

The Yak

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRASER SOUTH RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

VOLUME 30 NUMBER 07, SEPTEMBER 2016

R. hippophaeoides



R. irroratum ssp. irroratum

'Polka Dot'

image: Garth Wedemire

This Month's Meeting

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

Topic: The Development of a Chilliwack Mountain Garden

Speaker: Cris Byra

Plant sales: Harold Fearing

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://frasersouthrhodos.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

A submission from Office Manager Ratso:





FROM THE PRESIDENT PROGRAMS.

Our September speaker will be Chris Byra on the development of his spectacular garden.

LEGACY FUND.

FSRS received \$2,600 from the May 2015 Conference in Sidney. These monies must be used to further promote the genus *Rhododendron*. The executive would like to hear our members' ideas for projects.

See you at the meeting on September 21st.

Evelyn Jensen



image: Garth Wedemire



This Month:

is the month of membership renewal and members' reinvigoration and to challenge those of you not keeping up with your Sudoku, our membership chair has allowed you to flex your brains with choices of membership categories. But the choice of membership category is less important than the bringing of your loot to the September meeting in a timely fashion to pay for the option of your choosing. Please try to be prompt with payment as it makes life a great deal smoother for the membership chair. A membership form is appended to the last page of these tidings for your convenience. Ginny writes below:

FROM THE EDITOR

This year you have three options:

1. You may remain as a full ARS member, including the ARS quarterly journal. The cost for ARS membership is \$55, a direct conversion of the \$40 US required.
2. You may choose to be a FSRS Chapter member which includes the YAK and all chapter activities but does not include the ARS journal. FSRS Chapter membership costs \$25
3. If you are a full, (not a local), member of a different chapter of the ARS, you may join FSRS as an Associate ARS member, which is \$15.”

A membership form is attached to the YAK. You may bring it to the September or October meeting or mail it with your check to Ginny Fearing, 5376 Ross Road, Abbotsford, BC V4X 1Z2.

The Business Stuff:

For the Love of Rhododendrons... and Other Good Friends...

The American Rhododendron Society presents the 34th Annual Western Regional Rhododendron Conference September 29-October 2, 2016, in Newport, Oregon. For full information on the conference, please click [here](#)

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.



June picnic and silent auction:

Many thanks to everyone who made our summer party so successful. Gael and John, for letting us invade their beautiful garden, yet again. What a delightful setting for great food and camaraderie, Ginny, for doing such a great job organizing everything, Kirsten, for spending so much time and effort in making our silent auction such a success. The gift baskets and plants were beautifully organized and VERY enticing, and the silent auction format allowed for some friendly (and maybe some fierce) bidding competition.

Huge thanks to EVERYONE who donated items for the auction, and to the people who generously bid on those items.

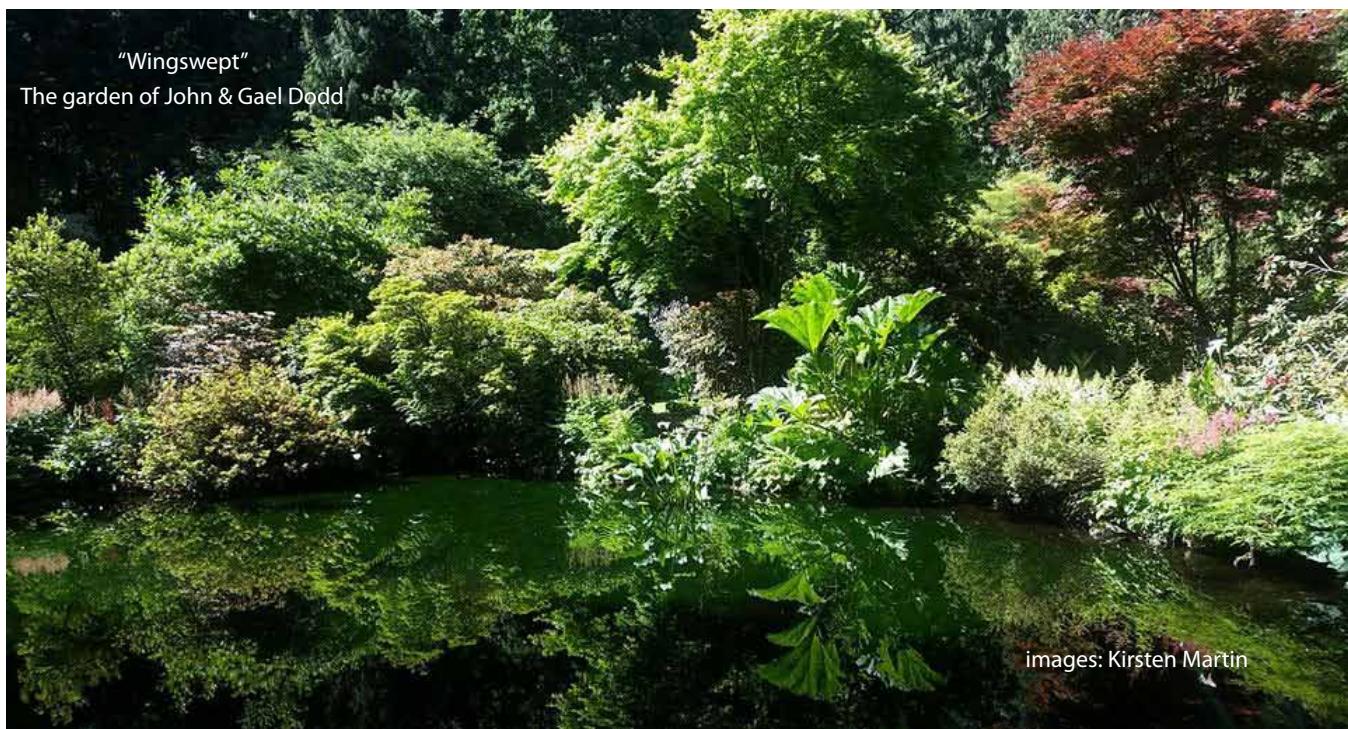
Nancy Moore



Cardiocrinum giganteum
"Wingswept"



silent auction items



"Wingswept"
The garden of John & Gael Dodd

images: Kirsten Martin

THE CALENDAR:

Thursday, September 15 7:30 pm Van Dusen	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Barry Roberts: Heritage Hydrangeas (Plant sales: Harold Fearing)
Saturday September 17 12 noon to 4.00 pm Van Dusen	Alpine Garden Club of BC Fall Plant Show and Sale
Wednesday, September 21 7:30 pm Langley Mennonite Hall	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Dr. Chris Byra - on the design and creation of his and Jane's garden on Chilliwack Mountain,
Wednesday, October 12 7:00-10:00 pm Van Dusen	Alpine Garden Club of BC Susie Egan: The Wonderful World of Trilliums
Wednesday, October 19 7:30 pm Langley Mennonite Hall	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Speaker to be announced
Thursday, October 20 7:30 pm Van Dusen	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Daniel Mosquin: TBA
Wednesday, November 9 7:30 pm Van Dusen	Alpine Garden Club of BC Jay Akerley: North American Cordillera Plants for the BC Garden
Wednesday, November 16 7:30 pm. Langley Mennonite Hall	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Philip MacDougall: My Favourite Shade Perennials
Thursday, November 17 7:30 pm Van Dusen	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Chris Hodgson: Gardens of Cornwall and Devon

Dixie Lynn Mueller September 4, 1945 - August 11, 2016

"It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our loving mother, grandmother, great grandmother, and friend, Dixie. She passed gently on Aug 11th after a long battle with cancer. A service will be held in Duncan B.C. at the United Church 246 Ingram St. on August 17th 2 pm." (Vancouver Province)

I was crushed to hear of Dixie's death and I am certain that all who knew her were flattened by the blow. She was so bright, so wonderfully inquisitive, asking all the proper questions so that you wished to remain engaged in lasting conversation with her. She was forever calm, peaceful and simultaneously joyful. She deserved to have lived very much longer.

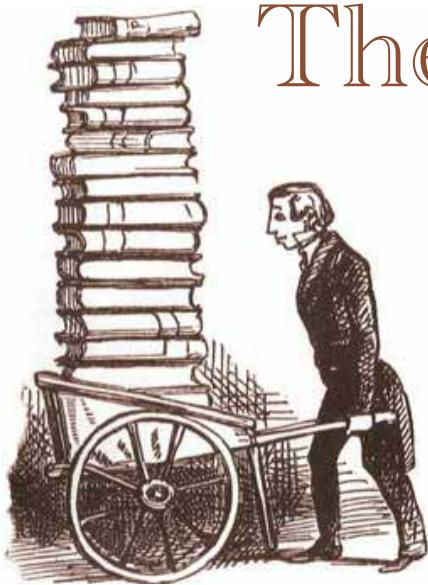
She left us at Fraser South and moved to the Cowichan Valley in order to provide greater comfort for Art, her ailing husband. Art died earlier this year followed shortly thereafter by Dixie's son, Brandon.

There is sometimes an unfair cruelty to life that is extremely difficult to fathom.

Please follow this [link](#) to some articles on Dixie's life, related in the Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society's newsletter.

Sean Rafferty





The Book Cart

The Pacific Coast Rhododendron Story, The Hybridizers, Collectors and Gardens by Sonja Nelson with the Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society. Binford & Mort Publishing Co., Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. Copyright 2001. Library of Congress Catalog Number: 2001087902 ISBN 0-8323-0537-5 ISBN 0-8323-0536-7 pbk Price #29.95 US

163 pages, 180 photos, Appendix 1 (Charter Members of the American Rhododendron Society), Appendix 11 (West Coast Hybridizers), Appendix 111 (West Coast Hybrids), Appendix 1V (Index of Photographs), Bibliography.

Sonja Nelson
is the Associate
Editor of the

Journal American Rhododendron Society. She has a degree in English from Smith College and in journalism from Western Washington University. She spent her childhood in Excelsior, Minnesota, is a Master Gardener, and tends her own garden in Skagit County, Washington.

The American Rhododendron Society's Portland, Oregon Chapter chose from its long-time members the following committee to see that this book was written. Their collective years of experience, knowledge and dedication were invaluable in writing of this publication.

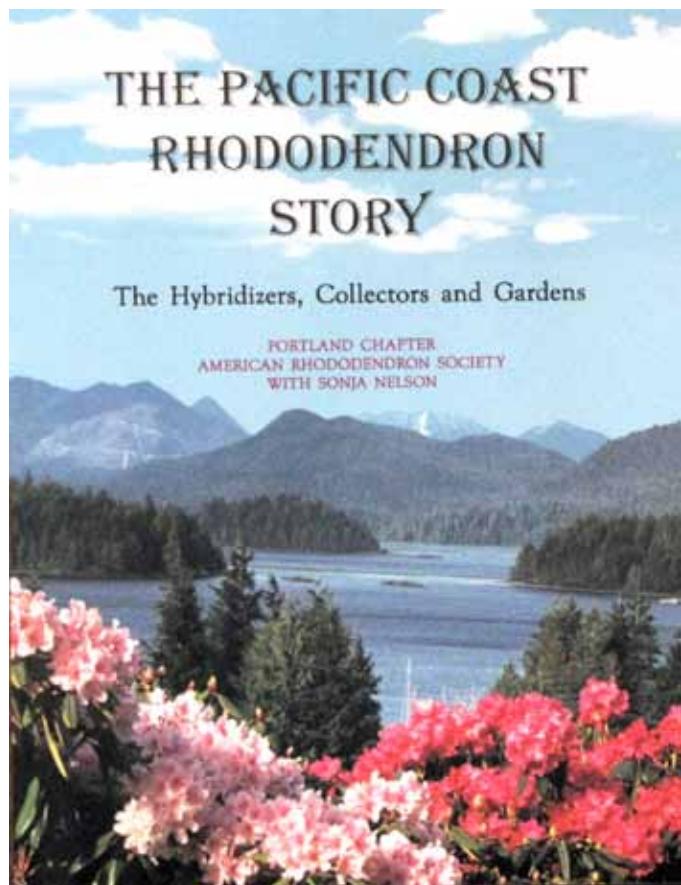
The committee included: Mike Stewart, Dover Nursery; Ted Van Veen, Van Veen Nursery; Eleanor Stubbs, Stubbs Shrubs; Dr. Dave Goheen, Hybridizer; and Dr. Bob Ticknor, Professor of Horticulture, Oregon State University.

The Pacific Coast Rhododendron Story outlines the work of early botanists such as Archibald Menzies, surgeon-botanist for King George III, who explored the Puget Sound area and discovered the native *Rhododendron macrophyllum* while collecting plants for the king's garden (Kew Gardens). This was an interesting time because the ties between Britain and the USA were strained, the USA having just gained independence through a war against the mother country, but the ties of botany were long, strong and passionate and continued thus.

The story of the West Coast hybridizers evolves as the author describes how East Coast native rhododendrons have influenced hybrids on the West Coast. The author systematically introduces information about the introduction of European hybrids, pioneers moving to the West Coast and bringing plants with them before she moves into specific chapters such as "The Hybridizers of Oregon", "The Hybridizers of Washington", and "The Hybridizers of British Columbia & California". Our own Les Clay is included in this chapter, in good company with a number of other well-known names from British Columbia.

The Appendix 111 of the West Coast Hybrids and the Appendix 1V of the photographs is most useful when reading this book. Many thanks to Richard Bryson for purchasing this book on behalf of the PARS library when we were visiting the Rhododendron Species Foundation on March 21, 2009.

Margaret Hodgson



R. baileyi (After Lt.-Col. F.M. Bailey, traveller in Tibet)

R. baileyi was discovered by F.M. Bailey in 1913 during his survey of the Tsangpo River in south Tibet. Interestingly, the rather mundane, eponymous epithet of the plant belies his [travels in Tibet](#). He also discovered the famous Himalayan blue poppy, *Meconopsis baileyi*, a year earlier in the Rong Chu valley along the Tsangpo River.

Rhododendron baileyi first bloomed in cultivation in 1918 at The Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, from seed sent there by Bailey. The plant was described by Sir Isaac Bayley Balfour in 1919.

The plant is found growing in south Tibet, Bhutan and Sikkim at altitudes from 8,000-14,000 feet, in conifer forests, on open hillsides and on mossy rocks and boulders. It is somewhat drought tolerant. *R. baileyi* is an open, leggy plant growing two to six feet in the wild, although there are some which only grow to twelve inches and make grand specimens for the rock garden. The leaves are small, narrowly elliptic with scales above and below. The corolla is rotate and flattish to an inch across and purple to reddish-purple, sometimes with spots. There is also a small calyx. There is usually an inflorescence of 4-9 flowers although there is mention of there sometimes being as many as eighteen.



R. baileyi

By Lillian Snelling: Curtis's Botanical Magazine

the lumpers and splitters to continue their combat.

It is well worth growing *R. baileyi* in a west coast garden and it is rated to 0°F. *R. Baileyi* is sometimes difficult to grow to perfection, but that is no reason to shy away from the challenge. One of the best grown and finest looking *R. baileyi* resides in the lath house opposite the office at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington.

Rhododendrons of Sikkim



R. baileyi
Yumthang Valley, Sikkim



R. lepidotum

Sean Rafferty



R. baileyi
Yumthang Valley, Sikkim



R. baileyi
Yumthang Valley, Sikkim



Fraser South Rhododendron Society

frasersouthrhodos.ca

2017 Membership Form

Date _____

Membership: *[An individual or two people residing at the same address]*

_____	Full Member: (Includes ARS membership & quarterly ARS Journal)	\$55	_____
_____	Associate: (Member of _____ ARS Chapter)	\$15	_____
_____	FSRS Chapter member (ARS membership & journal NOT included)	\$25	_____

YAK: *All members receive the color YAK newsletter, sent to the e-mail address listed below.*

Do you require a black & white paper copy of the YAK?	\$20	_____
	TOTAL	_____

All personal information collected by FSRS is for Society or ARS use only, for example mailing the YAK or ARS Journal, or for occasional special notice to members.

May we also include your contact information on our membership list, which is circulated to members only? Yes _____ No _____ Preferences? _____

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province (State) _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone Number _____ Email Address _____

All cheques should be made out to: **Fraser South Rhododendron Society**

If mailing, send to: Ginny Fearing, 5376 Ross Road, Abbotsford, BC V4X 1Z2
Membership questions may be addressed to the FSRS Membership Chair,
Ginny Fearing at 604-857-4136, or to any other FSRS officer.

Office use only:

Treasurer _____; FSRS database _____; YAK Editor _____ or Snail Mail _____; ARS _____.