



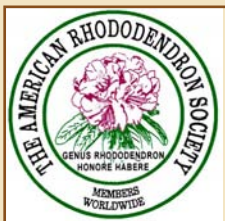
NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2006



www.rhodo.citymax.com

END OF SEASON:
NO GENERAL MEETING
UNTIL SEPTEMBER

POTLUCK DINNER
SUNDAY JUNE 11, 2006,
3:00 PM ONWARDS
AT THE LAMONT GARDEN
17918 68TH AVENUE, SURREY
SEE PAGE 2 FOR DIRECTIONS
COME ONE, COME ALL!



Vancouver Chapter

VRS Sale and Show May 2006

Saturday May 13 dawned to a cloudless blue sky, a perfect day for those seeking a special rhodo for the garden or a Mother's Day gift. A great relief to those involved in the planning that had started months beforehand. Park & Tilford Garden was an excellent venue for the Sale, under cover in the polyhouse and for the Show in the Rose Room. The executive is grateful to Garden Manager Bernice Fielding for her helpful cooperation during planning, and also to the garden staff before and during the Sale.

Let's take a moment to consider the pieces that need to come together to ensure a successful event, and the contributions both large and small from those who strive to make it so. Having secured a good site, advertising went out to Gardens Wise, The ARS Journal and the local media, complimented by articles by Steve Whysall in the Vancouver Sun, Todd Major in the North Shore News, Ron Knight in Gardens West and so the public came.

Bill Herbst organised the growers for the sale including Sue Klapwijk, Les Clay, Harold Fearing, Diane Kehoe, Lillian, Ed and Melinda Hemminger, Doreen and Trevor Badminton, all of whom donated a substantial raffle gift. A magnificent *R. praeevernum*, donated by Girard Picher, was won by Helen Trayling, niece of Ed Trayling of early rhodo hybridizing fame. Other prizes were donated by Suzanne Spohn and West Van Florist. Door prizes, donated by Secret Garden, TamScapes Design, West Van Florist, Home Depot, Rona Home Centre and Dick's Lumber helped to entice the public to view the colourful truss show in the Rose Room. A display likely to encourage new members to join the VRS. Rhodos donated by Penny Pearse helped swell our coffers. The raffle and door prize draws at the end of the day were overseen by Karen Shuster, Radojka Harris and Louis Peterson.

Lothar Mischke spent many preliminary long hours attending to banners, signage, trucking in the tables, set-up and un-glamorous take down on Saturday for the growers. Volunteers for the Show set up were Cindy Mischke, Margaret Charlton, Tony Clayton, Vern Finley, Iain Forsyth and Charlie Sale. Photo above, the bounty of this year's Truss Show.



See "An Overflowing Display" on Page 2

An overflowing display of trusses was supplemented by a few dozen exhibits collected from the Gardens of Frank Dorsey, Jim Hall and Louis Peterson, Gordon Finley, Mike Trembath (Vern), and Jack Lofthouse (Lothar), for a special "Memory Display", photo below.



Other specimens came from UBC by Douglas Justice and Stanley Park by Girard Picher. Sean Rafferty organized an expert team of Judges and Assistants including Alleyne Cook, Gerry Gibbens, Norah Hall, Don Haslam, Bill Herbst, Gerry Heriot, Douglas Justice, Girard Picher and Kathleen Share. Now trophies and ribbons await the many winners.

As 10:00 am approached, an eager line-up of potential customers received good advice at the Membership Information Table, organized by Carole Conlin and Radojka Harris with helpers Joanne Ronsley, Tish Pike, Heather Mossakowski, Richard Mossakowski, and Don Haslam. The entering throng carefully metered by Joe Ronsley, soon crowded the Cashiers led by Barbara Sherman ("still counting the money"), Meg Brown, Tony Clayton, Margaret Coe, Ron Feicht, Pat Miller and Suzanne Spohn.

Throughout the day, roving photographers Bill Spohn, John Priestman and Barb Sherman recorded the activities and all participants were sustained at a bountiful table of food and beverages organized and overseen by Jackie Clayton, Barbara Forsyth and Barb Sherman. Roger Low's captivating Bonsai Display in the Lathe House was a visitor favourite. Finally, the paraphernalia of the VRS Show & Sale was all packed away, for storage in Iain and Barbara Forsyth's basement for another year.

Thank you all, very much indeed.
Louis K. Peterson
VRS President

The 2006 VRS Potluck Picnic

Welcome to our 'end-of-season' social event and many thanks to Glenda Powroznik, Mark Lamont and the Lamont family for hosting the event this year. The Lamont Garden is part of a 0.9-acre property in the Clayton Hills area of Surrey. The Garden, mostly Rhododendrons and companion plants, was created largely by the efforts of Mark and Glenda for Mark's parents, Dr. Keith Lamont and Mrs. Marilyn Lamont, in the year 2000. Mark and Glenda 'picked up' the previous garden in Langley and incorporated hundreds of plants into the new Garden at the new home in the Clayton Hills.

Many thanks to Barbara Forsyth (604-925-1833), Jackie Clayton (604-921-7947) and Carole Conlin (604-921-7260) for agreeing to coordinate the preparations for the picnic. They need to know how many will be attending, and what food(s) you will bring (appetizer or entrée or dessert). Tea, coffee and soft drinks will be provided. Thank you to those who have already 'signed up', the Picnic Divas will be giving you a confirmation call. Members who have not already signed up, please give Barbara, Jackie or Carole a call soon and do plan to attend, to enjoy good food and good company in this superb garden setting. Please bring a lawn chair or two, and your own beer or wine if you so wish.

Smiles All Around at the 2005 Potluck Picnic



Directions: From Highway #1 take the 176th street exit to Surrey, head south approximately 3 miles on 176th street until you come to Fraser Highway. Turn left on to Fraser Highway, head east for about 1 mile, turn right on to 184th Street, head south for about a block. The first intersection you come to is 68th Avenue. Turn right on to 68th and head west about a quarter of a mile. The Lamont home is on your left.

Carole Conlin & Barbara Forsyth
Potluck Picnic Divas
604-921-7260 & 604-925-1833
Email: conlin@sfu.ca

VANCOUVER RHODODENDRON SOCIETY SHOW RESULTS – May 13, 2006

Trophy	Awarded To	Plant	Category
Ted Greig	Vern Finley	<i>R. occidentale</i>	Best Rhododendron Species Truss
Eric Langton	Iain Forsyth	R. 'Irene Koster'	Best Deciduous Azalea Truss
R. Rhodes	E&L Hemminger	R. 'Apricot Fantasy'	Best Yellow Orange Truss
Teamster's	Mike Trembath	R. 'Lem's Stormcloud'	Best Red Truss
Challenger	Les Clay	R. 'Lem's Cameo'	Best Hybrid Rhodo Truss
George Fraser	Vern Finley	R. 'Glory of Littleworth'	Best Azeleadendron
VRS Early	Jack&Edith Lofthouse	<i>R. yunnanense</i>	Best Triflora
Claydain	E&L Hemminger	R. 'Belle Heller'	Best Rhodo Truss with Blotch
Doreen Lawson	Chris Klapwijk	<i>R. periclymenoides x</i>	
		<i>R. austrinum</i>	Best New Hybrid
Baker McGarva Hart	John Priestman	<i>R. pachysanthum</i>	Best Species

Trophies not awarded at the 2006 Show

Harold Johnson Memorial Trophy	Not Categorized
Ron Round Trophy	Novice
Tom Tatum Trophy	Highest Aggregate
Gerald Charlton Trophy	Best New Hybrid
VRS Early Trophy	Best Container Grown Plant
Wally Zeglat Trophy	Best Hybrid Truss Collection
ARS Seed Exchange Trophy	Not Categorized
Milton Wildfong Trophy	Best Species
William and Lillian Hodgson Trophy	Best Educational
Sorensen Perpetual Trophy	Best Seedling Azalea
VRS Trophy	Outstanding Decorative Design
Park and Tilford Trophy	Best In Show

Species Ribbons:

Place	Awarded To	Plant
First	Vern Finley	<i>R. kiusianum</i> 'Fugonotsuki'
First	Vern Finley	<i>R. makinoi</i>
First	S&B Spohn	<i>R. macrosepalum linearifolium</i>
First	J&T Clayton	<i>R. campylogynum</i>
First	E&L Hemminger	<i>R. cephalanthum</i>
Second	Vern Finley	<i>R. carolinianum</i>
Second	Vern Finley	<i>R. noriakianum</i>
Second	Gerrard Picher	<i>R. xanthocodon</i>
Second.	M. Charlton&C. Sale	<i>R. koromo shikibu</i>
Second	Vern Finley	<i>R. yunnanense</i>
Second	Lothar Mischke	<i>R. campylogynum</i>
Second	E&L Hemminger	<i>R. campylogynum</i>
Second	Mike Trembath	<i>R. primuliflorum</i>
Second	S&B Spohn	<i>R. shweliense</i>
Second	S&B Spohn	<i>R. tomentosum</i> 'Milky Way'
Second	Lothar Mischke	<i>R. wardii</i>
Second	Gerard Picher	<i>R. vernicosum</i>
Second	Bill Herbst	<i>R. prinophyllum</i>
Third	Vern Finley	<i>R. kiusianum</i>
Third	M. Charlton&C. Sale	<i>R. augustinii</i>
Third	Vern Finley	<i>R. luteum</i>
Third	M. Charlton&C. Sale	<i>R. kurume</i> 'Hino Crimson'



Photo above, two Justice are better than one, when judging at the Show. Photo below, an intense Herbst (middle) and a focussed Rafferty (right) in judging mode at the 2006 Show.



Show Results continued on Page 4

VANCOUVER RHODODENDRON SOCIETY SHOW RESULTS – May 13, 2006

Hybrid Ribbon Awards By Flower Colour

Red Flowered

Place	Awarded To	Plant
First	Iain & Barbara Forsyth	R. 'Halfdan Lem'
Second	E&L Hemminger	R. 'Markeeta's Prize'
Second	M. Charlton & C. Sale	R. 'Ruby Heart'
Second	Gerard Picher	R. 'May Day'
Third	Iain & Barbara Forsyth	R. 'Halfdan Lem'

Pink Flowered

First	S&B Spohn	R. 'Queen Alice'
First	E&L Hemminger	R. 'Moon Wax'
Second	E&L Hemminger	R. 'Bambino'
Second	E&L Hemminger	R. 'Haydon'
Second	E&L Hemminger	R. 'Trude Webster'
Second	E&L Hemminger	R. 'Silver Skies'
Second	E&L Hemminger	R. 'Lem's Cameo'
Second	E&L Hemminger	R. 'Hallelujah'
Third	Les Clay	R. 'Qualicum Pride'
Third	E&L Hemminger	R. 'Creole Belle'
Third	S&B Spohn	R. 'Bambino'
Third	Mike Trembath	R. 'Ruffles and Frills'

White Flowered

First	Barb Forsyth	R. 'Mist Maiden'
First	Mike Trembath	R. 'Phyllis Korn'
First	Sean Rafferty	R. 'Yeti'
Second	Gerrard Picher	R. 'Naomi'
Second	Gerrard Picher	R. 'Loder's White'
Second	Sean Rafferty	R. 'Fragrantissimum'
Second	M. Charlton & C. Sale	R. 'R x Egret'
Hon. Mention	S&B Spohn	R. 'Lily Flower'

Purple Flowered

First	E&L Hemminger	R. 'Sugar Pink'
First	E&L Hemminger	R. 'Lightly Lavender'
First	E&L Hemminger	R. 'Mrs. E.C. Sterling'

Yellow Flowered

First	Sean Rafferty	R. 'Crest'
First	E&L Hemminger	R. 'Top Hat'
Second	E&L Hemminger	R. 'Nancy Evans'
Second	E&L Hemminger	R. 'Crest'
Second	S&B Spohn	R. 'Creamy Chiffon'
Third	E&L Hemminger	R. 'Creamy Chiffon'
Third	S&B Spohn	R. 'Hjalmar L. Larson'
Third	E&L Hemminger	R. 'Golden Horn'

Orange Flowered

First	Lothar Mischke	R. 'Medusa'
First	S&B Spohn	R. 'Cinnkeys'
First	S&B Spohn	R. 'Lady Chamberlain'
Second	Lothar Mischke	R. 'Royal Flush'

Azalea

Place	Awarded To	Plant
First	S&B Spohn	R. 'Lady Roseberry'
First	M. Charlton & C. Sale	R. 'R. Satomi 'Peachblossom'
First	M. Charlton & C. Sale	R. kaemp. latesepalum x album
First	Iain Forsyth	R. 'Persil'
First	E&L Hemminger	R. 'Golden Flare'
First	Barb Forsyth	R. 'Blue Danube'
Second	Vern Finley	R. 'Milton Wildfong'
Second	Gerrard Picher	R. 'H.H. Hume'
Second	E&L Hemminger	R. 'Exbury'
Second	S&B Spohn	R. 'Gibraltar'
Third	M. Charlton & C. Sale	R. 'x Oxydol Exbury'
Third	E&L Hemminger	R. 'Klondyke'
Third	E&L Hemminger	R. 'White Lights'
Hon. Mention	Barb Forsyth	Unknown Purple Double

Red Blotched Flower

First	E&L Hemminger	R. 'Cherry Float'
Second	E&L Hemminger	R. 'Booskoop'

Pink Blotched Flower

First	E&L Hemminger	Unknown
Second	S&B Spohn	R. 'Razzle Dazzle'
Honourable		
Mention	Sean Rafferty	R. 'Peeping Tom'

Purple Blotched Flower

First	E&L Hemminger	R. 'Blue Boy'
First	Mike Trembath	R. 'Mrs. O.B. Watson'
Second	E&L Hemminger	R. 'Bessie Howells'
Second	E&L Hemminger	R. 'Chapeau'
Second	S&B Spohn	R. 'Colonel Coen'
Third	Les Clay	R. 'Clay's Surprise'

Orange Blotched Flower

First	Lothar Mischke	R. 'Paprika Spice'
Third	E&L Hemminger	R. 'Kathy van Veen'

Foliage Plant

Second	John Priestman	<i>R. sinogrande</i>
Third	John Priestman	<i>R. falconeri</i>

All discrepancies, disagreements or disputes pertaining to the previously listed VRS 2006 Show Judging results should be directed to the Judging Committee or the VRS President.

Membership Update

Please join me in welcoming the following new members:

Tricia Meneghello, Coquitlam, Tara Bromberger, North Vancouver and Diana Lambrou, Vancouver. New members receive 20 months of membership for the cost of 12 months and we have special incentives for new members who join now. For these three new members and the next two new members:

- 1) One day family pass to Floral Wonders at the Bloedel Conservatory in Queen Elizabeth Park; no expiry date; One adult admission to both UBC Botanical Garden & Nitobe Memorial Garden; no expiry date; One complimentary admission to VanDusen Botanical Garden; no expiry date; One coupon for 50% off a second entrée when first entrée purchased from White Spot, Park & Tilford, North Vancouver, expires June 30, 2006.
- 2) for new members six to 12 – all of the above, less the Floral Wonders.
- 3) for new members 13 to 18 – as per number 2, less the UBC Botanical Garden & Nitobe Garden.
- 4) for new members 19 to 40 - One coupon for 50% off a second entrée when first entrée purchased from White Spot, Park & Tilford, North Vancouver, expires June 30, 2006.

Guests are always welcome at our meetings! Have a great summer, Carole Conlin, VRS Membership Chair

One of the benefits of membership in the VRS, photo right, the annual May Walk in the Garden.

Picture taken in the Korean Pavilion in the Sino-Himalayan Garden at Vandusen Gardens. The tour was lead by Sino-Himalayan Curator Gerry Gibbens.



What's Your Opinion?

Have You got some News or an Announcement? Send us a Picture of Interest!

Letters to the **INDUMENTUM**, news, pictures and anything rhodo or otherwise, can be sent to Todd & Shannon Major at stmajor@shaw.ca. We need pictures! The larger the picture file size the better the result on screen and in print. If you don't send something, then you will have to live with what WE print, so get involved!

Todd & Shannon Major,
INDUMENTUM Editors



The Fraser South Rhododendron Society Presents:

The American Rhododendron Society (ARS) Western Regional Fall Conference Highlighting Rhododendrons Around the World

The 2006 ARS Western Regional Conference is to be held at the Harrison Hot Springs Resort & Spa from Friday, September 22 to Sunday, September 24.

The town of Harrison Hot Springs is renowned for its breathtaking scenery and for the natural hot springs. It is situated at the southern end of Harrison Lake which runs for a total length of almost 48 miles. The view from the town is spectacular with the surrounding mountains bordering the entire length of the lake.

The Harrison Hot Springs Resort & Spa (photo right and bottom right) is a luxury hotel with many superior facilities. The resort hosts five hot indoor and outdoor pools, each fed by the natural mineral hot springs (photo below) that have remained a primary attraction for visitors for more than 100 years. The resort has its own golf course and many other outdoor recreational facilities. The Healing Springs Spa was built at a cost of \$2.2 million dollars and is a recent addition which was opened in 2001 and provides state of the art therapeutic equipment and treatment rooms. The



dining facilities are superior and include the world renown "Copper Room." The Conference reception and plant sale will be located in the Exhibition Hall adjacent to the hotel and the lectures and banquet in the Conference Centre. The reception area for the lectures and banquet will be located in a magnificent room affording panoramic views along the entire length of the Harrison Lake.



This conference features some top notch speakers from Canada and the U.S. Speakers include Des Kennedy, Steve Hootman, Dalen and Lori Bayes, Collen Forster, Glen Jamieson, Don Martyn, Charlie Sale, David Sellars and Norma Senn.

Tours are available of the following attractions: Bridal Veil Falls, Minter Gardens, Ferncliff Gardens, Westminster Abbey and the Harrison Lake Boat Tour. There is also the town of Harrison close by for sightseeing and shopping.

Members from all B.C. rhodo chapters are most welcome to invite relatives, friends, neighbours and especially other gardening enthusiasts to attend the ARS Fall Conference at Harrison Hot Spring Resort & Spa. Membership in the ARS is not a pre-requisite. This would be a golden opportunity to expose individuals to our passion and recruit more members for all Chapters.

The \$40.00 registration fee offers great value and affords full participation in most activities at the Conference including the Bonsai & Ikebana Demonstration, the Wine & Cheese Reception, attendance to the keynote and all the lecture presentations including the Sunday morning session on hybridizing and Rhododendron Species. Also provides access to the video displays, photo exhibition and the plant sale. The plant sale includes Rhododendron species, Vireyas and many special companion plants. Full conference details are available at the www.arsfallconference2006.com/, or www.flounder.ca/FraserSouth/index.asp or www.rhodos.ca, or phone 604 853 8839. For Harrison Hot Springs Resort information go to www.harrisonresort.com.



Members have asked the Indumentum: What type of rhododendron would be best for a small garden? By Ron Knight

The gardens of most city dwellers would be classified as small ones. In that kind of space, annuals and small perennials look right at home. However, trees and tall-growing shrubs can present problems if the homeowner hasn't planned the garden with the mature size of those plants in mind.

Everyone has seen examples of homeowners (and landscape professionals) who have planted a new perennial garden, filling all of the available space with cute little trees and shrubs. For the first couple of years the garden looks great, but after that, the plants begin to grow into each other and their beautiful individual shapes are lost.

Enthusiastic new rhododendron collectors often make the same mistake in their quest to display as many as possible of the plants they have heard other club members say are "the really good ones": *R. augustinii*, *R. macabeanum*, Lem's Cameo, the Loderis, Sir Charles Lemon, etc. They purchase dozens of young plants in one and two gallon containers, placing them a metre or so apart throughout the beds and borders of their small garden. Inevitably over time, the collection becomes little more than a sea of green for 11 months of the year.



As an alternative, rhododendron lovers with small garden spaces might consider using mostly dwarf and semi-dwarf specimens. As a rough guideline, these are the plants that Harold Greer describes as reaching 3 feet or less in 10 years (Greer's Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons, Offshoot Publications, Eugene, Oregon, 1996). Of course, all rhododendrons keep growing after a decade (Frank Dorsey had a very old "dwarf" *R. russatum* in his garden that was 6 feet tall), but dwarfs do so at a very slow rate.

Most dwarf rhododendrons are evergreen. They have showy flowers in a wide range of colours, plus dense foliage that is attractive all year long. Varieties are available that will provide garden colour from February through July. Dwarfs look fabulous in containers, require minimal care, and are susceptible to few pests. Most are very tolerant of wind and sun.

In fact, dwarf rhododendrons should be planted where they will receive maximum sunshine. Many will become leggy and less attractive when



planted in the shade. Dwarfs need to be located as far away from aggressive tree roots as possible. They coexist well with mosses but are happy not to associate with most ground covers. Instead, they like a covering of mulch over their roots, but not grass clippings, peat, or sawdust.

Dwarfs look spectacular when planted in groups. In alpine regions, they naturally grow that way to provide mutual protection from strong winds. Only some very early bloomers whose flower buds are susceptible to frost damage need any special protection in garden settings.

In rock gardens, dwarfs need to be lifted and replanted when their roots have filled the available soil space. Moreover, some thought needs to be given to

both irrigation and drainage. Dwarfs, like all other rhododendrons, require acidic well-drained soil. They should be planted high, on a slight mound, rather than in a rocky hollow that may allow water to pool around their roots. On steep slopes, a dam of mulch or rocks should be placed on the downhill side of the plant so that water is channeled through the roots rather than over the top of the soil. Regular watering is essential during the summertime in B.C. and a drip irrigation system is ideal both for dwarfs grown in containers and in the field.



See "In containers" on Page 8



In containers, most dwarfs need to be repotted every second year. During the in between years they appreciate a top dressing of compost. Feeding with slow-release fertilizer or liquid plant food is also beneficial.

Minimal pruning is required for dwarf rhododendrons. Each year, however, it is wise to remove dead branches from under the leaf canopy. Deadheading is unnecessary for most dwarfs. However, fussy gardeners may want to remove seed capsules that tend to stick up above the leaves of certain varieties.

Most garden centres carry a very small selection of dwarfs and almost all of these are hybrids. Although *R. impeditum* is frequently seen, according to Steve Hootman, it is mislabeled by nurseries throughout the Pacific Northwest, and this species rhododendron is really *R.*

fastigiatum. Only the member-growers of rhododendron clubs are able to provide a wide choice of dwarf species.

Examples are:

R. campylogynum (Photo page 7): flowers come in a wide variety of colours and resemble small bells.

R. cephalanthum (Photo page 7): aromatic leaves and tubular white or pink flowers.

R. hanceanum Namum (Photo page 7): cream coloured flowers and a compact growth habit.

R. litangense (Photo page 7): purple flowers and tiny leaves that turn bronze in winter.

R. nakaharae : a creeper with relatively large flowers in various shades of rose and red, blooming into July.

R. saluenense : bright reddish-purple flowers with foliage that turns a dark burgundy colour in winter.



Among well-respected hybrids are those bred by Warren Berg. Examples are Ginny Gee and Patty Bee, both Superior Plant Award winners, and Wee Bee (Figures 7, 8, and 9). Any of the Cox hybrid-named dwarfs such as Ptarmigan (Figure 10) are also worth collecting. John Waterer's seven dwarfs, all named after Snow White's friends, are interesting low-growing shrubs but reach 3 feet or more in ten years.

There are many, many more dwarf rhododendrons that provide a solution for B.C. gardeners who have small lots or who don't have the time to take care of a large garden. And the really good news from Peter Cox, the famous rhododendron hybridizer from Glendoick Scotland, is that Canada's Pacific Coast region is "the nearest to ideal for most dwarfs". Photos by Ron Knight.

Ron Knight is a retired biology teacher and school administrator whose rhododendron collection is displayed at Caron Gardens on the Sunshine Coast. Ron is a past-president of the Vancouver Rhododendron Society and now serves as Alternate-Director for the American Rhododendron Society's B.C. Division.

