



R. vanvuurenii
RSBG

This Month's Meeting

Date: Wednesday, December 14th, 2016 @ [6:30 pm](#)



Fraser South Annual Christmas Potluck Party



2016 Officers

President:	Evelyn Jensen	604-857-5663
Past Pres:	Chris Hodgson	604-541-2382
Vice Pres:	Colleen Bojczuk	604-826-4221
Secretary	Nancy Moore	604-859-3690
Treasurer:	Harold Fearing	604-857-4136
Directors:	Kirsten Martin	778-846-6732
	Sandra Short	604-859-8591
	Jim Worden	604-541-4754
Programme:	Vacant	
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:	Kirsten Martin	778-846-6732
BCCGC Liaison:	Vacant	

<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

The long wait is over and the votes are now authenticated. The Supreme Court of Rhodonia has recently formalised the tabulations, prepared by the accounting firm of Calyx, Pistil, Sepal and Style, of last May's Justly Famous Beer Bottle Truss Show. No hanging chads here, and the winners are now presented on page 7 of these tidings.

Ratso, and the rest of our staff at *The Yak*, wish you all good health and grand merriment for this festive season.





HERE COMES SANTA CLAUS....

It's time for our Christmas Party on Wed Dec 14. This is a week early, and as we all know, Santa is so busy closer to Christmas! Please be there by 6:15 to be ready for a 6:30 dinner. Joan McGiveron is cooking the ham and Chris Klapwijk is cooking the turkey. A big THANKS to both of them. Please bring casseroles, your favorite Christmas recipes, appies and desserts.

So the Tea Ladies don't have too much washing up to do, please bring your own plates and cutlery. (Anyone caught using church plates will be sentenced to 15 minutes washing up!)

Coffee, tea and punch will be available, and Colleen has come up with another wicked quiz. There will be a prize, so start studying now! Looking forward to seeing you there. You'd better be good, a little birdie told me Santa might be there.

Evelyn Jensen

FROM THE PRESIDENT

This Month:



FROM THE EDITOR

is our annual Christmas Potluck Soiree and a time to revisit Brenda's rules for the occasion which are reprinted below: Christmas is almost here, so it is time to party hearty (or party hardy, depending on your age and inclination) with the rhodophiles!

1. Be festive, or merry, or mellow, or all three, as the spirit moves you.
2. Come early, festivities start at 6:30, but you can come earlier if you want to help set up

3. Bring a dish of food to share, with serving utensils if required
4. Beverages will be provided: tea, coffee, and the usual Punch Bowl A and Punch Bowl B. Members wishing to move sedately from festive, through merry, and on to mellow should hover around Punch Bowl A.
5. Bring your own plates, mugs, and cutlery, then remember to take them home again.
6. Wear something festive, even if not seasonal. This must be one of the first years in which the weather has been so mild I expect to see more than a few rhodo-blossom coronets. If all else fails, wear your green wellies and wrap yourself up in a red plaid mackinaw. You will look splendid. Santa hats are optional.
7. Be festive, merry, or mellow, but above all, be present. There will be good food, a fun game, and loads of bonhomie. Come early, stay late, enjoy!



*The Feast of Saint Nicholas
Jan Steen c1665-1668*

Last Month:

was a presentation by Philip MacDougall on his favourite perennials.



Epimedium davidii



Hepatica japonica



Podophyllum pleianthum



Trillium undulatum



Erythronium citrinum

Far away from his childhood home in Nova Scotia, Philip MacDougall is now nurturing his lifelong passion for gardening in Maple Ridge. His home for only 2 years, the site is inspiring—just under one acre of natural vegetation, sloping down to a fish-bearing stream. Access to the house is via fifty steps, so he certainly gets his exercise!

Unlike landscapers, whom he feels create static environments, Philip prefers to create a dynamic garden that not only includes rhododendrons, but also a wide variety of perennials and other plants to provide

seasonal interest. As a plant explorer and collector, Philip LOVES plants. His 'favourite' perennials appear to be all of them, but the ones he showed us lovely slides of included many species of epigea, epimedium, hepatica, podophyllum, trillium, peony, polygonatum, etc. etc. etc. His extensive slide presentation was a visual delight of flowers and foliage. His vast knowledge of plants is impressive, and his passion for them is infectious. I think we all went away inspired to try new and interesting perennials in our gardens.

Nancy Moore

THE CALENDAR:

<p>Wednesday, December 14 7:30 pm VanDusen</p>	<p>Alpine Garden Club of BC Annual Christmas Potluck and Rare Plant Auction</p>
<p>Wednesday, December 14 6:30 pm Langley Mennonite Hall</p>	<p>Fraser South Rhododendron Society Annual Potluck Christmas Party</p>
<p>Wednesday, January 11 7:30 pm VanDusen</p>	<p>Alpine Garden Club of BC Luis Roberto Gonzalez Torres: Orchids of Cuba</p>
<p>Wednesday, January 18 7:30 pm Langley Mennonite Hall</p>	<p>Fraser South Rhododendron Society Annual General Meeting, member slide shows and Desert Extravaganza</p>
<p>Thursday, January 19 7:30 pm VanDusen</p>	<p>Vancouver Rhododendron Society Annual General Meeting and members' slides</p>
<p>Wednesday, February 8 7:30 pm VanDusen</p>	<p>Alpine Garden Club of BC Ken Marr: Flora of northern BC alpine</p>
<p>Wednesday, February 15 7:30 pm Langley Mennonite Hall</p>	<p>Fraser South Rhododendron Society Douglas Justice: Plant Hunting in Viet Nam</p>
<p>Thursday, February 16 7:30 pm VanDusen</p>	<p>Vancouver Rhododendron Society Paul Reimer: Reimer Nurseries</p>



The Business Stuff:

RHODODENDRONS IN THE REDWOODS ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY EUREKA, CALIFORNIA

Register now for the American Rhododendron Society's annual spring Convention April 27-30, 2017. The Eureka Chapter will host the convention which will bring visitors to world-famous Humboldt County, California from across the nation, Canada and around the world. Top notch speakers will be featured every day, along with tours of redwood forests, private and public gardens, azalea reserves and Victorian architecture.

The Red Lion Hotel will be our host hotel, with a rate of \$99 per night per room plus tax. The rate includes full breakfast and an airport shuttle. Thursday and Sunday events will be held at the hotel. The new state-of-the-art Sequoia Conference Center, three blocks from the Red Lion Hotel, will be our meeting and banqueting venue Friday and Saturday. Visitors can walk to the conference center, take the shuttle or drive; abundant parking is available at the center.



Humboldt Botanical
Garden



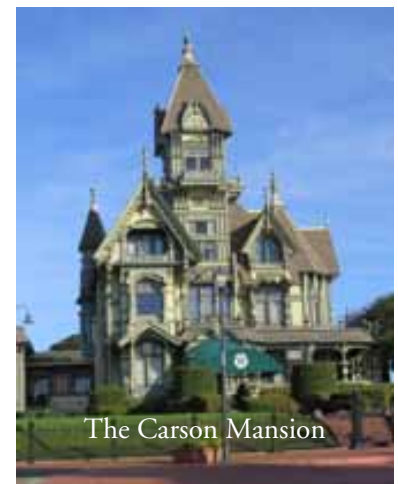
R. occidentale

For many ARS members, seeing the Redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) is high on the must-see "bucket list", as are the rugged North Coast of California with its *Rhododendron macrophyllum* and Stagecoach Hill, the home of the Smith-Mossman 1966 collections of *Rhododendron occidentale* azaleas.

In addition to the area's redwood parks and other natural wonders, Eureka and its neighboring towns abound with well-preserved Victorian homes displaying the famous Queen Anne "Carpenter Gothic" style. The Carson Mansion (now a private club) is the most famous example from the late 19th century era of the lumber barons in northwestern California.



Singing Tree Gardens



The Carson Mansion

Eureka is served by United Express twice daily from San Francisco. Flying to San Francisco

and transferring to Eureka is the usual air transport option. Renting a car in San Francisco and driving to Eureka is a very scenic alternative. Drive time from San Francisco is about seven hours, through the wine country with its rolling hills and on north through the Coast Range mountains and redwood forests. From the north, PenAir flies from Portland, Oregon to the Eureka/Arcata airport. An alternative to flying directly to Eureka from Portland might be to fly to Crescent City or to Medford, Oregon, then rent a car. Drive time from Crescent City is about two hours; from Medford about four hours. Both routes are quite scenic, with wild rivers, rugged mountains and redwood forests well worth visiting. Several car rental agencies operate at the Eureka/Arcata airport. The Red Lion Hotel offers free shuttle service for convention attendees to and from the Eureka/Arcata airport. However you choose to get here, we look forward to hosting you and showing you our beautiful northwest corner of California.

More information at www.eurekarhody.org



And the winners are ...

Twenty-third Annual Fraser South Beer Bottle Truss Show, May 18th, 2016

CLASSES Division I

Species Classes

- Class 1. Rhododendron (lepidotes)
Les Clay - R. cinnabarinum
- Class 2. Azalea (deciduous and evergreen)
Harold Fearing - R. calendulaceum
- Class 3. Hymenantha (elepidotes)
Chris Hodgson - R. macrophyllum

Division II

Hybrid Classes

- Class 4. Any lepidote hybrid
John Dodd - R. 'Lionheart'
- Class 5. Any deciduous azalea hybrid
No entry'
- Class 6. Any evergreen azalea hybrid
Nancy Moore - R. 'Rosebud'
Wenonah March - R. 'Unknown azalea'

Colour Classes

- Class 7a: Red - (small)
Chris Hodgson - R. 'Black Magic'
- 7b: Red - (large)
Les Clay - R. 'Kilimanjaro'
- Class 8a: White - (small)
Larry Morton - R. 'Sapho'
- 8b: White - (large)
Sue Klapwijk - R. 'Bonito' x 'Mrs. J.C. Williams'
- Class 9a: Pink - (small)
Les Clay - R. 'Lisabon'
- 9b: Pink - (large)
John Dodd - R. 'Nikki Neuman'
- 9c: Pink - (really, really, large)
Wenonah March - R. 'Lem's Monarch'
- Class 10a: Yellow & Cream (small)
Wenonah March - R. 'Karen Triplett'
- 10b: Yellow & Cream (large)
Sue Klapwijk - R. 'CIC' x 'Lem's Gold x Jalisco x Yellow'
- Class 11a: Mauve & Purple - small
Carol Atkinson - R. 'Polarnacht'
- Class 11b: Mauve & Purple - large
Larry Morton - R. 'Olin O Dobbs'
- Class 12: Orange
John Dodd - R. 'Lem's Tangerine'
- Class 13: Bi-colour
Colleen Bojczuk - R. 'Hachmann's Charmant'

Division III

Special Classes

- Class 14: Non-registered hybrid
Les Clay - R. 'Un-named'
- Class 15: Truss with the Best Fuzzy Foliage
Wenonah March - R. 'May Day'
- Class 16a: Best Blotched - small
Sue Klapwijk - R. 'Marchionesse of Lansdowne'
- Class 16b: Best Blotched - large
John Dodd - R. 'Isobel Pierce'
- Class 17: Best Speckled
John Dodd - R. 'Gomer Waterer'
- Class 18: Most Lurid
Larry Morton - R. 'Circus'
- Class 19: Best Last Year's Truss
Nancy Moore - R. 'Unknown'
- Class 20: Most Elegantly Weevil-Notched
Wenonah March - R. 'Rendevous'
- Class 21: Best Hammerhead
Chris Hodgson - R. 'Lem's Monarch'
- Class 22: Most Flaccid
Barbara Inniss - R. 'Unknown'
- Class 23a: Best Miniature Truss (species)
Harold Fearing - R. groenlandicum
- Class 23b: Best Miniature Truss (hybrid)
Sue Klapwijk - R. 'Occidentale'
- Class 24a: Most Fragrant Rhododendron
Harold Fearing - R. fortunei
- Class 24b: Most Fragrant Azalea
No Entry
- Class 25: Bridesmaid Class
No Entry

Judged

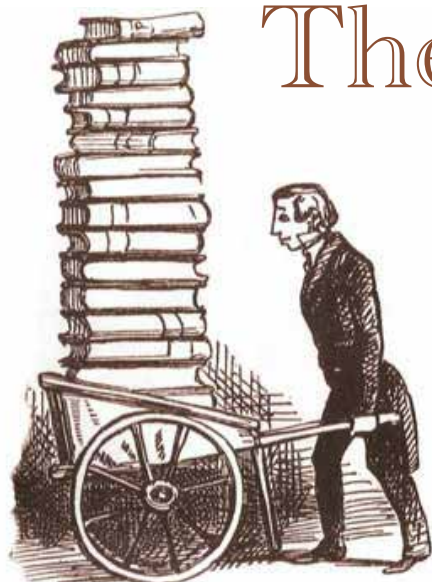
Lionheart Award: best over-all yellow, any Class

John Dodd - R. 'Lionheart'

Aggregate Winners -

First - (2 Way Tie) *John Dodd / Wenonah March*

Second - (3 Way Tie) *Sue Klapwijk / Harold Fearing / Les Clay*



The Book Cart

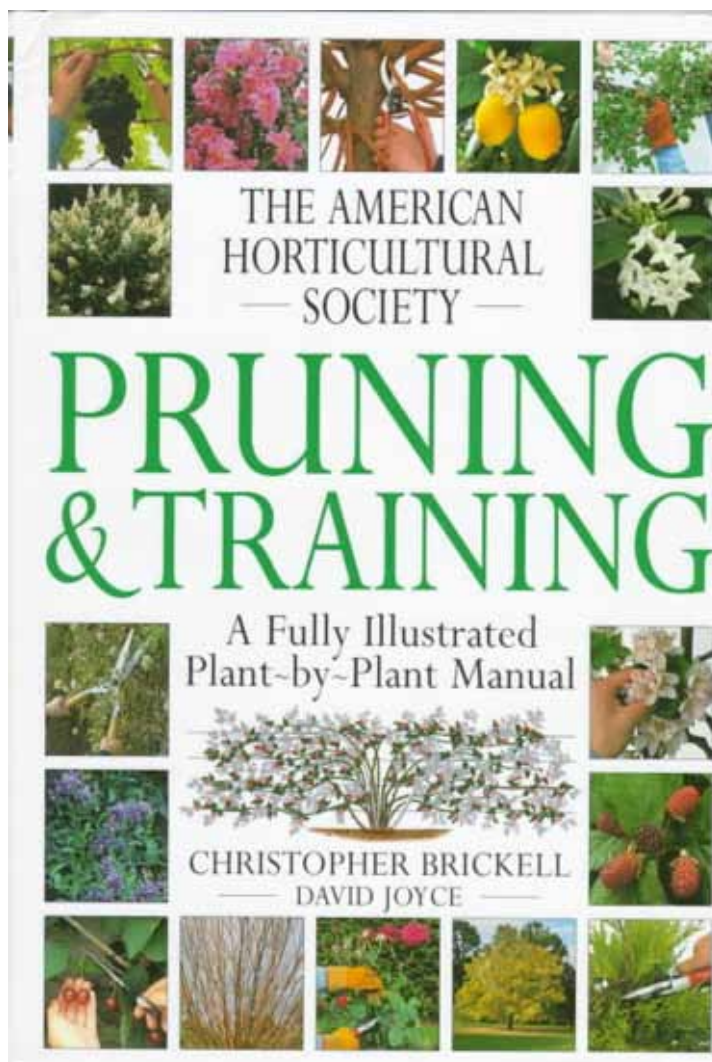
Pruning & Training by Christopher Brickell and David Joyce. Published in Canada by Cavendish Books Inc., North Vancouver, BC Copyright ©1996 Dorling Kindersley Limited, London, England.

336 pages, approx. 324 pages of colour illustrations and diagrams, Key to Hardiness Zones on each inside cover, well-detailed Table of Contents, glossary, a comprehensive Index of Botanical Names written in italics with the Common Names written in brackets. ISBN 0-929050-46-0, printed and bound in Spain by Artes Gráficas Toledo.

The Author: Christopher Brickell, Chairman of the International Commission and Director General of the Royal Horticultural Society from 1985 to 1993, is a well-known horticulturist who has written many books on horticultural techniques. He is known all around the world as a lecturer and leader of botanical expeditions. His garden contains a wide range of plants, both popular and rare.

David Joyce is also a celebrated author of many specialized books on horticultural techniques and general information gardening books. He has been involved as General Editor of *The Chelsea Year*. He has lived and grown plants in Paris, Hong Kong, Wellington, London and a rural garden in Suffolk. *Pruning & Training* is comprised of six major divisions: Ornamental Trees, Tree Fruits, Ornamental Shrubs, Soft Fruits, Climbing Plants and Roses. Each major division includes subdivisions. Under Ornamental Trees the reader finds information about Tree Forms, Basic Techniques, Initial Training, Pruning of Established Trees, Renovation, Coppicing and Pollarding, Pleaching, Conifers, Palm and Palm-like Plants, Hedges, Topiary trees, and Dictionary of Ornamental Trees. Likewise, all divisions are subdivided in a similar manner, giving pertinent information about Fruit Trees, Ornamental Shrubs, Soft Fruits (shrubs producing fruit), Climbing Plants and lastly, Roses. The instructions for pruning are basically step by step instructions which often cover a two year process. Initial pruning may be done immediately after planting and later formative pruning is done to establish the shape of the shrub to a good advantage. Similarly, training details include information of the steps to espalier or other training methods of shrubs or trees.

The various plant information is in alphabetical order, and gives the reader a time-line of when a particular shrub or tree should be pruned, how to prune it, how to avoid bad cuts and how to use techniques for the best health of the trees or shrubs. The books also gives much information of how to train the shoots and when to start the training process. The book is a valuable source and answers many questions of when to prune each plant, shrub, tree in your garden



Margaret Hodgson

Rhododendrons of Sikkim

R. thomsonii (after Thomas Thomson, 1817-1878, former superintendent of Calcutta Botanic Garden)

R. thomsonii was discovered in the Sikkim Himalaya in 1849 by J.D. Hooker and introduced by him in 1850. It first flowered in a Scottish nursery in 1857

Several other plant hunters have discovered this species in Nepal, Bhutan, Arunachl Pradesh and south Tibet. It has been found at elevations of 8,000-14,000 feet growing in rhododendron scrub and *Abies* forests. *R. thomsonii* grows abundantly between 11,000-13,000 feet in Sikkim. It is an upright, multi-branched tree, often reaching twenty feet in the wild, with beautiful, fawn to pink exfoliating bark on its trunk and branches. The blood red to dark wine-red flowers are bell-shaped with five nectaries at their base, and those flowers have a large, showy calyx which can be white, yellow, green or red. These calyces persist on the plant well after the flower petals have dropped to the ground and create an extended show of beauty all of their own. The leaves of *R. thomsonii* are orbicular, ovate to broadly elliptic with no indumentum and an upper surface which is dark or olive green.

The new leaves of many *R. thomsonii*, when flushing out, often have a lovely blue cast to their upper surface.

It was interesting to note, that in the area of Tshoka, in the western region of Sikkim, the vast forests of *R. thomsonii* had flowers with large calyces which were a lovely, complementary red colour. While in the Yumthang Valley of North Sikkim the calyces of the *R. thomsonii* growing in that region were a



R. thomsonii

By Carlos von Reifel: Leslie Urquart Press

particularly contrasting yellow.

R. thomsonii is one of the most spectacular plants in the genus. Should you already have one in your garden, beg for more, as there are several varieties, from distinct wild collections which each have their own compelling countenance.

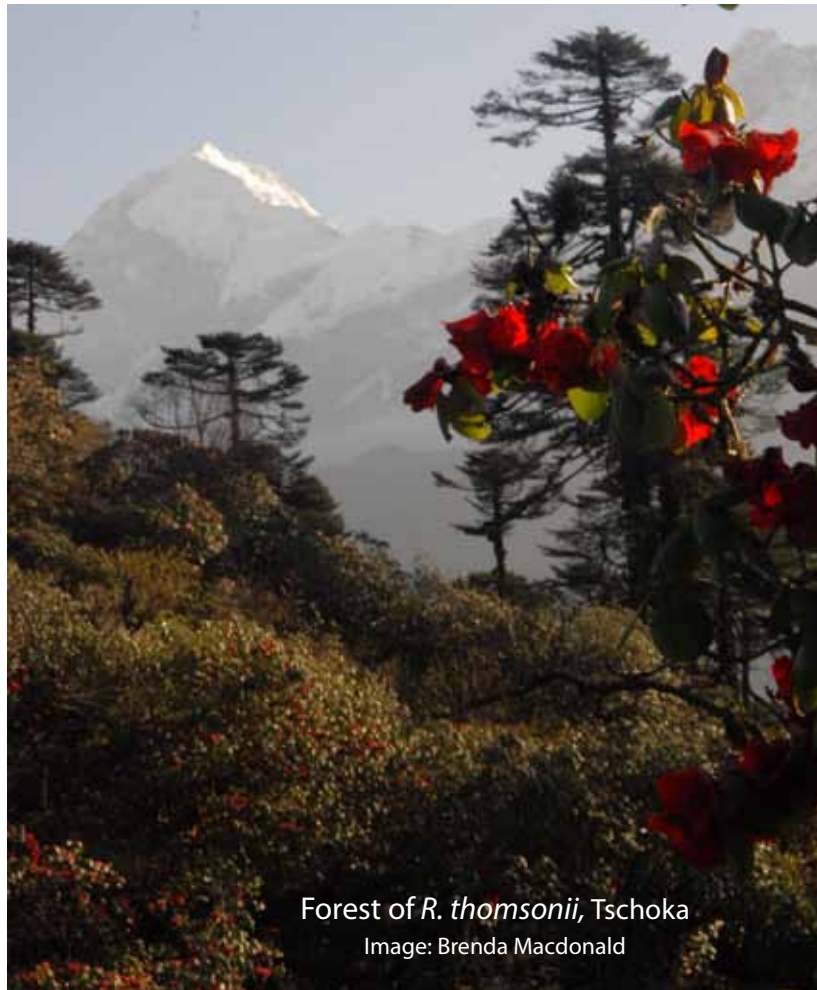


R. thomsonii



R. thomsonii

Sean Rafferty



Forest of *R. thomsonii*, Tschoka
Image: Brenda Macdonald



R. thomsonii,
trek to Dzongri



R. thomsonii



R. thomsonii



R. thomsonii, calyx