



This Month's Meeting

Date: Wednesday, March 15th, 'The Ides', 2017 @ 7:30 pm

Topic: The Rhododendron Gardens at the Horticultural Centre of the Pacific.

Speaker: Bill McMillan

Plant Sales: Sue Klapwijk

2017 Officers

President:	Evelyn Jensen	604-857-5663
Past Pres:	Chris Hodgson	604-541-2382
Vice Pres:	Colleen Bojczuk	604-826-4221
Secretary	Margaret Cadwaladr	604-427-1685
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:	Gerald Nemanishen	604-826-0166
Website:	Maureen Worden	604-541-4754
Hospitality:	Gail Floyd	604-541-2884
	Lois Williams	604-535-0543

<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

THE VANCOUVER RHODODENDRON SOCIETY
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU ALL TO A SPECIAL, ONE OF A KIND
EVENT.



PLEASE SEE PAGE 6 FOR MORE INFORMATION



FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's time for our Annual Plant Sale. Please sign up at the March 15th meeting to help out. The sign-up sheet will be circulated to find cashiers, customer assistants, members-sale table helpers as well as set up at 8:30 am. Help with the take down will also be required in the afternoon.

For the member's table, please bring your potted-up plants to Colleen no later than 9:00 am. She will be using a "sticker" method of pricing to simplify sales and to speed up the process. If you need pots, please give Colleen a call before the March meeting so she can bring them to you.

Please note that sale is on the east driveway, the opposite side that we use for the meeting.

Please remember to bring a truss or two for display to the public and remember to bring a lunch, tea and coffee with you as there will be no hot dog sale at the church. The good news is that there is a Blenz Coffee Shop nearby at 208th Street and 40th Avenue

Evelyn Jensen



FROM THE EDITOR

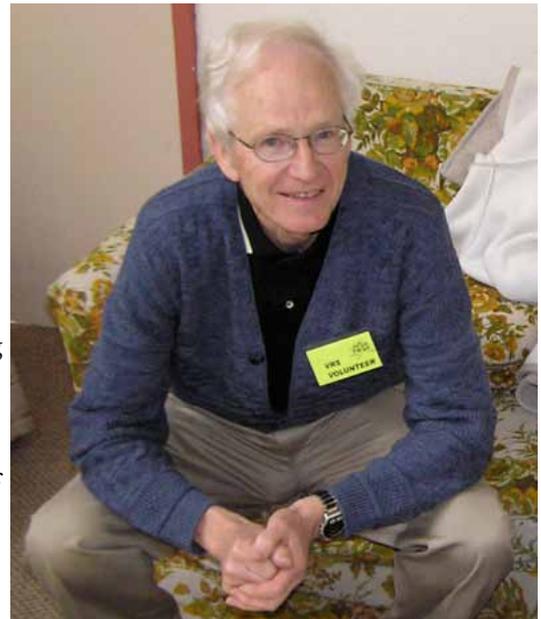
This Month:

Bill McMillan, a past president of the Victoria Rhododendron Society, will speak to us on the rhododendron gardens at the Horticultural Centre of the Pacific.

Bill is a retired geologist, active curler, golfer, birder, long distance runner and leader of the volunteer group overseeing the rhododendron garden at

the [Horticultural Center of the Pacific](#). His broad knowledge of both rhododendron species and hybrids also aids his oversight of the monthly rhododendron raffles at the Victoria Chapter meetings. I have been privileged to accompany Bill on two trips to China and enjoy all the horticultural delights that were on offer there.

Please attend and enjoy this meeting.



Next Month:

Margaret Cadwaladr will present information on the large and diverse Royal Horticultural Society's gardens at Wisley.

Other Duties As Assigned:

Your caffeine and calorie hôtesse at this month's soiree will be Ginny Fearing and Evelyn Jensen, and the rest of the Fraser South crew will be bringing the calories for them to display.

You are all also reminded to fill the raffle table with horticultural delights since we all know that there will eventually be a springtime.

THE CALENDAR:

Wednesday, March 15 7:30 pm Langley Mennonite Hall	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Dr. Bill McMillan: Speaking on the rhododendron gardens at the Horticultural Centre of the Pacific and other Victoria gardens
Thursday, March 16 7:30 pm Van Dusen	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Steve Hootman - Rhododendron Species Foundation
Saturday, April 1 12:00-4:00 pm Van Dusen	Alpine Garden Club of BC Annual Spring Show and Sale
Tuesday, April 11 7:30 pm St. Mary's Church 3150 Ash St, Van.	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Dr. Hartwig Shepker: The Bremen Rhododendron Garden
Wednesday, April 12 7:30 pm Van Dusen	Alpine Garden Club of BC Lawrence Harder: What is an Alpine Plant
Saturday, April 15 10:00 am-3:00 pm Langley Mennonite Hall	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Annual Show and Sale
Wednesday, April 19 7:30 pm Langley Mennonite Hall	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Margaret Cadwaladr: A Presentation on Wisley Gardens
Thursday, April 20 7:30 pm Van Dusen	The Vancouver Rhododendron Society Ken Webb: Propagation of Rhododendrons
Saturday, May 6 10:00 am - 3:00 pm Park and Tilford Gardens	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Annual Show and Sale 333 Brooksbank Avenue, North Vancouver
Saturday, June 10 3:00 pm 6559 Balsam St.	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Annual Picnic

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.

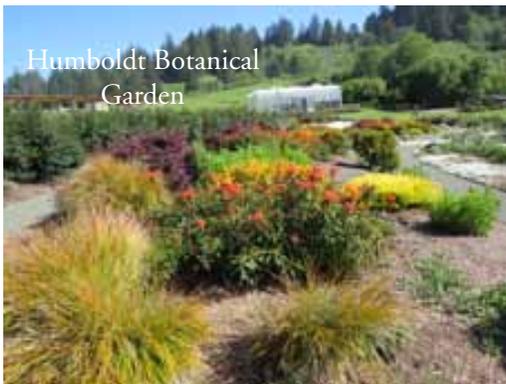
Symposium registration is now open. Cost to attend the entire Symposium weekend, including all sessions, speakers, classes plus Saturday lunch and Saturday evening banquet will be only \$125 if registered before March 10th. Late registration of \$145 begins February 11th. International (Canadian) registration. \$130

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](#)

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.

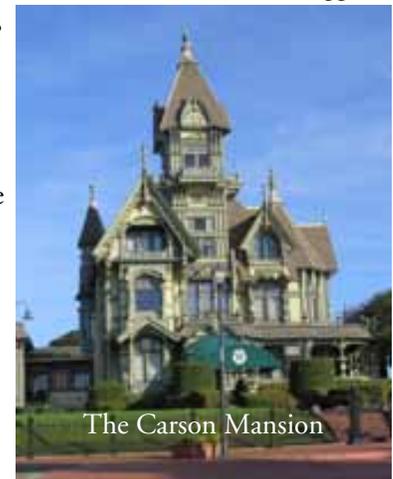


The Red Lion Hotel will be our host hotel, with a rate of \$99 per night per room plus tax. The rate includes a full breakfast and an airport shuttle. Thursday and Sunday events will be held at the hotel. The new state-of-the-art Sequoia Conference Center, three blocks from the Red Lion Hotel, will be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

Even More Business Stuff:

Past President of the Fraser South Rhododendron Society and the newly minted President of the Vancouver Rhododendron Society, Chris Hodgson, extends the warm invitation below:

Hello folks,

FSRS has been invited to a presentation by Dr. Hartwig Schepker of Bremen, Germany on 'The Rhododendron Gardens of Europe'. The presentation will be held at St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Centre Meeting Hall, 3150 Ash Street (corner of 16th and Ash) at 7:30 PM Tuesday, April 11th. "There is ample off-street parking accessed from 14th Ave. There will be no entry fee... but a few baked goods for the refreshment table would be appreciated."

VANCOUVER RHODODENDRON SOCIETY SPEAKER

Dr. Hartwig Schepker is the Scientific Director of the Botanic Garden and Rhododendron-Park Bremen, home of one of the largest Rhododendron collections in the world. He is also the Secretary of the German Rhododendron Society and co-editor of the society's publication "Rhododendron und Immergrüne". Hartwig has been on several rhododendron trips in South East Asia and North America, including four journeys to Arunachal Pradesh between 2005 and 2012. His main objectives are to promote the important ecological functions of Rhododendrons in their native habitats and to point out the long and important role of rhododendrons in the history of gardening in Germany.

His talk is entitled 'The Rhododendron Gardens of Europe'. Hartwig will show images and discuss some of the finest gardens in Europe, specifically those that feature outstanding collections of rhododendrons. He will take us on a journey through the United Kingdom and into continental Europe including Italy, Denmark and Germany among others. This will be a lavishly illustrated and very enjoyable insider's look at some of the most beautiful gardens in the world.



SPRING MURMURS



R. mucronulatum



R. 'Cilpinense'



R. neriiflorum ssp. *neriiflorum*
'Rosevallon'



R. 'Coral Glow'

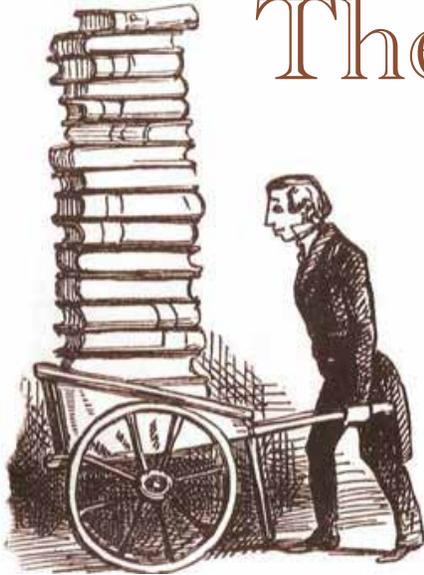


R. 'Olive'



R. strigillosum

The Book Cart



Rhododendrons in America by Ted Van Veen. Binford & Mort Publishing, Portland, Oregon, Copyright ©1969 Ted Van Veen, Second Edition, Second Printing 1986.

180 pages, approx. 210 colour plates identifying rhododendron species and hybrids, Appendices – Hybrids Not Covered Earlier, Colour Illustration Index and Subject Index. ISBN 0-8323-0374-7 (soft cover), ISBN 0-8323-0450-6 (hardcover).

The Author: Ted Van Veen (1916-2003). In 1961 Theodore Van Veen took over control of the Van Veen Nursery, a specialty wholesale nursery which was established in 1926 by his father, Theodore Van Veen Sr. The author also wrote *Rhododendrons You Should Meet*, a description of the 500 varieties of rhododendron grown at the nursery in Portland Oregon.

Rhododendrons in America is a joy to read because the twelve chapters of

good information are interspersed with beautiful colour plates of so many of the classy rhododendron species and hybrids that many of us have in our own gardens in BC coastal areas. There are 12 chapters which follow a very familiar pattern of describing the history of rhododendrons, which literally encircle the world. The author clarifies that this book is written about the large segment of the genus *Rhododendron*, but does not include descriptions of azaleas. Van Veen concentrates on species rhododendrons, particularly native species rhododendrons which are abundant from northern California up through Oregon, continuing through the Pacific Northwest and into British Columbia. He includes some detail of species that occur in the eastern United States. In chapter four, What to Look For When Buying Rhododendrons, he recommends to know what you want – how hardy? What is the growth habit? How will I know if I will get what I want? He says that it is like going on blind date just on the recommendation of a friend, and can lead to disappointment if one has not done some investigation. He also recommends that the buyer should have a fair amount of knowledge of the rhododendron in question, simply because these plants are not always labelled properly at supermarkets or other retail outlets. He strongly advises that this will be less of a problem when dealing with a reputable dealer who knows the plants very well. Several chapters give advice on the needs of these beautiful plants to thrive by developing the proper soil conditions, providing proper feeding and creating the proper conditions for the rhododendrons. An entire chapter describes species and hybrid rhododendrons, and the appendices also offer much information on these topics.



RHODODENDRONS IN AMERICA

Ted Van Veen

Margaret Hodgson

Rhododendron campanulatum ssp. *aeruginosum* (Epithet: verdigris-coloured)

Joseph Dalton Hooker discovered *R. campanulatum* ssp. *aeruginosum* in 1849 in the Sikkim Himalaya, at 14,00 feet. It was later collected, by others, in Bhutan and eastern Nepal. This species grows from 12,000-15,000 feet about and above treeline on rocky moorland. *R. aeruginosum* is extremely variable in habit, growing from 1-2 feet tall to heights of 20 feet, although its usual height ranges between 1 and 6 feet.

The most evident diagnostic features of this species, and that which distinguishes it from its cousins *R. campanulatum* ssp. *campanulatum* and *R. wallichii*, is the convex, glaucous, blue, young foliage, with its metallic lustre, and the silky, smooth, bistrate indumentum on the leaf underside. These leaves have been called the Rolls-Royce of foliage and are indeed utterly striking.

Rhododendrons of Sikkim



R. campanulatum ssp. *aeruginosum*
Yumthang, Sikkim



R. campanulatum ssp. *aeruginosum*
Yumthang, Sikkim



R. campanulatum ssp. *aeruginosum*
indumentum

The indumentum is a thick, orange-brown to rusty-brown, and if there is a manufacturer out there who can replicate the silky softness of this texture for gloves or socks, they will sow bliss and reap great reward.

R. campanulatum ssp. *aeruginosum*, *R. campanulatum* ssp. *campanulatum* and *R. wallichii* are the only members of Subsection Campanulata and all of these species are generally easy to grow if provided with good drainage and some protection from the sun. Ssp. *campanulatum* and *R. wallichii* are very similar to each other, each sharing the same variability of white to rose to lilac flower colour. Ssp. *campanulatum* has a lower leaf surface with a tan to brownish continuous indumentum while the leaf underside of *R. wallichii* has brown, separate, hairy tufts which do not form a continuous indumentum. The lumpers among us cringe at the paucity of morphological differentiation which allows for the separation of some individual species.

The thickness of the indumentum of ssp. *aeruginosum* results from the bistrate set of hairs on the leaf underside. This bistrate indumentum (comprised of an upper layer of brown denroid hairs and lower layer of rosulate hairs) is also one of the factors that sets it apart from *R. wallichii* and ssp. *campanulatum*. It is believed, by some, that ssp. *aeruginosum* requires its own specific rank.

The following pages have some images of ssp. *aeruginosum*, *in situ* in Sikkim.

Sean Rafferty





