



This Month's Meeting

Date: Wednesday, September 16th, 2015 @ 7:30 pm

Topic: **"Hydrangeas"**

Speaker: **Barry Roberts of Heritage Hydrangeas**

Plant sales: Harold Fearing

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



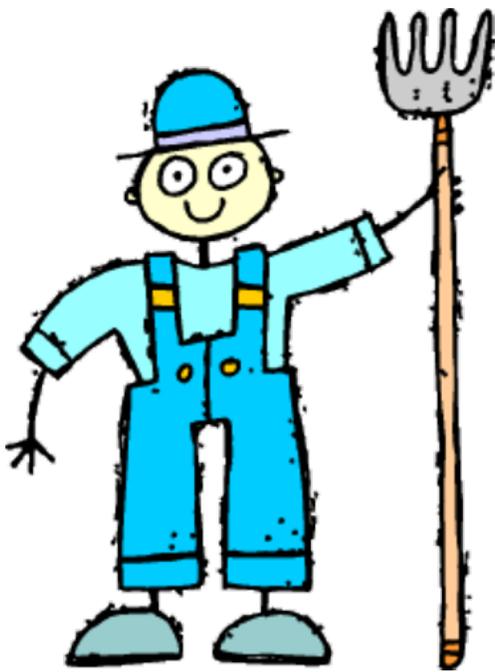
Quick Hits

Welcome back everyone. The drought seems to have abated and our rhododendrons and complexions are much improved by the moisture.

For those members who receive both electronic and hard copies of *The Yak*, there has been an increased cost applied to the hard copy delivery, noted on the membership renewal. Club members without access to a computer will continue to receive a free, mailed copy of the newsletter.

The Justly Famous Beer Bottle Truss Show winners are announced on page 6.





President's Remarks :

Welcome back to another season at Fraser South. It's been a very long, dry summer, at least until the drought came to a (literally) crashing end with that severe storm in late August. Trees to the left of us, trees to the right of us, onward through Fraser Valley drove the wild torment! OK, enough already - Margaret says I'm getting carried away after two glasses of wine. Grass will regenerate, one downed tree will not be missed, but sadly, a dead rhodo is toast forever. Hopefully your rhodo losses this summer were few. It's interesting that some rhodos out in full sun at our place and having received minimal watering, such as Yak hybrids Teddy Bear and Pink Sherbet, are just fine. Same with Sir Charles Lemon. We'll get more into the issue of drought-proof rhodos at one of our upcoming meetings.

Since this is our first YAK since May, here's a brief recap of spring activities. The plant sale in April was one of our most successful in recent years, thanks to perfect weather and to the Members' Table, which brought in about one third of profits. We'll repeat the Members' Table again in 2016, so take note. Please start propagating your perennial and shrub cuttings now.

At the truss show in May, Margaret and I were off admiring rhodos in England and missed the fun. However, thanks to Wenonah we have the final tally of winners. Overall winner was (DRUMROLL PLEASE) Barbara Inniss, with runners-up Harold Fearing, Joan and Terry McGiveron, Wenonah March and Larry Morton. The Lionheart Award went to Wenonah for *R. 'Karen Triplet'*. Congratulations to all winners and participants in this fun event!

The picnic in June at Erica Nurseries was great fun, but in your humble scribe's opinion the auction was a little lame. Perhaps next year we might better go with just the picnic and good camaraderie and take a pass on the auction. This would put a lot more pressure on the plant sale as our main funding source, but I think we can handle it. Please let me know your opinion.

At our meeting hall at the United Church on 200th Street, the Food Bank has taken over a good part of our space. Your executive has been diligently combing the streets and alley ways of Langley in search of a new venue. We've come up with what we think is a winner, but want to wait until the September 16 meeting to share it with you. We plan to make the move before our October meeting. I guarantee you will like it.

Your executive has very reluctantly made a decision to raise the annual fees for full memberships from \$35 to \$40, and an associate membership will increase from \$10 to \$15, and for mail-out YAKs to \$20, in order to better reflect actual costs. At \$40, the club is still subsidizing each membership. Your president is arguing vociferously with ARS for "dollar parity" on fees. Don't hold your breath, but please don't give Fraser South the toss because of this fee increase. We share your pain and are fighting hard on your behalf for an ARS cut-back. The renewal form is attached to this newsletter

Our speaker in September will be Barry Roberts, on heritage hydrangeas. With north of 130 varieties, Barry claims to have the largest hydrangea collection in Canada. I visited his open garden in early July and was very impressed. For our October meeting we plan a "hands-in-the-dirt" rhodo propagating session and a question-and-answer panel discussion with the experts. Speakers for November and future meetings will be announced soon. Meanwhile, the days are rapidly closing in, so get out and enjoy your gardens through these last few weeks of summer.

Chris Hodgson



image: Chris Hodgson



FROM THE EDITOR

This Month: Welcome back everyone. The drought seems to have abated and our rhododendrons and complexions are much improved by the moisture.

From all accounts received, it appears to have been a painful battle to assign triage and administer enough water to plants in the garden during this year's unusually hot and dry growing season.

September is membership renewal time at Fraser South and a membership form is appended, for your convenience, to the last page of this epistle, for you to print and bring with you to this month's meeting. Or mail a cheque directly to Ginny, at the address on the bottom of the form.

There have been some changes to the membership form this year and Ginny has sent the note below:

"It is FSRS dues renewal time again. You may bring the attached form, plus your money, to the September meeting or mail it as indicated on the form. We look forward to seeing you this fall and hearing how your garden survived this past summer.

While your Executive works to keep membership dues as reasonable as possible, ARS dues, which make up most of the membership fees, must be paid in US dollars. This year the current exchange rate has forced the Executive to raise our dues by five (Canadian) dollars."

As mentioned in the presidents remarks above, Barry Roberts, of [Heritage Hydrangeas](#), will speak to us on the obvious. Hydrangeas are a great complement to the rhododendron garden to enhance and extend colour throughout the summer months. There seems, in the last twenty years, to have been an explosion in the development of new and colourful cultivars. I have taken the liberty of borrowing Barry's CV from the internet and it is reprinted below:

There is more to hydrangeas than the showy mopheads! Barry will take us through the extensive family of hydrangeas, the notable species and those 'must-have' cultivars. Cultivation, pruning and propagation techniques will be explained and handouts will be provided. Barry's 1.5-acre garden is located in South Surrey where he is growing his collection of over 80 hydrangeas.



Next Month:

will feature a combined panel discussion and question and answer session on rhododendrons together with a hands-in-the-dirt demonstration of rhodo propagation by cuttings (Kirsten Martin) and of grafting (Rose Prufer).

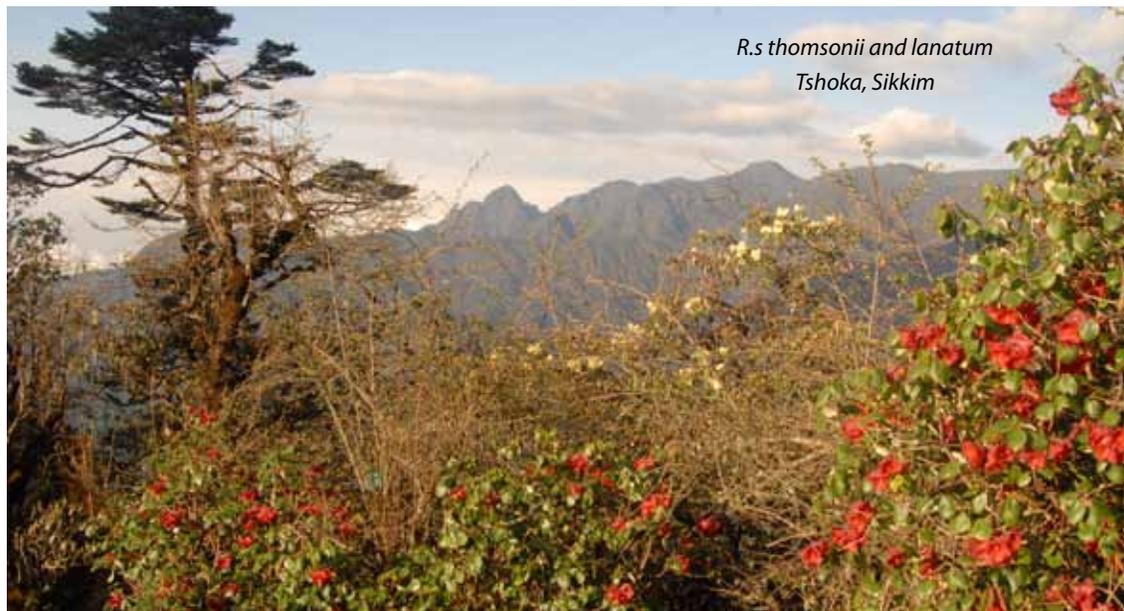
Other Duties as Assigned:

Let us keep the raffle table filled with boodles of treasure and kick off another great year of the world's best deals, and please do not forget to bring along your gourmet creations for the calorie table. They will be set out on the table in elegant array by Margaret Hodgson and Jo Wright.

Sean Rafferty

THE CALENDAR:

Wednesday, September 9 7:30 pm Van Dusen	Alpine Club of BC Sue Milliken and Kelly Dodson: Hunting for New Plants in Sichuan
Wednesday, September 16 7:30pm	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Barry Roberts of Heritage Hydrangeas
Thursday, September 17 7:30 Van Dusen	Vancouver Rhododendron Society David Sellars: "Chaos in the Rock Garden: Putting Theory into Practice"
Saturday, September 19 12:00-4:00 pm Van Dusen	Alpine Garden Club of BC Fall Plant Sale.
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



R.s thomsonii and lanatum
Tshoka, Sikkim



And the winners are ...

Twenty-first Annual Fraser South Beer Bottle Truss Show, May 20th, 2015

CLASSES Division I

Species Classes

- Class 1. Rhododendron (lepidotes)
Harold Fearing - *R. cinnabarinum*
- Class 2. Azalea (deciduous and evergreen)
Harold Fearing - *R. calendulaceum*
- Class 3. Hymenantha (elepidotes)
Harold Fearing - *R. insigne*

Division II

Hybrid Classes

- Class 4. Any lepidote hybrid
Harold Fearing - *R. 'Cinnkeys'*
- Class 5. Any deciduous azalea hybrid
Carla Bischoff - *R. (unknown)*
- Class 6. Any evergreen azalea hybrid
(Tie) J. McGiveron/W. March - *R. (unknown)* R. 'Elsie Lee'

Colour Classes

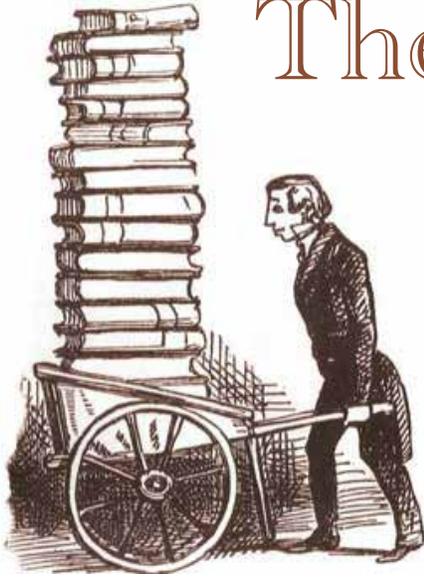
- Class 7a: Red - (small)
Wenonah March - *R. (unknown)'*
- 7b: Red - (large)
Sue Klapwijk - *R. 'Romany Chai'*
- Class 8a: White - (small)
Barbara Innes - *R. (unknown)'*
- 8b: White - (large)
Scot Henney - *R. decorum'*
- Class 9a: Pink - (small)
(Tie) B. Williams/L. Morton R. unknown/R. V'vanGough'
- Class 9b: Pink - (large)
Barbara Innes - *R. (unknown)'*
- 9c: Pink - (really, really, large)
Wenonah March - *R. 'Trude Webster'*
- Class 10a: Yellow & Cream (small)
Les Clay - *R. 'Papya Punch'*
- 10b: Yellow & Cream (large)
Wenonah March - *R. 'Karen Triplett'*
- Class 11a: Mauve & Purple - small
Chuck Floyd - *R. 'Black Sport'*
- Class 11b: Mauve & Purple - large
Barbara Innes - *R. (unknown)'*
- Class 12: Orange
Barbara Innes - *R. (Unknown)*
- Class 13: Bi-colour
Barbara Innes - *R. (unknown)'*

Special Classes

Division III

- Class 14: Non-registered hybrid
Sue Klapwijk - *R. 'Unknown'*
- Class 15: Truss with the Best Fuzzy Foliage
Wenonah March - *R. 'May Day'*
- Class 16a: Best Blotched - small
Colleen Bojczuk - *R. 'Hachmann's Charmant'*
- Class 16b: Best Blotched - large
Joan McGiveron - *R. 'Mrs. Tom Lowinsky'*
- Class 17: Best Speckled
Colleen Bojczuk - *R. 'Peste's Firelight'*
- Class 18: Most Lurid
Harold Fearing - *R. 'Midnight Mystique'*
- Class 19: Best Last Year's Truss
Larry Morton - *R. (unknown)*
- Class 20: Most Elegantly Weevil-Notched
Barbara Innes - *R. (unknown)*
- Class 21: Best Hammerhead
Les Clay - *R. (unknown)'*
- Class 22: Most Flaccid
Larry Morton - *R. 'Medusa'*
- Class 23a: Best Miniature Truss (species)
Joan McGiveron - *R. alabamense*
- Class 23b: Best Miniature Truss (hybrid)
Scot Henney - *R. (unknown)'*
- Class 24a: Most Fragrant Rhododendron
Joan McGiveron - *R. 'Polar Bear''*
- Class 24b: Most Fragrant Azalea
Joan McGiveron *R. 'Daviesii''*
- Class 25: Bridesmaid Class
Glitch , went unrecorded
- Judged**
- Lionheart Award: best over-all yellow, any Class
Wenonah March - *R. 'Karen Triplett'*
- Aggregate Winners -**
- First** - Barbara Innes (6)
- Second** - (Tie) Harold Fearing (5), Joan McGiveron (5)
Wenonah March (5)
- Third** - Larry Morton (3)

The Book Cart



A Garden for Life: Mary Greig & the Royston Rhododendrons by Judith Walker, MBCSLA, RPP. Edited by Clive L. Justice, PhD (SFU) FCSLA Gold Medal ARS. 164 pages, 103 photographs and documents, nineteen chapters, plus Editor's Preface, Acknowledgements and Index. Softcover. Copyright 2015 by Judith Walker, and BC Bigleaf Maple Books, Vancouver, BC. ISBN 978-0-9920461-3-2. \$30.00 CDN

Judith Walker, MBCSLA, RPP, as noted on the inside front cover, was born in Vancouver, BC, and educated at the University of British Columbia and the University of Washington. She works as

a landscape architect and planner in both private and public practice. Through her gardening experiences, she met Mary Greig, the main focus of this book. She has skillfully captured the story of Mary Greig and her husband, Ted. With the assistance of many people, she has compiled an enjoyable story of their life together, their experiences of moving to Canada, their venturing into the nursery business (Royston Nursery), their family and wide circle of friends, and Mary's dedicated labour involved in the successful propagation of the Royston Rhododendrons.

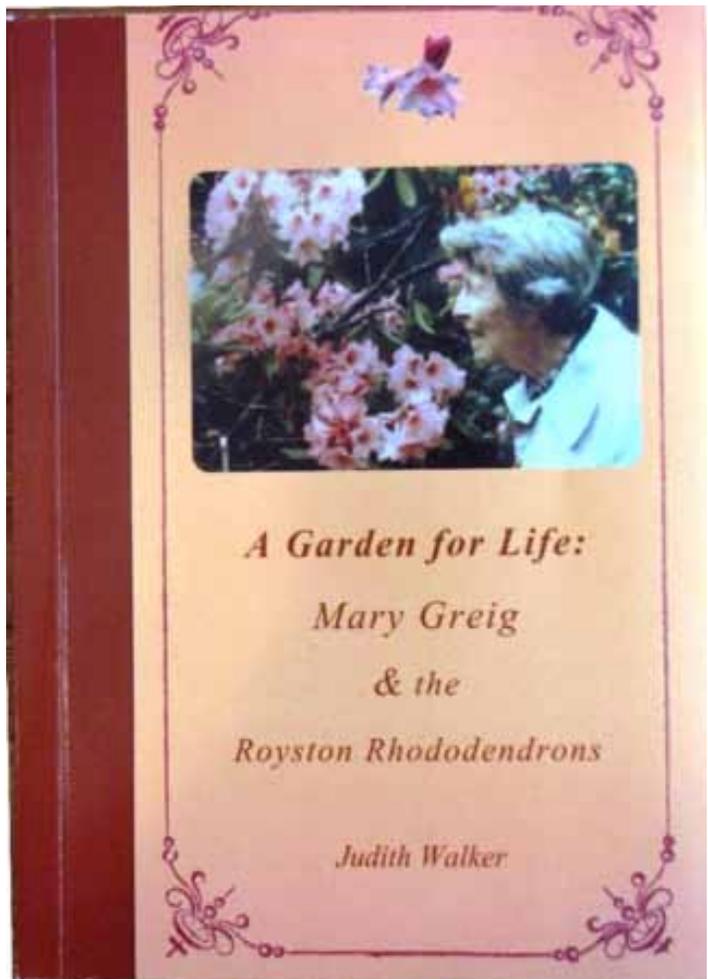
The editor, Dr. Clive Justice, notes at the beginning of the book that the Rhododendron Species Foundation had published excerpts from the manuscript in 2015 under the title of *Mary Greig and the Royston Rhododendrons* by Judith Walker, p. 123 of *Rhododendron Species*, Vol 10.

The book includes nineteen chapters in which the author describes their first meeting and how she began working with Mary in her gardening tasks. The writing style is relaxed and the author had added much interest by including direct quotes from Mary Greig, which are all in bold type. An entire lifetime is described chronologically with Mary, her mother and siblings arriving from England in 1911. Her father had arrived in Canada some months ahead of the family.

The story also recounts Ted's arrival in 1919, meeting the Simpsons, starting the Royston Nursery, the years of work there, Ted's failing health, the closing of the nursery and the connection with Alleyne Cook to start the transfer of the rhododendrons to Vancouver.

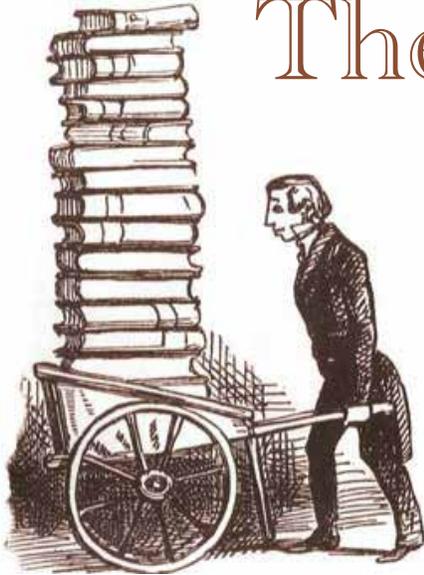
The very useful Index is arranged in two major sections by People and Plants, the latter of which includes all the names of various plants mentioned in the book, but even more to the heart of the matter, a very good list of all the rhododendrons mentioned in this very readable book.

This is a new book in our library, as of September, 2015.



Margaret Hodgson

The Book Cart



The Public Rhododendron(s) Gardens of Vancouver Island, by Ian E. Efford, 121 pages, approximately 141 colour photographs and illustrations, photographic credits and an index of rhododendron photographs, maps indicating the location of all the gardens, May 2015. Copyright Ian. E. Efford, published by Ian. E. Efford, printer: Friesens Corporation, Altona, Manitoba, Canada. (book.friesens.com) ISBN 978-0-9947323-0-9 (soft cover). \$29.95 + tax Cdn.

Ian E. Efford, an author in his own right, or perhaps I should say “in his own write” has written a number of books now. Ian, a member of the Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society, is a retired professor from the University of British Columbia and an ecologist. In 2015, he had this beautiful publication ready for sale before the ARS May 2015 Conference in Sidney, B.C.

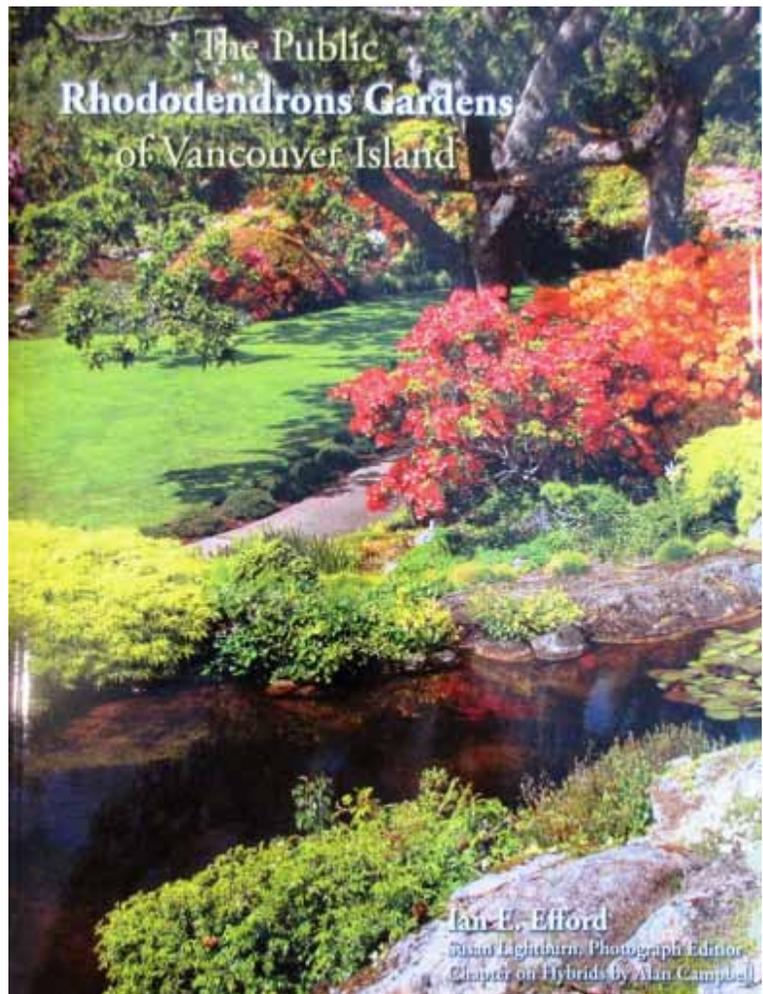
The Public Rhododendrons Gardens of Vancouver Island by Ian E. Efford, Susan Lightburn (Photograph Editor) and Alan Campbell, offers the reader excellent descriptions of public rhododendron gardens of Vancouver Island which are located in the North Saanich Peninsula, Victoria Region, Cowichan Valley, Mid-Island Region, West Coast, North East Coast and the Far North of the Island. The book also discusses the three rhododendron species which grow on Vancouver Island which are native to British Columbia.

Historical information is included about the rhododendron hybrids (and the hybridizers) which commenced on Vancouver Island in the late 1880s and continued with many rhododendron hybrids being developed in the years following. The book contains a list of the hybridizers and their registered and non-registered hybrids, many of the hybridisers will be familiar names to the readers, as well as their well-known hybrids.

The organization of the book details the location of the gardens, moving from the North Saanich Peninsula and Victoria to the regions farther north on the Island. Maps are included for each major area described, giving directions to the location of each garden described. Each individual report on the various gardens gives the historical background of how the garden came to be developed. The writer has also included details of the garden, as it is today.

This book is extremely interesting to read, the excellent colour photographs add much to the enjoyment of this book, and the book is a very useful tool for anyone planning to take a garden tour on Vancouver Island and see all of these exceptional gardens.

This is a beautiful new acquisition to the FSRS library.



Margaret Hodgson

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.