

The Yak

Newsletter of the Fraser South Rhododendron Society

Volume 31 Number 8, October 2017

This month's meeting

Date: Wednesday, October 18, 2017 @ 7:30pm

Speaker: Colleen Bojczuk

Topic: A Decent Obsession: My Life in Plant Production

Colleen writes: After a childhood pastime of collecting and pressing wildflowers and leaves, and helping a Mom with 2 green thumbs in the veg and flower gardens, I followed in my older sister's footsteps to Olds College, majoring in Nursery Practices, and minoring in Floral Design. Students in our faculty were headhunted by perspective employers, and I had the extreme good fortune to be hired by Highfield Tree Farms, a brand new wholesale nursery of 80+ acres being established outside of Calgary. After finishing college, I moved on to their even larger nursery (320 acres) in Edmonton, growing caliper shade trees and conifers. During a few of the earlier winters I worked at a florist specializing in wedding work. Moving to the coast during the recession of the early '80s, I found work at Mandeville Gardens in Burnaby, before being hired by Aldergrove Nursery, where I spent the next 30 years, and became head of propagation, container production and shipping coordinator until the firm closed. Instead of retiring, I now am part of Minter Country Gardens, a very progressive destination garden center in Chilliwack, continuing to learn more every day, and adapting to the challenge of helping the public make sense of the plant world.

Plant Sales: Sue Klapwijk

Kitchen duties: Judy Wellington and Ron Talbot

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:	Vacant	
Librarian:	Gerald Nemanishen	604-826-0166
Website:	Maureen Worden	604-541-4754
Hospitality:	Gail Floyd	604-541-2884
	Lois Williams	604-535-0543

<http://frasersoutherhododendron.ca>

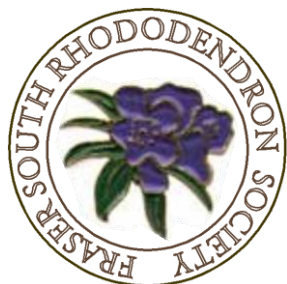
Fraser South Rhododendron Society
is a chapter of the
American Rhododendron Society

**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, B.C.**

Quick Hits

Our raffles help finance chapter activities. Please bring your contributions, extra plants, garden items, etc.

Feel free to suggest program topics and/or speakers to any member of the executive.



From the President:

It's time to think about FSRS Election of Officers coming in January 2018. My two-year term as President will end then and I will be moving to the position of Past President. There will be positions in need of filling on the executive and I ask that you consider lending a hand. I will be appointing a nominations committee shortly and you will no doubt hear from them.

Don't forget, we also need someone to produce the Yak if we want to continue with it. We don't expect anything as wonderful as Sean produced, it will be up to you. The Executive are handling the Yak until December, however, they will not be able to continue past then.

To the "more fun part". The Christmas Party is December 13th. Time to put on your Chef's Hat soon to plan the goodies you would like to feed us. We need volunteers to cook a ham and a turkey. Your help will be greatly appreciated. Please let me know if you can help. The Club pays for these two items.

Ginny and I will be making the table decorations. The highlight of the evening will be Colleen's Quiz!

Looking forward to our extra special program this month.

Evelyn Jensen

The Calendar:

Wednesday, November 15, 2017 Langley Mennonite Church	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Ted Goshaluk - Pond Life at Trinity Western University
Wednesday, December 13, 2017 6:00 pm Langley Mennonite Church	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Christmas Potluck Dinner (Note time & date change)
Wednesday, January 17, 2018 Langley Mennonite Church	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Dessert Extravaganza and Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, February 21, 2018 Langley Mennonite Church	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Program: TBA

It is time to renew your membership:

Thanks to all who have already renewed your Memberships.

The membership categories are the same, and the same price, as last year.

Full membership in **the American Rhododendron Society**, which includes the Journal of the ARS, is \$55.

If you have full **ARS membership in another chapter** you can join FSRS as an Associate for \$15.

For those who do not want or need the ARS Journal, **FSRS chapter membership** is \$25, which entitles you to all activities of the chapter but does not include ARS membership or the ARS journal.

The membership form is attached. Please give it to Ginny Fearing at the October meeting, or mail it to her at the address on the form.

The Future of the Yak

Sean Rafferty, previous editor of the Yak, resigned over the summer and thus your Executive is temporarily rotating the editorial job until a new Editor is identified.

We need a new editor for the Yak

Once a month from September through June, the Editor of the FSRS Yak prepares a Yak newsletter, including program announcements, chapter business, the President's message, and other articles, for example, a book review.

The Editor may develop/expand this basic newsletter format further if they wish, using their own creative ideas. Many resources are available. Rhododendron pictures are available at www.hirsutum.info or in the picture gallery section of www.fearing.ca. Articles worth reprinting can be found in the Yaks of 15 years ago, in other chapter's newsletters, and in various rhododendron websites.

The Editor sends out an electronic version of the Yak to all current members of the FSRS one week prior to each of the nine meetings.

If you are interested in providing this very valuable service to the Chapter, or just want to discuss the possibility, give our President, Evelyn Jensen a call.

(604-857-5663)

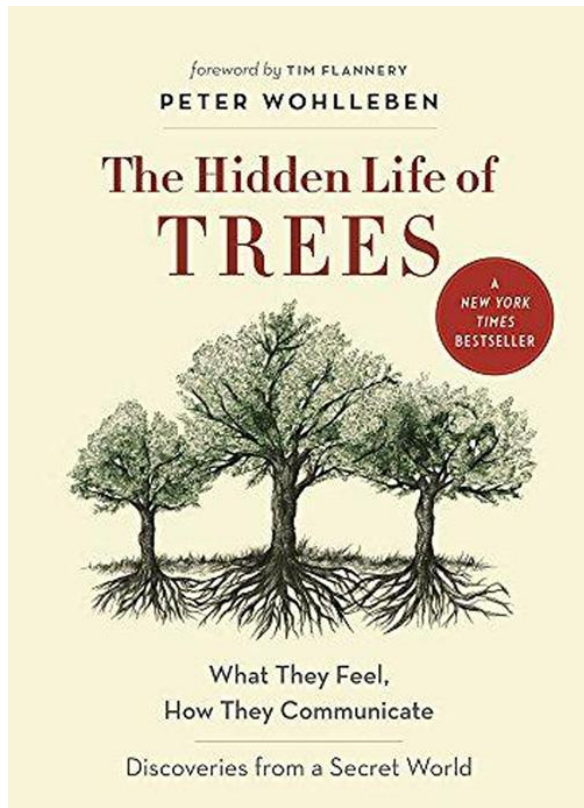
In Memoriam:
Joan Bengough

Joan Bengough passed away at her home on July 6, 2017 at age 85.

Joan was an active member of the FSRs, filling the role of Librarian for many years. She was an avid Rhododendron gardener, and along with her husband, Len, was awarded the ARS Bronze medal. She was president of the Vancouver Rhododendron Society, Convener of the 1997 ARS convention in Vancouver, then an active member of Peach Arch and Fraser South Chapters.

Joan was predeceased by her husband Len and is survived by three daughters, Jean, Janet and Hillary.





New to the Library:

The Hidden Life of Trees

by Peter Wohlleben,

250 pages. Thirty six chapters, notes and index

Hardbound, Copyright 2015 by Ludwig Verlag, Munich, part of the Random House GmbH publishing group. Originally published in German in 2015 as *Das geheime Leben der Baume*. English translation copyright 2016 by Jane Billingham. Foreword copyright 2016 by Tim Flannery. "Note from a Forest Scientist" copyright 2016 by Dr. Suzanne Simard. Published in Canada by Greystone Books and the Dr. David Suzuki Foundation.

Peter Wohlleben spent over twenty years working for the forestry commission in Germany before leaving to put his ideas about ecology into practice. He now runs an environmentally friendly woodland, where he works for the return of primeval forests. He is the author of numerous books about trees. Tim Flannery is a scientist, explorer and conservationist. He is a leading writer on climate change, and his books include *Atmosphere of Hope* and *The Weather Makers*.

The Hidden Life of Trees is a review of what they feel and how they communicate. Are trees social beings? Peter Wohlleben convincingly make the case that, yes, the forest is a social network. He draws on groundbreaking scientific discoveries to describe how trees are like human families: tree parents live together with their children, communicate with them, support them as they grow, share nutrients with those who are sick or struggling and even, warn each other of impending dangers. Wohlleben also share his deep love of woods and forests, explaining the amazing processes of life, death, and regeneration he has observed in his woodland. After you have read Wohlleben's book, a walk in the woods will never be the same again.

When he wrote the book, he wanted to describe his experiences in the forest he managed in the Eifel mountains in Germany and record what the trees had taught him. His story also explains why forests matter on a global scale. Trees are important, but when trees unite to create a fully functioning forest, you really can say that the whole is greater than its parts.

"The Note from a Forest Ecologist" is written by Dr. Suzanne Simard, a Professor of Forest Ecology at the University of British Columbia. In the early 1990s her research team, when looking for clues to the remarkable fertility of Pacific forests, unearthed a constellation of fungi linking manifold tree species. This mycelial web, as they later discovered, was integral to the life of the forest.

Gerald Nemanishen, Librarian