

INDUMENTUM

RON KNIGHT



GENERAL MEETING:

NO GENERAL MEETING - INSTEAD WE GO FOR A WALK IN THE GARDEN ON THURSDAY MAY 17.

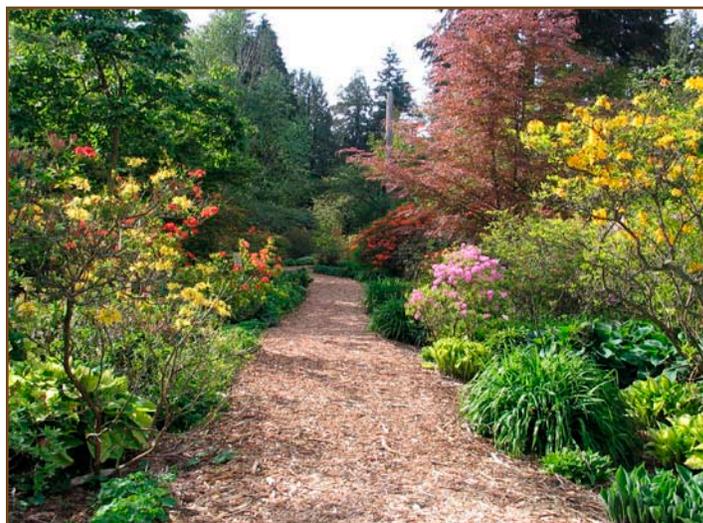
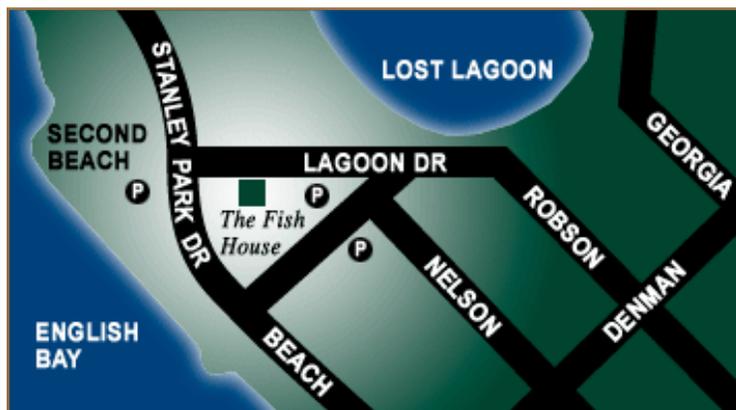
THE GARDEN:

TED AND MARY GREIG GARDEN IN STANLEY PARK.

TIME:

MEET AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE PARKING LOT OF THE FISH HOUSE RESTAURANT - 8901 STANLEY PARK DRIVE.

Each season we end our annual program with a walk in the garden, usually at a public botanic garden or park. This year we will be touring the Ted and Mary Greig Garden in Stanley Park. Our tour will be led by Alleyne Cook, the creator of the garden. The Greig garden contains more than 250 azalea hybrids along with many other non-rhodo plants. The garden and surrounding areas contain one of the best collections of temperate rhododendron, azalea, magnolia, camellia, maples and perennials in Vancouver. Some of the plants date back to the 1970's. The azalea walk (photo right by Todd Major), is undoubtedly the showiest section, has vibrant colours which provide a wonderful display in May. The walk in the garden will also be a good opportunity to see if the garden sustained any damage during the winter storms. Directions to the Fish House Restaurant are below. Map below courtesy of the Fish House Restaurant. Visit the Fish house website at www.fishhousestanleypark.com



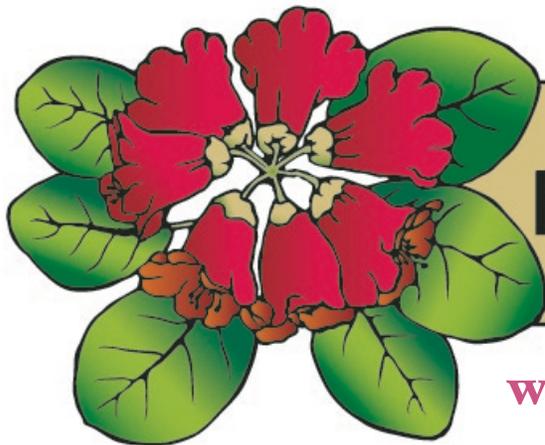
I hope you can come out and enjoy a walk in the garden and feast your eyes on the awesome display of colour and texture that is grown in one of Vancouver's foremost collections of ornamental flowering plants.
Best Regards, Todd Major.

TAM

Rhododendron Show and Sale

Saturday May 5 & Sunday May 6
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

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President's Message

Judging from my own reaction along with conversation with several other members, our last meeting of the season in the Floral Hall ended on a very high note indeed. Not only did we have Douglas Justice's usual inspiring performance and a superb and beautiful lecture on Rowallane from former Director Mike Snowden, but the general atmosphere at the meeting was lively and full of interest. A special abundance, both on the plant sales tables and the raffle tables, and the refreshment table, contributed considerably, but the real vitality comes from people, and it was produced by the members themselves.

Our meetings and lectures in the VanDusen Floral Hall for the 2006-2007 VRS season are now over. But the season itself is not!

On **May 5th and 6th** we have our all-important **Show and Sale at Park and Tilford Gardens**, in North Vancouver. If you are not yet signed up to help with this event, and are free to do so, please call me at 604-921-9444, or email me at jronsley@telus.net. The more one engages in activities in any organization to more one get out of membership. Being at the centre is a lot more fun than being at the margin. And if you fail to sign up, and simply turn up at Park and Tilford willing to work, you will definitely not be turned away!

On **May 17th** we will be out for a **walk in the Ted and Mary Greig Garden**. This will be a great chance to see azaleas in full bloom and to learn from the garden's creator **Alleyne Cook**, who will lead the tour. Photo below, aerial photo of the Ted and Mary Greig Garden in Stanley Park, by Grant Oberg.



On **Sunday, June 10th**, we will have our last event of the season, the annual pot-luck supper, this year at the home and garden of VRS members **Bill and Suzanne Spohn**, in West Vancouver. But we will have more details on that next month. Meanwhile, save the date, and please let **Vern Finley** know what you will be bringing (tel. 604-581-5100). This, as I have said, is our last event until September.

I do want to thank you all for making our Floral Hall meetings the very real success that they are. In the end, credit for our success goes to the members of the VRS.

Joanne Ronsley - VRS President

ARS Gold Medal Awarded to Steve Hootman

Steve Hootman, co-Executive Director of the Rhododendron Species Foundation, frequent and a favorite speaker at the VRS, was awarded the Gold Medal of the American Rhododendron Society, the Society's highest award, at the convention banquet in San Francisco the evening of April 14th. A variation of the award citation reads as follows:

To Steve Hootman—one of the foremost international plant hunters of the late 20th and early 21st centuries, and one of the most intrepid; Co-Director of the Rhododendron Species Foundation and Botanical Garden where he maintains a determining role in making the garden a premier garden of its kind in the world, and facilitating the mandate of the Foundation beyond all expectations, especially in regard to conservation, distribution, and education; a lecturer and educator extraordinaire on the subject of rhododendrons; a significant contributor to ongoing scientific research on rhododendrons; Co-Editor of the RSF yearbook *Rhododendron Species*; and among the most knowledgeable people in the world on the genus *Rhododendron*—the American Rhododendron Society is pleased to bestow its highest honour, the Gold Medal.

Steve was nominated for the award with supporting letters from: The Lady Anne Berry, Ken Cox, Peter Cox, Susan Davies, Ben Hall, Tom Hudson, Douglas Justice, Chip Muller, Sean Rafferty, Brenda Macdonald, Garratt Richardson, Vicomte Philippe de Spoelberch, Keith White, Fred Whitney and Joe Ronsley.

Vancouver Rhododendron Society Open Gardens Spring 2007

The following gardens will be open for your touring enjoyment. Please put these dates on your calendar as a reminder. Folks go to a fair amount of trouble to have their gardens ship shape for your pleasure. Plan to visit and to enjoy these delightful gardens.

Margaret Charlton

May 2007 Open Gardens

Saturday, May 12 from 10am to 3pm

Richard & Heather Mossakowski: 155 Highview Place, Lions Bay

Joe & Joanne Ronsley: 250 Oceanview Dr., Lions Bay

These two gardens are within walking distance of each other. Both gardens are on challenging sites and the plantings have been magnificently incorporated into the natural West Coast vegetation. Every rhododendron lover should visit the two gardens.

Saturday, May 12 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Glenda Powroznik - The Lamont Garden -17918 - 68th Avenue, Surrey, BC

A beautiful private garden built up over many years containing rhodos and many other ornamental plants.

Sunday, May 13th from 12pm to 4pm

Ron Feicht & Derrick Hoffman: 6080 Eagleridge Drive, West Vancouver

This very interesting garden just keeps getting better & better.

Iain & Barbara Forsythe: 2939 Mathers Ave, West Vancouver

Iain & Barbara have a mature garden to which they are giving new life, gradually modifying it to reflect their vision and love of rhododendrons.

Saturday, May 19th from 1pm to 5pm (Today's two gardens are easy driving distance apart)

Vern Finley: 10476 -125B St., Surrey

Vern has a very large garden with an extensive collection of mature rhododendrons, including many of her own hybrids.

Philip MacDougall: 14776 - 90th Ave Surrey

Philip's is a new garden with an impressive mix of plants. His passion for propagating is clear upon entering his new greenhouse.

Saturday, May 26th 10am to 2pm

Geri & Michael Barnes:

1890 - 28th St, West Vancouver

From Marine Drive go north on 27th past Palmerston to where the road curves into 28th.

Margot Ketchum: 55 Glenmore Dr, West Vancouver

Ray & Brian Talbot: 3254 Mathers Rd., West Vancouver

These three gardens are well established with fine collections of rhododendrons that are complemented by a diverse range of woodland plants. Each garden is unique in its design. These three gardens are jewels.

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MISSION: 604-826-9112

NORTH VAN: 604-980-6340 OR 988-8082

OCEAN PARK 604-535-8853

Just For Interest

Photo below R. 'Princess Abkhazi' by Ron Knight



Photo right
R. 'Carillon Bells'
by Lawrence Yung,
Grown in his kitchen



Species Study Days in Vancouver?

The VRS Executive is looking for expressions of interest to find out if anyone would attend a Species Day workshop if held in Vancouver or Victoria. There are a number of our members who have not attended Species Days because they feel it takes too much time and money to travel to Seattle.



A locally held Species Study Day will only be held if there is enough interest expressed. It would be more

efficient and affordable to hold such a valuable learning experience in Victoria or Vancouver.

Contact Joanne Ronsley if you are interested,
Email: jronsley@telus.net or Phone: 604-921-0444

Painting Exhibition By Mary Comber Miles

Mary Comber Miles is exhibiting a collection of her botanical paintings with informative notes on her subjects in the Gala Gallery at 2432 Marine Drive, Dundarave, West Vancouver. Her Husband Victor Miles will concurrently show a selection of his works. VRS members and interested freinds would be welcomed to the opening on Friday May 25 from 6-9pm. The exhibit runs from May 26th to June 4th during the gallery hours of 10am - 5:30 pm, Tuesday through Saturday, Sunday 11:00am - 5:00 pm, closed Mondays. For more infromation visit www.galagallery.ca, Email galagallery@telus.net or phone 604 913 1059.

Photo of a painting by Mary Comber Miles of *Mutisia* species . Copyright protected, used with permission.



Nominate the 2010 Rhododendron of the Year

American Rhododendron Society District 1, to which the Vancouver Rhododendron Society belongs, has for some reason called for a 2010 'Rhododendron of the Year'. My choices, perhaps perversely, would be something like *R. nuttallii* or *R. rhabdotum*. But to satisfy the request more realistically, I ask all VRS members who have a choice, a favorite rhododendron as it were, to kindly send their nominations to Todd Major, Editor of the Indumentum. He looks forward to receiving your selections.



Joe Ronsley

Ecological and evolutionary determinants of a key plant functional trait: wood density and its community-wide variation across latitude and elevation - Abstract

Wood density is an important trait in trees indicative of their life history and mechanical and physiological strategies. The following examines the evolutionary ecology of wood density using a large database for seed plants. In particular, we focused on the geographic and phylogenetic variation in wood density for both gymnosperms and angiosperms. A phylogenetic supertree was constructed for over 4600 taxa, allowing for comprehensive analyses of divergences across the seed plant phylogeny. Community-wide means and variances for wood densities were quantified for 171 standardized forest communities. Wood density was generally highly conserved across the entire seed plant phylogeny, yet large divergences were found within the rosoid clade. Geographic and community variation in wood density, however, was significantly lower in temperate and high elevation communities, dominated by gymnosperms, than in tropical lowland communities, dominated by angiosperms, suggesting an increase in trait and, to some extent, clade filtering with latitude and elevation. Together, our results support the notion that both biotic and abiotic forces have been important in the evolution of wood density as well as in controlling the observed trait mean and variance across geographic gradients.

By Nathan G. Swenson and Brian J. Enquist
Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona; and Center for Applied Biodiversity Science, Conservation International, Arlington, Virginia. Article Courtesy of the Journal of Botany.

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

CONTACT YOUR VRS EXECUTIVE

President

Joanne Ronsley
Email: jronsley@telus.net
Phone: 604-921-0444

Vice President

Sean Rafferty
Email: seanraff@shaw.ca
Phone: 604 990 5353

Secretary

Radojka Harris
Email: radojka.harris@eclipsys.com
Phone: 604-224-9334

Treasurer

Barbara Sherman
Email: barb23@gmail.com
Phone: 604-939-6511

Membership Chair

Philip MacDougall
Email: philipmacd123@hotmail.com
Phone: 604-580-3219

Lecture Program Co-Chairs

Joe Ronsley
Email: jronsley@telus.net
Phone: 604-921-0444

Louis Peterson (Past President)
Email: lpeterso@sfu.ca
Phone: 604-921-7260

Newsletter Editors

Todd & Shannon Major
Email: stmajor@shaw.ca
Phone 604-941-7507

Director

Don Haslam
Email: dhaslam@kmslawyers.com

Webmaster

Bill Spohn
Email: wspohn4@aol.com

Director

Tony Clayton
Email: tclayton@telus.net

Director

Iain Forsythe



The Beauty of Bark By Barbara Cook

Although the elegant rhododendron gives an extravagance of beautiful flowers and achingly lovely leaves, occasionally these are surpassed by quite wonderful bark. At the Princeton, New Jersey, Rhododendron Conference, on the-books-for-sale table, I skipped over the old chesnuts, but pounced on one named TREE BARK. It has a scholarly text, with fascinating botanical facts of bark composition, followed by sharply clear hundreds of photos of the world's trees. There are no rhododendrons in it but it set my mind racing. I would indeed plant many rhododendrons for their bark alone.

R. thomsonii first, with its slim smooth, soft red is a yearlong joy. In gardens everywhere it is instantly recognized and greeted like an old friend. Older plants may peel revealing more delicate multicolours. So it is a three-in-one, with flowers leaves and bark to delight. *R. glaucophyllum* gleams with a coppery sheen. Little prostrate *R. sargentianum* hides its white beauty and one needs to part and peer into the stems. Our venerable old *R. sutchuenense* is at its best on a rainy day when the striated strong bark shows up its pink, grey and soft brown. *R. fictolacteum* is another with a satisfyingly strong trunk and bark. Ours of over 12 feet did not survive the move to the new garden, but we sentimentally 'planted' the trunk by the patio door. Some years later chickadees nested deep within it for a fitting end, we thought.

On travels to old gardens in the United Kingdom and Ireland, it was with exultation I was able to walk along hedges, avenues and tunnels of huge, old, brilliantly coloured and multitrunked rhododendrons with their leaves and flowers so high overhead as to be insignificant to the pleasure.

Then when walking from my Beijing hotel room, I spied my first *Pinus bungeana*, (photo right by Barbara Cook) with its great splotches of coral, green and greys and gasped.

In the Waikiki Zoo, which is also a mini arboreum, there to gladden the senses was a stand of five *Eucalyptus deglupta*, the Mindanao or Rainbow Gum. They had the most brilliantly coloured bark I have ever seen, with long swipes of emerald green, crimson red and soft greys and browns. All the Eucalypts give great value, especially *E. viminalis* the pure white Ghost Gum.

In Spain I marvelled at the cork trees, *Quercus suber*. I marvel too at my natural cork kitchen floor, which is so kind to feet and ankles.

Douglas Firs have an overly familiar bark of deeply indented grey/brown, however in the Milner Garden I was freshly stunned by them. There was a stump, so old, that its sister tree, over many decades had grown its own bark towards and then to completely cover it, so cloaking the entire surface. There was no discernable break between the huge live tree and the covered stump. All bark is quite amazing in its duty and when gloriously coloured, adds immensely to garden pleasures. My favourite is always the one by which I am standing at the moment!

TREE BARK is written by Hugues Vaucher and contains fifty full-page colour photos and some seven hundred quarter page photos.

Cheerily, Barbara

