

# *FVRS Newsletter*



**A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN  
RHODODENDRON SOCIETY**

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VOLUME 2004 NUMBER 1

JANUARY

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

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## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

On behalf of the executive of the Fraser Valley Rhododendron Society, welcome back for the 2004 season of meetings, gardening and flower shows. We hope that you had a restful and relaxing holiday and that your New Year was 'happy'.

The beginning of January was very tough on our plants - all of our gardens were covered by several inches of snow and the weather was very cold. Many of our larger plants strained under the weight of their snow load but they all seemed to bounce back when the snow melted. In my garden, 'Paprika Spiced' which is only hardy to 0° lost all of its flower buds in the sub-zero weather that we experienced. I will need to find a more protected location for it.

Your new executive met on January 5<sup>th</sup> at Janelle Wallace's home. The members of the executive are listed elsewhere in the newsletter. We are very pleased to have so many members participating in this year's executive and look forward to a good year for our club.

We discussed our upcoming Annual Truss Show and Plant Sale at Whonnock Lake Centre (Janell Wallace, and Rose Schultz will be coordinating the event). John Gardner has agreed to organize the Educational portion of our meetings and Garth will continue with coordination of the main speaker for our monthly meetings. Art Pearson will be producing our monthly newsletter and would love to receive information from you to publish. Art Prufer has agreed to manage our club website and has a new e-mail address for us: [fvrs@telus.net](mailto:fvrs@telus.net). The website address is: [fvrs.rhodos.ca](http://fvrs.rhodos.ca)

Our main focus this year will be to revive the "Whonnock Lake Gardens Committee" and hopefully develop the rest of the garden now that the undeveloped part has been cleared. Membership continues to be a focal point and Jill Futros will be needing your help in our attempts to increase our membership base. John Gardner will be helping her with the "Members Information Packet".

There is lots of work to do, please contact any executive member if you would like to be more involved.

Garth Wedemire - President

## RHODO OF THE MONTH

(\*Excerpt from the Greer Guide – Third Edition)

**'Nova ZembLa'** ('Parsons Grandiflorum' x hardy red hybrid). 5', -25°F, M,

3/3/4

Here is true hardiness in a red. Certainly a plant to grow in more difficult areas. It is a vigorous grower with good foliage. The extremely showy red flowers make a real display in the spring.

(M. Koster & Sons 1902)

This is a seasoned old warhorse that does very well in my garden. It layers very well and can be propagated easily that way. Art Pearson

## 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

## **THIS MONTHS MEETING**

**MONDAY JANUARY 26<sup>TH</sup> 2004**

We are kicking off the New Year as always with our annual members slide show. We encourage you to bring slides that you think may be of interest to the membership. The more slides the better.

John Gardner will be continuing his series on 'The Plant Hunters' with a short talk on J.D Hooker – On Top of the World.

Rosemary Prufer will speak about 'Winter Damage'.

Garth Wedemire will give a short talk on 'Making sense out of Rhododendron species names.

Janell Wallace will give us an update on our upcoming Truss Show and Plant Sale scheduled for Whonnock Lake Centre on Sunday April 25<sup>th</sup>.

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

(Our thanks to Garth Wedemire and Rose Shultz for this months goodies – who is up for next month?)

We encourage members to bring items of interest for 'show and tell'. Sometimes if you have a plant or Rhodo that you need help identifying or just some interesting plants from your garden, we would love to see them.

### **Items of interest**

#### **SPECIES STUDY DAYS 2004**

A comprehensive study of the Rhododendron species will again be held for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year at the Rhododendron Species Foundation in Seattle on the following dates:

February 28

March 27

April 17

May 8

All sessions are personally conducted by Steve Hootman, co-director of the R.S.F. Sessions are held from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

In the previous years we have found that crossing the border by 7:00 a.m. permits a leisurely travel to the garden in time for the commencement of the sessions at 10:00 a.m. The sessions are completed by 4:00 p.m. enabling a return to the lower mainland by 7:00 p.m. Every effort is made to carpool and this will be sorted out once registration has been completed.

Participants who may be interested from Vancouver Island Chapters would be made most welcome and we have found previously that traveling over on the Friday evening before the session and staying overnight on the lower mainland provides the most convenient arrangement. The lower mainland members will provide overnight accommodation to the Island members if needed in order to defray the cost of attending these sessions.

Attendance is restricted to 24 participants due to the limitations of the study area and the practicality of addressing a larger audience in the garden. Lunch is provided for a nominal sum of \$5.00.

The cost for the four sessions is \$140.00.

Fourteen of the previous year's participants have already confirmed their intention of participating again this year.

Please confirm and advise as soon as possible if you would like to participate.

For further information contact Mike Bale at 604 853-8839.  
Your cheque should be sent to:

Mike Bale 'Species Study Days'  
33623 Wildwood Drive  
Abbotsford BC V2S 1S2

<b>OTHER STUFF</b>
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Your club is looking for volunteers for the following positions:

Chair - Whonnock Lake Rhododendron Garden Committee  
Chair – Refreshment Committee

Please speak to Garth or any other member of the Executive if you would like to volunteer or would like more information.

**SPECIAL NOTICE** – The Newsletter will be soon be appearing on our website  
You can also, if you wish, receive it by e-mail. Please let the Editor know what your preference is.

**Our next Executive meeting will be on Monday February 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 7:30 PM, hosted by Art & Rosemary Prufer. Executive meetings are open to any club member – just give the hosts a call if you plan to attend.**