



THE YAK

Volume 32, Number 8

October 2018

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

<http://frasersouthernrhodos.ca>

Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the third
Wednesday of each month (except June,
July, August) at:

Langley Mennonite Fellowship Church
20997 40th Street
Langley, B.C.

Map : <https://goo.gl/maps/ZB1m1jnF9DP2>

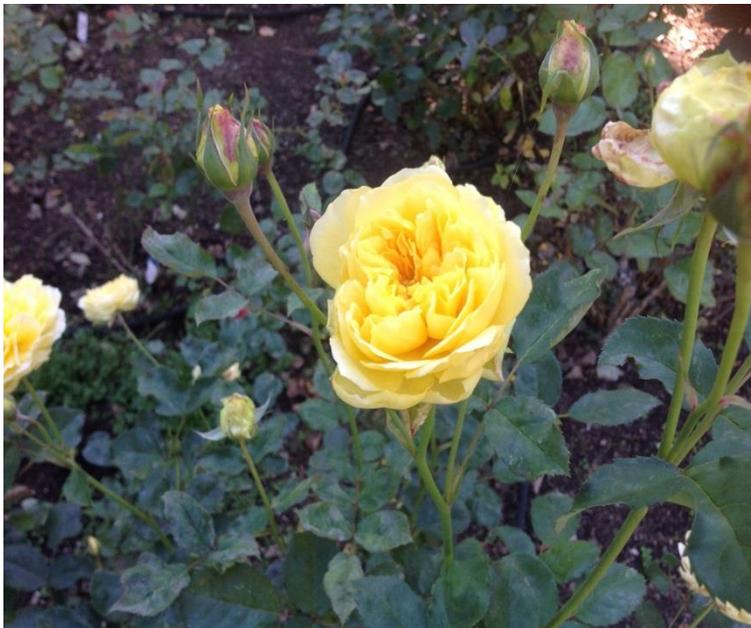
Next Meeting

Date: Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2018 at 7:30pm

Speaker: Susan Murray,
Director of the Darts Hill
Garden Conservancy Trust
Society

Kitchen Duties: Evelyn Jensen &
John Warner

Plant Sales: Harold Fearing



Molineux – David Austen

(3ft high x 2ft wide, Zones 6-10)

This is not a typical member of the English Musk Roses, being closer to the old Tea Roses in its breeding. It has an extraordinary ability to repeat flower throughout the season. It is also very reliable and has little disease.

The medium sized, rich yellow flowers form neat rosettes which have a beautiful characteristic Tea Rose fragrance with a musky background.

Named for Sir Jack Hayward, former Chairman of Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club, 'Moulineux' was named after their stadium. First introduced in 1994.

2018 OFFICERS

Acting President:	Colleen Bojczuk	604-826-4221
Past Pres:	Evelyn Jensen	604-857-5663
Vice Pres:	Colleen Bojczuk	604-826-4221
Secretary:	Barbara Mathias	778-580-6404
Treasurer:	Harold Fearing	604-857-4136
Directors:	Caroline Feldinger	778-545-8994
	Judy Wellington	604-597-9156
	Jim Worden	604-541-4754
Programme:	Jim Worden	604-541-4754
Membership:	Ginny Fearing	604-857-4136
Newsletter:	Maureen Worden	604-541-4754
Librarian:	Gerald Nemanishen	604-826-0166
Website:	Maureen Worden	604-541-4754
Hospitality:	Gail Floyd	604-541-2884
	Lois Williams	604-535-0543
BCCGC Liaison:	Vacant	

Announcements

Kitchen Helpers

Thanks to everyone who applied for the positions. All available positions for 2018 have now been filled.

We will be taking applications for the 2019 meeting season in the near future.

Membership Dues

If you haven't submitted your membership for the upcoming 2019 year, please remember to do so.

The membership form is included in this month's newsletter. Please complete the form and return it (with your dues of course!) to Ginny Fearing at a meeting or send it to her address on the form.

The Calendar

Fraser South Rhododendron Society Wednesday October 17, 2018 7:30 pm Langley Mennonite Church	Darts Hill Garden - Susan Murray, Director of Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society will speak on the garden
Vancouver Rhododendron Society Thursday October 18, 2018 7:30 pm VanDusen Gardens	Dr. Bill McMillan, "Five Gardens Worth Visiting in Victoria"
Fraser South Rhododendron Society Wednesday November 21, 2018 7:30 pm Langley Mennonite Church	30 th Anniversary meeting. Barbara Mathias of FSRS on "Botany and cycling through Iran". Come help identify the mysterious plants seen while cycling along the ancient desert roads of Persia
Vancouver Rhododendron Society Thursday November 22, 2018 7:30 pm VanDusen Gardens	Garth Wedemire, "Gardens of Wales", based on a 2018 tour with the Scottish Rhododendron Society
Fraser South Rhododendron Society Wednesday December 12, 2018. Time: TBA Langley Mennonite Church	Christmas Pot-luck dinner

September Speaker Review

Nancy Moore gave us another excellent presentation, this time on Shade Gardening, full of humor, insight, knowledge and beautiful photos. We could almost feel the coolness and humidity from the many gardens we were shown, especially those with trickling water features. We learned about focal points, scale and proportion, and texture in both plants and hardscape. The plant suggestions included both native and cultivated forms, and it was nice to see that no matter the size or terrain of a garden, shade is important and inspiring.

I personally enjoyed seeing the rock garden features, especially the 'chocolate chip cookie' one, and where can I get one of those fabulous front yard log ornaments !?!

Respectfully submitted by Colleen B.



FRIENDLY REMINDER

To all members attending Susan Murray's presentation on Dart's Hill this month, and I hope everyone can make it:

I expect to see an excellent collection of garden samples of colors and textures brought in to see. It might be fabulous leaves, seed pods, flowers, berries, or even a spectacular vegetable you're proud of. Let's share and show that our rhodo gardens are beautiful all year, not just in spring.

Thank you.



From the Acting President

What a difference some rain makes!

The rhodo leaves are now clean of pollen and pollution, and are standing proud again. My crunchy brown grass is magically lush and green, and fall flowers are holding their heads high. My watering regime all summer was admittedly sketchy at best, but the rhodos, in panic, have responded with quite a heavy bud set for next year.

I sometimes think that autumn is prettier than spring in many ways. The weather seems more consistent, the soil isn't cold and mucky – a much nicer time for planting, and there's no threat of drought for quite some time. Fall leaf color is so varied, even startling so, and the warmer side of the color spectrum seems cosier.

Especially nice this year are the maples, Hydrangeas, Itea, Parrotia, Oxydendrum, and Franklinia, which has blooms too! Flowers are everywhere – Asters, Joe Pye, Calluna, mums, Colchicum, Hydrangea, Cyclamen, Anemones, and even Echinacea and Delphinium if you were quick enough to deadhead them earlier.

So much to enjoy, and good weather to work in – don't we just live in paradise here!

P.S. – I see Calgary and area got over a foot of the fluffy white stuff last night. Sorry 'bout your luck!

Colleen B.

Special Fall Conference

"Navigating Garden Myths" sponsored by the Mount Arrowsmith and Nanaimo Rhododendron societies. This one-day event will be held on Sunday, October 28, 2018 in Parksville, British Columbia 10 am - 4 pm at the Parksville Community and Conference Centre. See: [2018 MARS Fall Mini-Conference](#) to get more information. Cost is \$25 (\$30 at the door if space is available)

Darts Hill Garden

Fall Open House: October 20th, 11:00 – 3:00

Reminders

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.

Submit articles, photos, or suggestions for the newsletter or else you will be stuck with the editors choices.

November 2018 is the 30th anniversary of the Fraser South Rhododendron Society. If you have any memorabilia or pictures you'd like to share with the group, please see one of the executive team.

Speaker reviews are always welcome!

From the Editor

I hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving feast. While I enjoyed mine, after all the preparation and hard work for holiday meals, I don't fully enjoy the feast. It's the leftovers that I really enjoy – turkey sandwiches and turkey soup.

We are well into fall at this point and the grass has returned to its normal colour (for those of us that don't water grass). The fall colors are starting to appear on the trees and fall cleanup activities are ramping up. Last year we were hit with a windstorm while the trees still had their leaves resulting in limb loss. Hopefully the trees which are now just starting to shed their leaves will be bare before the big winds hit!

Some perennials continue to bloom and provide a food source for the Anna's hummingbirds while other have gone to seed providing juncos, rufous sided towhees and wrens with snacks. The backyard is busy with pileated woodpeckers and northern flickers as they feast on the magnolia tree seeds that are ripening. It's quite comical to watch the balancing act as these large birds move through the trees to get the seeds.

Some rhododendrons including Medussa and Glendoick Gold are into their second bloom of the year while the non-bloomers are putting their energy into forming buds for next year's spring / summer performance.

Last month I enjoyed a visit to Darts Hill Garden and plant sale. This garden continues to evolve and for anyone who knew Francisca Darts it's wonderful to see her legacy continue. As you know this month's speaker is from the Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust. Come and learn more about the garden and the work being done and REMEMBER to bring along a friend to join the group!

Maureen Worden

From the Archives

The following article originally appeared in the Fraser South Newsletter, November 2001. Article continues on Page 10



The following article, by Boris Bauer of the William Bartram Chapter, Easley, S.C., appeared in the Cascade Chapter Newsletter, and is reprinted with permission of the author, and Cascade Chapter.

SUCCESSES MEASURED BY SMILES

How do we measure our rhododendron successes and experiences? To the beginner it might be "it's two years old and still living." Or "I got three bloom buds this year on the same plant!" Don't snicker at this. We all were there at some point in this floral journey. Here are some personal thoughts that I bet have put a smile on other gardening faces:

- Remember when your one-gallon plant had grown so much that you had to scrounge under the plant's limbs to move the identification tag out from its original position so that one could read the plant label's identity? The more you did this as the plants grew, the more fun growing rhododendrons became.
- Remember the time when your plant finally got big enough to support its first bird nest and you sat and watched in amazement the parent birds frantically flying in-and-out of your rhododendron maintaining your newest gardening family?
- Remember when you hurriedly planted that rhododendron in the dim of evening's light stating to yourself "oh, this is just temporary" and "I'll move it later?" It's ten years later, the plant is a healthy 7' x 8', and you're still mentally stating "oh, this is just temporary..."
- Remember planting that rhododendron which Greer's book stated M and you thought that was for "medium growth habit" and you placed the plant near the path? Now you know that M stands for "mid-season bloom." Your path is obliterated by branches reaching north, east, and west.
- Remember planting two or three plants close together because of the color combination you wanted and you now know that the vivid orange Exbury azalea, 'Gibraltar', doesn't combine with anyone except himself?
- Remember planting that rhododendron right outside your kitchen window knowing that you'll "be able to trim it back if it ever gets too large?" Today you have to turn on the kitchen lights, night or day, just to find the refrigerator.
- Remember giving your favorite rhododendron away to a special friend who just had to have that

certain plant only to learn later that she/he really meant they wanted a Southern Magnolia! #S?/o&!??

- Remember how you removed some broken branches and just for the heck of it rammed them into the ground in a moist remote part of the garden? A few years later the mother plant died and these "branchlets" are now ready for transplanting.
- Remember not being able to find your identification pen, but planting the rhododendron knowing that you'll never forget such an easy-to-remember name? Ten years later you are still repeating to garden guests "oh, I know the name, it just slipped my mind."
- Remember being realistic with the available space you have to maintain a rhododendron garden and selecting just the plants you really wanted and needed? They are all planted now, but what about the eight new plants you just unloaded from the van, the twelve you ordered from a catalogue and the ten unique plants you discovered on the Internet
- Remember purchasing a unique garden reading chair just because of the wonderful cooling shade provided by that nine-foot rhododendron? You planted it not understanding that the book's referral to 5' was only the "first 10-years growth". It's fun experiencing the years fly by when you own a rhododendron garden!
- Remember getting all those nursery rhododendrons at such good prices wondering "how do they do it"? Three years later they bloom and you find out that R. x 'John's Neon Red' is 'Roseum Elegans', R. x 'Purty Peppermint Patty' is R. 'English Roseum' and 'Big White Daddy' is *maximum*. Yes, labels do get crossed. Likewise, we also get some wonderful nice positive surprises.
- Remember thinking you had the "only plant of its kind" in your chapter, only to find the same plant, but twice as big, in a new members garden two miles away from your house?
- Remember going to a rhododendron plant auction and preparing yourself to get that special variegated North Korean deciduous fragrant azalea with the peppermint striped flowers? You stick a twenty dollar bill in your pocket reassuring your spouse that this will be your only purchase of the day. Then the bidding starts at \$40.00 and quickly passes the \$70.00 mark.
- Remember receiving a plant from a friend with only a "2" bloom rating and you planted it in your garden strictly "for friendship or out of guilt".

Top Rhododendrons

Continuing with the list of the top 100 rhododendrons that was compiled from a survey of over 250 worldwide submissions from members of the RHS Rhododendron, Magnolia & Camelia Group, this month we feature the rhododendrons that came in positions 81 through 90 in the survey.



81. *R. oreotrephes*



82. *R. mucronulatum*



83. *Cilpinense*



84. Point Defiance



85. Queen of Hearts



86. Horizon Monarch



87. Teddy bear



88. Fortune



89. *R. fulvum*



90. *R. elliottii*

Credits:

- 81. Russell Beeson, Devon
- 82. John NcQuire, Valley Gardens Windsor
- 83. Chris Fairweather
- 84. Kenneth Cox
- 85. Eleanor Philp
- 86. M. Worden, South Surrey, B.C.
- 87. Odo Tschetsch
- 88. Ken Gibson
- 89. Russell Beeson, Dorset
- 90. Robin Whiting, Dorset

From the Garden



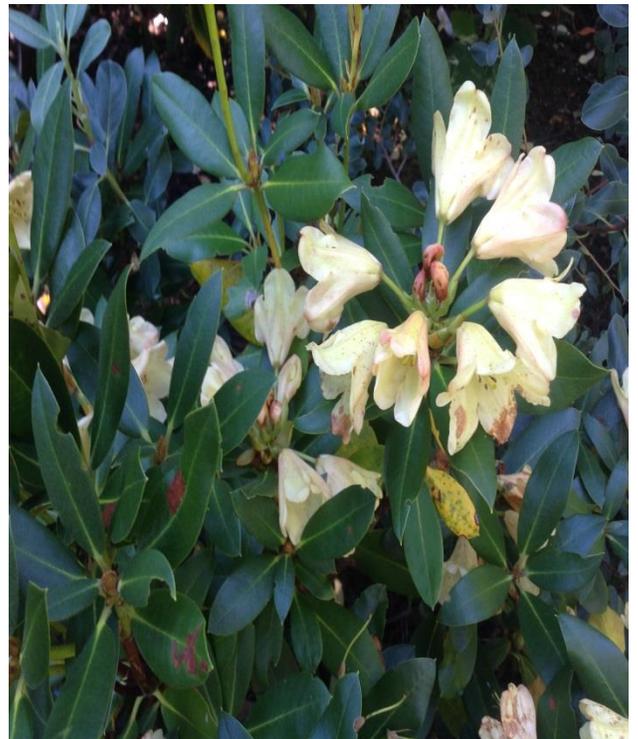
Persicaria "Lance Corporal"



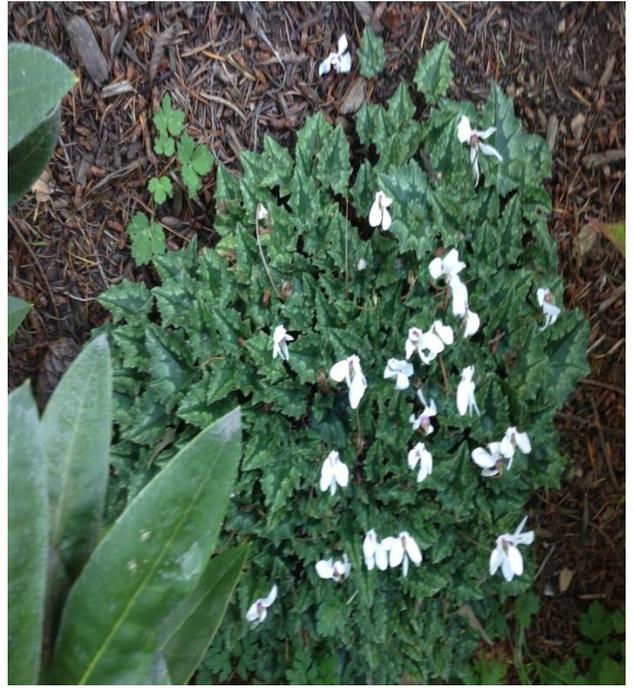
Hardy Fushia



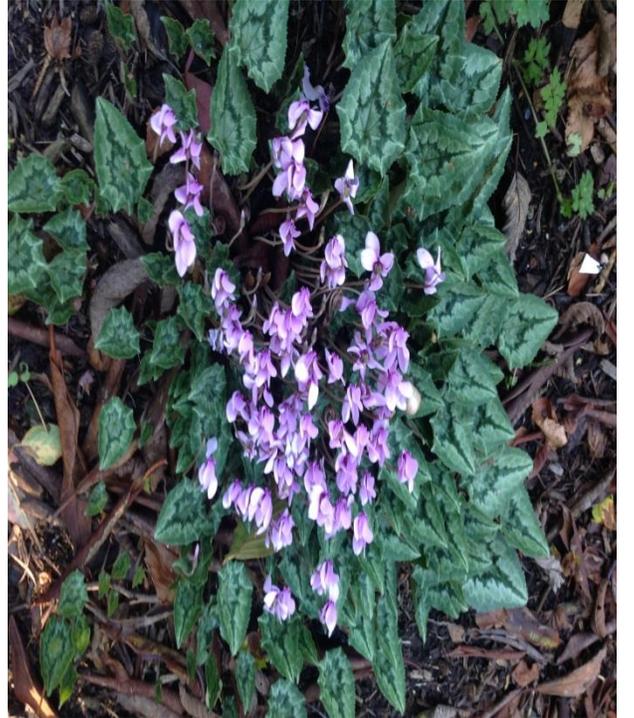
Princess Alexandra of Kent



Glendoick Gold



Cyclamens



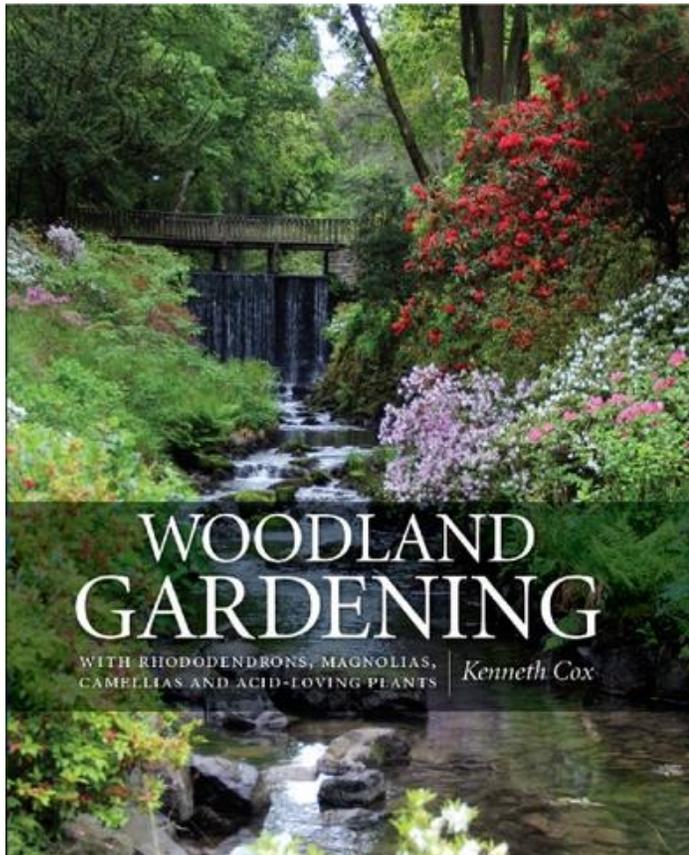


Honeymoon



Fall Crocus

From the Library



Those of you who are members of Rhododendron Species Foundation have received information about this new book by Kenneth Cox with contributions by Steve Hootman.

It is a pricy volume at \$60 USD. However, Kenneth is an excellent author and I have reviewed several of his rhododendron books in the past. I checked with UBC Botanical Garden but they are unable to obtain it as it is only available in England.

Here is the description from the on-line order site:

“This is a comprehensive and lavishly illustrated new book on woodland and shade gardening with valuable information on cultivation and style, as well as descriptions of many of the most exciting new plants that have been introduced in the recent modern era of plant hunting.

The RSBG is a publishing co-sponsor with Glendoick Gardens of Scotland and we have the exclusive rights to distribute this exciting new book in North America. Proceeds from the sale of this book will be used in the conservation of endangered Rhododendron species.

This book has just been released, but it has already sold out in Australia and New Zealand! Pick up your copy on your next visit to the Rhody Garden.”

Gerald Nemanishen , Librarian FSRS

From the Archives - continued

Today it's very special because you now realize that it's not necessarily how pretty the bloom, but recognize how beautiful the bloom is - when it blooms. Those #2's sometimes bloom when nothing else is appearing in the garden, and you appreciate your friends even more.

- Remember telling friends that R. 'Catawbiense Boursault' is a nice rhododendron, but for some reason your plant of this cross is somehow uniquely bigger and better than anyone else's? So an expert from far, far away travels to your garden and states upon seeing your plant “Yep, yours is bigger and somewhat better since where you planted it is obviously right at the end of your septic field drainage line.”

- Remember seeing that beautiful black & gold rhododendron floral display glistening in the afternoon's sun only to realize upon approach that it's a King snake sun bathing and displaying herself for all to see?

You have more examples of what made you smile, I'm sure. Continue planting, roaming your garden on day's evening light, and remember what's best about your gardening experiences.

Boris Bauer



Fraser South Rhododendron Society

frasersouthernrhodos.ca

2019 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 _____

All personal information collected here is for FSRS or ARS use only. Your contact information will be included in the FSRS membership directory, distributed to FSRS members, unless you indicate here that all or part should be kept confidential.

_____ 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.

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