



THE YAK

Volume 32, Number 7

September 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, Sept. 19, 2018 at
7:30pm

Speaker: Nancy Moore – Shade Gardens

Kitchen Duties: Carol Atkison &
Barbara Inniss

Plant Sales: Kirsten Martin

Hawthorn (*Crataegus*), an attractive deciduous tree that belongs to the rose family, consists of hundreds of varieties. Although most grow to mature heights of 15 to 30 feet, some varieties are suitable for shrubs while others reach heights of 45 feet.

Hawthorn trees are an important source of sustenance for wildlife. Birds, squirrels, rabbits, raccoons and deer dine on the rich fruit and seeds. Although the thorny twigs and foliage aren't high priority for deer, they become more attractive when other food is scarce. In the home garden, hawthorn attracts butterflies and a number of songbirds, including cedar waxwings, stellar jays, robins and northern flickers.

2018 OFFICERS

President:	Vacant	
Past Pres:	Evelyn Jensen	604-857-5663
Vice Pres:	Colleen Bojczuk	604-826-4221
Secretary:	Barbara Mathias	778-580-6404
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Directors:	Caroline Feldinger	778-545-8994
	Judy Wellington	604-597-9156
	Jim Worden	604-541-4754
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Membership:	Ginny Fearing	604-857-4136
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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

Wanted: Kitchen Helpers

The kitchen is short on helpers for the following meetings:

- October (one)
- November (one)
- December (two)

Please apply for the positions to Gail Floyd at the September meeting or give her a call to volunteer.

Membership Dues

It's that time once again to renew your membership for the upcoming 2019 year.

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 September 19, 2018 7:30 pm Langley Mennonite Church	Nancy Moore – Shade Gardens
Vancouver Rhododendron Society Thursday September 20, 2018 7:30 pm VanDusen Gardens	Susan Murray "Fabulous Gardens and Unusual Plants of Southern Africa"
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 September 20, 2018 7:30 pm VanDusen Gardens	TBA
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

Conferences

2018 ARS Fall Conference:

Chattanooga, Tennessee. October 19-21, 2018
Website: <http://arsstore.org/Fall2018>

2018 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)

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

It's hard to believe that September is already here and once again time to ramp up FSRS activities. The weather went from swimming and rhododendron watering duties to pulling out the waterproof garden shoes and rain gear. I much prefer the more gradual transition into wet weather that we usually experience at this time of the year.

The vegetable garden harvest this summer was at an all-time high and we continue to harvest on a daily basis. Pearmagedon is upon us (I really need to get baking and making pear/ginger jam) and the apple trees branches are stressed by the sheer number of apples. The bunnies have moved into the yard gorging themselves at night with any fruit that is on the ground.

Last year I saw very few bees and it was concerning. But this year they have been everywhere and I was pleased to continuously see so many bumble bees on the patio plants.

The young hummingbirds have spent the summer frolicking with each other in the yard. One could not go outside without being buzzed by these wee ones. They are very curious and will come up to you and hover to check you out. Unfortunately last week when the weather changed the young Rufous departed for down south. The Anna's young and returned mature Anna's continue to feed on the flowers and feeders getting ready for the winter.

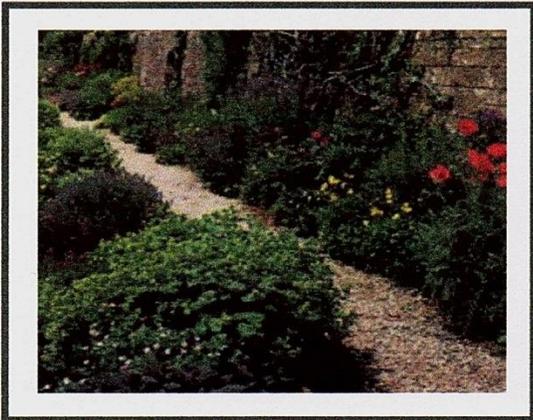
Top 100 rhododendrons returns this month, and for fall and winter colour we have an article on containers in "From the archives". Interesting speakers have been lined up for the Sept – Nov meetings (Dec is of course our Christmas gathering). As a special feature this month we have "Around the Neighbourhood" which features some happenings in "my" hood. Hope you enjoy them!

Start the new FSRS season out right – come to the September meeting AND bring a friend to join our group!

Maureen Worden

From the Archives

The following article originally appeared in the Fraser South Newsletter, September 2006.



Up the Garden Path with Fall and Winter Containers

By mid-September, container plantings of summer annuals often look tired and many of us have been in the habit of just cleaning them up and putting them away for the winter. However over the last few years, there has been a concerted effort by retail nurseries to provide good plant material for colorful autumn containers, which in some cases, may even carry us through part of the winter. Most local garden centres carry a nice selection of pre-planted containers, but you can also select appropriate plants and prepare your own. My favorite local garden centre has an area where customers can plant their own containers using good seasonal plant material already assembled and the garden centre's potting mix, all for a very reasonable price.

The general steps to plant containers for fall and winter are similar to those followed for summer season containers, except for a couple of differences. First, the choice of containers is important. Ceramic and clay containers will crack if they are subjected to repeated freezing and thawing, so they are not recommended for fall containers. Instead, use containers made of plastic, resin or wood. Because there can be a lot of rain or snow throughout the fall and winter months, containers must have drainage holes. As well, the larger the container the better, as a larger volume of potting mix will help insulate root systems, offering them some protection from the cold. Use a potting mix that provides very good drainage and if necessary, mix in extra perlite or sand to ensure good drainage. At planting time, the potting mix should be moist, but not soggy.

Because of gradually cooling temperatures and shortening days, plant growth will be slow, and as the fall progresses, growth will stop. For immediate and maximum impact, use lots of large plants. Since there will be little plant growth, it isn't necessary to add much fertilizer to the potting mix. If you do decide to incorporate fertilizer, select one with low nitrogen content (the first number in the fertilizer analysis), for example 4-8-8. High nitrogen promotes new vegetative growth which is very susceptible to frost injury.

Use plants that will provide color interest throughout the fall and into the winter. Certainly include fall flowering annuals, but also look for plants with colorful foliage or berries to increase the planting range. Small conifers and broad-leaved evergreens are also useful to add height and winter interest. Even deciduous shrubs may be attractive if they have interesting bark, for example red or yellow twig dogwood is very pretty in the winter. Depending on the kinds of plants selected and your area's growing conditions, you can pull surviving plants out of the containers in the spring and transplant them to the garden.

Once planted, water the containers thoroughly and then place them where you can easily provide them with some basic care. Containers may need to be watered regularly throughout the early part of the fall, and if they're located under a roof overhang, you may need to continue watering on a regular basis throughout the fall and winter. Depending on the kinds of plants selected and your location, you may want to place containers in a sheltered area near the house to provide them with some protection from the cold. Containers located right next to the house and sheltered from cold winds will survive longer than if left in an open area.

In selecting plants, look for at least one plant that will be tall enough to provide a focal point; this is usually placed in the centre of the container. Surround the tall plant



Lamium 'Pink Pewter'
and
Pennisetum setaceum

continued on page 4



Ajuga reptans
'Burgundy Glow',
Heucherella
'Burnished Bronze'
and blue Violas



with plants that have a mounding habit, and then add some trailing plants around the edges of the container to soften the pot edges. The following are some examples of plants to consider, but keep an open mind as you look at the variety of plants available in your local garden centre. If a plant is hardy in your area, and offers interesting bark, berries or foliage, it might be a good candidate.

For flowering interest through the fall, there are the tried and true hardy mums, pansies, violas and English daisies. Other plants to consider include *Bacopa*, *Diascia*, *Bidens*, *Osteospermum*, *Salvia* and *Marguerites*. These plants will flower up to hard frost and in the southern parts of BC, may survive a mild winter. In colder areas, providing a sheltered location will enable them to flower later into the fall, although they won't make it through winter.

A great many plants offer foliage interest. Flowering kale is well-known for white and pink foliage that looks a bit like old "cabbage" roses. *Heuchera* and *Heucherella* offer a wide variety of colorful leaves ranging from green and white to soft amber or dark ruby red. There are a number of ornamental grasses and rushes that add height as well as nice foliage, for example *Pennisetum* (Fountain Grass), *Acorus* (Sweet Flag),



Cotoneaster horizontalis

Calamagrostis (Feather Grass), *Phalaris*, *Juncus* (Rushes) and *Carex* (Leather Leaf Sedge). *Pennisetum* has dark red foliage, *Acorus* leaves are green and white, and *Juncus* and *Carex* come in a range of colours from bright green to soft brown. One of the advantages of using ornamental grasses is that the dried leaves continue to add interest to the winter landscape.

Plants like *Vinca minor* (Periwinkle), *Ajuga* (Bugleweed), *Lysimachia*, English Ivy, and *Lamium* and *Lamium* (especially some of the new, brightly colored varieties) can be useful trailing plants for placing around the container edges. However, these are all potentially invasive plant species, so if you choose to use them, make sure they stay in your container. When it comes time to replant, these plants should be disposed



of by placing in the garbage. DO NOT dump them into your compost pile or in vacant fields or along ditches.

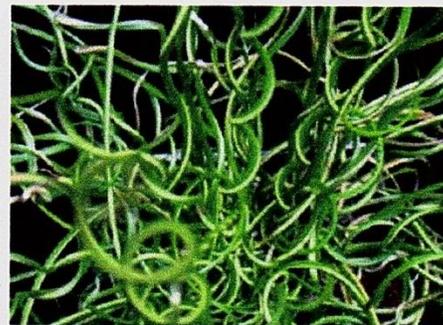
Other plants to watch for are some of the small *Cotoneasters*, especially those with bright red berries, and small conifers like Dwarf Alberta Spruce (*Picea glauca* Conica) or Dwarf Mugo Pine (*Pinus mugo mugo*). Low growing Junipers can also make nice additions to a fall container. Look for plants like Blue Rug or Bar Harbor Juniper, (*Juniperus horizontalis* 'Wiltonii', or 'Bar Harbor').



Heucherella 'Dayglow Pink'
and
Acorus gramineus 'Ogon'

If you live in southern BC, you might also add some spring flowering bulbs to a fall container since it is usually mild enough to allow bulbs like daffodils, tulips and Grape Hyacinths to over-winter in a container. This will add some nice flowering interest in the early spring.

Norma Senn



Juncus effusus spiralis

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 71 through 80 in the survey.



71. Phyllis Korn



72 davidsonlanum



73. irroratum



74. Mi Amor



75.Hotei



76. Hydon Velvet



77. Yellow Hammer



78. platypodum



79. protistum



80. excellens

Credits:

- 71. Colin Brown, Lustleigh, Devon
- 72. Russell Beeson, Hampshire
- 73. H. Helm
- 74. Marc Colombel, Cross Hills, NZ
- 75. Everard Daniel, Wisley
- 76. Russell Beeson, Dorset
- 77. Chris Klapwijk
- 78. Hans Eiberg
- 79. Ken Gibson, RSBG, Federal Way, WA
- 80. Hans Eiberg

From the Garden





Rhododendron charitopes ssp. tsangpoense

Dwarf and mounding shrubs with glossy dark green leaves covered with a white coating of wax beneath. Smooth and peeling, red-brown bark and delicate purplish flowers in mid-spring. Best in light shade, a choice dwarf shrub with beautiful flowers, foliage and bark.

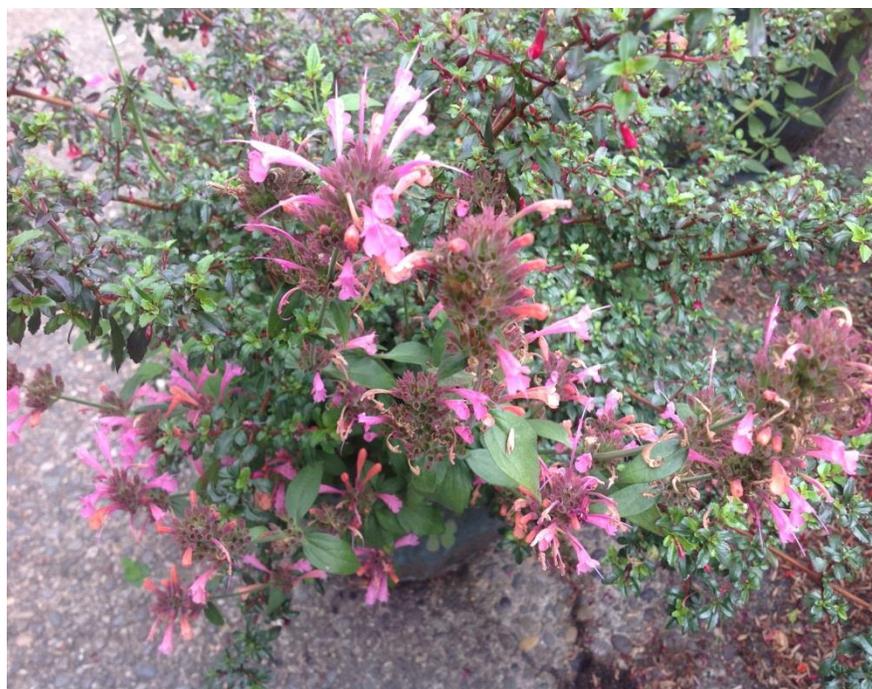
Usually blooms in late spring

For a few years now I've had two pots of Agastache growing on the patio.

One of the Agastache is purple, the other one is orange.

The bees, hummingbirds, and butterflies love the plants and there is hardly anytime of the day that the plants are not busy.

I also have a Teddy Bear fuchsia growing in a pot nearby. This year an Agastache started to grow in the fuchsia pot. Imagine my surprise when I looked at the new Agastache, instead of being purple or orange, every stem of the plant has both purple and orange flowers.





A couple of the many wee friends that spent the summer in the garden



Spotted Around the Neighbourhood



Bushtit Nest

Bushtits are sprightly, social songbirds that twitter as they fly weakly between shrubs and thickets in western North America. Almost always found in lively flocks, they move constantly, often hanging upside down to pick at insects or spiders on the undersides of leaves.

Bushtits weave a very unusual hanging nest, shaped like a soft pouch or sock, from moss, spider webs, and grasses. The Bushtit is the only member of its family (Aegithalidae) in the Americas; seven other species are found in Eurasia. All have similar complex hanging nests.

A breeding Bushtit pair often has helpers at the nest that aid in raising the nestlings. This already rare behavior is made more unusual by the fact that the helpers are typically adult males.

For most breeding birds, only one adult at a time sleeps on the nest, but all Bushtit family members sleep together in their large, hanging nest during the breeding season. Once the young fledge, they all leave the nest and thereafter sleep on branches.

Bee Swarm

Swarming is the process by which a new honey bee colony is formed when the queen bee leaves the colony with a large group of worker bees. In the prime swarm, about 60% of the worker bees leave the original hive location with the old queen. This swarm can contain thousands to tens of thousands of bees.

While one neighbour called pest control, a few others located a registered bee keeper that came. It was fascinating to see him locate the queen and put her into a bee hive/box. Gradually all the worker bees started coming down and going into the box. He left the box until dusk and by then all the workers were in their new home on their way to his blueberry farm in Richmond.

Compare the size of the tree branches with the size of the swarm and you can imagine the number of workers bees!





Juvenile Barred Owl



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 _____