



This Month's Meeting

Date: Wednesday, February 17th, 2016 @ 7:30 pm

Topic: Magnolias

Speaker: Paul Reimer of Reimer's Nursery

Plant sales: Kirsten Martin

2015 Officers

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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://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- 40th-Street
Langley BC



Quick Hits

This month's speaker will feature Paul Reimer of Reimer's Nurseries, speaking to us on Magnolias. Please come and be enlightened on a fabulous genus which is quite content to reside in a rhododendron garden.





January was the month to change officers of the Fraser South Rhododendron Club. As your incoming president for 2016, I would like to thank those who served on the executive and completed their terms of office. First, Chris Hodgson, who spent countless hours as president and tour coordinator. His hard work will not be soon forgotten. Margaret Hodgson, for the secretarial duties and many other jobs that she undertook. Chuck Floyd has completed his three year term as a director. Thank you. We are losing Rosemary Prufer, a director, to the “Islanders”. Their gain is definitely our loss.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A hearty welcome to our new directors: Jim Worden and Sandra Short, and secretary, Nancy Moore. Thanks to those continuing on in their positions. I’m counting on all of you in the year ahead.

Spring is my favorite time of the year when Nature is renewing itself and one by one it produces blooms that renew us as well. As you view new blossoms, count each one as a blessing that we live in such a beautiful, mild climate.

Evelyn Jensen



FROM THE EDITOR

This Month:

We are extremely fortunate to have Paul Reimer, of Reimer’s nursery speak to us of Magnolias; and possibly some of the many **other trees** that he and his brother grow at their Yarrow and Lynden nurseries. Paul seldom lectures on his favorite genus and this will be a very rare occasion. I urge you all to make the effort to attend.



Last Month:

The Fraser South Annual General Meeting and Just Desserts Extravaganza occurred and we discovered that, unlike our governments, we ended the year with a small surplus. Just the way that it is all supposed to work. And, for those who were too busy ingesting their just desserts and neglecting to check out the financial stuff, Harold sends along this message:

The financial report for 2015 was presented at the Annual General Meeting in January. The important number is the bottom line - a profit in 2015 of \$368.34, which is a significant improvement over the deficits of \$372.82 and \$215.74 in 2014 and 2013 respectively. The complete report, including the audited Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement, is available to members. If you did not get to see it at the AGM and/or would like a copy, send me an email and I will see that you get one.

Harold Fearing, Treasurer

Next Month

[Dr. Shannon Berch](#) will travel from Vancouver Island to inform us about [mycorrhizae](#), the beneficial fungi which form a symbiotic relationship with the roots of almost all plants. She will pay particular attention to [ericoid mycorrhizae](#) which is the most significant beneficial fungus for the growth of *Rhododendron* and all other ericaceous plants.

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 ARS Fall Regional Conference, 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 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. 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.

For many, seeing the Redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) is high on the must-see ‘bucket list’, as is the rugged North Coast of California with its *Rhododendron macrophyllum*, and also Stagecoach Hill, the home of the Smith/Mossman expedition for *Rhododendron occidentale*.

The Red Lion <http://www.redlion.com/eureka> will be our host hotel with a wonderful rate of \$99 per night per room for the duration of the convention with that rate being extended for visitors coming before or staying after the convention. The rate will include airport shuttle and breakfast. In addition to the hotel’s restaurant there are many restaurants within easy walking distance.

The new Sequoia Conference Center, three blocks from the Red Lion Hotel, will be our meeting and banqueting venue. Visitors can walk to the conference center or drive as there is plenty of off-street parking.

The Convention Committee is working on getting world-class speakers and having tours to highlight the natural beauty of Eureka and Humboldt County as well as public gardens, private gardens and nurseries.

We hope to welcome all of our Rhodo friends to our piece of heaven in the world.

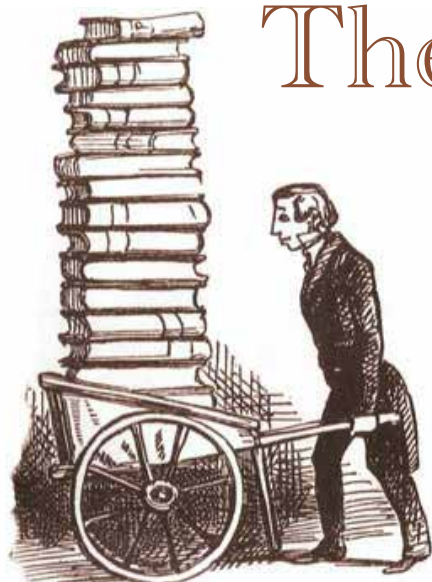
For more information call or email June Walsh, 707-443-0604 or RhodyHostel@suddenlink.net or on the Web at <http://EurekaRhody.org/>.



THE CALENDAR:

Wednesday, February 17 7:30 pm Langley Mennonite Hall	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Paul Reimer: Magnolias Plant sales: Kirsten Martin
Thursday, February 18 7:30 pm Van Dusen	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Dennis Bottemiller of The Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden
Wednesday, March 9 7:30 pm Van Dusen	Alpine Garden Club of BC Linda Verbeek: A Plethora of Seeds
Wednesday, March 16 7:30 pm Langley Mennonite Hall	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Dr. Shannon Berch: Mycorrhizae Plant Sales: Sue Klapwijk
Thursday, March 17 7:30 pm Van Dusen	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Dr. Shannon Berch: Mycorrhizae Plant Sales: Kirsten Martin
Saturday, April 2 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm Van Dusen Floral Hall	Alpine Garden Club of BC Annual Spring Show and Sale
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
Thursday, May 19 UBC Botanical Garden	Doug will lead us through the UBC Botanic Garden with a focus on the Carolinian Forest. Time to be announced





The Book Cart

Magnolias, A Gardener's Guide by Jim Gardiner

329 pages, 153 colour photographic plates, 6 black and white figures.

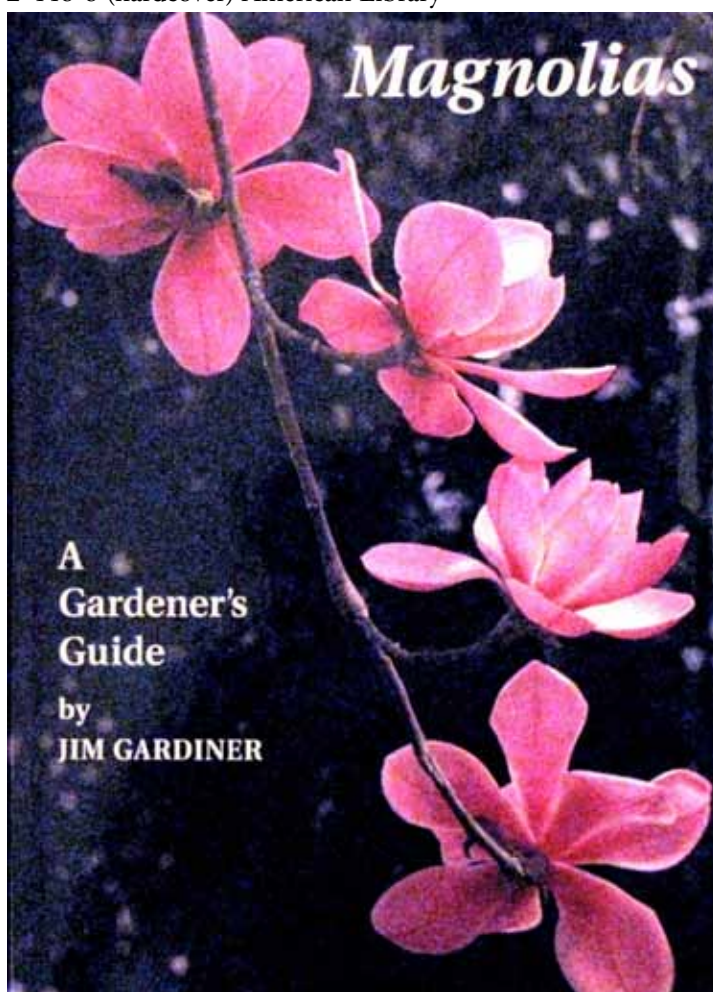
Lists: Recommended Magnolias, Award-winning Magnolias, Where to See Magnolias, Where to Buy Magnolias, Societies, Bibliography, Index of Magnolia Names, and General Index. Hardbound, Copyright Jim Gardiner, 2000

Expanded and Enlarged Edition of Jim Gardiner's *Magnolias* (Britain – Cassell 1989 and North America – The Globe Pequot Press, 1989) Timber Press, Oregon, USA.

ISBN 0-88192-446-6 (hardcover) American Library

Jim Gardiner is Director of Horticulture and Chief Curator for all the Royal Horticultural Society gardens in the United Kingdom. Previously he was (Chief) Curator at RHS Garden Wisley for 22 years, Curator at the Hillier Gardens and Arboretum, and held a variety of positions at other botanic gardens. A highly respected plantsman in the international gardening community, Jim frequently lectures and writes for a range of horticultural publications. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Horticulture, an author of several other books, including *Magnolias: Classic Garden Plants* (in the FSRS Library), *Encyclopedia of Flowering Shrubs*, and *Magnolias In Art & Cultivation*, Jim Gardiner, Barbara Oozeerally & Stephen A. Spongberg. Gardiner is a frequent lecturer and writer on all subjects *Magnolia*, a skilled photographer, and President of the Magnolia Society.

In the opening pages of *Magnolias, A Gardener's Guide*, the author speaks of E.H. "Chinese" Wilson who described the superb qualities of magnolias, "They have the largest flowers and largest individual leaves of any hardy group of trees. No other genus of hardy or half-hardy trees and shrubs can boast so many excellences". Jim Gardiner points out that magnolias can be grown in many countries around the world where they are not native, and we certainly see many varieties in the Lower Mainland of BC. Each chapter follows a logical sequence of detailed information of magnolias, moving from Chapter One, The Story of the Magnolia to six following chapters covering the cultivation, magnolias in the garden, propagation, pests and diseases, *Magnolia* species, and *Magnolia* hybrids. The colour plates build on this information. The indices at the end of the book are extremely useful. Read this book. It is in our library.



Margaret Hodgson

Incredible Edibles

TANGY LEMON SQUARES

Recipe from *Colleen Bojczuk*

BASE

- 2 cups sifted flour
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- ½ tsp. salt
- 2 tsp. finely grated lemon zest
- 1 cup unsalted butter, room temp, diced

FILLING

- 4 large eggs, plus
- 3 large egg yolks
- 4 tsp. finely grated lemon zest
- 1 2/3 cups granulated sugar
- 2/3 cup fresh lemon juice (2 large)
- 3 TB. flour

1. Lightly grease 9 x 13 baking pan and line bottom and sides with parchment paper.
2. To make crust, combine flour, sugar, salt and zest, and gradually cut in butter until a crumbly dough forms, with no butter streaks.
3. Press dough evenly into pan and freeze for 30 minutes.
4. Preheat oven to 350°F, and bake crust until golden brown at edges, about 25 minutes. If crust has shrunk away from sides, gently press back into shape.
5. Meanwhile, to make filling, whisk together eggs, zest, sugar, flour and juice.

Pour over crust while hot and bake again until filling is set, 25 to 27 minutes. Cool completely and cut into small squares (quite rich!)



The Rhododendrons of Sikkim

Sikkim, a former Himalayan monarchy, is the newest Indian state and lies between Nepal on the west and Bhutan on its east. Tibet shares its northern border, and has **Darjeeling** and West Bengal on its south. It has a small population of approximately 700,000 people speaking eleven official languages. The economy of Sikkim is based on agriculture and tourism but with a rust decimating their primary crop, cardamom, tourism is becoming the largest economic engine. Indian tourists from the southern plains visit to enjoy the pristine wilderness, incredible mountain scenery and seek rejuvenation in Sikkim's cooler temperatures.

These attractions are not new for Sikkim and were the motive for the British Raj to establish a hill station, in the mid-nineteenth century, at Darjeeling which was then part of Sikkim. The British later annexed Darjeeling, Kalimpong and a good part of the rich surrounding tea growing areas from Sikkim. The ostensible reason for this imperialistic behaviour was the brief imprisonment by the Sikkimese government

of the British botanist and explorer Joseph Dalton Hooker, for travelling in Sikkim without a permit. The resulting annexation of land by the British was a seemingly harsh punishment for such a reasonable slight.

Joseph Dalton Hooker was one of the first westerners to explore for plant material in the eastern Himalayas in 1848 and 1849. Interestingly, he is still held in high regard today by many Sikkimese involved in botany. His mode of travel to Dzongri in 1848 would probably have involved hiking with pack animals, just as it does still. Nowadays, travels to Lachen and the Singalilla range of mountains have roads, although often treacherous, pushed through to them.

Travel anywhere in Sikkim is arduous and one must always be alert. It is a land with an elevation range from 920 feet to 28,169 feet at Mt. Kangchenjunga, the world's third highest peak. Road building and repair are constantly ongoing and difficult to maintain, given the extremes of slope, torrential rainfall and landslides caused by the ever-shifting Himalayas. There has been an attempt, since 2010, to build an airport in Sikkim, but is not surprising that the carving of the mountain to accommodate this landing strip is not yet completed. This land is probably the steepest in the world and rife with logistical difficulties. Currently one can only fly into the military airbase at Bagdogra, West Bengal, the malaria capital of the world, and hire a vehicle to travel into Sikkim.

That being said, the extraordinary elevation range of the country alongside its ridiculously steep terrain and monsoon climate makes it an incredible hotspot for flora and fauna, and in particular, rhododendrons. Getting to them is hazardous but not impossible.

There are possibly thirty-six to forty species of rhododendron in Sikkim, depending on who is naming them. We should be forgiving of the Sikkim Forest Department for including the natural hybrids *x decipiens* (*R. hodgsonii* x *R. falconeri* ssp. *falconeri*) and *x sikkimense* (*R. thomsonii* ssp. *thomsonii* x *R. arboreum* ssp. *arboreum*) in their lists of species as it does enhance the numbers and may increase their desperately needed eco-tourism revenue. The Sikkim Forestry Department is to be congratulated for setting aside and protecting a large percentage of its forested land in several preserves throughout the region. It is to be hoped that eco-tourism rupees will not trump enforcement of regulations governing destructive behaviours.



Kangchenjunga (28,168 ft.)

Sean Rafferty

R. hodgsonii

(Epithet: After B.H. Hodgson of the British East India Company)

Although discovered by William Griffith in Bhutan, *R. hodgsonii* was introduced to cultivation by J. D. Hooker from Sikkim in 1850. Hooker recorded it as growing at elevations of 10,000 - 12,000 feet "often forming an impenetrable scrub, through which the explorer in vain seeks to force his way". This is much as it is today, although in west Sikkim a four-foot wide pack-animal trail has been carved from Yuksam to Dzongri to make life somewhat easier, but still arduous. Various *Rhododendron* species dominate the trail according to elevation. As one ascends there are thick bands of different species, often requiring an hour's climb to pass through them. One travels sequentially from forests of *R. grande* through *R. falconeri*, *R. barbatum*,

R. arboreum, *R. thomsonii*, *R. hodgsonii*, *R. wightii*, *R. fulgens*, *R. campanulatum* and the alpine *R. anthopogon*. Several other species insinuate themselves where space allows.

R. hodgsonii grows between 10,000 and 12,000 feet and is tree-like, growing to 40 feet with lovely exfoliating bark and obovate leaves up to 14 inches long with a pale indumentum. The compact inflorescence is 15-25 flowered. The flowers

range widely from white to pale pink, deep pink and nearly red. It should be hardy in most areas of southwestern British Columbia.

Hooker notes that in its native home the wood of *R. hodgsonii* is incredibly strong and does not split easily, and is used for firewood, making cups, spoons and Yak saddles. The leaves are used for plates and lining baskets which hold other foodstuffs, such as the mashed pulp of *Arisaema* roots.

More images of *R. hodgsonii* appear on page 10.

Sean Rafferty

Rhododendrons of Sikkim



R. hodgsonii

Image: Brenda Macdonald



R. hodgsonii

By Walter Hood Fitch: Curtis's Botanical Magazine



R. hodgsonii

Image Jacquie Clayton



R. hodgsonii and
R. wightii



R. hodgsonii
Trek to Dzongri
Images: Brenda Macdonald