

The Yak

Newsletter of the Fraser South Rhododendron Society

Volume 31 Number 7, September 2017

This month's meeting

Date: Wednesday, September 20, 2017 @ 7:30pm

Speaker: Ron Long

Topic: Wildflowers of Death Valley

Ron writes: Death Valley - land of contrasts; land of extremes.

Flooding? In Death Valley? Yes, and this is just one of the many conundrums that make Death Valley so incredibly fascinating. I first went to Death Valley because I had heard they were experiencing a once in a lifetime spring flower bloom. The flowers were fantastic but on that first trip I discovered that there is more, much more, to be learned in and about Death Valley. You don't just visit Death Valley - you experience it. In this talk I will share my experience and hopefully encourage you to go and experience the silence, the geography, the history, the color, the light - and if you are lucky - the flowers, for yourself.

Ron was the science photographer at Simon Fraser University for 36 years and as a result has a great deal of biology in his background. He began photographing British Columbia wildflowers over forty years ago, a project that is on-going to this day. Now retired, Ron travels extensively on plant hunting trips around the world and closer to home and gives numerous talks about his travels..

Plant Sales: Kirsten Martin

Kitchen duties: Judy Wellington and Lois Williams

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

It is membership renewal time. Please fill out the membership form attached and give it to Ginny Fearing.

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

From the President:

The rain has certainly made me happy. I was so tired of the heat! Hopefully, we will receive enough rain to allow the Rhodos to unfurl their leaves.

The Convention in Bremen, Germany is the main topic with the ARS these days. The Convention with a maximum of two hundred attendees has several tours offered, but only if you attend the main Convention. Registration opened September 1 st. Lots of space is still available.

I'm looking forward to Ron Long's presentation on the Flowers of Death Valley. Don't expect to see any Rhodos, but the area is truly amazing after a rain!

Evelyn Jensen

The Calendar:

Wednesday, October 18, 2017 Langley Mennonite Church	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Colleen Bojczuk - TBA (The inside scoop on the nursery business)
Wednesday, November 15, 2017 Langley Mennonite Church	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Ted Goshaluk - Pond Life at Trinity Western University
Wednesday, December 13, 2017 Langley Mennonite Church	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Christmas Potluck Dinner

It is time to renew your membership:

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 September meeting, or mail it to her at the address on the form.

The Future of the Yak

As you may have noticed this month's Yak does not approach the standard of previous issues. That is because our long term editor, Sean Rafferty, resigned over the summer and thus this month's Yak is cobbled together from bits and pieces of previous issues. Sean, and Brenda Macdonald before him, took the Yak and developed it into one of the best, if not the best, rhodo newsletters around. We are really appreciative of their efforts and particularly appreciative of the fact that Sean was willing to continue as editor as long as he did after he and Brenda moved to the Island. Thank you, Sean!

But, all good things come to an end sometime and thus:

We need a new editor for the Yak

The job involves some commitment, as it is necessary to have a Yak out a week or so before each of our nine meetings in the year. Initially one would expect only the crucial parts, i.e , program announcements, chapter business, the president's message, and the formatting need not be any more elegant than in this issue. But then the new editor could develop the newsletter as she/he wished, according to their own creative instincts. In the past there have been lots of rhodo pictures (Many pictures are available at hirsutum.info or in the picture gallery section of fearing.ca). There have also been articles dealing with rhodos and other plants, how-to articles, descriptions and so forth. (A number of good articles in the Yaks of 15 years ago are worth reprinting.) Articles from other chapter's newsletters are also fair game (with permission of course).

While it is unlikely that there would be a Pulitzer in the offing, one could have fun with the newsletter and at the same time perform a very valuable service for the chapter.

If you would be interested, or just want to discuss the possibility, give our President, Evelyn Jensen a call. (604-857-5663)