



VANCOUVER
Rhododendron
SOCIETY

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POTLUCK DINNER:

NO GENERAL MEETING - INSTEAD THERE WILL BE A POTLUCK DINNER TO WRAP UP THE YEAR.

LOCATION:

HOME OF BILL AND SUZANNE SPOHN IN WEST VANCOUVER AT 2950 PALMERSTON AVE.

TIME AND DATE:

4:00 PM ON SUNDAY JUNE 10. SEE PAGE 6 FOR DETAILS.

Well, the one big concerted effort of the VRS season has occurred, with considerable success, though setting no records on either the high or the low end. Roughly speaking—not quite all the figures are yet in—the show and sale at Park and Tilford Gardens had a gross income of \$11,100, \$2,900 on Sunday, the rest Saturday. Net income for the two days is approximately \$2,200. Five new members have joined the VRS.

The Executive will be going over these figures in detail and adjustments to the figures are expected. But the figures are only part of the story. The combined effort of so many VRS members working together, enjoying our weekend activity and having a very good time through it all was inspiring. The sale provided good plants not generally available in garden centres to a lot of gardeners, thereby in its own small way improving the standard of horticulture in the area. The educational value of the show also made a substantial contribution to the awareness of all of us, including the public who happened by. What an array of gorgeous and special trusses! (photo below). But I must emphasize the wonderful human spirit that prevailed both days, despite the imperfect weather. Everyone seemed to be having a good time, both in their relations with each other and in being motivated by a common goal.

I know there are good reasons why not every VRS member is able to participate in this annual event, but I suggest to all of you that if you possibly can, you should. The rewards, in plain human terms, are abundant. Thank you to all of our volunteers who made this year's event a success!

Joanne Ronsley
VRS President



Photos from the VRS Show and Sale



Above Barb Sherman, VRS Treasurer, takes a momentary break for a coffee and walk through the sales area before the crowds arrive. Photo right, the Show judges hard at work debating the merits of beauty. Photo bottom right, the crowds arrive to find their treasures. Photo below, one of the beautiful rhodos on display at the show, unnamed.



VANCOUVER RHODODENDRON SOCIETY SHOW RESULTS – May 5, 2007

Trophy

Park & Tilford Trophy
R.C. Rhodes Trophy
William M. Stephens
Memorial Cup
Greig Memorial
Triflora
Wally Zeglat Memorial
B.C. Nursery Trades
Teamsters' Joint Council #36
Claydian Cup
George Fraser Memorial
Doreen Lawson

Awarded To

Hemminger
Hemminger

Hemminger
Hemminger
Hemminger
Hemminger
Hemminger
Hemminger
Hemminger
Hemminger
Hemminger

Plant

'Crest'

R. orbiculare
R. augustinii 'Eleanor'

'Phyllis Korn'
'Markeeta's Prize'
'Cosmopolitan'
'Ria Hardijzer'
'Nancy Evans' x
'Canadian Sunset'

Category

Best in Show
Best yellow or orange plant or truss

Highest aggregate points species trusses
Best species truss
Best triflora species truss
Highest aggregate points for hybrid trusses
Best hybrid rhododendron truss
Best red hybrid rhododendron truss
Best blotched hybrid truss
Best azaleadendron truss

Best previously unexhibited new hybrid

Trophies not awarded at the 2007 Show

Langton Memorial
Stan Sorenson
Harold Johnson Memorial
Ron Round Trophy
Tom Tatum Trophy
Gerald Charlton Trophy
VRS Early Trophy
Milton Wildfong Trophy
William and Lillian Hodgson Trophy
Sorensen Perpetual Trophy
VRS Trophy

Best deciduous hybrid azalea truss
Best new azalea hybrid truss
Best rhododendron mega-truss
Novice
Highest Aggregate
Best New Hybrid
Best Container Grown Plant
Best Species
Best Educational
Best Seedling Azalea
Outstanding Decorative Design

Species Ribbons:

Place

First
First
First
First
First
First
first
First
First
First
First
First
Second
Second
Second
Second
Second
Second
Second
Second
Second
Second
Second
Third
Third
Third
Third
Third
Hon.Mention

Awarded To

Finley
Finley
Shuster
Finley
Hemminger
Hemminger
Shuster
Spohn
Spohn
Finley
Finley
Finley
Finley
Finley
Shuster
Finley
Hemminger
Hemminger
Finley
Hemminger
Spohn
Hemminger
Finley
Shuster
Shuster
Spohn
Finley
Finley
Spohn

Plant

R. molle
R. obtusum 'Hatsugiri'
R. argyrophyllum v. *nankingense*
R. rex
R. decorum
R. orbiculare
R. yakusimanum 'Phetteplace Tall'
R. gymnocarpum
R. glaucophyllum
R. lepidotum v. *elaeagnoides* 'Alba'
R. saluense
R. luteum
R. vaseyi
R. macrosepalum v. *linearifolium*
R. argyrophyllum
R. wardii
R. morii
R. roxieanum v. *oreonastes*
R. campylogynum
R. polycladum
R. impeditum
R. obtusum v. *amoenum*
R. decorum
R. anhweiense
R. hippophaeoides
R. fastigiatum
R. yak. 'Ken Janeck'



Photo above, a nice deep red from the show, unnamed. Photo below Sean Rafferty, VRS Vice-President watches as the judges work the show.



Hybrid Ribbon Awards By Flower Colour**Elpidote - Red Flowered**

Place	Awarded To	Plant
First	Hemminger	'Markeeta's Prize'
Second	Finley	'Carmen'
Third	Kehoe	'Ruby Hart'
Hon. Mention	Clay	'John Paul'

Elpidote Dark Pink Flowered

First	Clay	'Qualicum Pride'
Second	Hemminger	'El Camino'
Second	Lamont/Powroznik	'Hallelujah'
Third	Hemminger	'Mission Bells'
Hon.Mention	Shuster	'Cupcake'
Hon.Mention	Hemminger	'Cupcake'

Elpidote White Flowered

First	Kehoe	'Janet Blair'
First	Clay	'Golfer'
Second	Hemminger	'Dormouse'
Second	Hemminger	Gardendirektor Reiger'
Third	Kehoe	'Psyche'
Third	Hemminger	yak. 'Angel'
Hon.Mention	Hemminger	<i>bureavii</i> x 'Ken Janek'

Elpidote Purple Flowered

First	Hemminger	'Susan'
Second	Lamont/Powroznik	'Ighan Purple'
Third	Lamont/Powroznik	'Burgundy'
Third	Shuster	'Lavender Queen'

Elpidote Yellow Flowered

First	Hemminger	'Crest'
Second	Hemminger	'Horizon Monarch'
Second	Shuster	'Nancy Evans'
Third	Hemminger	'Nancy Evans'
Third	Finley	'Nancy Evans'
Hon.Mention	Hemminger	'Odee Wright'

Elpidote Orange Flowered

First	Spohn	'George Delight'
Second	Hemminger	'Virginia Richards'
Third	Finley	<i>fabia</i> x <i>bureavii</i> x 'Crest'

Lepidote Pink

First	Hemminger	'Wee Bee'
Second	Shuster	'Alison Johnstone'
Third	Shuster	'Crys' x 'Rhodes'

Lepidote Purple

First	Hemminger	'Wigeon'
Second	Finley	'Wigeon'
Third	Finley	'Ramapo'

Lepidote Yellow

First	Finley	'Chiff Chaff'
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Lepidote Orange

First	Cook	'Conroy'
Second	Spohn	'Medusa'
Third	Cook	'Cinkeys'

Azalea

Place	Awarded To	Plant
First	Clay	'Hino Crimson'
First	Finley	'Refrain'
First	Finley	'Corsage'
Second	Finley	'Fraseri'
Second	Finley	'Gerard's Fuschia'
Second	Shuster	'Lloyd Smith'
Third	Shuster	'Hino White'

White Blotched Flower

First	Hemminger	'Phyllis Korn'
Second	Lamont/Powroznik	'Cunningham's White'

Pink Blotched Flower

First	Hemminger	'Cosmopolitan'
Second	Clay	'Noble Mountain'
Third	Hemminger	'Noble Mountain'

Yellow Blotched Flower

Second	Hemminger	'Golden Wit'
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Orange Blotched Flower

Second	Hemminger	Mrs. Betty Robertson'
Second	Mischke	'Paprika Spiced'

Azaleadendron

Second	Hemminger	'Ria Hardijzer'
Third	Lamont/Powroznik	'Hardijzer's Beauty'

New Hybrid

Hon.Mention	Hemminger	'Nancy Evans' x 'Candian Sunset'
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Triflora

First	Hemminger	<i>R. augustinii</i> 'Eleanor'
First	Hemminger	<i>R. concinnum</i>
First	Hemminger	<i>R. oreotrephes</i>
Second	Hemminger	<i>R. augustinii</i> 'Playfair'
Third	Hemminger	<i>R. augustinii</i> Lochmium'
Third	Mischke	<i>R. oreotrephes</i>
Third	Finley	<i>R. oreotrephes</i>

All discrepancies, disagreements or disputes pertaining to the previously listed VRS 2007 Show Judging results should be directed to the Judging Committee or the VRS President.



Everybody appeared to be having a good time during the walk in the Ted and Mary Greig Rhododendron Garden in Stanley Park the evening of May 17th. The various botanical, horticultural, and historical facts, as well as the occasional affectionate altercation, that emerged from our two guides, Alleyne Cook and Clive Justice, (photo left) were generally appreciated by everyone who heard them. We also discovered, pretty much by chance, low on the ground and half hidden under foliage, the plaque indicating the origin of most of the plants and the dedication of the garden in 1989 by the Vancouver Rhododendron Society. It has occurred to me that over the passage of time this bit of history - that is, the central role played by the VRS in the dedication of this important city garden - might be lost among VRS members, and that a reminder is in order, especially for those of us not around to be present at the 1989 ceremony.

The plaque itself, at present so obscure, and the direction signs, were paid for by the VRS, as stipulated by the Parks Board—about \$500, a substantial amount at the time. The late John Bond, then Keeper of the Gardens at Windsor Great Park in England, was the distinguished guest at the ceremony, and Alleyne Cook, who was responsible for the transfer of the plants from the Royston Nursery (belonging to Ted and Mary Greig) on Vancouver Island, and creator of the garden itself, had to be inveigled into attending the ceremony. (Alleyne also enlarged the garden, ever so slightly each year, at the cost of the pitch and putt golf course!) But with Glen Patterson presiding, it was the Vancouver Rhododendron Society that was responsible for the dedication, and thus for the permanence and heritage status of the garden this dedication implies, as well as the tribute to Ted and Mary Greig. Members of the VRS should take pride in the

part their Society played in this beautiful little bit of Vancouver history.

But, as I have learned is generally the case in garden politics, the entire issue was not without controversy. The garden that we all enjoyed that Thursday evening was nearly eliminated entirely. The Parks Board, along with a good number of VRS members, preferred to move all the rhododendrons from the Greig collection to VanDusen Garden, a plan naturally welcome to Roy Forster, then Director of VanDusen. Apparently a compromise was reached in that all the species rhododendrons were moved, while the hybrids remained in Stanley Park, which is why we saw few, if any, species while touring the garden.

Among these hybrids, however, are certain ones originating in the Greig collection, generally containing the prefix 'Royston' in their names—'Royston Rose', 'Royston Orange', 'Royston Peach', 'Royston Radiance', 'Royston Opaline', 'Royston Red', 'Royston Reverie', etc—, and having *R. auriculatum* as one parent. *R. 'Fabia'* was used as the other parent in several, where the colour name gives it away—'Royston Orange', 'Royston Peach', for example. This is a unique set of hybrids, as the plaque itself indicates, late flowering and bringing colour to flowers similar to the white *auriculatum* itself, and often maintaining its lovely fragrance.

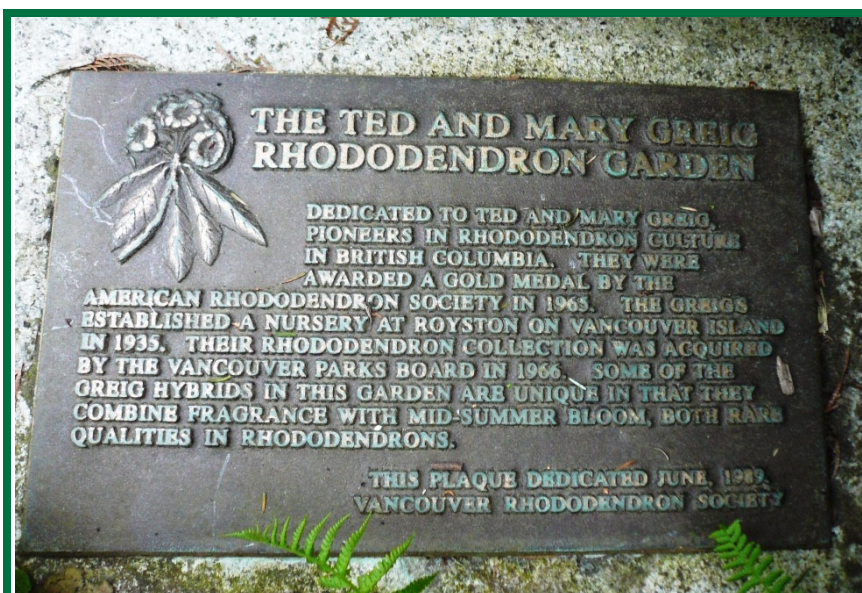
See **"Whether These Hybrids"** on page 6



Whether these hybrids can actually match the species in beauty is uncertain of course. Chapter founding member and Editor of its first newsletter, Lillian Hodgson, made a point of getting Alleyne Cook to name any he had not already named, and registering them. But while Les Clay and others propagated many of them, they never became commercially viable because they flower after the rhododendron sales season is over, and the general public has little appreciation of the values they provide.

But back to the dedication ceremony. VRS President at the time was Bob Ogden, but he was of the party strongly preferring the transfer of all the plants to VanDusen. The issue, in fact, was quite contentious, undoubtedly with good arguments on both sides. So Glen Patterson, who was of the other party, and who essentially organized the event, presided over the ceremony, while making a point of recognizing Bob Ogden as President of the Society. John Bond dedicated the garden, and there were other speeches. The ceremony was followed by a VRS-sponsored garden party nearby, with VRS member Jean Round's daughter playing the cello. Ted Greig had already died by this time, but Mary Greig, then in her 90s, was in attendance in her wheel chair, accompanied by her daughter Susan Mouat and several other members of her family. Mary Greig was delighted both with the garden and with the occasion. The event was fully reported in the newspapers, with the articles accompanied by pictures of John Bond, of Alleyne and Barbara Cook, and of notable scenic spots in the garden.

Now we must persuade the Parks Board to improve the setting of the plaque by raising it and giving it more prominence, so people can actually see it and be apprised of a little of the garden's history. (For much of this history I am indebted to Glen Patterson.)



June Potluck Dinner

Be sure to attend the potluck supper, the last VRS event of the season, at **4 o'clock** the afternoon of **June 10th**, at the beautiful home and garden of **Bill and Suzanne Spohn** in West Vancouver at 2950 Palmerston Ave. Bill's email is wspohn4@aol.com if you have questions. And if you haven't done so already, please be sure to call **Vern Finley** at **604-581-5100**, to tell her what you plan to bring. Also, if you drink it, please bring a bottle of wine or a six-pack of beer to share. Bring lawn chairs for your comfort if you wish.

Then we'll take a break for recharging over the summer. This will be the last **Indumentum** until September. Because I don't really expect to see absolutely every VRS member at the Spohns', there may be three or four of you who can't make it, have a wonderful summer everyone.

Our first regular meeting of the 2007-2008 season will be on **September 20th**. See you then.

Joanne Ronlsey - VRS President

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Membership Report

I look forward to meeting you all, please come and meet me at the Membership Table at the monthly meetings.

Membership dues for 2007 are now due and I will be pleased to renew your membership (and welcome new memberships) at the meetings or by mail.

Guests are always welcome!

Philip MacDougall
VRS Membership Chair
14776 90th Avenue
Surrey, BC V3R 1A4



Vancouver Chapter

Do You Have Some News or a Picture?

Letters to the **INDUMENTUM**, news, pictures and anything rhodo or just for interest, can be e-mailed to Todd or Shannon Major at stmajor@shaw.ca. If you wish to mail us an article or some pictures (which we will return to you) please give us a call at 604 941 7507 to obtain our mailing address. 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!

Visit our online repository for past **INDUMENTUM** issues, hosted by the UBC Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research at this link: www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org/vrs

Visit our website at WWW.RHODO.CITYMAX.COM

Todd & Shannon Major,
INDUMENTUM Editors

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St Columba's 'Cynthia' Revisited by Clive Justice



Clive Justice points to a rhodo during a garden walk

The rhododendron hybrids George Fraser carried in his isolated Westcoast Ucluelet Nursery were all Waterer created hybrids. All that is except for the first ever named hybrid 'Cunninghami' a *caucasicum* hybrid created or selected by the Cunningham nursery in Scotland. When I looked through George Fraser's 1925 catalogue and compared it with the 1922 Layritz list for a recent May, 2006 Indumentum article, it failed to register with me that the Fraser or the Layritz nursery did not include hybrid 'Cynthia'. 'Cerise, Cynthia' was an introduction from the mid 1850s by the Standish and Noble Nursery that had become Sunningdale Nurseries, when the partnership of Standish and Charles Noble broke up in 1857.

In the 1960s I received the George Fraser letters from Joe Gable that he said he would send me when I had first talked with him in 1957, at the ARS International convention in Portland. It was a busy time for our firm of landscape architects so it wasn't until the Spring of 1977 that we made it over to the Ucluelet, Tofino area

on the West coast of Vancouver Island to investigate whether there were any remains of the Ucluelet nursery or any large rhododendrons in gardens in the two communities since Fraser's death in 1944. Much to our surprise we found a very large rhodo in full bloom beside the St Columba Anglican church in Tofino. It was deep mauve pink a nice round truss classic rhodo leaf shape so we named it 'Cynthia'. Both Lil Hodgson and I wrote articles for the ARS journal that perpetuated the name. There it stood, no one questioned it although there were some doubters, no one said anything.

As I had only seen very large rhodos on our 1974 trip to Sikkim and Nepal Himalayas; all were species. The only large deep pink hybrids I had seen were the two 'Cynthia's' that Ted Van Veen had moved into the Portland ARS chapter Crystal Springs Rhododendron Test Garden in East Portland. The Park was across the street from Reid College. I also remember landscaper Len Living trying to move a Dunbar area front-lawn 'Cynthia' specimen out of flower. While digging out the root ball we tipped it over to free it in the hole and the 6ft dia ball top broke off from the root cleanly as if severed with a saw. Len was out \$50, his labour costs and \$5 for a replacement rhodo. In those days most if not all rhodo hybrids were grafted on *ponticum* or *caucasicum* understock.

Ken Gibson, Tofino Historian tells me that St Columba Anglican Church was built in 1913. Ken also says that the church grounds were landscaped soon after by George Fraser using plant material from his Ucluelet nursery. A close examination of later photographs especially the one with Gene Rounds' daughter all in white, standing under it (photo top of page 9), taken when the Vancouver Chapter, Harold Johnson led tour of the Ucluelet Tofino area in May of 1983. Then as before it was touted as 'Cynthia'.

continued see "A photo also taken on our 1977 visit" on page 9



A photo also taken on our 1977 visit was of a large rhodo with red flowers (photo below). It was also on the church property but to the rear and below. In the background up above the flowers is the distinctive flared shingle roof of the St. Columba's steeple. We never got around to identifying it, but with George Fraser's nursery list in hand it is none other than 'John Waterer'. It is a cross made by Anthony Waterer the founder of the Waterer Nursery firm 50% *catawbiense* and 50% unknown probably *arboreum*, and named for his son John. It was introduced in the 1850s.

Our 'Cynthia' turns out to be another Waterer creation, 'Mrs Milner'. It was probably named in honour of the mother of Alfred Milner 1st Viscount Milner (1854-1925) who after passing out of Oxford with honours became Assistant Editor of the Pall Mall Gazette, moving on to become Undersecretary of Revenue for Egypt. His book "England in Egypt" came out in 1892. In it he recommended independence for the then British Protectorate. After 1900 he became Governor of Cape Colony S.A. and then Transvaal. He was secretary of War during the Boer war and WWI.

You won't find either 'John Waterer' or 'Mrs Milner' on the St Columba churchyard if you visit Tofino today; Ken tells me these rhodos, sadly, have gone. I will try to find out who was the architect for St Columba, hopefully before it too disappears. Of course all you trivia buffs know who St. Columba was.

