



Membership News

February 2011

Vol 2, No 2

President's Corner

How wonderful to recently receive a few of those rare warm sunny days that sometimes arrive to brighten the gloom of our rainy winters. I am sure that I was not alone in taking the opportunity to venture into the garden. I was pleased to see snowdrops and witch hazel in bloom and, even though we are located high on the mountainside in Lions Bay, our early rhododendrons are showing colour. Given reasonable weather I expect *R moupinense*, *R mucronulatum* and *R dauricum* to bloom in mid-February. I never fail to be a little bit excited by these early flowers although I know that I am being overly optimistic in believing spring has arrived; one cold snap and I am brought back to the reality of what the calendar shows. But it is better to live in hope and enjoy what comes our way, whether it is in the garden or elsewhere.

The VRS Annual General Meeting was held on 20 January and was relatively well-attended with 32 members and 3 guests present. Traditionally, the AGM is the least-attended meeting of the year. I expect people envision a long and boring business aspect with the 'members slides' being a brief interlude in the proceedings. How far from the truth that is! The business part of the meeting lasted less than 20 minutes and then those of us that were present enjoyed four delightful presentations:

- **Daniel Mosquin** gave us a peek into the flora of the Siskiyou mountains which, for me, was both enlightening and entertaining
- **Bill Spohn** showed some wonderful images of plants from his garden and surely inspired some members to try macro photography
- **Andy Hill** intrigued us with a tantalizing glimpse of Sichuan, China
- And last, but by no means least, **Jacquie Clayton** provided an impressionistic visit to Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden in Cape Town, South Africa.



R trichostomum ... RSB Garden

So for those of you that did not attend, and missed out on these interesting presentations, take note, and remember to come to the January 2012 AGM.

The business part of the meeting was the election by acclamation of the Executive Committee of the Society. I am pleased to welcome three new members of the Executive ... **Kathy Lau** is our new Treasurer, and **Frances Lam** and **Teresa Stancioff** are directors at large. Retiring from the Executive are **Joanne Ronsley** (Past President), **Dana Cromie** (Treasurer), and **Alan Cheung** (Director at Large). Thanks are due to all three for their contributions to the VRS.

In my 10 years or so association with the VRS, either Joe or Joanne Ronsley, and frequently both Joe and Joanne, have been on the Executive in one capacity or other. I understand that this tradition, for surely that is what it has been, extends back well into the early 90's for what must be an unparalleled record of service to the Society. All of us owe deep gratitude to Joanne and Joe's energy, leadership and dedication. I am humbled by the standard that they have set for those of us that follow them.



***R keiskei* (Japan) ... RSB Garden**

Dana Cromie has worked diligently for the last four years as our Treasurer, a demanding position that is so important to the well-being of the Society and a role that perhaps fails to get the recognition that it deserves. Thanks to Dana for doing such a great job for the VRS.

Alan was a good addition to the Executive and we are sad to lose him after one year due to the demands of his young family. Alan will continue to help out at the VRS wherever he can and I look forward to seeing him play a future role within the VRS.

Thanks are also due to those people who are continuing as members of the Executive ... Don Haslam, Norah Hall, Jo and Bob Wright, Jasbir Gill, Philip MacDougall, Bill Spohn, and Sean Rafferty.

There is still a gap on the executive in as much as the position of Editor for *Indumentum* remains vacant. Bob and Jo Wright stepped forward almost a year ago and have filled the communication void with the monthly *Membership News*, and will continue to perform this vital task for the VRS, for the moment. Please show your support for Bob and Jo's efforts by sharing any relevant newsworthy item, a note on a plant, an image or anything that you think may be of interest to our members.

In closing I would just like to note that the ongoing success of all volunteer organizations depends upon the wholehearted support and participation of the members. In the VRS we all have a role to play and I encourage everyone to become involved.

Tony Clayton, President

The 2011 Executive

President	Tony Clayton	(604) 921-7947	tclayton@telus.net
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Director	Teresa Stancioff	(604) 254-4977	teresa.stancioff@gmail.com
Director	Frances Lam		

Upcoming VRS Meeting

The next meeting will be on **Thursday, February 17**, at the Van Dusen Floral Hall. We generally gather at around 7:00 pm, the meeting starts at 7:30 pm. Guests are always welcome.

The talk this month is ...

A Year in the Life, The Government House Gardens

Our speaker, **Carol Dancer**, has been a member of the American Rhododendron Society for over 25 years. She has gardened from St John's, Newfoundland to Victoria, BC, with several gardens in between. Carol is a member of the Friends of the Gardens at UBC, the Advisory Board at Finnerty Gardens, University of Victoria, and recently ended a 7-year tenure as the Garden Advisor at Government House Gardens.



R. augustinii 63.1 ... RSB Garden

Carol's talk will incorporate a brief history of the Government House Gardens in Victoria, as told through a slide presentation of a year in the gardens.

A link to Carol at a local gardening show ... <http://www.howtodothings.com/video/how-to-grow-primulas> ... and an article re *Rhododendron luteum* ... <http://www.atlanticrhodo.org/kiosk/features/misc/luteum.html>

Please join us for what promises to be a most interesting talk, and don't forget those contributions to the raffle table, and the refreshments table.

Other Chapters

Guests are always welcome at these other chapters, and, as a member of the VRS, you can get a year's associate membership for \$10 or \$15 ... a bargain !



- **Fraser South** ... Wednesday, February 16 ... 7:30 pm
United Church Hall, 5673 - 200th Street, Langley
Speaker ... **Philip MacDougall**
Topic ... **The Carolinian Forest**



- **Peace Arch** ... Tuesday, February 22 ... 7:30 pm
Cranley Hall, 2141 Cranley Drive, White Rock
Speaker ... TBA



- **Fraser Valley** ... Monday, February 28 ... 7:30 pm
St. Andrew's Heritage Hall, 22279 - 116th Avenue, Maple Ridge
Speaker ... TBA

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society ... Spring Garden Tour



The following note was sent to us by the NRS ... we will keep you posted when details become available ...

As most of you already know, we will be having a garden tour on Sunday, May 22nd. This tour will be a fundraiser for the upcoming **ARS Western Regional Conference** which the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society is hosting in **September 2012**.

We already have a great selection of gardens – thank you to those who have volunteered to open their gardens for this event. We are now in the process of contacting vendors where tour tickets will be available at \$15.00 each. ... *Gayle and June*

Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society



The January 2011 issue of the CVRS newsletter was a special edition dedicated to the history of the Rhododendron Species Foundation, written by Joe Ronsley ... well worth a read, at the following website
... <http://cowichan.rhodos.ca/newsletters/newsletter.pdf>

Victoria Rhododendron Society



If you happen to be in the Victoria area, on Monday, February 7, 2011, our very own **Philip MacDougall** will be speaking about **Temperate Flora of Taiwan** ... Meeting 7:30 pm, at the Garth Homer Centre, 811 Darwin Street, Victoria ... at the same meeting, there will be a ten minute talk, by David Mackas, on the Marie Selby garden in Florida... for more info on the Victoria chapter,
<http://victoriarhodo.ca>

ARS National Convention, Vancouver, Washington ... May 11 to 15, 2011



In addition to the pdf file, which was distributed several weeks ago, containing information on the upcoming conference, there is also a video on YouTube ... <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pFnM0fAlcNc> ...

If you are not on line, but think you might be interested in attending the conference, give us a call, and we will mail you a hard copy of the conference information and registration form ... sorry we can't do anything about the video.

Mystery Garden



We had two responses to January's mystery garden photo ... Douglas Justice and Jennifer Lamb correctly stated that it was the Red Garden at Hidcote Manor, Gloucestershire, England ... a brief history:

The American, Lawrence Johnston, and his mother, came to the Gloucestershire Cotswolds in 1907 and bought up an old manor house at

a time when this was just becoming a fashionable thing to do. Lawrence developed a mania for gardening in general but - crucially - not for horticulture alone. He may have been plant-mad, even nurturing another garden (almost as important) on the French Riviera at Menton, but he also instinctively



understood the importance of design in any garden that aspires to greatness. It is moves such as the pool garden at Hidcote [above], where the brimming pool takes up almost the entirety of its yew enclosure, and the twin pavilions prefaced by pleached hornbeams, which mark it out as something special. The simple layout, with two axes, has long been strengthened and shaped by the presence of large cedars near the house.

Photo by Douglas Justice

A Piece of VRS History ... by Clive Justice



"In the early sixties, with the permission of Bill Livingstone, Vancouver Parks superintendent, we started a chapter display/test garden. It was located in and about the native, open-copsed area of Musqueam Park on the Crown Street side at Marine Drive. We organized several planting-Saturdays and planted a number of large and small rhodos, donated by members and local nurseries, at the park's woodland edge. Bill Livingstone donated the largest plant, an *R fargesii*. The writer gave a big old hybrid 'Madame Masson'. It wasn't long until most of the rhodos, large and small, disappeared, though - even some where the roots had been cabled. While we all felt very angry about it, we were not alone in our losses. Henry Eddie's nursery, along the west side of Musqueam Park, had received equal if not greater losses in this wild-Westside spate of rhododendron rustling. The project was eventually abandoned a few years later. " ..

Excerpt from Clive's 50-year history, on the VRS website ... www.rhodo.citymax.com

The above photo, of VRS members at Musqueam Park in 1963, was sent in by Clive Justice ... so far, we have identified, from left to right ... #2: Edith Lofthouse ... #4: Ellen Harley ... #5: Mrs Trayling ... #6: Vern Finley (!) ... #10: Beulah Freeman. Does anyone recognize any of the other members?



***R oreodoxa fargesii* ... RSB Garden**

... Hirsutum photo by Garth Wedemire

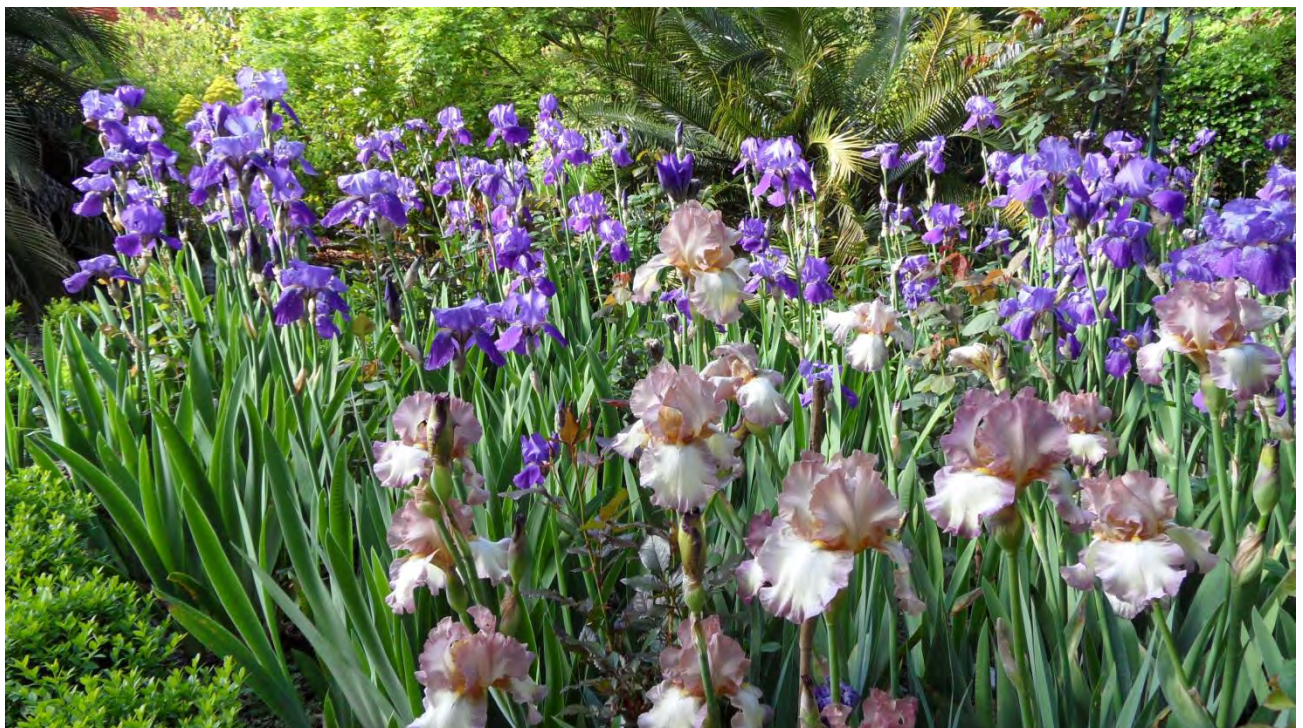
News from Oz ... Springtime in Australia ... Part IV

... by Milton and Christine Bowman



The following was sent to us in December by Chris and Milton, but due to space limitations, had to wait until this month ...

Here are a few more photos of our garden last month.... and yours truly with **R 'Ruby Bowman'** (no relation!). Also a photo of Chris's **bearded irises** which are multiplying at a great rate ...*cheers, Milton*





Thanks again, Milton and Christine, for brightening up our dreary winter with these beautiful pictures from 'down under' ... we invite our local members to send us pictures to forward to them, to brighten up their days, in a few months time ...



R 'Anna Kruschke'

Joe & Joanne's Enhanced Woodland ... Part 4 ... by Joe Ronsley

Thirdly, there is a matter of unity. It was perhaps in the large gardens in England that the fashion of 'garden rooms' evolved, where different parts of the garden are separated from each other by one means or another, hedges or walls for instance, and where thereby several different kinds of gardens could be created within the confines of a single domain. Despite the opportunities to have more variety among the plants and plantings one likes, however, we did not want this. Nor did we want to have a lawn and formal garden near the house, with a more natural woodland beyond, a plan that is also frequently implemented and which has a certain amount of real appeal. Instead, we were looking for an overall unity, a unity that would encompass not only the entire woodland garden, but the house as well, along with its surrounding hard surfaces. Avoiding the lawn and even a semi-formal look around the house was made easier because the land falls away sharply from the house, into the woods, as it were. Sitting and social areas are provided by the rather large deck attached to the house.



It is not that every place in the garden should look the same, or have the same atmosphere, but with simply different plants, as one walks through a natural woodland, the scene varies, with some places more densely wooded and others more open, some places steep and others relatively level. All is of a piece, though with natural variations. So it is in our garden: we have the natural variation of a woodland on a mountainside, with the vertical aspect and the creek providing even more

variation than otherwise might be the case, but also an overall unity which includes the house, and in fact the driveway right up to the road, though clearly the forest atmosphere is diminished, or lightened, in the immediate vicinity of house and driveway, and associated living areas. Consequently, there is no rock garden as such, though many plants are placed in conjunction with rocks; no rose garden, though there are a few shrubby roses; no perennial borders, though perennials are combined with shrubs and trees; and certainly no lawn at all.



While we have diversity in our plantings - the genus *Rhododendron* provides quite a lot of diversity in itself - we probably do not have the more extended diversity of many gardens that provide a whole different ambience from one place to another. Some diversity is traded off for unity.

Even where hard surfaces meet soft ones, plantings are kept as natural looking as the hard surfaces of steps and decks allow. Overall, a sense of unity prevails, then, in spite of the fact that in some areas the trees are limbed up and thinned, or may be nearly absent. In these places it is



Omphalodes verna

relatively sunny, with introduced flowering plants. In others the woods are left natural and dense, with the trees still containing dead lower limbs. Unity is further enhanced by the repeat of certain species throughout the garden. Aside from the native trees and undergrowth that are to be found everywhere, Japanese maples are planted in large numbers and extend throughout much of the garden, as do, of course, various species of rhododendrons and, to a lesser extent, camellias, and ground covers such as ***Omphalodes***.

We like to think, as we look up at the house from within the garden below, that while the atmosphere of coastal British Columbia prevails, there is something Japanese about the scene. The geographical dichotomy is not really contradictory, because a Japanese aesthetic, at least as I understand it, is easily applied to the British Columbia

landscape. The natural cedar, of which the house is built, with sloping cedar shake roofs and cedar decks, helps. So does the fact that the house is built into the hillside, appearing to emerge out of it. But what comes to the eye is an overall natural-looking woodland enhanced by non-native but harmonious woodsy plants, and containing a house made of untreated aging cedar sitting comfortably within it, blending in.

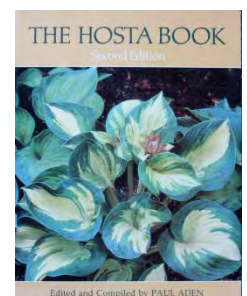
... to be continued

Library Corner

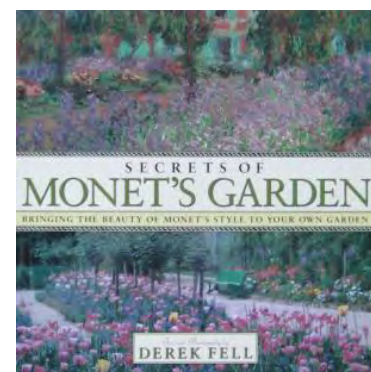
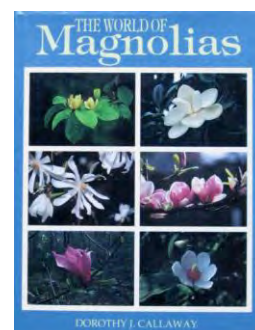
Last month we listed all of the rhododendron-related items currently in the VRS library. This second listing includes all non rhododendron-related volumes, including books about many other genera, and on garden design and gardening tips ... they occupy the bottom two shelves ...

GENERAL GARDENING

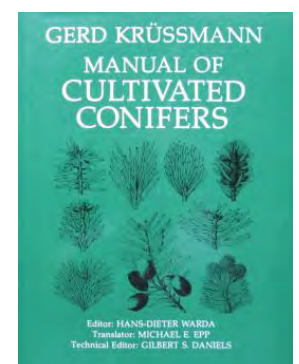
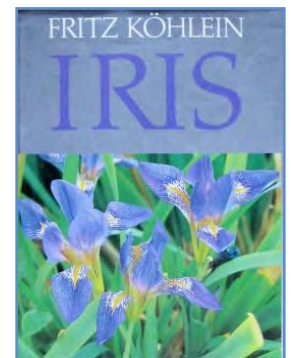
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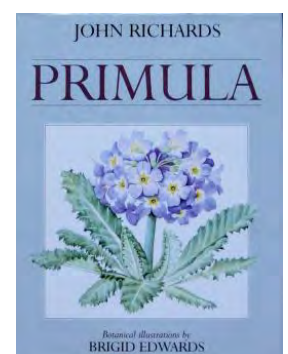
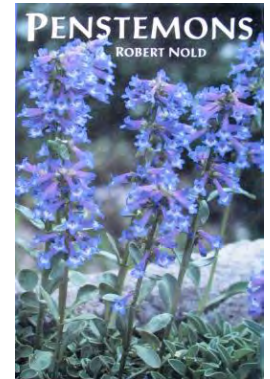
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- ❑ Bärtels, Andreas (1986) **Gardening with Dwarf Trees and Shrubs**, The Gardener's Handbook, volume 1, editor JP Baumgardt, Timber Press Inc, Portland, 294 pp
- ❑ Bellis, Florence (1986) **Gardening and Beyond**, Timber Press Inc, Portland, Oregon, 178 pp
- ❑ Bloom, Alan (1979) **Perennials for your Garden**, Floraprint Ltd, Nottingham, 144 pp
- ❑ Bloom, Alan (1981) **Alpines for your Garden**, Floraprint, Chicago, 128 pp ... 2 copies
- ❑ Bonsai Leaflets (9), various authors ... presented by Roger Low
- ❑ Brickell, Christopher & Joyce, David (1996) **Cavendish Encyclopedia of Pruning & Training**, Cavendish Books, Vancouver, 336 pp
- ❑ Briggs and Henny (1986) **Color Portraits of Outstanding Plants**, Briggs Nursery Inc and Thomas Henny Nursery, Offshoot Publications, Eugene, Oregon
- ❑ Callaway, Dorothy J (1994) **The World of Magnolias**, Timber Press Inc, Portland, Oregon, 260 pp
- ❑ Chatto, Beth (1989) **The Green Tapestry ...** Choosing and Grouping the best Perennial Plants for your Garden, Simon & Schuster, New York, 192 pp
- ❑ Clearview Horticultural Products (1996) **The Concise Guide to Clematis in North America ...** 32 pp
- ❑ Clegg, Peter & Watkins, Derry (1978) **The Complete Greenhouse Book ...** Building and Using Greenhouses from Coldframes to Solar Structures, Garden Way Publishing, Charlotte, Vermont, 280 pp
- ❑ Coombes, Allen J (1985) **Dictionary of Plant Names**, Timber Press Inc, Portland, 207 pp
- ❑ Coombes, Allen J (1994) **Dictionary of Plant Names**, Timber Press Inc, Portland, 195 pp
- ❑ Damp, Philip (1989) **A Plantsman's Guide to Dahlias**, series editor Alan Toogood, Ward Lock Ltd, London, 124 pp
- ❑ Davis, Brian (1998) **The Plant Selector**, Cavendish Books, Vancouver, 239 pp
- ❑ Dirr, Michael A & Heuser, Charles W, Jr (1987) **The Reference Manual of Woody Plant Propagation: From Seed to Tissue Culture ...** A practical working guide to the propagation of over 1100 species, varieties and cultivars, Varsity Press Inc, Athens, Georgia, 239 pp
- ❑ Evans, Alfred (1974) **The Peat Garden & It's Plants ...** an RHS publication, JM Dent & Sons Ltd, London, 164 pp
- ❑ Fairweather, Christopher (1986) **Garden Shrubs All Year Around**, Blandford Press, Poole, Dorset, 160 pp
- ❑ Fell, Derek (1980) **How to Photograph Flowers, Plants & Landscapes**, vol 11, HP Books, Tucson, 160 pp
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- ❑ Ferguson, Nicola (1984) **Right Plant, Right Place ...** The Indispensable Guide to the Successful Garden, Summit Books, Simon & Schuster, NY, 292 pp
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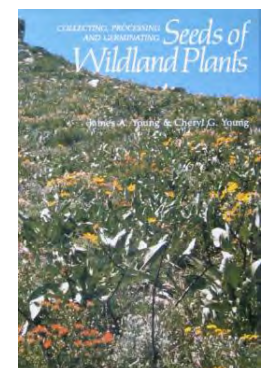
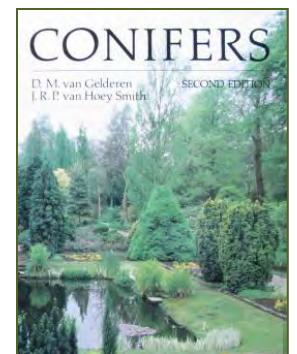
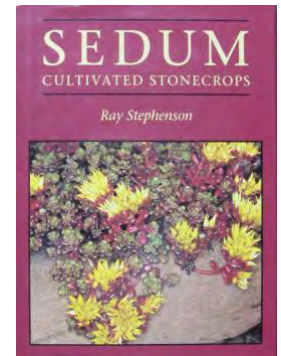
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- Hartmann, HT and Kester, DE (1959) **Plant Propagation, Principles and Practices**, 4th edition, Prentice-Hall Inc, New Jersey, 725 pp
- Hay, Roy & Syngé, Patrick (1969) **The Color Dictionary of Flowers and Plants for Home and Garden**, Compact Edition, Crown Publishers Inc, New York, 584 pp
- Hillier, Harold G (1982) **The Hillier Colour Dictionary of Trees and Shrubs**, Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, New York, 323 pp
- Hudak, Joseph (1993) **Gardening with Perennials, Month by Month**, 2nd edition, revised and expanded, Timber Press Inc, Portland, 327 pp
- Huse, RD & Kelly, KL (184) **A Contribution Toward Standardization of Colour Names in Horticulture** ... Application of the Universal Colour Language to the Colours of the Royal Horticultural Society's Colour Chart, editor Donald H Voss, ARS Publication, 43 pp
- Ingwersen, Will (1986) **Ingwersen's Manual of Alpine Plants**, Collingridge Books, 445 pp
- Jaynes, Richard A (1988) **Kalmia, The Laurel Book II**, Timber Press Inc, Portland, 220 pp
- Jaynes, Richard A (1997) **Kalmia: Mountain Laurel & Related Species**, Timber Press Inc, Portland, 295 pp
- Johnson, Hugh (1979) **The Principles of Gardening** ... A Guide to the art, history, science and practice of gardening, Simon & Schuster, New York, 272 pp
- Justice, Clive (2002) **The English Garden Legacy in Canadian Ornamental Gardens, 1888-1999**. PhD Thesis, Simon Fraser University ... 367 pp
- Köhlein, Fritz (1987) **Iris, The Gardener's Handbook**, volume 2, editor JP Baumgardt, Timber Press Inc, Portland, 370 pp
- Kruckeberg, Arthur R (1982) **Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest** ... An Illustrated Guide, U of Washington Press, Seattle, 252 pp
- Krüssmann, Gerd (1982) **Pocket Guide to Choosing Woody Ornamentals**, A concise manual for the correct use of woody landscape plants ... translated by Epp, ME, Timber Press Inc, Portland, 141 pp ... 2 copies
- Krüssmann, Gerd (1985) **Manual of Cultivated Conifers**, Timber Press Inc, Portland, 361 pp
- Lancaster, Roy (1974) **Trees for your Garden**, Floraprint Ltd, Nottingham, 146 pp
- Lancaster, Roy (1995) **What Plant Where** ... The creative guide to choosing the best plants for every area of your garden, Cavendish Books, Vancouver, 256 pp
- Lloyd, Christopher (1997) **Gardener Cook**, Frances Lincoln Ltd, London, 255 pp
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- ❑ Milnes, Lynne (1995) **In a Victoria Garden**, Orca Book Publishers, Victoria, 121 pp
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- ❑ Nold, Robert (1999) **Penstemons**, Timber Press Inc, Portland, Oregon, 259 pp
- ❑ North America Rock Garden Society (1996) **Rock Garden Plants of North America**, editor Jane McGary, NARGS Publication, 459 pp
- ❑ Perkins, Benjamin (1991) **Trees**, Grange Books, London, 176 pp
- ❑ Pettinger, April (1996) **Native Plants in the Coastal Garden ... A Guide for Gardeners in British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest**, Whitecap Books, Vancouver, 170 pp
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- ❑ Province Of British Columbia (1982) **Pest Control for the Home & Garden ... Insects. Plant Diseases. Vertebrates. Weeds.**, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Victoria, BC, 118 pp
- ❑ RHS (1983) **The Wisley Book of Gardening, A Guide for Enthusiasts**, editor Robert Pearson, WW Norton & Company, New York, 352 pp
- ❑ RHS (1992) **Dictionary of Gardening**, Book 1 (A-C) ... ed A Huxley, The Stockton Press, New York, 815 pp
- ❑ RHS (1992) **Dictionary of Gardening**, Book 2 (D-K) ... ed A Huxley, The Stockton Press, New York, 747 pp
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- ❑ RHS (1992) **Dictionary of Gardening**, Book 4 (R-Z) ... ed A Huxley, The Stockton Press, New York, 888 pp
- ❑ Rice, G & Strangman, E (1993) **The Gardener's Guide to Growing Hellebores**, Timber Press Inc, 160 pp
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- ❑ Roger, Alan (1993) **Bonsai, A Wisley Handbook**, The Royal Horticultural Society, Cassell, 64 pp
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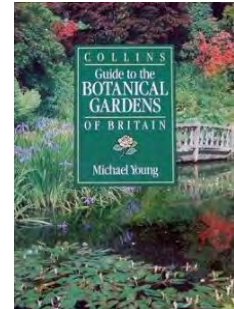
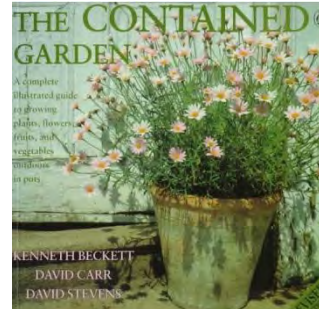
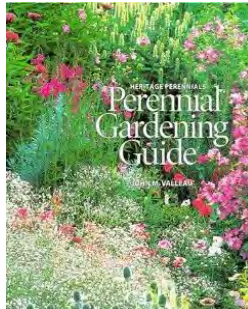
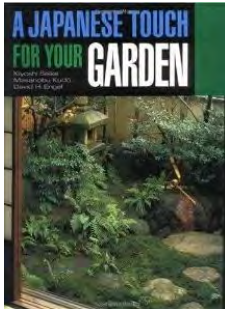
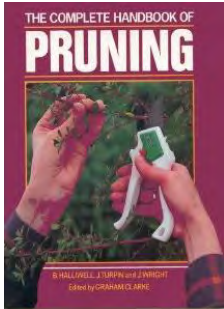
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MEMBERS' FORUM

101 Uses for a Pink Rhodo ...

While stuck in a traffic jam in New Westminster a few weeks ago, we glanced over to see ...



speaking of pink rhodos ...

Now THAT'S a rhodo...

In Ladysmith ... over 100 years old

Sent in by Moira Leishman

*Money can't buy you happiness but it
does bring you a more pleasant form of
misery. ... Spike Milligan*



Thanks to the following, for contributing to the *Membership News*: Tony Clayton, Clive Justice, Douglas Justice, Jennifer Lamb, Moira Leishman, Joe Ronsley, Garth Wedemire

Photo credits

Omphalodes verna

<http://aimer-la-france.blogspot.com>

Bob & Jo Wright



***R huianum* ... Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, Federal Way, WA**