

The Oak

Newsletter of
the Fraser South
Rhododendron
Society

Volume 25 Number 6
June 2011



www.flounder.ca/FraserSouth

Fraser South Rhododendron Society
is a chapter of the
American Rhododendron Society

Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the
third Wednesday of each month
(except June, July and August) at:
United Church Hall
5673 - 200th Street
Langley BC

This Month's Meeting:

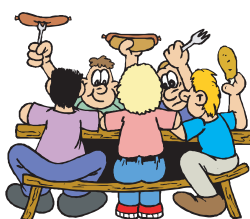
THE FRASER SOUTH
RHODODENDRON SOCIETY'S
RENOWNED
ANNUAL PICNIC
SATURDAY, JUNE 11TH

ANYTIME AFTER 2:00 PM

2011 Officers

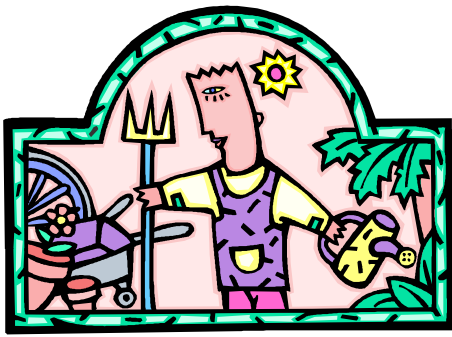
President:	Bill Bischoff	604-589-6134
Past Pres:	Harold Fearing	604-857-4136
Vice Pres:	John Dodd	604-530-0153
Secretary:	Sandy Procter	604-857-0440
Treasurer:	Alan March	604-532-9062
Directors:	Arlene Darby	604-597-1849
	Matt Groves	604-856-2624
	Kathy Delory	604-576-1172
Programme:	Sean Rafferty	604-990-5353
Membership:	Mai Swan	604-852-1992
Newsletter:	Brenda Macdonald	604-990-5353
Librarian:	Joan McGiveron	604-538-9347
Website:	Chris Klapwijk	604-581-0925

Quick Hits



Time to celebrate the end of another successful FSRS year. Come to the annual FSRS picnic and auction at Karen Linton and Larry Morton's house, Saturday, June 11, any time after 2:00 pm. More information, and address and map inside.

Notes From the Chair



FROM THE PRESIDENT

club members were able to take this opportunity to experience a well kept and botanically interesting garden. There were many plants to see that one cannot find even in the larger botanical gardens in the Vancouver area.

Later this week, our own FSRS picnic at the home of Karen and Larry, Saturday, June 11th, starting in the mid-afternoon. This includes our fun loaded and by-everyone-anticipated auction of plants and things. Our gracious hosts, Karen and Larry, have been planning for weeks and are well prepared for all weather conditions. There will be several tents to shelter all visitors from sun or rain.

No excuses whatsoever not to come. Members of other nearby rhododendron clubs have been invited as guests under the motto "the more the merrier".

And the very next day after our picnic, on Sunday, June 12th, starting at 3:00 pm in the afternoon, there will be a picnic not to be missed by anyone. The Vancouver Rhododendron Society's potluck celebration, also to take place in "sunny Surrey", at the garden of Philip MacDougall at 14776-90th Ave. If lost please call 604-580-3219.

Philip is a plant collector par excellence. He travels to far-off places to study plants, and most importantly to acquire rare seeds. Many of the plants he displays in his garden are reminders of his past travels. Philip shares his experiences with other plant enthusiasts by giving picture supported presentations to horticultural societies. If you plan to come, please remember this event is organized just like ours - a potluck meal with an auction to follow. Your support is appreciated.

I look forward to seeing you all at these flower, fun and food filled events. For those who cannot come, I wish you a very pleasant summer

Happy gardening to all ...

Bill Bischoff





Images of the garden of
Bill and Carla Bischoff
28 MAY 2011
courtesy of Bill Luchak



FROM THE EDITOR

Last Month:

Last month was the eighteenth iteration of our Justly Famous Beer Bottle Truss Show. Although our relentlessly cold spring somewhat depressed the number of trusses available for display, there was certainly enough to keep us all interested. And although there seemed to be a few slip-ups in regards to the placement of trusses in the correct categories, it didn't seem to dampen the enthusiasm. Everyone went home happy; and Larry Morton and Karen Linton, and Dalen and Laurie Bayes, and Colleen Bojczuk went home with big bags of Smarties, and Vern Finley went home with a cheery new coffee mug as well. Full results on Page 6.

This Month:

As the year winds down, so too does my endless stream of instructions and hectoring reminders ... with the exception of course of the obligatory P & P (that's Policies and Procedures for all you who no longer need to tramp the corporate treadmill) for the Annual Picnic and Auction. Remember that this is our final fling of the year, as well as a grand opportunity to do a little fund raising. This year PARS (Peace Arch Rhododendron Society) will be joining us for extra merriment.

Here are the rules, chapter and verse:

Bring your treasures to the home of Karen Linton and Larry Morton, any time after 2:00 pm - tiny exquisite rockery specimens you have been clever enough to replicate, divisions of large robust perennial border plants that have begun to threaten your tiny exquisite rockery specimens, the occasional rhododendron that no longer fits into your planting scheme, any small John Deere tractors lurking about unused in your garage, decorative planters, bear-proof bird feeders ... you know, the usual stuff that somebody out there desperately needs and wants. Then you need to pick up a similar volume of goods and chattels to take back home with you by engaging in a spirited bidding war for the privilege of doing so. It's perfect, it's the steady state theory of home and garden maintenance. No carbon credits required. It is so green, it is blinding, and the club puts some money in the piggy-bank for next year. Come on, we are depending on you!

As for the picnic part, here is the cunning plan. Bring:

- a chair to sit upon
- a plate to eat off
- cutlery to eat with
- a wobbley-pop of your choice, if desired
- a mug for the wobbley-pop of your choice, or the tea and coffee that will be provided
- your potluck contribution, for sharing with others
- utensils to serve your potluck contribution, if necessary
- any friends, neighbours, or visiting relatives whom you think would enjoy meeting us and learning more about the FSRS

The Business Stuff:

OTHER DUTIES AS ASSIGNED: .

☛ Over the long break, Margaret Hodgson and Jo Wright will need to keep up their water-boiling skills in preparation for their September tea-room duties. And one of them will need to pick up the official tea tote after the picnic so that it will be all ready when we begin our new year next September.

☛ And for the truly organized, please note in your diaries that Les Clay has already set up next September's Propagation Demonstration and Plant Sale, to be held at his home on Saturday, September 24th, from 10:00 to noon.

THE CALENDAR:

Saturday, June 11	Fraser South Chapter Annual Picnic and Auction at the home of Karen Linton and Larry Morton, 8219 - 197 St, Langley, 604-888-6564
Sunday, June 12	Vancouver Chapter Annual Picnic and Auction, commencing at 3:00 pm at the home of Philip MacDougall, 14776 - 90 Ave, Surrey RSVP to Norah Hall 604-266-8132
Saturday, Sept 24	Propagation Demonstration & Plant Sale - Les Clay - at his home, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

In praise of illegal things ...

Many of you are probably aware that unlike our Justly Famous Beer Bottle Truss Show, many other garden clubs and rhododendron chapters have annual truss shows that are adjudicated by a panel of judges. And it goes without saying that if there are to be judges, there will be laws - rules about the categorization, the preparation, and the presentation of the flowers being judged.

For rhododendron trusses in particular, one of the great iron-clad rules is that “hammerhead” trusses will be disqualified. (That is, except for the FSRS show, which has a special category for Hammerheads.) They are essentially illegal.

For those confused by the terminology, a hammerhead is a single leaf stem that, at its growing tip, has more than a single flower bud. All sorts of research has not clarified for me the derivation of the term hammerhead as it applies to flowers, although there are many confusing references to wooden hammerhead trusses being used in fancy log houses, hammerhead bridge piers and other such engineering marvels, as well as a slightly unnerving reference to a large and rather ominous looking electric guitar. But nowhere could I find how the leap from bridge trusses to flower configurations came about, or why having more than a single flower rachis growing out of the same terminal should be so described. Ah, the mysteries of engineers and botanists, more aligned than we ever knew.

Some species and hybrids tend to produce hammerheads with generous abandon. These are fairly universally accepted on small lepidote rhododendrons such as “Bob’s Blue” where they can add significantly to the floral display. But some of the large lepidote hybrids are also very prone to this sort of excess flower production, and for the average gardener looking to maximize flower return on gardening investment, this seems to be a very good thing indeed.

R. ‘Yeti’, which to the best of my knowledge is an unregistered Finley hybrid (‘Crest’ x ‘Crest’), is a paragon hammerhead producer, and all the better for it. Almost all of the upper branches have two and sometimes three flower buds, leading to an exuberance of blossoms that is quite endearing. As single blossoms they are very attractive, a creamy, dense white that up close display a pale yellow throat. But from far away the yellow throat is not apparent, it simply adds to the rich colour of trusses that can only be described as voluptuous.

Sometimes it is difficult to ascertain whether that really big truss at the top of your plant is a hammerhead or not. Two and three trusses all jammed together often look like a single truss, just more so - taller, wider, and fuller.

Truss shows and judges aside, how can this not be a good thing?’

Brenda Macdonald



above:
R. 'Yeti' with three flower buds
on a single stem
May, 20, 23, and 29, 2011



left:
R. 'Yeti'
May, 29, 2011



all photos
Sean Rafferty



And the winners are ...

Eighteenth Annual Fraser South Beer Bottle Truss Show,
held Wednesday, May 18, 2011

CLASSES **Division I**

Species Classes

- Class 1. Rhododendron (lepidotes)
[L. Morton/K. Linton - R. *degronianum* ssp. *yakushmanum* 'Mist Maiden'](#)
- Class 2. Azalea (deciduous and evergreen)
[Les Clay - R. *kisianum* 'Komo Kulshan'](#)
- Class 3. Hymenantha (elepidotes)
[Dalen Bayes - R. *sanguineum*](#)

Division II

Hybrid Classes

- Class 4. Any lepidote hybrid
[Dalen Bayes - R. 'Blaney's Blue'](#)
- Class 5. Any deciduous azalea hybrid - nil
- Class 6. Any evergreen azalea hybrid
[Vern Finley - R. 'Hatsugura'](#)

Colour Classes

- Class 7a: Red - (small)
[Sean Rafferty - R. 'Carmen'](#)
- 7b: Red - (large)
(tie) [L. Morton/K. Linton - R. 'Etta Burrows'](#)
(tie) [Wenonah March - R. \(unknown\)](#)
- Class 8a: White - (small)
[L. Morton/K. Linton - R. 'Cunningham's White'](#)
- 8b: White - (large)
[Les Clay - R. 'Phyllis Korn'](#)
- Class 9a: Pink - (small)
(tie) [Carla Bischoff - R. 'Madame Moreau'](#)
(tie) [Les Clay - R. 'Leona Maud'](#)
- 9b: Pink - (large)
[Colleen Bojczuk - R. 'Ooh Gina'](#)
- 9c: Pink - (really, really, large) - nil
- Class 10a: Yellow & Cream (small)
[Matt Groves - R. 'Goldkrone'](#)
- 10b: Yellow & Cream (large)
[Vern Finley - R. 'Nancy Evans'](#)

- Class 11: Mauves & Purple
[L. Morton/K. Linton - R. 'Purple Lace'](#)
- Class 12: Orange
[Carla Bischoff - R. 'May Day'](#)
- Class 13: Bi-colour
[Wenonah March - R. 'Georgie's Delight'](#)

Division III

Special Classes

- Class 14: Non-registered hybrid
[L. Morton - R. 'Hotei' x 'Paprika Spiced' x Lem's Cameo' x 'Polynesian Sunset'](#)
- Class 15: Truss with the Best Fuzzy Foliage
[Dalen Bayes - R. 'Cinnamon Bear'](#)
- Class 16: Best Blotched
[Colleen Bojczuk - R. 'Bariton'](#)
- Class 17: Best Speckled
[L. Morton/K. Linton - R. 'Measles'](#)
- Class 18: Most Lurid
[Colleen Bojczuk - R. 'Clementine Lemaire'](#)
- Class 19: Best Last Year's Truss
[Dalen Bayes](#)
- Class 20: Most Elegantly Weevil-Notched
[Dalen Bayes - R. *roxianum*](#)
- Class 21: Best Hammerhead
[Colleen Bojczuk - R. 'Graf Zeppelin'](#)
- Class 22: Most Flaccid
(tie) [L. Morton/K. Linton - R. 'Medusa'](#)
(tie) [Dalen Bayes - R. *cinnabarinum*](#)
- Class 23: Best Miniature Truss - under 6"
[L. Morton/K. Linton - R. *campylogynum*](#)
- Class 24: Most Fragrant (Az. or Rh.)
[Colleen Bojczuk - unknown](#)

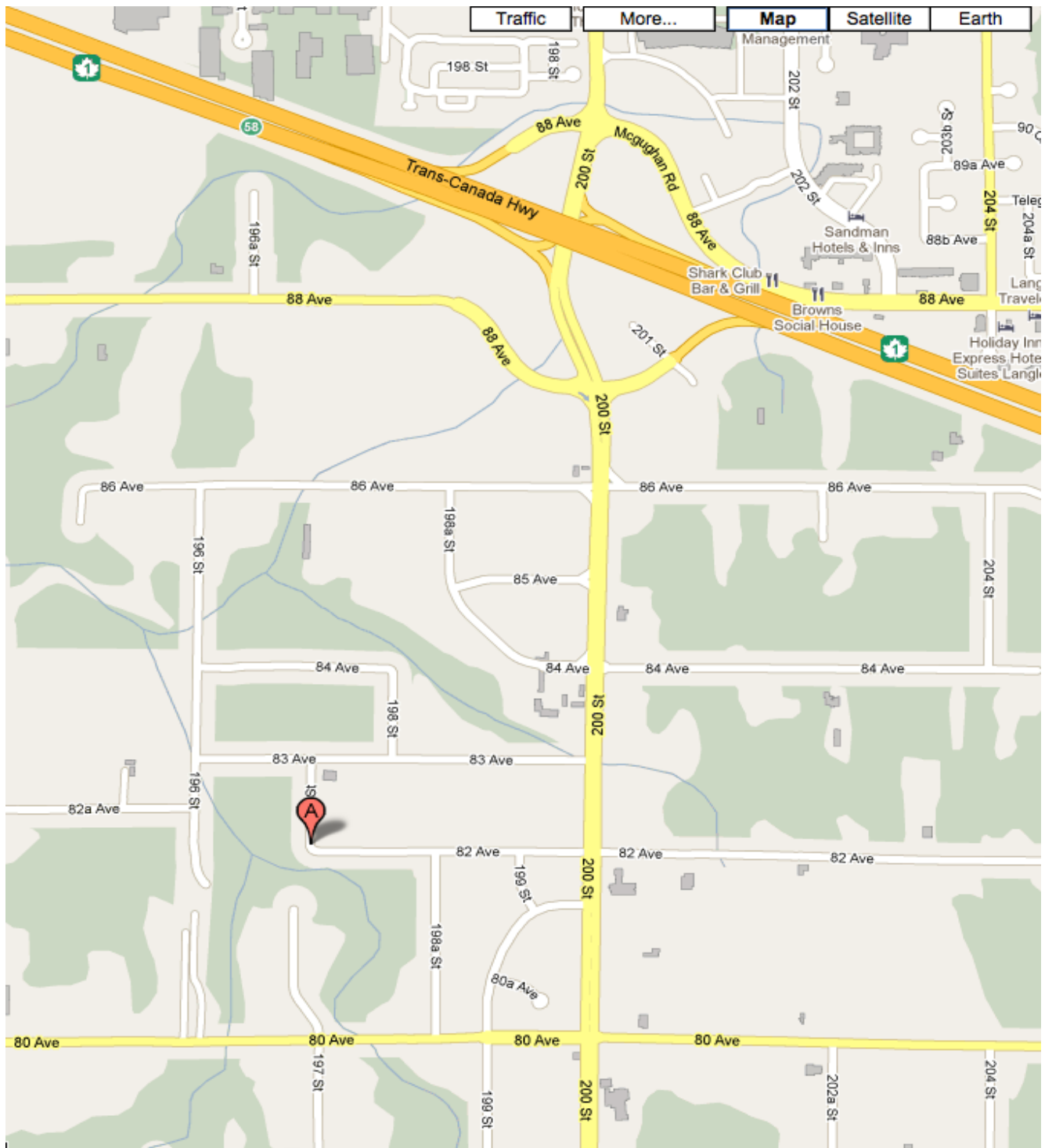
Judged

Lionheart Award: best over-all yellow, any Class
[Vern Finley - R. 'Nancy Evans'](#)

Aggregate Winners -

- [First - L. Morton/K. Linton](#)
[Second - Dalen Bayes](#)
[Third - Colleen Bojczuk](#)

All winners were awarded the plant of their choice from the wonderful selection provided by Colleen Bojczuk (Aldergrove Nursery); and the Aggregate Winners each went home with a bag of M&M's.



Fraser South Annual Picnic and Auction
at the home of Karen Linton and Larry Morton
8219 - 197 Street, Langley

Saturday, June 11th, any time after 2:00 pm