



This Month's Meeting

Date: Wednesday, April 20th, 2016 @ 7:30 pm

Topic: Local and Global Climate Change

Speaker: Dr. Sara Harris of UBC

Plant sales: Kirsten Martin

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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

Don't forget the plant sale this Saturday, April 16, 10:00 am -3:00 pm. It's at our traditional venue: United Church parking lot at 5673 200th Street in Langley. Even if you can't help out, please drop in to say hello, drop off plants for the Members' Table and purchase a treasure or two to spruce up the garden. And bring/invite a friend or two!

Our April 20 meeting is the absolute deadline to reserve your seat on the bus trip to UBC Botanical Garden tour on Thursday, May 19. Bring a cheque for \$20 per person made out to Fraser South Rhododendron Society, and give it to treasurer Harold Fearing. We need 20 participants to make this work.





The busy, but beautiful season is upon us. The Executive meeting was held at the Fearing's the other evening. Such a beautiful sight as we walked through the rhododendron forest. Thanks, Harold.

Chris Hodgson has a field trip to UBC Botanical gardens planned for us on May 19th; details were posted in the March Yak. Please consider this worthwhile field trip lead by Douglas Justice. Chris also has more field trips being planned, with details to come later.

The plant sale is only a few days away on Saturday, April 16th. We still need cashiers and customer assistants. Please call Colleen, evenings, to lend a hand and join in the fun. We shall have the traditional truss show table at the sale so please bring along some of your trusses in containers to show the public. The trusses do not necessarily have to be rhododendrons as anything that you consider worthy will be welcome and there is no need to label your display.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Please keep in mind that May 18th is our Justly Famous Beer Bottle Truss Show.

Plans are underway for FSRS annual picnic on June 4th at John and Gael Dodd's beautiful garden. This year we are planning a Silent Auction which will cut down on the time a regular auction takes to carry out. Bidding will be completed by the time the meal is finished and this will allow more time to visit. Please donate your "finest wares" to our new and improved silent auction.

Evelyn Jensen

In Bloom Today



R. edgeworthii



R. concinnum



R. crinigerum



R. augustinii
'Cerulean Mist'



FROM THE EDITOR

This Month:

we shall welcome Sara Harris Ph.D., Geological Oceanography, presenting on “Global Climate Change”.

Professor Harris is an instructor for Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Science at the University of British Columbia. Her research interests are Paleooceanography, science education and climate science education.

Professor Harris has recently won a 3M National Teaching Fellowship for her work developing an online class looking at the science behind climate change, and potential policy responses to this global issue. “She is among the best I have seen, and I have seen some of the best everywhere,” says Nobel prize-winning physicist Carl Wieman in a statement announcing the award. Together with UBC colleague Sarah Burch (now with the University of Waterloo), Harris designed and taught “Climate Literacy: Navigating Climate Change Conversations”, one of four Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) UBC piloted in 2013.

Harris has also played a pivotal role in transforming undergraduate science education in UBC’s department of Earth, Oceans and Atmospheric Sciences through the Carl Wieman Science Education Initiative (CWSEI).



The CWSEI is a \$12M initiative working with departments and students to improve science education at UBC. The initiative has worked with the departments of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences, Physics and Astronomy, Statistics and Computer Science, and across the life sciences, to transform more than 150 courses. The award recognizes exceptional contributions to teaching and learning at Canadian universities.

I had the privilege of being Professor Harris’s student for a number of courses at UBC. She was by far the best professor of any class I was enrolled in and she brought a passion, enthusiasm, and clarity in any topic she taught. I excelled with her as a professor and owe my successes to her devotion to the students and to her life’s work.

She is author to a number of publications, the most recent: “Understanding Climate Change: Science, Policy and Practice” by Sarah Burch and Sara Harris, 2014. University of Toronto Press. Available here: <http://www.utppublishing.com/Understanding-Climate-Change-Science-Policy-and-Practice.html>

Kirsten Martin

Last Month:

Last month we were introduced to the wonderful world of Mycorrhiza by the amazing Dr. Shannon Berch, Research Scientist for the BC Ministry of the Environment.

The word mycorrhiza is derived from the Greek mykos (fungus) and riza (root)--literally ‘fungus root’. There is a symbiotic (mutually beneficial) association between the fungus and plants. The fungus provides the plant with nutrients and water from the soil, and the plant provides the fungus with sugar from photosynthesis.

Although there are exceptions, the vast majority of plants form mycorrhizal associations. There are five different types of mycorrhiza.

Arbuscular mycorrhiza (AM): which includes maple and cedar trees, ferns, annuals and vegetables (but not the brassicas). AM is endomycorrhizal (‘endo’), which means the fungal hyphae penetrate the root and grow inside it, as well as colonizing the soil around the root. AM fungus is obligately symbiotic, which means it needs a living plant to grow with.

Orchid mycorrhiza: which is also an ‘endo’, and includes, not surprisingly, the Orchidaceae family. It is important for orchid germination, and the protocorm actually gets carbon from the mycorrhiza.

Ericoid mycorrhiza (EM): also an ‘endo’ and includes our beloved rhododendrons. EM is a good decomposer, and necessary for nitrogen utilization.

Ectomycorrhiza (ECM): ECM plants include birch, hazelnut, oak, pine, true fir, and arbutus. In the case of ‘ecto’, the mycorrhiza surrounds the cell but do not grow into the cell like an ‘endo’ would. The plant roots look white. In Douglas fir forests, this type of mycorrhiza creates what is known as the ‘wood-wide web’. Study of this indicates that this vast underground fungal system helps ensure that all the forest trees are connected. Rather than compete for nutrients, the trees help each other get the nutrients they need.

ECM is not only naturally occurring, but can also be introduced in two ways:

1. On purpose: eg. Perigord black truffles

Hazelnut and oak are the forest trees for growing truffles Spoiler alert: Truffle oil is made in a laboratory

2. By accident: Death cap (*Amanita phalloides*) was introduced to San Francisco via soil on nursery grown boulevard trees from Europe. Through California nurseries, it has now worked its way up the west coast, and has been in the Vancouver area for the past 10 years. Death cap is very good for trees, but VERY bad (fatal) for people. Sadly, they are apparently also quite delicious.

Monotropoid mycorrhiza: This is a very unusual type that includes Indian Pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*). Unlike the other types, there is no symbiosis—the fungus receives nothing from the plant.

At the beginning of her talk, Dr. Berch gave us a silent quiz, which I failed miserably. At the end of her talk, we repeated the quiz. I still failed, but at least this time around I understood the questions.

She gave us a very enjoyable and fascinating insight into a very complex subject.

Nancy Moore

Next Month:

Will see the return of the Justly Famous Beer Bottle Truss Show, the closest relative of a blood sport in the horticultural community. The rules of engagement will be forthcoming in our next month’s newsletter, but begin now to size up your possible entries and start honing your secateurs to their finest featheredge.

The Business Stuff:

The American Rhododendron Society will be holding its spring 2016 convention in Williamsburg, Virginia, from April 20 - 24. To visit the convention website and register, please click [here](#).

There will also be a Fall Western Regional Conference in Newport, Oregon. September 23-24. I shall post their website as soon as it is up and running. The conferences organised at Newport are some of the best that I have attended.

Also, another convention you should make plans for is in California in 2017. Eureka Chapter will host The American Rhododendron Society 2017 ARS Spring Convention “Rhododendrons in the Redwoods”. Mark your calendar now for April 27 through 30, 2017, for the American Rhododendron Society’s annual spring Convention.



R. racemosum

THE CALENDAR:

Saturday, April 16 Langley United Church 10:00 am - 3:00 pm	Fraser South Rhododendron Society FSRS plant sale of rare and unusual rhododendrons, companion shrubs and perennials.
Wednesday, April 20 7:30 pm Langley Mennonite Hall	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Dr. Sara Harris, of UBC, will speak on local and global climate change. Was the 2015 drought an anomaly or the new normal? Plant Sales: Kirsten Martin
Thursday April 21 7:30 pm Van Dusen	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Gary Lewis of Phoenix Perennials, "Hot New Plants" Plant Sales: Sue Klapwijk
Saturday, April 30 Park & Tilford Gardens 10:00 am - 3:00 pm	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Annual Show and Sale at Park & Tilford Gardens 333 Brooksbank Ave., North Vancouver
Wednesday, May 11 7:30 pm Van Dusen	Alpine Garden of BC Tod Boland: Alpines of the Bighorn
Wednesday, May 18 7:30 pm Langley Menonite Hall	Fraser South Rhododendron Society The Justly Famous Beer Bottle Truss Show
Thursday, May 19 5:30 pm UBC Botanical Garden	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Douglas will lead us through the UBC Botanic Garden with a focus on the Carolinian Forest.
Saturday, June 4 Gael and John Dodd's Garden, Langley	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Annual Potluck Picnic and Silent Auction
Wednesday, June 8 7:30 pm Van Dusen	Alpine Garden Club of BC Robin Magowan: Building a rock garden in Sante Fe, New Mexico
Sunday June 12	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Annual Potluck Picnic At the home and garden of Jill Newby
Sunday, June 26 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm Van Dusen	Vancouver Rose Society 64th Annual Show and Sale

R. dendrocharis



Upcoming Garden Tours

We have a cornucopia of garden tours and open members' gardens coming up in April and May, listed below chronologically:

April 24 (Sunday), 10:00 am- 4:00 pm. Open garden at **Harold and Ginny Fearing's Farm Rhododendrons** at 5376 Ross Road, Abbotsford.

May 8 (Sunday, Mothers' Day), 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Open garden at **Gael and John Dodd's** home at 24365 61 Ave., Langley.

May 14 (Saturday): Tour of south Surrey gardens: **Darts Hill, The Glades**, followed by afternoon high tea at the Hodgson's. We start at Darts Hill at 11:00 am. Parking lot is at 16 Ave and 172 Street on the north side. Bring a picnic lunch to the lawn at Darts Hill. Coffee will be served at our next stop, The Glades, home of FSRs members Elfriede and Jim DeWolf. We'll end up at 4:00 pm ish at Margaret and Chris Hodgson's home at 13451 27 Ave.

May 19 (Thursday): Bus trip to **UBC Botanical Garden** on Thursday, May 19 (with VRS members). To justify the bus we need **20 committed participants, each with a cheque in hand for \$20 made out to Fraser South Rhododendron Society, and delivered to treasurer, Harold Fearing at our upcoming meeting on April 20.** We'll depart 4:00 pm from central Langley (exact location to be announced) with a 5:00 pm stop at Van Dusen Gardens. Tour starts at 5:30 pm, and we promise get you back by 9:30 pm at the latest. The incomparable Douglas Justice, curator of collections, will be our guide through this unique garden, one Canada's finest.

May 28 (Saturday): Another possible bus tour to the exquisite garden of **Chris Byra** on Chilliwack Mountain, followed by a visit to **Brian Minter's Nursery** in Chilliwack and a private audience with everyone's favorite radio garden personality. We also hope to arrange a tour of the highly recommended **PNW Propagators specialty wholesale nursery** in Rosedale. More on this later.

Please give me a call if there is any question.

Chris Hodgson
604 541 2382

A personal invitation from Ginny and Harold

You are invited to an open garden

Fearing's Farm Rhododendrons

5376 Ross Road, Abbotsford, BC

Sunday, April 24, 2016,

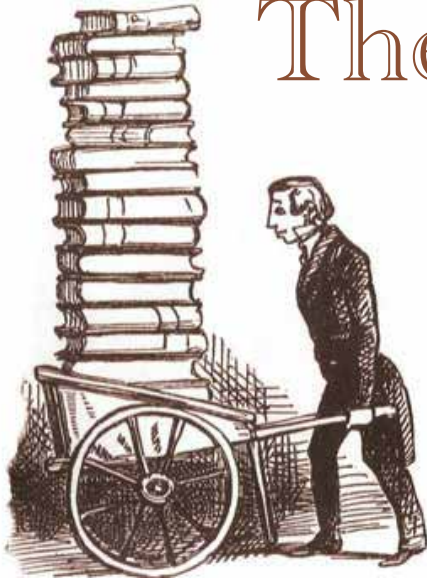
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

This is a private garden, rarely open to the public. There are some 1500 rhododendrons, 1100 of which are species, distributed in an informal way around a patch of woodland.

Some pictures of the garden can be found in the Picture Gallery section of www.fearing.ca.

Rhododendron sales: The nursery will be open for sales and local growers Les Clay and Sue Klapwijk will be there also offering some of their very special plants, varieties not available at local nurseries.

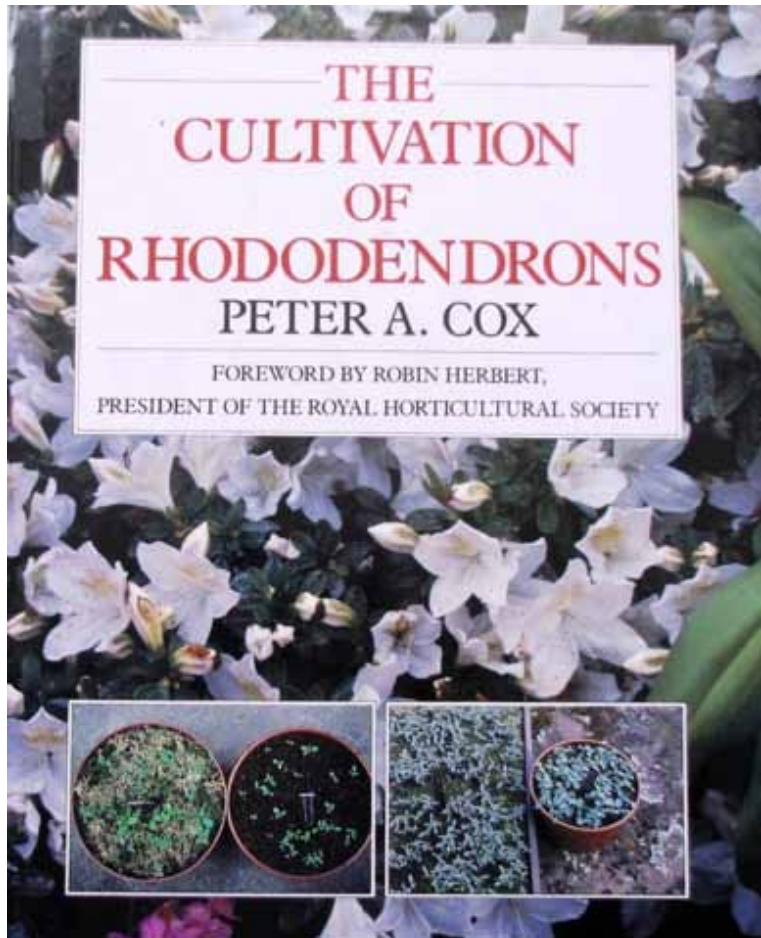
The Book Cart



The Cultivation of Rhododendrons by Peter A. Cox. Published by B.T. Batsford Ltd., London, England. Copyright 1993 Peter A. Cox. 288 pages, 75 colour photographs, 29 line illustrations. Research Notes, Glossary, Bibliography, Rhododendron Societies, General Index, Index of Rhododendrons. Hardbound. ISBN 0 7134 5630 2 (hardcover). Peter A. Cox, past director of the Glendoick Gardens and a leading specialist nursery was awarded the Victorian Medal of Honour, the highest award bestowed by the Royal Horticultural Society, London, in 1992. In 1993, he received the Gold medal from the American Rhododendron Society. He was also awarded The Nurseryman and Garden Centre Lifetime Achievement Award as well as awards from the Institute of Horticulture and Royal Caledonian Horticulture Society. In 2005 he was granted an honorary doctorate from St. Andrews University. Having been born into a

famous family, whose original business ties were with the jute trade, Peter and his father Euan, plant hunters and seed collectors in their own right, successfully established Glendoick Gardens on the estate where the home, Glendoick House was built sometime before in 1747. Three generations of the Cox family have now seen to the success and expansion of this garden, nursery and garden centre.

In the book, *The Cultivation of Rhododendrons*, Peter Cox sets out a practical guide to the reader of what the requirements of rhododendrons are to do well in the wild and in the garden setting. A good part of the first chapter describes the huge range in climates where they are found and why certain species do particularly well in certain habitats. Locality is the answer for certain. Altitude, moisture, and temperature all give rise to different species ranging from tiny prostrate creepers to trees which are often over twenty-eight metres in height. From there, Cox talks about the different climates around the world that will support cultivated rhododendrons in gardens. These are rather limited he says compared to what is possible, largely due to the affluent countries being able to grow these plants for private gardens as opposed to poorer countries where one would only see them in botanic gardens. The author offers many chapters of practical advice for best sites for rhododendrons and their improvement, using them in a landscape plan, large and small and how to maintain rhododendrons properly inside or outside. One chapter deals entirely with pests, diseases and disorders of rhododendrons and the last chapter of the book gives recommendations for species and hybrids in the chief rhododendron growing areas of the world. The book is well-indexed. This book, as well as a number of other books by the same author, can be found in our library



Margaret Hodgson

R. glaucophyllum var. *glaucophyllum*

(Epithet: With bluish - grey leaf)

R. glaucophyllum was discovered in Sikkim by J.D. Hooker in 1849 and found later by other plant hunters in neighbouring Nepal and Bhutan. Its preferred habitat is among rocks in open spaces, on ridges, and in pine and rhododendron forests at elevations of 9,000 to 12,000 feet. *R. glaucophyllum* has a mounding and wide-spreading habit with smooth and peeling brownish bark. Its leaves are lanceolate to elliptic in shape with a distinctly pointed tip, glaucous white on the underside with very dense scales. The leaves, when crushed, are very aromatic. The corolla is bell-shaped, rose to pink with an attractive hairy calyx with pointed lobes, and a short and sharply deflexed style. *R. glaucophyllum* var. *tubiforme*, found in areas east of Sikkim, is differentiated by its tubular corolla and its long straight style. There is also speculation

that var. *tubiforme* may be a natural hybrid. In 1977 a white form of *R. glaucophyllum* was collected in Nepal and has been given varietal status by H.H. Davidian as *R. glaucophyllum* var. *album*.

R. glaucophyllum is reasonably hardy and since it does not flower until late April it will mostly escape the late spring frosts. In the wild it spreads itself in wide low growing colonies resembling soft pink clouds when in flower. While their range is scattered throughout Sikkim, the most

R. glaucophyllum ssp. *glaucophyllum* By
Walter Hood Fitch: Curtis's Botanical Magazine

abundant colonies were found in North Sikkim in the Yumthang Valley.

R. glaucophyllum and the other four members of Subsection Glauca, *R.s brachyanthum*, *charitopes*, *luteiflorum* and *prunifolium*, are mostly tolerant of sun but are best in light shade. They are terrestrial in the wild and are easily cultivated in well-drained soil. Plants of Subsection Glauca are under-utilised in cultivation and need to be planted in more gardens. They are all low and compact growing with exquisite flowers and possess incredibly beautiful exfoliating bark which is breathtaking when backlit.

The plate above, by Walter H. Fitch, is from a plant raised from seed that Hooker collected in Sikkim in the autumn of 1850. The plant from that seed was grown in a cool house at Kew and flowered in the spring of 1853, its first introduction into cultivation.

Rhododendrons of Sikkim



R. glaucophyllum, Sikkim



R. glaucophyllum, Sikkim



R. glaucophyllum
Yumthang Valley



R. glaucophyllum, Yumthang
image: Jacquie Clayton



R. glaucophyllum, RSBG
Image: Garth Wedemire



R. glaucophyllum,
Habitat, Yumthang Valley



R. glaucophyllum and,
R. cinnabarinum ssp. *cinnabarinum*
Yumthang Valley