

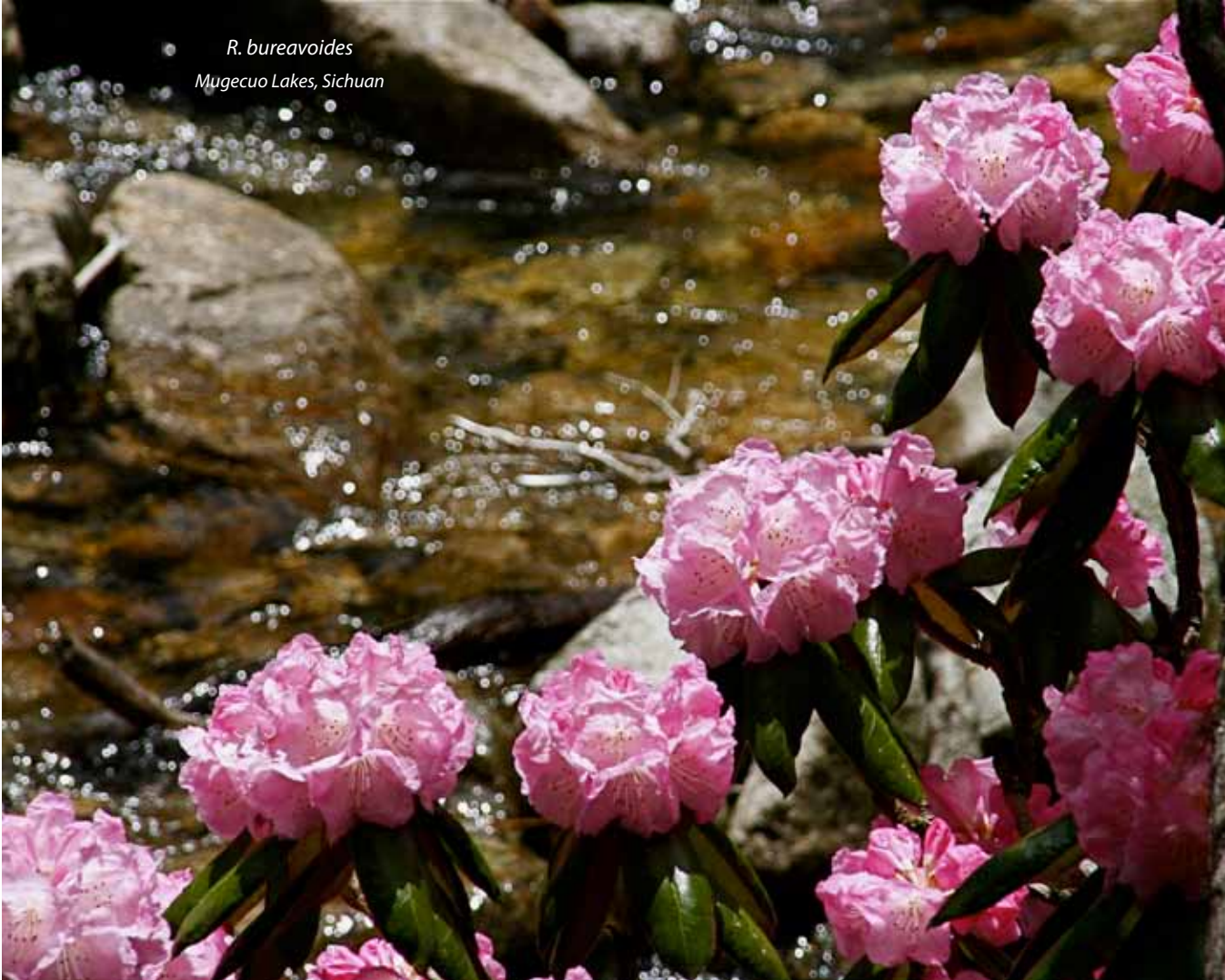


# The Yak

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRASER SOUTH RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

VOLUME 30 NUMBER 01, JANUARY 2016

*R. hippophaeoides*



*R. bureavoides*  
Mugecuo Lakes, Sichuan

## **This Month's Meeting**

**Date:** Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 @ 7:30 pm

**FSRS Annual General Meeting, Elections &  
Just Desserts Extravaganza**

## 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:  
**Langley Mennonite Fellowship Church**  
20997- 40<sup>th</sup>-Street  
Langley BC



## *Quick Hits*

The scheduled visit of Donald Trump to address the Fraser South Annual General Meeting has been cancelled. We have been informed by “The Donald’s” handlers that he has only recently discovered that women in Canada occupy high offices in the fields of Politics, Education,



Medicine, Business, Athletics, the Clergy, Broadcasting and in Arts and Entertainment. He is, now, also aware that not only do Canadian women have leading roles in all such endeavours but are transcendent in all facets of Canadian life.

The shock of discovery has left the poor man apoplectic and unable to fulfil his earlier commitment.

In his stead, an authentic, sitting President, Chris Hodgson, will entertain us with encounters of British gardens in southwest England that he visited last spring with the Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society.



## President's Remarks :

Welcome to 2016! Our FSRS Christmas dinner is now a distant memory, as are the holidays and all their indulgences: parties, wines, cheeses and general over-consumption. Now it's time to reset the clock – and, not without effort, our waistlines and get back to the garden.

The Roman celebration of Saturnalia wasn't all that different. The week-long celebration between December 17-23 (on the Roman calendar) involved a public banquet in the forum followed by private gift-giving, continual partying, and a carnival atmosphere that overturned Roman social norms: gambling was permitted, and masters provided table service for their slaves. In Roman mythology, Saturn was an agricultural deity who was said to have reigned over the world in the Golden Age, when humans enjoyed the spontaneous bounty of the earth without labor in a state of innocence. The celebration ended on winter solstice, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, celebrated as the "Birthday of the Unconquerable Sun". If only we could enjoy nature's bounty without labour! However, I'm sure we all share that same sense of renewed optimism on winter solstice. The sun is returning to dispel our darkness, if only by seconds a day. It's time

to dig out the seed catalogues and start planning this year's garden.

A walkabout in our own garden today turned up a nice bud set for the very first time on rhododendron species *R. fortunei* ssp. *fortunei*, *metternichii*, *auriculatum* and *roxieanum* ssp. *roxieanum* var. *oreonastes*. This may elicit yawns on the part of long-time members, but hey, for relative novices such as Margaret and me, they're milestones! My new year's garden resolutions? Less lawn, more garden, plant out those rhodies still languishing in 1 gallon pots, do some serious mulching to reduce weeding-time, and risk a few new cultivars at the limit of our hardiness zone.

Our January meeting is annual election night. This year the following posts will become vacant: President, Vice-president, Secretary, Program Chair and one Director. All members are invited to step up to the plate and offer their services so we can have a real election. This meeting is also traditionally our annual "Just Desserts" night, where members tempt us with the most decadent weapon in their arsenal. As an added attraction, your outgoing president (that would be me) will give a presentation on some high-end gardens in south-western England, based on a two-week tour last May, organized by Cowichan Rhododendron Society.

Please note there will be no plant sale or raffle table at this meeting.

Trusting 2016 will bring you lots of prize-winning trusses and contentment in the garden.

*Chris Hodgson*



*R. roxieanum* ssp. *roxieanum*  
Var. *oreonastes*



*R. fortunei* ssp. *fortunei*



## FROM THE EDITOR

### This Month:

January is the time for our Annual General Meeting and 'Just Desserts' Extravaganza. Please bring along your favourite dessert creation to share with friends as you all try and be attentive to the variety of annual reports. These reports will reveal the general health of the club as a whole. However, the shared desserts will be more interesting and enjoyable.

We shall also nominate and elect club officers for the new year and recognise the efforts and contributions of our members. As noted earlier, we shall do a little armchair travelling courtesy of Chris Hodgson.

Below is the slate of people who have agreed to stand for positions on the executive, pending election, at our January meeting.



Elected officers:  
President: Evelyn Jensen  
Past President: Chris Hodgson  
Vice President: Colleen Bojczuk  
Secretary: Nancy Moore  
Treasurer: Harold Fearing  
Director year 3: Kirsten Martin  
Director year 2: Rosemary Prufer  
Director year 1: Jim Worden

Others:  
Newsletter: Sean Rafferty  
Membership: Ginny Fearing  
Librarian: Joan McGiveron  
Website: Kirsten Martin  
Hospitality: Vacant



### Last Month:

On December 9, 2015, the Fraser South Rhododendron Society gathered for the celebration of our annual Christmas party. Kirsten Martin (who was under the weather) arranged for Rose Prufer and others to decorate the hall and the table settings to match the spirit of Christmas. As has become a habit with the FSRS, gourmet offerings of main dishes, salads, ham and turkey, condiments, tasty desserts and punchy punch arrived magically to add to the fun of the evening.

Rose and Art Prufer once again teased our brains with their very challenging game of Jingo (I.E., Jeopardy Bingo), with a variety of clues to help us on our way to finding the correct answer. Working by table groups, one table was successful in coming out the winner. They received prizes, and, much to the consternation of the donor – some of her own personal Christmas decorations. Oops! Happy to say that a quick recall was done the following day and these items were returned to Kirsten.

Chris Hodgson treated the group to a PowerPoint presentation, accompanied by music, of outstanding photographs of the gardens of members Ginny and Harold Fearing, Chris and Margaret Hodgson, Bill and Carla Bischoff, Maureen and Richelle Renton and John and Gael Dodd's "Wingswept Garden".

Many thanks to everyone who helped make this such an enjoyable evening.

*Margaret Hodgson*

## Next Month



Paul Reimer of Reimer's Nurseries, one of Canada's most knowledgeable and experienced magnolia growers, will speak on his favourite topic. Paul, and his brother Adrian, operate two nurseries, one in Yarrow and one across the border in Lynden, Washington, to best serve their North American clientele. They grow one hundred and eighty varieties of magnolia in their nurseries and choose only the best specimens for propagation. The nursery was started by Paul's father, Nick, in the 1930's, growing primarily fruit trees. The collecting and propagation of magnolia started in the 1960's and is still continuing. Magnolias are natural companions for rhododendron so please join the February meeting and be educated in this fabulous genus by the foremost of experts

## 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](#).

### Appreciation of this morning's garden without the bloom



*R. fulvum* making an effort



*R. flinckii*



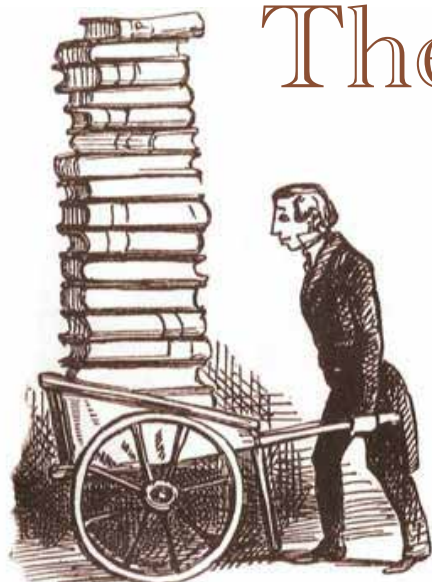
*R. falconeri*

## THE CALENDAR:

<b>Wednesday, January 20</b> <b>7:30 pm Langley</b> <b>Mennonite Hall</b>	<b>Fraser South Rhododendron Society,</b> <b>Annual AGM and Just Desserts Extravaganza. Chris Hodgson on the</b> <b>Heritage Gardens of Southwest England</b>
<b>Thursday, January 21</b> <b>7:30 pm Van Dusen</b>	<b>Vancouver Rhododendron Society</b> <b>AGM and Members Slide Night Sue Klapwijk selling Art Cards</b>
<b>Wednesday, February 10</b> <b>7:30-9:30 Van Dusen</b>	<b>Alpine Garden Club of BC</b> <b>Ken Marr: Flora of Northern BC Alpine (<a href="#">see more</a>)</b>
<b>Wednesday, February 17</b> <b>7:30 pm</b> <b>Langley, Mennonite Hall</b>	<b>Fraser South Rhododendron Society</b> <b>Paul Reimer: Magnolias</b> <b>Plant sales: Kirsten Martin</b>
<b>Thursday, February 18</b> <b>7:30 pm Van Dusen</b>	<b>Vancouver Rhododendron Society</b> <b>Dennis Bottemiller of The Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden</b>
<b>Wednesday, March 9</b> <b>7:30 pm Van Dusen</b>	<b>Alpine Garden Club of BC</b> <b>Linda Verbeek: A Plethora of Seeds</b>
<b>Wednesday, March 16</b> <b>7:30 pm</b> <b>Langley Mennonite Hall</b>	<b>Fraser South Rhododendron Society</b> <b>Doctor Shannon Berch: Beneficial Fungi</b> <b>Plant Sales: Sue Klapwijk</b>
<b>Thursday, March 17</b> <b>7:30 pm Van Dusen</b>	<b>Vancouver Rhododendron Society</b> <b>Doctor Shannon Berch: Mycorrhizae</b>
<b>Saturday, April 16</b> <b>TBA</b>	<b>Fraser South Rhododendron Society</b> <b>FSRS plant sale of rare and unusual rhododendrons, companion shrubs</b> <b>and perennials.</b>
<b>Wednesday, April 20</b> <b>7:30 pm</b> <b>Langley Mennonite Hall</b>	<b>Fraser South Rhododendron Society</b> <b>Dr. Sara Harris, of UBC, will speak on local and global climate change.</b> <b>Was the 2015 drought an anomaly or the new normal?</b>
<b>Thursday April 21</b> <b>7:30 pm Van Dusen</b>	<b>Vancouver Rhododendron Society</b> <b>Gary Lewis of Phoenix Perennials, "Hot New Plants"</b>



*R. wilsonii*



# The Book Cart

*The Rhododendron Species, Vol IV Azaleas* by H.H. Davidian, B.A., B.Sc. (Hons.) Timber Press, Portland, Oregon, 1995. 184 pages, approx. 163 colour plates, 7 pages black and white photographs, 25 line drawings. Glossary. Hardiness Zone maps. General index and Index of Azaleas. Hardbound, ISBN 0-88192-311-7 (hardcover)

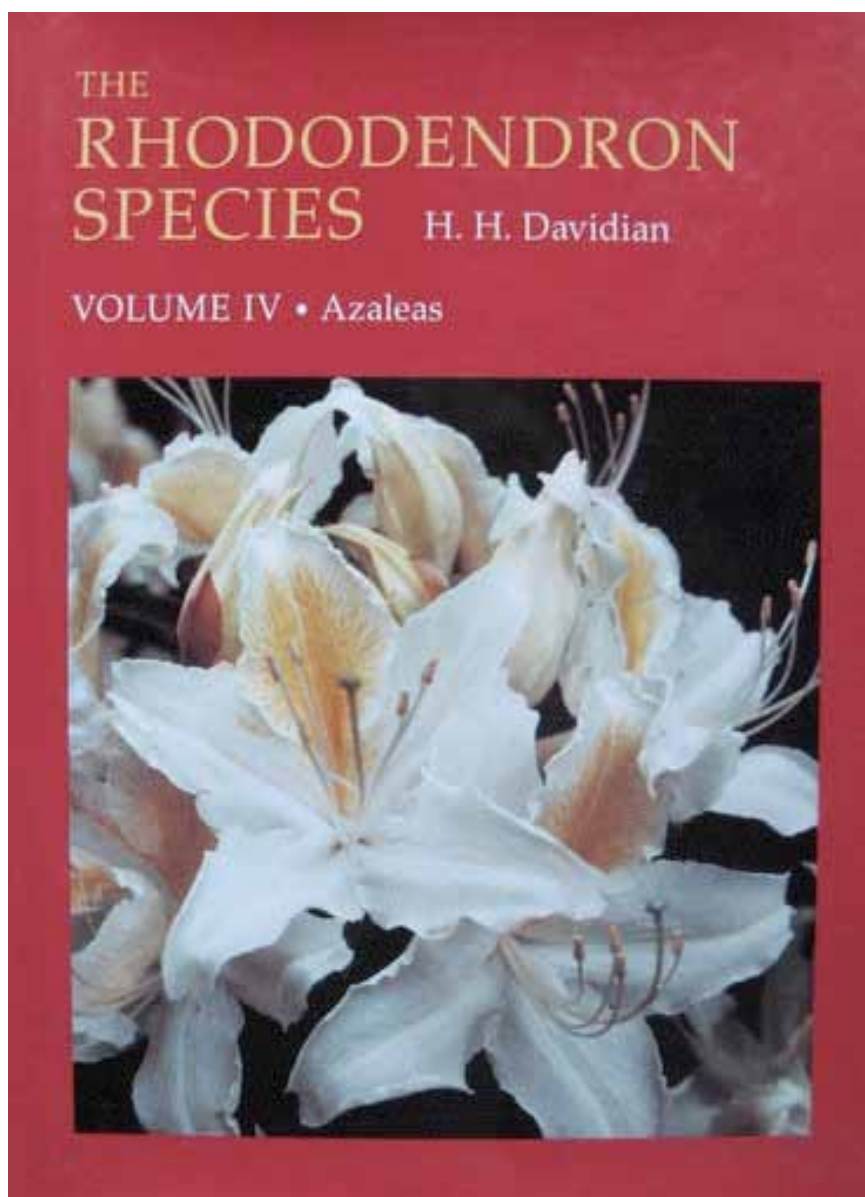
H.H. Davidian is widely recognized internationally as one of the leading authorities on the genus *Rhododendron*. He has been associated for 40 years with the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh, and has devoted his time principally to the study of this group of plants. Edinburgh has, since the first introduction of *Rhododendron* species from China and the Himalayas, been a principal centre for the study and taxonomy of the species.

The author's acknowledged expertise in identifying species and varieties of rhododendrons is the outcome of this lifelong devotion to the plant. He has described and named many species. The *Rhododendron Species* Volume IV –Azaleas is the last volume of a major work distinguished by its breadth and thoroughness. H.H. Davidian has produced the most complete and detailed taxonomic treatment of the genus since the earlier, now outdated classic, *The Species of Rhododendron*, 2nd edition 1947.

Lepidote rhododendrons were covered in Volume I. Volumes II and III were devoted to elepidote species, and this present volume IV covers Series Azalea.

The core of the book is a list of azaleas in their subseries, keys to the 5 subseries, and full descriptions of all 104 species. The keys provided in the book should make it possible for any grower, professional or amateur, to identify with reasonable accuracy every azalea species in cultivation.

Also of primary importance is Mr. Davidian's synopsis of azalea species and some of their characteristics, along with lists of the synonyms and doubtful taxa.



*Margaret Hodgson*