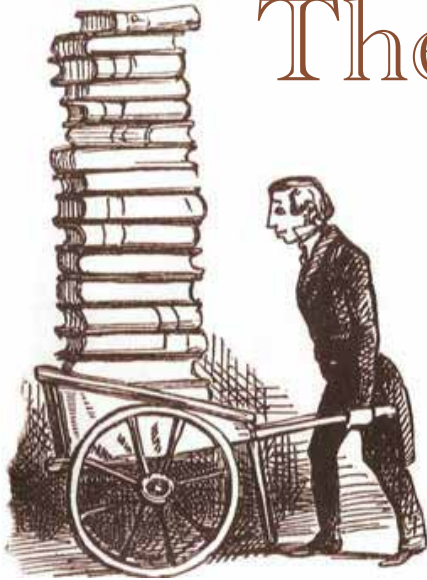
**Preparation:** In a large heavy pot, combine peaches, red peppers, jalapeno, lemon and vinegar. Bring to the boil. Reduce heat. Simmer for about 20 minutes. Discard lemon. Add sugar and return to the boil. Reduce heat to medium; cook, stirring every so often for 40 minutes or until thickened. Pour into prepared canning jars. Leave ½ inch headspace. Process in boiling water for 10 minutes.

*Margaret Hodgson*





# The Book Cart



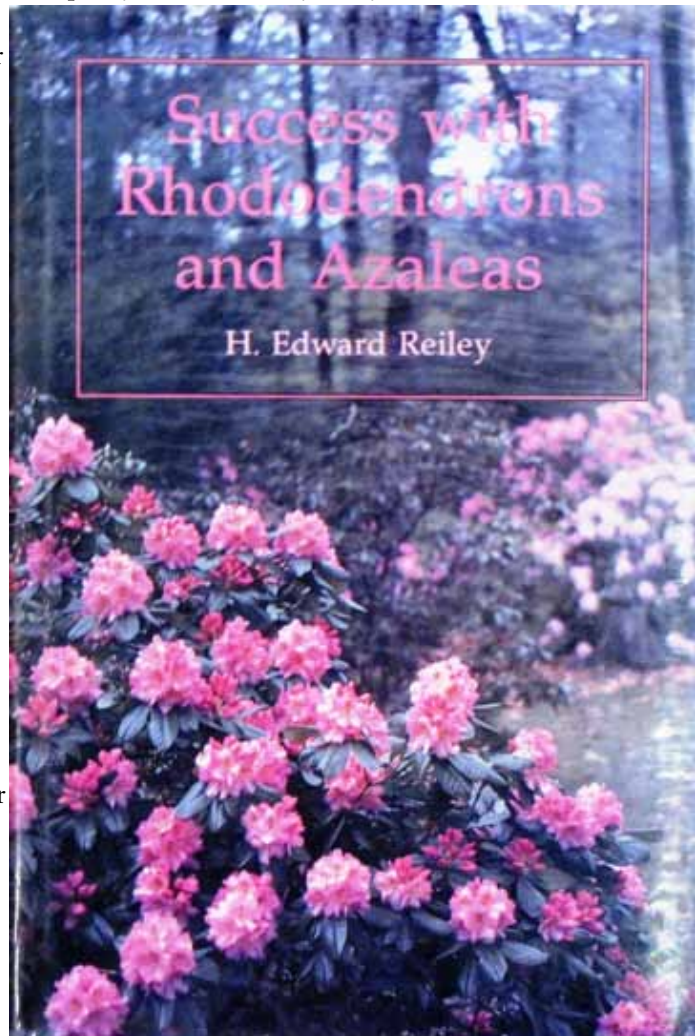
*Success with Rhododendrons and Azaleas* by H. Edward Reiley, B.S. (Hort) Timber Press, Portland, Oregon, Copyright 1992 by Timber Press. 285 pages, drawings on five pages, 87 colour photographs, multiple black and white photographs, Appendix A: Good Doer Table, Appendix B: Plant Listings by Flower Colour, Appendix C: Cold Tolerant Plants, Glossary, Plant Index: Rhododendrons, Plant Index: Azaleas, Subject Index. Hardbound. ISBN 0-88192-211-0

H. Edward Reiley (1928-2008) held a Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture, was a retired educator and a past president of the American Rhododendron Society. He was awarded the Gold Medal by the ARS for his dedication to the world of rhododendrons. In 1981 he helped organize the Mason-Dixon Chapter Rhododendron Society, becoming its first president and serving in that capacity for over twenty-five years. He also served as

District Director, Eastern Vice President and President. He served as a USAF fighter pilot and was a Life Member of the Future Farmers of America. There are a number of registered hybrid rhododendrons and azaleas which he developed. He operated a small nursery which included a large private garden featuring hundreds of cultivars of rhododendrons and azaleas in the natural setting of an oak forest.

In the preface of *Success with Rhododendrons and Azaleas*, the author comments that these plants are more exacting in their cultural requirements than many commonly grown plants, but hastens to add that the genus *Rhododendron* is so diverse that most gardens can be modified to meet the requirements of many species or cultivars. The year-round evergreen shrubs are beautiful, as are the deciduous azaleas, which have brilliant fall leaf colour, have attractive winter bark, stems, buds, and then display brilliant colours of orange, and yellow when in flower.

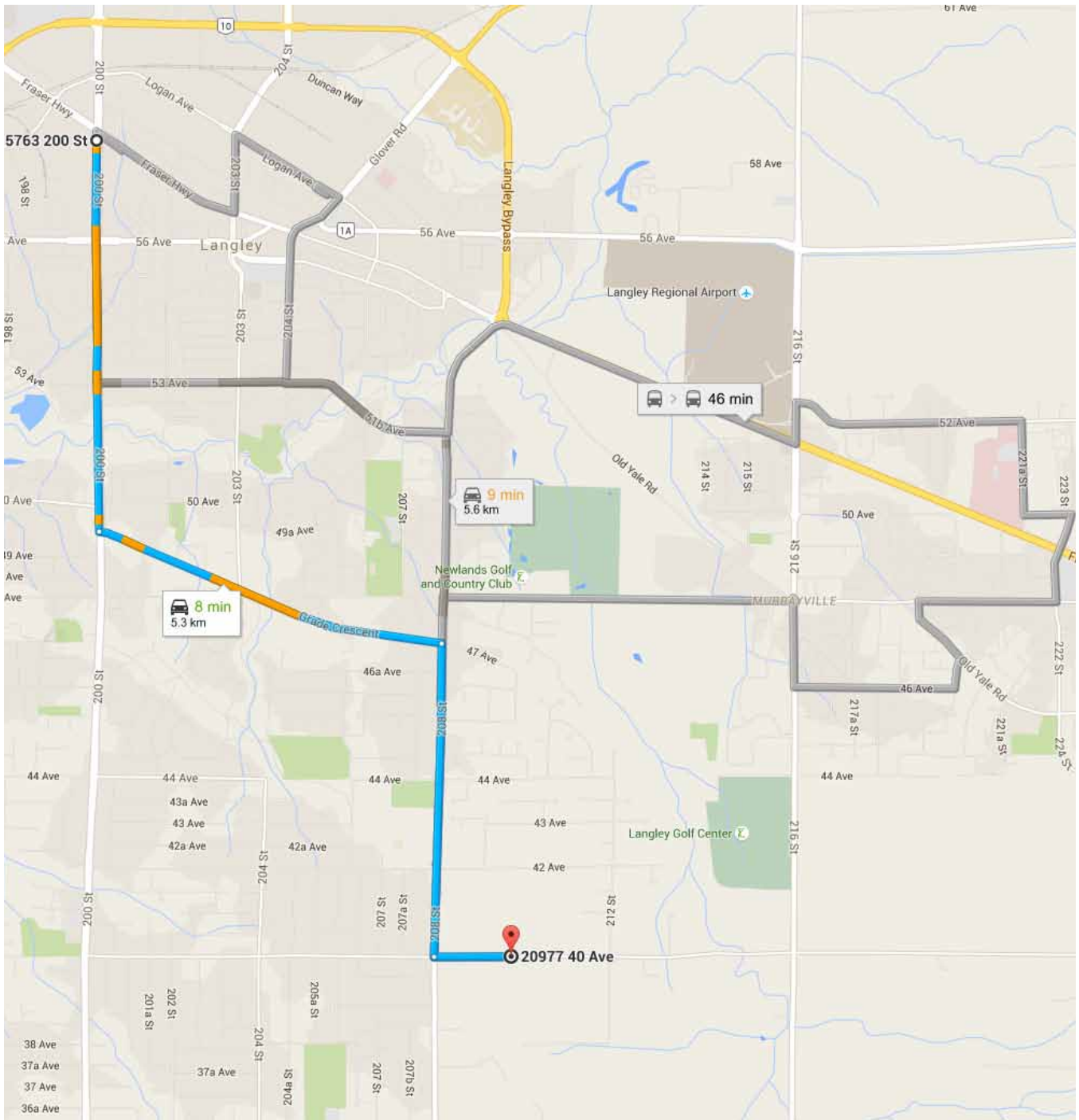
The book is well-organized, beginning Chapter One with an interesting history of the genus *Rhododendron*, covering the taxonomy and origins, plant introductions, and azaleas. With Chapter Two, the author discusses the site selection and growing requirements needed to have good success. The remaining chapters of the book cover the topics of selection of *Rhododendron* species and cultivars, and their uses in the landscape, such as specimen plants, accent plants, groupings, woodland plantings, container plants or bonsai plants. Other topics include the care required, plant disorders, propagation, nursery growing and hybridizing. The last chapter in the book gives very practical tips on conducting a successful flower and/or plant sale. Reiley has included an entire list of Show Classes for a successful Truss Show and also includes some ideas of how to prepare the previous winter to have winners in the next May's truss show. The three appendices are most useful. Listen up folks. The 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 <b>paper</b> 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.