

FVRS Newsletter



**A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN
RHODODENDRON SOCIETY**

VOLUME 2004 NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY

WE MEET ON THE FOURTH MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7:30 PM
IN ST. ANDREWS HERITAGE CHURCH
22279 – 116TH AVENUE (OFF HANEY BY-PASS) MAPLE RIDGE

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YOUR EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT	Garth Wedemire
VICE PRESIDENT	Janell Wallace
SECRETARY	Rosemary Prufer
TREASURER	Art Prufer
DIRECTOR	John Gardner
DIRECTOR	Jody Makela
DIRECTOR	Rose Schultz
PAST PRESIDENT	Art Pearson
NEWSLETTER	Art Pearson
MEMBERSHIP	Jill Futros
DOLLAR TABLE	Gord Parkinson
LIBRARY	Hanna Schlagintweit
PHONING COMMITTEE	Deanne Wilhelmsen, Mary Ried, Rose Grabenhorst

FROM THE PRESIDENT

February started out with sunny and bright days but the nights were frosty. Rhododendron 'Olive' which had been showing colour was dissuaded from blooming till later in the month by the cooler night temperatures. There is still plenty of colour in our garden with the yellow witch hazel flowers and filbert tassels along with viburnum 'Dawn's pink fragrant flowers. The yellow, cream and purple species crocus have also started to bloom and open wide when the sunlight falls on them.

Two visits to the Asian Garden at UBC Botanical Garden revealed some early blooming rhododendrons: *ririei*, *moupinense*, and *barbatum*. [see photos of these three species at: www.rhodos.ca/Pictures/UBC] *Ririei* is one of the earliest rhododendrons to bloom but its flowers and new leaf growth could be cut back by frost. *Moupinense* is a beautiful white early flowering low growing species and *barbatum* is one of the best early red blooming taller growing species.

Ken Gibson from Tofino on the 'balmy' west coast of Vancouver Island has sent some pictures of his early blooming rhododendrons. We have placed them on the following webpage: www.rhodos.ca/Pictures/Ken_Gibson He has 'Nobleanum Venustum', *ririei*, *barbatum*, 'Harry Carter' and 'Bodega Crystal Pink' in bloom.

Locally, the sunny weather has changed to our normal seasonal rain with warmer nights. Our rhododendrons will soon detect the longer day lengths and warmer temperatures and start expanding their flower buds. It won't be long before some of our members will have *dauricum*, 'Olive', and 'P.J.M.' out in full bloom.

We hope to see you out at the February monthly meeting! Please bring in any rhododendrons in flower and any other interesting items from your garden for our 'Show and Tell' segment of the monthly program.

Garth Wedemire – President

RHODO OF THE MONTH

(*Excerpt from the Greer Guide – Third Edition)

'Jan Dekens' ('unknown, probably similar parentage to 'Antoon van Welie). 5', -5°F, ML, 3-4/3-4/3.

This is a strong, vigorous plant with large, boldly curled leaves. Frilled flowers are vibrant bright pink, deeper on the edges, fading to pale pink shortly after they open. The large blooms are set in compact, upstanding trusses. (Blaauw 1940)

This is another well-established plant that has done very well in my garden and puts on a spectacular display. It layers very well and can be propagated easily that way.
Art Pearson

THIS MONTHS MEETING

MONDAY February 23rd 2004

This months meeting will feature a presentation by Bernie Guyader of the North Island Chapter, who will speak on Alpine Gardening.

Garth Wedemire will be continuing the series on 'The Plant Hunters'.

John Gardner will give a brief talk on the advantages of 'deadheading' rhododendrons.

Members are encouraged to bring interesting or unusual plant items from their gardens. Also, if you have a mystery plant or rhodo, bring a sample along and, as they say, "you never know". Someone might just know what it is and solve the mystery for you.

As always, we will conclude our meeting with a social time, coffee, tea and GOODIES!

We also encourage members to bring plant material for the 'Dollar Table'. This is a great opportunity to share excess plants with your friends and help the club financially.

Janell has asked me to remind you that it is not too early to start potting up plants for our annual Whonnock Lake Plant Sale on April 25th.

The executive invites you all to join them in a 'Walk-a-bout' at our Whonnock Lake Rhododendron Garden. This is planned for Saturday, March 6th. We will be meeting at the garden at 10:30 am and it is suggested that we repair to a local eatery after and share lunch.

Items of interest

Making Sense of Rhododendron Species Names

Many people wonder why scientists use complicated, hard to pronounce names when speaking about familiar animals and plants. Sometimes they really are unusual or humorous, for example *Rhododendron goodenoughii*, a plant which comes from Goodenough Island in the Cook Islands. The island itself was originally named after Captain Philip Goodenough who discovered it in 1814 but it was renamed Rarotonga. Scientists in the branch of biology called taxonomy seek to describe, name and classify organisms. They use the system of nomenclature which was developed by the Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus in the mid 1700s. His system of naming species is still in use today. This system assigns every living thing a two-part Latin or Greek

name called a **binomial**. The first word of the binomial is the group name or the **genus**, and the second word is the specific epithet or the **species**.

As an example, the domestic dog's scientific name is *Canis familiaris*. *Canis* is the Latin word for dog, and *familiaris* is the Latin word for familiar. The dog's near relative, the wolf (*Canis lupus*), belongs to the same group or genus, *Canis*. However it has its own species name, *lupus*, which is the Latin word for wolf. Domestic cats are named *Felis catus* (the species name means "clever").

Scientific names often refer to a characteristic of the plant or animal being named, for example the species name of the **Rhododendron** is a combination of two Greek words meaning "Rose Tree" (*rhodo* – 'a rose' and *dendron* – 'a tree'). Plants and animals are also frequently named after people, as in Sir Joseph Banks and *Banksia*, George Camel and *Camellia* or Pierre Magnol and *Magnolia*.

If scientific names are used there can be no confusion about which plant or animal is being mentioned, no matter which country you live in, or what language you speak.

The specific epithet may describe some feature of the plant, such as its size, number of flowers or leaves, colour, habit of growth, leaf characteristics or flowering time. The species name could show the resemblance to another species, describe where the plant was first discovered or it may commemorate a person or group significant in its history.

SPECIES NAMED FOR SOME FEATURE OF THE PLANT:

Size:

Rhododendron grande - large

R. minus - smaller

Number of Flowers or Leaves:

R. triflorum - with three flowers

R. pentaphyllum - with five leaves

Colour:

R. albiflorum – white flowers

R. argyrophyllum - with silver leaves

R. cyanocarpum - with blue fruits

R. luteiflorum - yellow flowers

Habit of Growth:

R. arboreum - tree-like

R. callimorphum - with a lovely shape

R. calophytum - beautiful plant

R. prostratum - low-growing

Leaf Characteristics:

R. macrophyllum - with big leaves

R. orbiculare - circular (leaves)

R. polylepis - with many scales

Flowering time:

R. praevernium - before the spring

RESEMBLANCE TO ANOTHER SPECIES:

- R. anthopogonoides - resembling anthopogon
- R. bureavioides - resembling bureavii
- R. proteoides - resembling a protea
- R. recurvoides - resembling recurvum

SPECIES DESCRIBING WHERE THE PLANT WAS FIRST DISCOVERED:

The endings –icum, -ense or -anum are used to describe growing location.

- R. camtschaticum - from Kamtschatka
- R. canadense - from Canada
- R. kiusianum - from Kyushu, Japan
- R. moupinense - from Moupin province in Western China

SPECIES COMMEMORATING A PERSON OR GROUP:

The endings -i, -ii, -ae, -anum or -ianum are used for species named after people. (-i, -ii and –ae mean 'of' for example wardii – 'of Ward' – named for Frank Kingdom Ward).

- R. clementinae - named for Clementine, wife of George Forrest
- R. fortunei – named for Robert Fortune, an Englishman who explored for plants in China in the mid-nineteenth century.
- R. hodgsonii - named for B.H. Hodgson, a former East India Company Resident in Nepal.
- R. macabeanum - named for McCabe, a former Deputy Commissioner, N.E. India.
- R. sargentianum - named for C.S. Sargent, former director of Arnold Arboretum.

If you know the basic rules of plant nomenclature and understand a little Latin its reasonably easy to work out the meaning of plant names. You will gain insight into the characteristics of the plant and you will have an easier time remember the plant's name.

MEMBERSHIP

Well, folks, if you have not renewed your annual membership, this will be the last newsletter you will receive by mail until you do. As you may (or not) know, at the AGM in November, a by-law change was enacted to merge 'Friends of the Chapter' and full ARS Membership into one. If you were a 'Friend of the Chapter', and renewed your membership by December 31, 2002, your annual dues will remain at the \$20.00 level. Full ARS Membership will now be \$35.00. Any membership renewed **on or after January 1, 2004** by either a 'Friend of the Chapter' or a full ARS Member must be renewed at the \$35.00 level. All members of our chapter will therefore be full ARS members with full voting privileges. Please contact Jill Futros if you have any questions or concerns about your membership

SOCIETY NEWS

FRASER DAYS

A message from Bill Dale

This is to announce the 'Fraser Day' celebration being held on May 29th 2004, to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of George Fraser's birth. Among the guests at the celebrations will be Lieutenant Governor Iola Campagnolo and ARS Past President Mike Stewart. Lunch will be served and along with some 'short' speeches from the honourable guests, there will be some wonderful photo op's. In conjunction with the 'Fraser Day' celebration, Funds are being raised for the 'George Fraser Project' - Rhododendron plantings along the trail beside the road leading into Ucluelet. Four of the Five ARS Chapters on Vancouver Island have already contributed plants to this project and Bill has produced a perpetual calendar as an additional fund raising effort. The calendars are available from him at a cost of \$10.00, \$6.00 of which will go to the project. To order, drop me a note and your cheque to:

Mr. William Dale
1894 Chinook Pl.
Sidney BC V8L 3V7

THE RECIPE FILE

CABBAGE SOUP

1 SMALL OR ½ MEDIUM CABBAGE SLICED VERY THIN
2 TBSP OIL
1 LARGE LEEK OR ONION SLICED VERY THIN
2 CUPS WATER OR STOCK
3 CUPS MILK OR SOYA MILK
2 HEAPING TBSP FLOUR
1 LARGE POTATO – GRATED
SALT AND PEPPER TO TASTE
PINCH OF GROUND CLOVES
GRATED WHITE CHEESE TO GARNISH (OPTIONAL)

Sauté cabbage and leeks in oil until tender. Add flour and stir to coat and add water or stock. Alternately, add one cup of water or stock and place additional water in jar with flour and shake until well blended, then stir into cabbage mixture. Simmer for one hour. Season with Salt and Pepper to taste and then add grated potatoes and milk. Add ground cloves, cover and simmer for one hour. Stir frequently to avoid sticking.

Serve garnished with grated cheese if desired.

FROM THE EDITOR

Hi folks, I am always on the look out for interesting "SHORT" articles for the newsletter. If you have any thoughts or ideas, please don't hesitate to call me or email me. Your favourite recipe or garden tip would also be appreciated.

Thanks
The Editor