

PARS News

Coming Events

- Mar 25 **Annual General Meeting** ([Google Earth map](#))
 Cranley Hall, 2141 Cranley Dr, Surrey
 7:30 pm AGM Material - Elections
 Speaker: TBA
 Topic: TBA
- Apr 05 **Annual Plant Sale at Elgin Hall** ([Google Earth map](#))
 Apr 22 **General Meeting** ([Google Earth map](#))
 Speaker: TBA
 Topic: TBA
- Jun 08 **Annual Picnic** TBA

President's Message – Ken Parker

We are at that stage of the year when the AGM is upon us.

As I indicated last month a new secretary is needed. So please if there is anyone out there that feels a little shy about volunteering just talk to me, I feel sure that we can overcome your reticence.

During the AGM a new budget for the year will be presented.

Another reminder that is triggered by the thought of budgets is the annual plant sale being on the horizon That, of course is where we generate most of our funds to allow our operation to continue through the year. Giff is doing a great job of getting things organised however a few more bodies will be needed to make the event work well.

After our plant sale event success we will follow that with the Vancouver Island trip which will be a lot of fun, a great time is anticipated.

Internet Resources

Rhododendron Species On-Line

Compiled by Garth Wedemire, January 2008

Rhododendron Species Foundation - Photographs and Description of Species

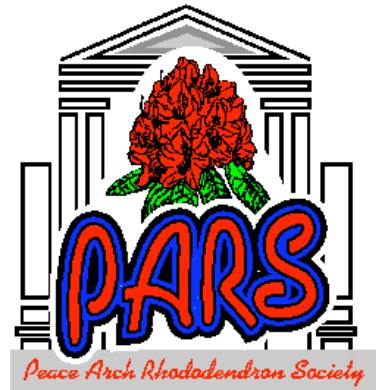
www.rhodygarden.org

American Rhododendron Society - Species Classification and Photographs

www.rhododendron.org

District 1 (British Columbia) - Meetings, Shows, Special Events and photography.

www.rhodos.ca



www.PeaceArchRhodo.ca

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Book Reviews – Margaret Hodgson

Japanese Maples (Second Edition) Momiji and Kaede by J.D. Vertrees

189 pages, approx. 134 plates colour photos, with good descriptions of all the various cultivars. Appendices include *Japanese Names and their Meanings*, *Cultivar Names Not Elsewhere Described*, *Guide to Use and Character*, *Bibliography* and *Index*. Copyright 1987 Timber Press, Portland Oregon. ISBN 0-88192-048-7. \$40.00

The late J.D. Vertrees was one of the world's acknowledged authorities on Japanese maples, and his collection of rare and unusual cultivars of *Acer palmatum* made his nursery in Roseburg, Oregon, a mecca for maple enthusiasts throughout the world. This definitive book incorporates the results of his extensive research efforts in nomenclature and taxonomy, propagation, and cultivation.

His work led to several important awards, including the 1978 Special Achievement Award from the Oregon Association of Nurserymen, the 1980 Citation for Horticultural Research from the American Horticulture Society, the 1980 Thomas Roland Gold Metal from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and the 1981 Citation for Distinguished Horticulture Achievement from the Oregon Federation of Garden Clubs. In addition to this classic book, he wrote many articles in leading horticultural publications, and it was at his urging in 1976 that D.M. van Gelderen, P.C. de Jong, H.J. Oterdoom, and J.R.P. van Hoey Smith started their collaboration on a definitive treatment of genus *Acer* that was to result in the 1994 publication of *Maples of the World*, also published by Timber Press.

J.D. Vertrees died in Roseburg, Oregon, in 1993 at the age of 77.

Momiji and **Kaede** are words used by the Japanese to indicate the species and cultivars of *Acer*. Academically, the word "Kaede" is more correctly applied. However, in horticultural use both "Momiji" and "Kaede" are used. "Momiji" is applied to those maples such as *A. palmatum* and refers to the leaves as "Little baby extends his tiny hands", those maples which have deeply separated lobes. "Kaede" stems from the ancient language term "Kaerude" or "Kaeru" = frog or hand and the larger lobed leaves of most other maples are called "Kaede" maples.

Japanese Maples is organized into five chapters followed by the appendices, bibliography and Index. In **Chapter 1, Character and History**, Vertrees gives an interesting outline of What is a Japanese Maple, Momiji and Kaede, The Character of Japanese Maples, Variegation, In Regard to Fu (dots, specks, marks on leaves), History of Japanese Cultivars, Old Literature on Japanese Maples. **Chapter 11, Taxonomy and Nomenclature**, discusses the taxonomy, nomenclature, difficulties and confusions, subdivisions of *Acer palmatum*.

Chapter 11, Culture, brings into consideration Culture in the Garden and gives practical advice of locations for Japanese maples, their use in the landscape, their requirements to thrive. The author has described the method of planting, the soils, moisture, fertilizer needs, container growing and insect and pest problems. In **Chapter IV, Propagation**, Vertrees has covered many methods of propagation. Japanese Maples are produced primarily from seed and by grafting. Other methods used in a limited way include production from rooted cuttings, budding, and layering. The author gives a good description of these methods in this chapter. **Chapter V, The Cultivars Displayed**, one is treated to a very good coverage of How to "Read" Cultivars, and then the chapters follows through with the Cultivars and Selections of *Acer palmatum* with accompanying pictures with the descriptions. The author has a well-organized section on the Palmate Group, Dissectum Group, Deeply Divided Group, Linearilobum Group, Dwarf Group, Semi-Dwarf Group, Variegated Group,

Unusual Feature Group, New Hybrids, Cultivars and Selections of *Acer japonicum*, Other *Acer* species from Japan.

The Appendices, bibliography and index complete the text.

A useful book to read.

Musings from my Garden – Joan Bengough

"Unexpected Gifts"

I was drawn outside in the rain this morning by the sight of blossoms on my *Pieris taiwanensis* Snow Drift. I had forgotten that this one bloomed so early. This is the first to bloom in my garden and is way ahead of the other three varieties I have - which is a bonus in that there is a gradual unfolding of bloom over several weeks. While I was puttering around to see what else was on the move I found a seedling of *Pulsatilla* (*P. vulgaris* I think) with a big bud. There is a large clump on the other side of this bed, and I discovered this little seedling when I was weeding in the area last fall. The new leaves didn't really look like the *Pulsatilla*, but neither were they totally like the buttercup or geranium seedlings nearby, so I decided to leave it and wait and see. I promptly forgot about it until I discovered today's bud.

It started me thinking of all the other things that have just appeared and how much pleasure they give - the unexpected gifts. There is a little dark purple pansy (*viola?*) I discovered last November - when everything else was past the picking stage - and today it is blooming again, looking so fresh and wholesome. It is a pleasant contrast to the winter pansies still blooming by my front door - now they just look fat and blowsy like an aging barmaid! They have been a pleasure through most of the winter but now they deserve to be retired. I hope the little bird that brought my purple pansy took something special from my garden to re-gift someone else.

At a plant sale last year I bought a little hosta - and this pot also produced a clump of purplish-grey fern like leaves and a pale mauve poppy. I have to plant this unexpected gift in the right spot to do justice to its somewhat ethereal quality.

Of course, not all gifts, unexpected or otherwise, are totally welcome. A couple of years ago I had a *Eryngium giganteum* (commonly known as Miss Willmott's ghost). Although it was an interesting and attractive plant it was way too large and aggressive for my small space, but it did have really neat seed heads so I left them on and enjoyed them as long as I could. You can guess what comes next - the resulting pretty green "groundcover" indicates that Miss Willmott will be haunting me for a long, long while.

One unexpected gift is the rain. The rain is not unexpected - nor even welcome right now - but that I could regard it as a gift is unexpected. While it is too wet to garden I find I have time to enjoy the plants as they bloom and decide what I can do to make the most of them, and more importantly make written notes that I can use later on. How often have you noticed in passing that a particular area could be improved, only to go on to the next job and think no more about it until next year, when the same situation presents itself - and you kick yourself for not fixing it? Or are you more organised than I am? Anyway - this year I am making notes and hope the results will be visible in my garden next year. That's my gift to me.

Surplus Plants Available – Elfriede DeWolf

The Glades have a surplus of about ten *Gunnera* to be donated in mid March to April, depending on weather conditions. We will dig and load for anyone interested. There is a selection of small to big so if you would like one, please call Elfriede DeWolf at 604-538-0928.

Qualicum & Tofino Garden Tour – Robin Fisher

April 23 & 24

We will be leaving for Vancouver Island on an early morning ferry April 23 to Arrive in Qualicum in the early afternoon. We are touring three gardens & then having a potluck dinner at one of the members houses. We will be billeted if you choose or some of us will be staying in a motel. The next morning we are travelling to Tofino where we will visit the Ken Gibson garden. Everyone says this garden is a must see. Most of us will be staying in a motel overnight & coming back the next day.

[ed: This month's meeting will be the deadline for decision making.]

B.C. COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUB'S SPECIAL EVENTS PAGE – MARCH/APRIL 2008 (local events)

<p>March 20—7:30 pm The Vancouver Rhododendron Society, VanDusen Floral Hall (5251 Oak Street, 37th and Oak, Vancouver. Speaker Philip MacDougal on "Formosana: A Plantsman's Paradise". Meetings are free and guests and non-members are always welcome.</p>	<p>March 22—Different Times: BC Fuchsia & Begonia Society is sponsoring a "Fuchsia Bonsai Workshop" from 10:30 am to Noon and then a "Begonia Workshop" from Noon to 2:30 pm at Amsterdam Greenhouses 19100 Dewdney Trunk Road, Pitt Meadows. Free Admission - bring your own fuchsias and begonias for identification and sharing. Contact: Fran Carter 604-591-3262</p>	<p>April 12—10am-3pm Fraser South Rhododendron Society's— 20th Annual Show and Plant Sale. United Church Hall, 5673 - 200th St., Langley. Rare and hard to find quality species, hybrids and companion plants. Fabulous display of trusses (flowers). Free gardening tips and advice. Coffee and BBQ hosted by the United Church volunteers. Contact Mary Berg 604 853-5737 Web site and email: www.flounder.ca/FraserSouth</p>
<p>April 12—9am-4pm Primrose Sale. Walkway outside The Floral Hall, VanDusen Botanical Gardens, 5251 Oak Street, Vancouver.</p>	<p>April 17 - 7pm Vancouver Rhododendron Society, Floral Hall, Van Dusen Botanical Garden, 5251 Oak St. A presentation by Mike Robinson, Chairman, Rhododendron, Camellia and Magnolia section, Royal Horticultural Society; "Ancient and Modern, Noteworthy and New Cultivars Grown in the UK" Contact; Tony Clayton 604 921 7947 tclayton@telus.net</p>	<p>April 19—10am-3pm B.C. Fuchsia and Begonia Society—PLANT, BAKE and CRAFT SALE. Van Dusen Botanical Garden Hall. Fuchsias, begonias, pelargoniums, crafts, refreshments and more. Contact: Fran 604 591-3262 or Lorna at 604 929-5382</p>
<p>April 19—10am-12 Noon The Point Grey Chrysanthemum Association—Sale of Rooted Chrysanthemum Cuttings. All types: Early & Late Disbuds, Garden Sprays, Singles and Fancies. All cuttings sold at \$2.50 ea. Boardwalk, VanDusen Gardens, 37th & Oak. Contact: Marie 604 261-0219; Bernie 604 574-3015; David 604 755-9514</p>	<p>April 19—10am to 3:00 pm The Langley Garden Club Spring Show and Sale includes an adjudicated parlour show, sales of plant contributed by members plus numerous local wholesalers. Location: Murrayville Hall on 48 Avenue, just east of the historic 'Five Corners' in Langley, BC. Contact: Phyllis Knutson 604 530 2035.</p>	<p>April 20—9:00 am-1:00 pm The Burnaby Rhododendron and Gardens Society Sale of perennials and shrubs—rain or shine. Burnaby Village Museum parking lot at the corner of Canada Way and Sperling. Wide variety of quality plants at excellent prices will be available for both beginning and experienced gardeners. Master gardeners on site. info@brags.ca or Jackie 604-420-0275.</p>

<p>May 3—10am—1 pm Delta Diggers Garden Club Plant Sale. at Royal Height United Church, 9316 116th. St. Delta BC. Contact Frances at 604-535-2642 or Cynthia at 604-583-4807</p>	<p>May 3—10am—3pm Valley Fuchsia & Geranium Club Plant and Bake Sale St.Andrews Anglican Church 20955 Old Yale Road, Langley. Free Admission Contact Tina 604-855-4343 or Lorna at 604-929-5392</p>	<p>May 3 and 4—10:00 am-3:00 pm Vancouver Rhododendron Society Annual Show and Sale at Park and Tilford Gardens, Brooksbank Avenue, North Vancouver. An opportunity to obtain choice species and hybrid rhododendrons, azaleas and companion plants typically not found at garden centres. Contact; Tony Clayton 604 921 79</p>
<p>May 4 - 10am-4pm New Westminster Horticultural Society 2008 Plant Sale. Inside Glenbrook Middle School Gymnasium, 7th Ave. & Park Cresc. (near 8th & McBride), New Westminster. Sale features healthy unique plants. Contact Carole Forysthe at 604-515-1927. www.newwesthortsociety.org</p>	<p>May 10—9:00 am—Noon The South Surrey Garden Club's 18th annual Plant Sale at St. Mark's Church, 12953 20th Avenue, South Surrey. Excellent plant selection & door prizes</p>	<p>May 10 & 11th - 10:00 am-4:00 pm Canadian Geranium & Pelargonium Society, Annual Plant Sale plus Arts and Crafts. VanDusen Floral Hall, 37th & Oak Sts.. Hourly raffle for beautiful tubs of geraniaceae.</p>
<p>June 22—12:30-4:00 pm Vancouver Rose Society's 2008 Rose Show. Van Dusen Garden Floral Hall. Info. Leslie Finlay kfinlay@telus.net.</p>	<p>Apr 20 & 27 1:00 pm Riverview Horticultural Society Public Tree Tours. Meet at the HEY Building at Riverview Hospital, 2601 Lougheed Hwy, Coquitlam. Walks are free & last about 2 hours. Info: 604-290-9910, www.rhcs.org</p>	

Peace Arch Rhododendron Society Annual Plant Sale & Show

We will be holding our 14th Annual Plant sale and Flower Show on Saturday, April 5, 2008, at the Elgin Hall, 14250 Crescent Road, Surrey. The doors will open at 9:00am and the sale will run to 3:00pm.

In addition to the rhododendrons for sale, we will be offering a wide selection of trees, shrubs and perennials.

The show will feature flower trusses collected from the private gardens of the society members. This will be a wonderful display of early to mid season blooming rhododendrons and is sure to inspire the enthusiast to try growing these varieties themselves. Along with complete information on plant characteristics and cultural requirements, society members will also have suggestions for plant combinations for all garden types. For more information please contact the sale chairperson – Gifford Robb – (604) 531-0770

Peace Arch Rhododendron Society Executive 2007-2008

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Trips & Tours	Vacant		
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