



The Yak

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRASER SOUTH RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

VOLUME 30 NUMBER 06, JUNE 2016

R. hippophaeoides



R. nuttallii RSBG

This Month's Meeting

Date: Saturday, June 4th 2016 @ 3:00 pm

Fraser South Annual Potluck Picnic and Silent Auction

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://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

Kirsten, has asked me to:

“include that our auction this year will be a silent auction. I will be putting it together. Items can be left with me when guests arrive at the picnic and if the donor has a particular price they feel it should sell for we will start the bid at that amount.

Thank you very much.



It's picnic time!



On June 4th our annual picnic will be held at the home of John and Gael Dodd, 23465 – 61st Ave., Langley.

We will gather at 3 PM for visiting – each other and the garden. Please bring with you a plate, cutlery, mug, CHAIR, potluck contribution of your choice and an item for the Silent Auction.

The meal will be served at 4 PM.

Items for the Silent Auction can be bid on throughout the afternoon and shortly after dinner, we will close the auction and the happy purchasers can collect their goodies, visit Nancy and be on their way whenever they please. We are trying to make the evening shorter so you can be on your way home without waiting for a long auction to be over.

After the evening, please let me know if you like the silent auction and if you'd like to continue with it in future years.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

LEGACY FUND

The legacy fund is profit from the May 2015 ARS Conference on Vancouver Island. The co-chairs, Lois Blackmore and Calvin Parsons, have decided to split the fund between the seven District 1 Chapters of which we are one. Consequently, FSRS has received an amount in excess of \$2,500.00. Each club must choose a project (or projects) on which to use these funds.

THE PROVISIO:

The Club must use the funds to reflect the guidelines of the ARS: to educate and promote the genus *Rhododendron*. The plan created (to use the fund) needs to reflect this established belief.

Evelyn Jensen

In Bloom Today





FROM THE EDITOR

very first time, this year's winning entry was a truss of R. 'Lionheart' itself. The victorious truss was submitted by the very proud John Dodd . Congrats, John

This Month:

is the Fraser South Annual Potluck Picnic and Inaugural Silent Auction, to be held at the absolutely fabulous home and garden of Gael and John Dodd, 23465 – 61st Ave., Langley. Please see the President's report for details and the last page of this newsletter for a map locating the picnic site.

Last Month:

was, of course the Justly Famous Fraser South Beer bottle Truss Show. At press time the accounting firm of Calyx, Sepal, Pistil and Style are still counting the beads and placing the winners in their respective categories. A full report on the super-achievers will be printed in the September edition of *The Yak*.

Of course the highlight of the non-competition is the awarding of the Lionheart Trophy; that stunning London Drugs coffee mug, resplendent with the glorious image of R. 'Lionheart' surrounding it. Surprisingly, and for the



John Dodd with winning truss and trophy



images: Ginny Fearing

The Business Stuff:

There will also be a Fall Western Regional Conference in Newport, Oregon. September 30 - October 2, 2016. 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.

Rumour also has it that there may be a joint Convention with Germany in 2018, but it is not yet confirmed.

The Truss Show- A Different Perspective

Hello, my name is Charles (SIR Charles, to you) and I'm a rhododendron.

Apparently, I've just been 'shown'. How demeaning! To be broken down into segments and judged. I am more than the sum total of my parts. Yes, I'm proud of my trusses. But really, how cruel can you be?

"The truss is too loose—it should be tighter."

Well, I am getting on in age.

"The flowers are a good week past their prime."

Ditto.

"Shame about the weevil damage."

Ooooooh! Perfection is so boring! It's obviously not enough to trash my appearance. They insist on criticizing my habits.

"He takes so long to bloom."

Clearly worth the wait.

"You really only get a decent show every other year."

Ditto.

Seriously, I am a worthwhile rhododendron. I contribute, in a meaningful way to every garden I grace.

Notwithstanding my being a love-child from the wild, I have inner beauty, and great foliage, of course. I have intrinsic value. And I grow well with others. But to have my value reduced to the number of beads tossed into a bowl in front of me, as I sit helplessly perched in my owner's used beer bottle!!! Or worse, NOT have beads tossed at me!

How humiliating.

Apparently the female rhododendron namesakes have similar issues. If only it didn't feel so good to win . . . And what does 'best last year's truss' mean?

Nancy Moore



image: Garth Wedemire

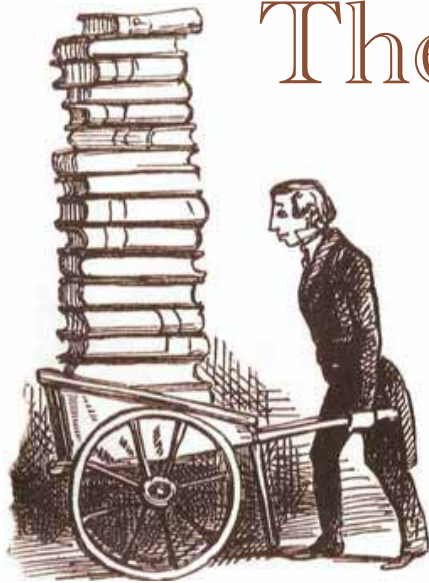
For more information on Sir Charles Lemon, please see the extra information note [here](#), near the bottom of the page

THE CALENDAR:

Saturday, June 4 3:00 pm	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Annual Potluck Picnic and Silent Auction Gael and John Dodd's Garden, Langley
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 3:00 pm	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Annual Potluck Picnic at the home and garden of Jill Newby, 3567 Creery Ave West Vancouver
Sunday, June 26 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm Van Dusen	Vancouver Rose Society 64th Annual Show and Sale



The Book Cart



Landscaping With Herbs by James Adams

Timber Press, Inc. Portland, Oregon, 1987.

223 pages, approx. 125 colour photos, 53 Figures, Appendix I: Physical Characteristics of Ornamental Herbs & Herb Culture,

Appendix II: Landscape Uses & Herbal Uses of Ornamental of Herbs,

Appendix III :Dictionary of Latin Names, Bibliography, General Index and Cross Reference, Softcover, \$26.95

ISBN 0-88192-514-4

James Adams, a chemist by training, gardens in Chehalis, Washington. His book, *Landscaping with Herbs*, was honoured by the American Horticultural Society as a Great American Gardening Book.

James Adams endeavours to show the readers how to appreciate herbs not just as useful culinary (Parsley, Sage, Rosemary and Thyme) or medicinal plants (Camomile, Fennel, English

Lavender, Garden Sage), but also for their decorative displays in a garden. They contribute so much to the “fragrant” garden as well as to the visual beauty in the various colours offered by herbs.

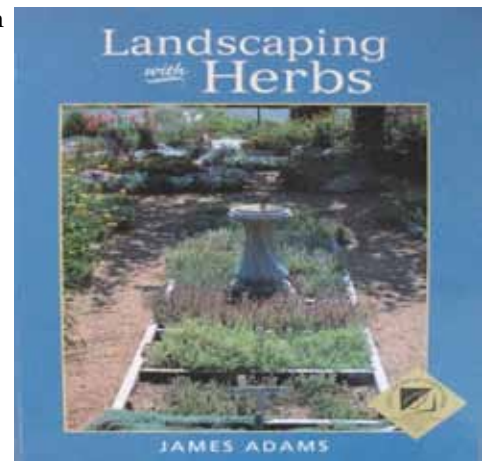
This is a treasure-trove of garden, landscaping and herbal information and lore, presenting a variety of landscaping designs complete with detailed layout plans in the 53 figures. Adams includes descriptions of the more than 600 herbs incorporated in the plans, recipes (Chive Butter, Sweet Taco Meat, Chicken Oriental, Tanga Dip, Meat Balls & Tomato Sauce, to name a few), medicinal uses, cultural requirements, herbs for a fragrant garden, useful charts and tables, and splendid line drawings and illustrations.

At the beginning of the book, the author has a short excerpt before his Introduction in Chapter 1 describing how to use the book, and this is really a “must read”. Each chapter is divided into three sections. The first section describes a form of landscaping, giving the reader a general overview or the theme of the landscaping to be introduced. The second section closely examines a selection of plants that would fit into the theme of the first section and helps the reader make a choice of what he/she would like to see in the home garden. The third section of each chapter corresponds to your landscape and gives you some idea of how some herbs have been used in actual settings.

For example, Chapter 2 section 1, The Fragrant Garden, gives a great deal of information of what plants and herbs would comprise a “fragrant” garden. Lemon scents in Lemon Balm, Lemon Verbena, Lemon Thyme, orange scents in Mock Orange, pineapple in Pineapple Mint, a sweet cinnamon/clove scent is provided from a clump of Basil. Anise is provided by Fennel as so on. Adams then give some guidelines on a figure drawing, explaining how highly fragrant herbs should be planted to draw attention like magnets to the less spectacular herbs. He gives tips of where to plant the highly fragrant herbs, what tricks to employ to make others give off more scent. He includes very useful tables and classifications, but they are not too technical for the average gardener. He also gives useful information of the best time of day to be harvesting herbs (Basil is best taken at midday!) and recommends freezing herbs for winter use.

Chapter 2 Section 2, Herbs for A Fragrant Garden is, as the title says, a good detailed summary of the best herbs for wonderful scents in the garden. Here we have excellent descriptions of the habits of the growth patterns and Adams also gives us the historical background of the herb, plus some very interesting recipes. The author has included the necessary soil conditions and growing conditions for the herbs to thrive.

Chapter 2 Section 3, A Walk Through A Fragrant Garden, pulls together detailed plans of existing fragrant gardens, well labeled, giving the reader the chance to ponder whether something like this could fit into the home garden.



Margaret Hodgson

A Tale of Three Garden Tours

May saw our intrepid members touring a number of local gardens: Darts Hill and The Glades in South Surrey in early May, UBC Botanical Garden mid-month with VRS, and the garden of Chris and Jane Byra on Chilliwack Mountain at month-end.

These high-end gardens cannot be adequately described in a short article, so I'll give just a few highlights. Darts Hill and The Glades are both municipal Surrey gardens with restricted public access. Darts Hill was developed in the 1940's as a fruit and nut orchard by Edwin and Francisca Dart.



Fremontodendron
'California Glory', Darts Hill



Embothrium 'Inca Flame',
Darts Hill

Francisca undertook to plant out, perhaps originally as a whimsical hobby garden but eventually as a serious effort over a period of decades, countless plant species and cultivars she collected from all over the world in an unused sector of their 7.5 acre property. Under her hand, Darts Hill became a true plantsman's garden, one devoted to the finest horticultural examples of plants available, whether species or hybrids, which could succeed in the garden. The collection of rhododendrons and magnolias is outstanding.

The Glades, just down the road from Darts Hill, started life in the mid-1950s as a rhododendron and azalea garden. Originally five acres, it recently ballooned by accretion to 15 acres, so there's lots of room for expansion. In contrast to Darts Hill, it is perhaps best described as an informal and very natural display garden. The original garden was centred on a low gravel ridge with a lagoon to the south and woods to the north sloping down to Campbell River. In 1994 the property was acquired by Jim and Elfriede DeWolf who have renewed and expanded the garden plantings over the years. Jim and Elfriede gifted the property to Surrey in 2002. They reside there still, and continue to be the driving force behind ongoing developments. Like Darts Hill, the garden has many huge rhododendrons planted out 50 to 60 years ago by the original owners. Elfriede has declared a chain saw jihad on some of the more aggressive cultivars such as *R. 'Polar Bear'*, which now exceed ten metres in height, to allow sunlight through the canopy. A Japanese meditation garden, a bamboo garden and several water

features complete the scene.

The UBC Botanical Garden celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. It comprises eight distinct garden themes covering 80 acres and with over 50,000 plants (not counting weeds). We toured the BC Native Garden and the Carolinian Forest one evening in mid-May with Vancouver Rhododendron Society members, guided by garden Curator Douglas Justice. We started in the Native Garden, then strolled through the underpass to end up in ... the 'Deep South', aka the Carolinian Garden. Those who took in the ARS convention in "Ol' Virgini" in April were already versed in Fringe Trees and *Magnolia macrophylla*, but it's great to know they can actually thrive in our zone, along with many other choice evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs.

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Douglas Justice
UBCBG

Which brings us to Chris and Jane Byra's garden on Chilliwack Mountain, visited by the hardy few of us last Saturday, the rainiest day in May. The Byra garden is, to my mind, a combination of superb hardscape design and the very best of carefully chosen plantsman garden cultivars. Rhododendrons and magnolias are well represented and make up the botanical framework together with ferns, hostas and many unusual understory plants. Plant sources include Fearing's Farm, Sue Klapwijk, PNW Propagators and Free Spirit Nursery. Chris' favorite plants are

R. atlanticum var. *Rosa Cottingham* for its high fragrance (from Sue Klapwijk), *Magnolia macrophyllum* ssp. *ashei* (an over-the-top drama queen), *Ramonda myconi* (Pyrenean violet, a woodland plant) and *Alpa carensis*, an alpine plant. Without burbling into hyperbole, Chris and Jane's garden has to be one of the finest private gardens in the Fraser Valley. And the view over the Fraser Valley is to die for.

Chris Hodgson



Chris and Jane Byra in their alpine garden
images: Chris Hodgson

Map showing the location of FSRs Annual Picnic at the Dodd residence 23465 – 61st Ave., Langley

