

# FRhodo



The newsletter magazine of the Fraser Valley Rhododendron Society

See us on the web at - [www.FVRS.rhodos.ca](http://www.FVRS.rhodos.ca)



## A Message from your President

Our March meeting presenter was Paige Woodward, who has a nursery at Chilliwack. Paige shared her knowledge on Native plants of British Columbia. Her nieces help propagate and grow plants in different soils. Paige has many plants in her garden which are from different areas, some arid and others from moist and humid areas. They make strange bed fellows yet survive together.

Well, spring is arriving slowly. We have had a strange cool spring which has slowed the awakening of everything. The magnolia's that usually are in bloom are just starting to lose their furry coats and the star magnolias are further out. The rhododendrons are starting to show color and some of the earlier ones are now blooming. Hopefully we will have some trusses for the show & sale. These last few warm days are awakening the plants.

Our exciting 10<sup>th</sup> annual plant sale is fast approaching. As usual we need help. Thanks to all the people who have signed up. Those who missed the sign up sheet can still get in on the sale. Just give Anne Bone a call and she will sign you up. Extend a warm hand to friends and family to come and join in. Please copy the flyer that David sent a while back and circulate it to everyone you know, ask them to do the same!

Our April speakers are Art and Susan Lightburn their topic is "On the way to the Scottish Silver Jubilee Conference's." Should make for an entertaining & informative evening.

I hope to see as many of you as possible there.



*Jill Futros -President*



**R. grande** photo ARS Kenneth Cox  
Some lucky FVRS member will soon have this in their garden, via the RSF spring distribution see pages 3 & 4 for details.

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**Next Meeting**  
**MONDAY APRIL 27th, 7:30 PM**  
**St. Andrew's Heritage Hall**  
**22279 116th Avenue**  
**Maple Ridge**  
**(Just off the Haney by-Pass)**



## FRhodo's Chat

David H Kretzschmar - Editor



**Sorry-** this edition of the newsletter is later than usual & didn't quite make it in time for Easter. Things haven't been going quite as planned in the Frhodo household over the past few weeks. Nevertheless I hope you all had a great time & were able to enjoy a little of the promise of spring. I say that cautiously as it's only a week ago I awoke on April 1st to find a covering of snow here in Mission, perhaps someone was having an April fool joke!

**Thank you-** You've heard me say it many times, this club only works due to the dedication of a small band of people. As well as the board of directors who do their best on a continuing basis, we have a few unsung heroes who are worthy in my opinion of thanks. Each month a selection of superb plants magically appears. Where do all these raffle & door prizes appear from? Well... Rosemary & Art Prufer often turn up with an "armful" of pots, plants to be given away. The affable Dan Gemmell (whom sadly we don't see as much of as we'd like) looks after many of our "stock" of plants & again they magically appear having been very well cared for & in excellent condition. So Thank You **Rosemary, Art & Dan** for your oft unseen behind the scenes work for the benefit of the rest of us!

**Anne Bone-** I'm sure that many of you know that Anne our secretary is having some very difficult times with her health & eyesight at present, in addition to that Anne's mom recently passed away. Anne has asked if she can purchase & plant some Rhodo's at Whonnock Lake Garden in memory of her mom. A lovely gesture that will be appreciated by many. Scot, as our Whonnock custodian, Anne will be talking with you soon. I'm sure you will all join with me in sending Anne our condolences & our collective good wishes for her own full recovery. Keep smiling Anne, it'll soon be summer & time to get out & lose a few more golf balls!

... *Editor*

### **FRhodo's Club News ...**

- March's speaker Paige Woodward gave a great presentation on "Native Plants." I must admit to being very surprised at the diversity & beauty of some of our very own local flora. A great evening's entertainment. Anyone wanting further information on the large variety of native plants should look at Paige's website [www.hillkeep.ca](http://www.hillkeep.ca)
- Our regular plant raffle raised a total of \$67.00 for club funds.
- Anne passed around a volunteer sign up list for our upcoming show & sale. 12 people 'signed up' but we need more. Without your help all the work falls upon a dedicated few. It's not fair people... this is your club too!

### **Garden Tours-**

- **ARS Annual Rendezvous April 29th to May 3rd.** For full details please visit [www.ars-2009-convention.org](http://www.ars-2009-convention.org)
- **Fearing's Rhodo Nursery & Bradner Flower show- Saturday April 18th-** We have to be at Fearing's nursery by 9am. Meet at Anne & David's, 8928 Dewdney Trunk Road, Mission. **No later than 8:30am If you arrive later we'll have left!** Please contact Anne **before 7pm Thursday 16th April.** To let her know if you plan to attend. Phone (604) 826-8601 or e-mail: [aebone@shaw.ca](mailto:aebone@shaw.ca)

### **FRhodo's News from the Board.**

There is still a director's place available on the board. Interested? Please contact Anne for details.

**Annual Sale & Show. Member Sales-** It was agreed that Volunteers who have **signed up to help at the plant sale** will be given the opportunity to purchase **two plants** prior to the start of the sale. This year we're supplying volunteer badges, so the public know who you are & that's why we'd like you to sign up! All it takes is an e-mail or phone call.

*FRhodo*

***This Month's meeting ...***

- At our April meeting will be .

Art & Susan Lightburn. Art is the vice president of the Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society on Vancouver Island. Art & Susan will be giving us some impressions of their visit to the 2008 ARS International conference that was held in Edinburgh, Scotland.

***More Calls for Help & Volunteers ...***

- **Clean up crew wanted!** Before our sale & show at Whonnock Lake takes place on 26th April. I'm told some light clean up & tidying work is needed to have the garden looking its best for the public. Jill has offered to look after / co-ordinate this task but she needs to know your availability.
- **Please contact Jill 604-463-7568** to let her know your preference so she can plan accordingly.  
Possible Dates are: April 17th, 20th (9am- noon) &/or April 23rd (1:30 to 4pm)
- If you look at the ARS website, <http://www.rhododendron.org> you may have seen a section under the heading 'Plant Data' > 'Rhododendrons' entitled "**Proven Performers**". The ARS education committee asked local chapters to provide details of plants that were (would you believe it?) "Proven Performers" in that chapter's geographical area. Plants were chosen because they have good form, foliage & flowers, are hardy & resistant to pests & diseases. They should therefore perform well in *your* garden if you live in the same area. BC is the first district listed, Seven chapters from our district have made their recommendations for plants that should do well. **Guess which Chapter is missing & hasn't made any recommendations?** We'd like to remedy that, if you know of, or have a plant that does particularly well in your garden please let me know, we'll compile a list of FVRS "top performers" & submit it to the ARS.
- Please E-mail **your** "Proven Performer" suggestions to [Frhodo@shaw.ca](mailto:Frhodo@shaw.ca) or to [garth@wedemire.com](mailto:garth@wedemire.com)



**kiskei.** photo Garth Wedemire

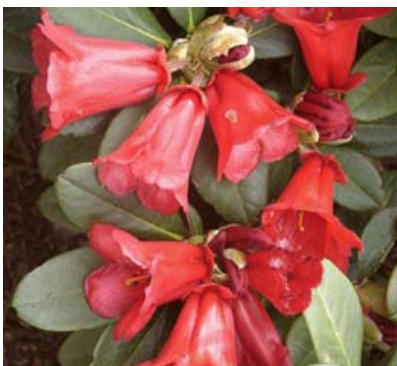
Five of the  
Species Rhododendrons ordered by  
FVRS members as part of the RSF  
Spring Distribution  
(see article on page 4)  
See also  
"Rhodo of the month" on page 6



**augustinii** photo ARS Kenneth Cox



**racemosum** photo ARS Stuart Imrie



**haematodes** photo ARS Kenneth Cox

**macrophyllum** photo ARS/ RSF





## *FRhodo's Gardening Tips*

What would you like to see here? Any tips you'd like to pass on? It can be Rhodo specific or something that you think is a good idea, or that you do in your garden. Something to help beginners or that you've seen others do. Mail your tip me at [FRhodo@shaw.ca](mailto:FRhodo@shaw.ca) (or give it to

### **FIVE FVRS MEMBERS ORDER 32 PLANTS FROM THE RHODODENDRON SPECIES FOUNDATION**

Each year, the Rhododendron Species Foundation has a Spring and Fall distribution of species plants grown from seeds collected in the wild or from cuttings taken from their vast collection of species. Five of our members took part in this year's Spring distribution. The rhododendron species ordered were: *augustinii*, *concinoides*, *flinckii*, *grande*, *haematodes*, *johnstonianum*, *keiskei*, *kesangiae*, *macrophyllum*, *orbiculare*, *pingeanum*, *racemosum* and *wardii*.

Five species azaleas were ordered - *canadense*, *molle*, *occidentale*, *pentaphyllum* and *prunifolium*.

Six companion plants were included in the RSF order: *Arisaema sikokianum*, *Iris sibirica*, *Lillium sargentiae*, *Podophyllum pleianthum*, *Primula kisoana* and *Primula moupinensis*.

The list of plants ordered is included in the newsletter to encourage members to take part in this unique program. The RSF which is located in Federal Way, Washington State ships plants ordered by customers in British Columbia to UBC. The RSF handles all the phytosanitary certificates and plant import problems that may be encountered at the Canadian border & delivers the plants to UBC.

Please go to the RSF website <http://www.rhodygarden.org/catalogs.html> to

view the "2009 Spring Distribution List" which describes the plants that were ordered by FVRS members.

The next plant distribution by the RSF will be early in the Fall of 2009. Don't miss out on this opportunity to obtain rare and unusual plants from the best source of Rhododendron and Azalea species

*Garth Wedemire*



## *FRhodo's Recipes*

Come on people! I know there are some wonderful bakers & cooks out there! Will you share your recipes with an eager public? (not to mention a hungry FRhodo!) mail your recipe to me at [FRhodo@shaw.ca](mailto:FRhodo@shaw.ca) (or give it to my friend David (the editor) & he'll pass it on!). Food!.. anything from artichokes to zucchini, seasonal lads, refreshing drinks, the list is endless!

### *Joe's Peanut Butter Chicken Thighs. Mmm!!*

2 tbsp. olive oil  
3 cloves garlic crushed  
8 to 10 boneless/skinless chicken thighs  
1/2 cup smooth peanut butter  
1 apple, cored and cut into 8-10 pieces  
3/4 cup orange juice  
1/2 cup chicken/vegetable stock  
1/2 tsp. cloves  
1/2 tsp. nutmeg  
Salt and pepper to taste  
1/2 tsp. ginger (fresh grated is best)  
1/2 cup white wine (optional) may be substituted for some of the orange juice.

*Thanks to  
'cowboy' Joe  
Robinsmith.  
... I love Thai  
dishes*

Place 1 slice of apple in the centre of each chicken thigh. Spoon 1 tsp. peanut butter onto the centre of each thigh with the apple. Roll the chicken up around the peanut butter and apple and secure with a couple of toothpicks. In a frying pan on medium high heat, place the oil. Once it is heated slightly add the garlic cloves. As this is warming, add the chicken thighs one at a time. Let each side of the thighs brown before turning with a pair of tongs. Once all sides are browned add spices and let simmer for three to four more minutes. Add orange juice and stock and cover pot with lid. Turn heat down to medium low. Let simmer for ten to fifteen more minutes, until liquid is reduced by half. Serve over basmati rice.

### *Income Tax*

1 oz Gin  
1 tsp dry vermouth  
1 tsp sweet vermouth  
1/2 oz orange juice  
2-3 dashes Angostura bitters  
Fill mixing glass with ice  
Add gin, dry vermouth, sweet vermouth, orange juice & bitters  
Shake  
Strain into a rocks glass filled with ice.

*Cheers....*

*Enjoy-*

& to blazes with the Tax Man!



### Cornwall Rhododendrons

A few years ago Mary and I spent a spring holiday based at the Rosecraddoc Holiday Village near Liskeard in Cornwall. . The location and the cottages were new to us but we were pleased that the buildings were modern and well spaced in what was a garden setting. A rippling stream bordered one side of the property, having risen in the higher ground of Bodmin Moor. What took the breath away at first sight was the rose-pink blossoms of tall widely-branching trees lining the centre driveway. I knew the trees were rhododendrons. What was singular was that someone long before the cottages were built, had planted a single type of rhododendron to create a mass effect. I want to identify these plants if possible.

Heligan Gardens in Cornwall, is noted for its collections of old rhododendrons and camellias. Many of Heligan's rhododendrons date from the mid-nineteenth century and were grown from seed supplied by the great plant hunters. From Hooker came *R. arboreum*, *R. falconeri*, *R. grande*, *R. niveum* and *R. thomsonii*; from Forrest, *R. sinogrande* and *R. griersonianum*. An early tall tree-like hybrid produced at Heligan was an *R. arboreum* x *R. griffithianum* cross called "John Tremaine".

In many places in southern England including Cornwall, plants have been affected by the "Sudden Oak Death" disease as of course has been the case in North America. Many of the old rhododendrons at Heligan were threatened by mass extermination in order to control the disease and others were dying of natural causes. Plants no longer capable of producing suitable material for cuttings or layering are being preserved by a method of micropropagation. Using this method, plants free of viral or fungal infections can be produced. Plant material is taken from unopened flowers, and in a series of steps many plants can be obtained suitable for potting on. The whole process can take as little as six months.

I am hoping that the rhododendrons at Rosecraddoc have not been condemned and that a local expert, perhaps at Heligan will be able to name them.

For more detailed information on saving historic Cornish plants, see the article in the march 2007 edition of The Plantsman, accessible via [www.rhs.org.uk](http://www.rhs.org.uk)



Is anyone looking for a particular Rhododendron or Azalea, one that blooms at a particular time or is a specific colour or size? Check out the **ARS database** on their website [www.rhododendron.org](http://www.rhododendron.org) alternatively if you let me know what you're looking for, drop me an e-mail & I may be able to help with a few suggestions.



Photo credit: ARS Database by Chris Klapwijk

### Rhododendron—kesangiae. var kesangiae

*Rhodo of the month- another species purchased by one of our members through the RSF spring distribution.*

*Greer's Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons (my usual reference) doesn't list this one so the following information was taken from the ARS database*

**Flower Colour: Pink/ Purple    Origin: Bhutan**

**Campanulate 1/3" across, rose or pink fading to pale pink/light purple. Dark purple nectar pouches. Racemes hold 6 -30 flowers.**

**Blooms mid season, Hardy to -15 deg.C**

**An upright shrub growing to 7' in 10 years**

**Leaves broadly elliptic to almost obovate, rounded apex, cuneate or rounded base, 8- 12" long. White indumentums with very prominent lateral veins.**

**Sub genus: Hymenanthes.**

**Sect: Ponticum.                      Sub. section: Grandia**

**FRhodo has available a limited number of copies of**

**"Greer's Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons"**

**The definitive book on Rhodos**

**Don't miss out! Get one early!**

**Current Price: only \$25.00**

**E-mail your order to: [FRhodo@shaw.ca](mailto:FRhodo@shaw.ca)**

### YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2009

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS:

|                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| President      | Jill Futros     |
| Vice President | Rosemary Prufer |
| Past President | John Gardner    |
| Secretary      | Anne Bone       |
| Treasurer      | Art Pearson     |

#### NON EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS:

|                                |                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Director - Programs & Speakers | Garth Wedemire    |
| Director                       | Vacant            |
| Director - Newsletter          | David Kretzschmar |

### YOUR COMMITTEE CHAIRS

|                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Dollar Table & Education | John Gardner         |
| Hospitality              | Dianne Vernon        |
| Library                  | Hannah Schlagintweit |
| Membership               | Jill Futros          |
| Whonnock Lake Garden     | Scot Henney          |
| Education                | John Gardner         |
| Phone Team               | Dianne Vernon        |
|                          | Sheila Wade          |
| Webmaster                | Art Prufer           |

