



The Yak

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRASER SOUTH RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

VOLUME 31 NUMBER 1, JANUARY 2017

R. hippophaeoides



R. stenophyllum
RSBG

This Month's Meeting

Date: Wednesday, January 18th, 2017 @ 7:30 pm

FSRS Annual General Meeting, Elections &

Just Desserts Extravaganza

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:	Terry McLellan	604-888-5098
	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:	Vacant	
Website:	Maureen Worden	604-541-4754
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 meeting will, of course, be our Annual General Meeting and Dessert Extravaganza. You will also be able to cast your ballots for your club executive which is listed below. It is hoped and expected that this election will be carried out in a more civil and less licentious manner than that recently witnessed by our good friends to the south.

Slate of Officers

President - Evelyn Jensen
Vice-President - Colleen Bojczuk
Secretary - Margaret Cadwaladr
Treasurer- Harold Fearing
Directors - Sandra Short (3rd year), Jim Worden (2nd year), Terry McLellan (1st year).



January 18th brings our Annual General Meeting, with Election of Officers, the Dessert Extravaganza and Members' Photo Show.

Details of the Election Slate were emailed on January 2nd. Please refer to our revised Constitution and the changes made to eliminate "Are there any further Nominations" three times for each position.

The Executive recommends that we donate the Legacy Fund (our share of proceeds from the 2015 District 1 Conference in Sidney) to the Doubleday Arboretum in Langley for the establishment of a Rhododendron Garden. The Executive also recommends we top the amount up to \$3,000.00. A vote will be held at the January 2017 AGM.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

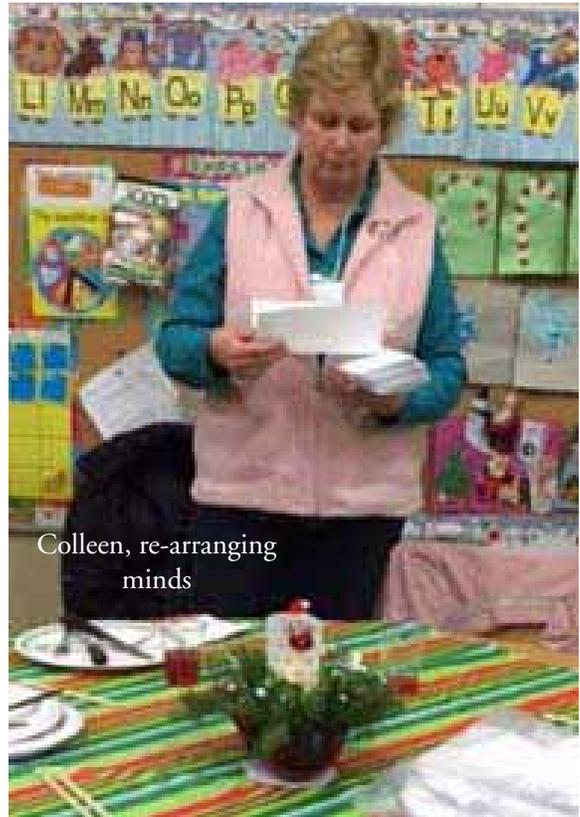
Please bring your favorite dessert and a 10 minute photo show. We'll need the photos to digest all those wonderful desserts!

The Christmas get-together was very successful. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Thank you to everyone for bringing the delicious food. Special thanks to Chris Klapwijk for cooking the turkey and to Joan McGiveron for the ham. I'm sure we all ate too much! Ginny, Nancy and Evelyn had a fun afternoon making the table centerpieces. Those with the "lucky" birth dates, took one home to enjoy.

Once again Colleen Bojczuk brought us a mind bending quiz. The winner was Chris Klapwijk and his team. Harold Fearing and Barbara Inniss were second. Colleen brought Coffee Cup centre pieces as prizes and Evelyn brought cheeses to award the winners.

Thanks to everyone that helped with set up/down, kitchen duties, and to Larry Morton for mopping the floor when the celebrations were over.

Thanks to Kirsten Martin for her service to FSRS as Refreshments Coordinator.



Colleen, re-arranging minds



Centerpiece
Images: Ginny Fearing

Gael Floyd and Lois Williams are the new Refreshment Coordinators. Thank you Gael and Lois.

Joan McGiveron has retired as FSRS Librarian. Joan has carried out these duties for quite some time. Thank you so much, Joan.

We are now looking for someone to step up and volunteer as Librarian.

Thanks to Margaret Hodgson for all the book reviews that appear in the YAK.

Last, but not least, a huge thank you to Sean for producing our wonderful YAK. Where would we be without you and Ratso.

Evelyn Jensen



FROM THE EDITOR

these occasions and make them more palatable with the introduction of the Annual Dessert Extravaganza. Everyone should bring along a favorite dessert to share, with serving utensils, if necessary. Tea and coffee will be supplied by those eminent baristas, Colleen Bojczuk and Ken Parker. Frequent pauses to attend the dessert table throughout the evening are decidedly encouraged.

The membership is also encouraged to bring along some images to present that they believe might be interesting to the rest of the group. The images could be of one's own or another's garden or anything else that you think will be of interest - a show and tell for rhododendron enthusiasts.

This Month:

Is our annual Annual General Meeting, and is a necessary part of our function as a Society. It is the time at which we ratify the Financial Reports. It is also the time that we elect the officers of the club to keep our ship steadily heading into the wind, and a time for us to award honours to those club members who go out of their way to help make our club such a pleasurable affair.

Often, AGM's are considered to be dull and dry ordeals but Fraser South manages to add levity to



Next Month:

Douglas Justice, Assistant Director and Curator of Collections at the University of British Columbia will be returning to lecture on plant hunting at the Hoang Lien National Park in Vietnam.

Sean Rafferty

THE CALENDAR:

Wednesday, January 18 7:30 pm Langley Mennonite Hall	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Annual General Meeting, member slide shows and Desert Extravaganza
Thursday, January 19 7:30 pm VanDusen	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Annual General Meeting and members' slides
Wednesday, February 8 7:30 pm VanDusen	Alpine Garden Club of BC Ken Marr: Flora of northern BC alpine
Wednesday, February 15 7:30 pm Langley Mennonite Hall	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Douglas Justice: Plant Hunting in Viet Nam
Thursday, February 16 7:30 pm VanDusen	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Paul Reimer: Reimer Nurseries

The Business Stuff:

Rhododendron Species Symposium at The RSBG

The second annual Rhododendron Species Symposium will be held on April 7th and 8th at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington. We'd love to have you join us!

This year's featured speaker is Dr. Hartwig Schepker, Scientific Director of the Botanic Garden and Rhododendron Park in Bremen, home of one of the largest Rhododendron collections in the world. He is also the Secretary of the German Rhododendron Society. Hartwig has been on several rhododendron trips in South East Asia and North America, including four journeys to Arunachal Pradesh.

Symposium registration is now open. Cost to attend the entire Symposium weekend, including all sessions, speakers, classes plus Saturday lunch and Saturday evening banquet will be only \$125 if registered before February 10th. Late registration of \$145 begins February 11th.

All events take place at the Evergreen Inn & Suites Best Western Plus or at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden.

Please [click here](#) for more information



The 2018 ARS Convention will be in Bremen, Germany. It will start around May 7, 2018, with optional tours before the convention and after the convention. The schedule may and probably will change slightly in the next couple of months.

- 1st Pre-Tour: Optional 5 days visiting Dutch Gardens including Keukenhof Gardens
- 2nd Pre-Tour: Optional 2 days at RHODO 2018 Rhododendron Festival and Bremen
- 3rd Pre-Tour: Optional 6 days public and private garden visits in Denmark & Sweden
- Convention: 7-day convention in Bremen from May 20 to 26 including 3 tour days
- Post-Tour: Optional 4 days visiting gardens in Finland.

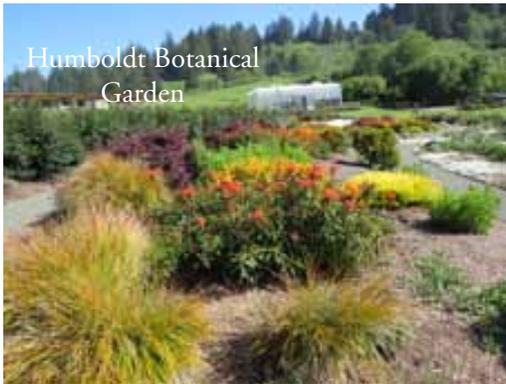
Calendar this now! It is a do-not-miss event. You can choose to start in Holland or Germany with one of the 3 pre-tours or start with the convention. Then you can choose to finish in Germany after the convention or in Finland after the post-convention tour. That means there are 8 possible combinations ranging from 7 days & nights for just the convention to 24 days & nights if you do everything which includes the 3 pre-tours to the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark and Sweden; the convention; and the post-convention tour to Finland.

Further information may be found at the [ARS site](#)

More 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.

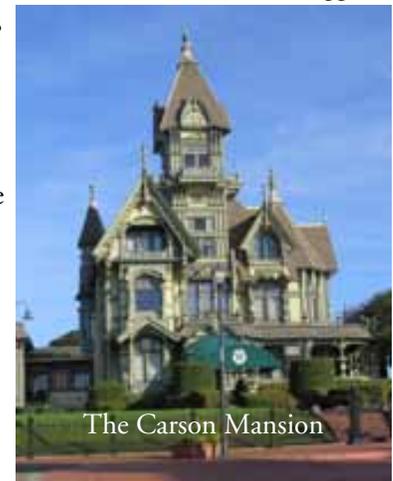


The Red Lion Hotel will be our host hotel, with a rate of \$99 per night per room plus tax. The rate includes a full breakfast and an airport shuttle. Thursday and Sunday events will be held at the hotel. The new state-of-the-art Sequoia Conference Center, three blocks from the Red Lion Hotel, will be 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.



For many ARS members, seeing the Redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) is high on the "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.

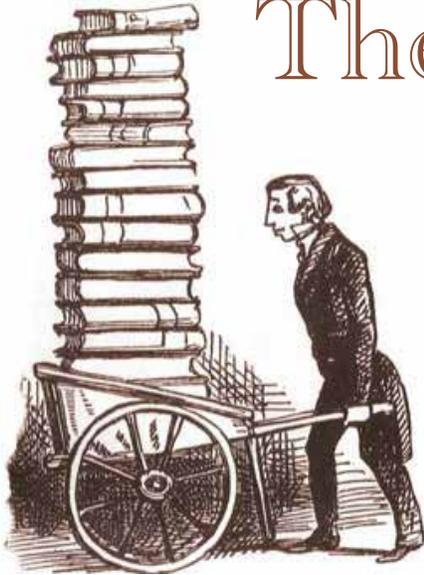


Eureka is served by United Express twice daily from San Francisco. Flying to San Francisco and transferring to Eureka is the

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

The Book Cart



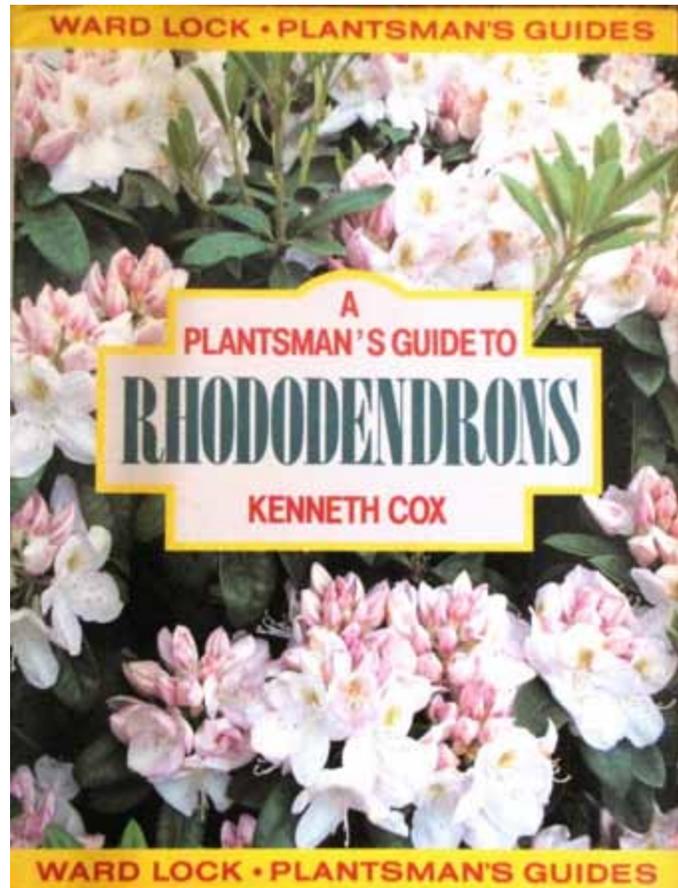
A Plantman's Guide to Rhododendrons by Kenneth Cox. Published in Canada by Cavendish Books Inc., North Vancouver, BC. First published in Great Britain by Ward Lock Limited, London, England. Copyright ©1989 Ward Lock Limited, London, England.

128 pages, 36 colour plates of labelled rhododendrons, and 15 black and white line drawings which impart information about the common truss shapes, and also the various methods of propagation such as layering, cuttings, grafting, and growing from seed. The book includes an Appendix with further information about Rhododendron Societies worldwide, as well as an Index of Rhododendron Species in alphabetical order, followed by Rhododendron Hybrids, again in alphabetical order with page number references. ISBN 0-7063-6754-5, printed by BPCC Hazell Books Ltd., Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, England.

The author, Kenneth Cox, is no stranger to anyone who has perused the books of the Fraser South Library, which owns at least five of his books and a number of books which he co-authored with his father, Peter Cox. Kenneth Cox was born in 1964 into a family of renowned plantmen, the grandson of plant-hunter, writer and nurseryman Euan Cox and son of Peter Cox VMH. The three generations were and are considered the world's leading experts on rhododendrons. He is managing director of the family firm, Glendoick Gardens Ltd., in Scotland.

A Plantman's Guide to Rhododendrons was mentioned at the ARS Fall Conference in Newport, Oregon, September 2016, as being one of the most useful books for anyone interested in choosing, growing and/or propagating rhododendrons for the garden. The book contains five chapters. Chapter One begins with a brief description of the family connection to rhododendrons, the early plant hunters and the story of rhododendrons coming to Britain. It was this arrival that ushered in hybridization of so many beautiful rhododendrons that are present today in so many gardens. In Chapter Two, Planting Ideas, Cox begins the detailed, but well-explained information about the best method for rhododendron success in a garden. He strongly advises that the plants be arranged in clumps of three or more in a bed, not individually in a lawn where they are often starved for moisture by the grass growing over the rootball. Groupings of rhododendrons in beds lead to

much healthier and visually pleasing attractive settings. In the remaining chapters, Cox has given a welcome plethora of excellent advice and encouragement to experienced and novice gardeners to, not only to enrich their gardens with these splendid plants, but also to try their hand at propagating and hybridizing their existing selections of rhododendrons. His book contains much information about the various times of flowering, colour combinations, mistakes to avoid, and guides to success by offering the reader detailed descriptions of over 200 rhododendron species and hybrids. This book is in the Fraser South Rhododendron Society library. Well worth the read!



Margaret Hodgson

R. pendulum (Epithet: Hanging)

R. pendulum was first discovered in the Sikkim Himalaya in 1849 by J.D. Hooker, but was discovered later by other collectors in Nepal, Bhutan, and south and southeast Tibet. It is found growing on mossy rocks, cliffs, on rocks in river beds and as an epiphyte on rhododendrons and conifers, at altitudes from 7,500-12,000 feet. It grows from 1-4 feet in height.

R. pendulum, *R. edgeworthii* and *R. seingkuense* are the three rhododendrons that comprise Subsection Edgeworthia, all of which are exquisite plants. *R. pendulum* is similar to the much larger growing *R. edgeworthii* but with much smaller and more oval elliptic leaves that are smoother on the upper surface. The lower surface of the leaves is densely woolly and densely scaly, with leaf margins fringed with prominent hairs. The new growth of leaves flushing out is a lovely shade of mahogany. It has small, rotate, white to cream flushed pink flowers although, unlike *R. edgeworthii* there is little or no fragrance. However, the lack of fragrance is easily overcome by the plants ability to appear more like a cute and cuddly family pet than most other rhododendrons.



R. pendulum

By Carlos von Reifel: Leslie Urquart Press

Native only to the mountainous, eastern Himalaya, it thrives in the heavy monsoon climate but requires excellent drainage. In the several areas of Sikkim that we came across *R. pendulum* it was growing epiphytically on trees or on mossy rocks, quite often sharing space on those rocks with *R. camelliflorum*.

In cultivation, if you are able to grow *R. edgeworthii* outside you will be able to grow *R. pendulum*. Both require excellent drainage. If you can provide something similar to an epiphytic

environment such as a rotten log or tree stump most epiphytes will be happy with the drainage, moisture and ready supply of nutrient. Alternatively, a hanging moss basket might fill the bill, along with the added benefit of moving it indoors if there is a particularly chilly winter.



R. pendulum

Image: Garth Wedemire



R. pendulum

Sean Rafferty



R. pendulum, on mossy tree



R. pendulum



R. pendulum, new growth



R. pendulum, on mossy rock



R. pendulum, indumentum