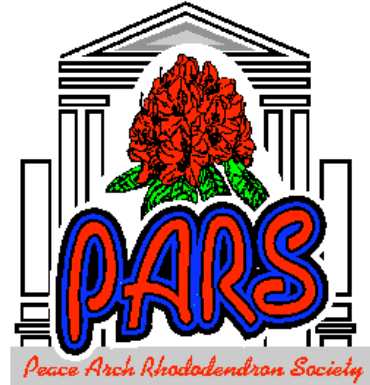


PARS News

Coming Events

Jan 27	General Meeting
19:30	Speaker: Graham Lane Topic: Dart's Hill
Feb 24	General Meeting
19:30	Workshop
Mar 24	General Meeting
19:30	Speaker: Harold Fearing Topic: Species Rhodos
Apr 04	Annual Plant Sale
	Elgin Hall



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President's Report— **Kenneth Parker**

Here we are in the middle of a beautiful Sunday afternoon and thinking how fortunate some of us are, the snow that was around us disappeared quickly and the fog that has enveloped us for some days has been burned off by the golden rays of sunshine.

Just think how the other half of the country is doing. It's great to out and hear the birds, like I did the other day while walking our little pooch. We were in the park and I stopped to observe a woodpecker hard at work earning his supper.

There is always something happening in our gardens and surroundings to appreciate.

I hope that everybody enjoyed their Christmas and New Years celebrations; it seems that many people went away this year so I hope that your travel plans were not affected by the inclement weather. As a result of people travelling the decision was made not to hold a party this past Christmas instead we will be doing a little extra for Feb's meeting.

During Feb, on the 19th at 7:00 pm in Centennial Hall at 14600 North Bluff Rd [16th Ave] the White Rock and District Garden Club have arranged for Brian Minter from Minter gardens to make a presentation. To help defray costs there is an entrance fee of \$10 and \$2 parking

Talking of appreciation we will be having our AGM in March and if there is any body that would like to become involved in the executive committee now is the time to volunteer or nominate, please ensure your nominee is willing to stand.

This is the way your voice can be heard when decisions are made.

I am told by Ms Burian that our January presenter is Graham Lane from Darts Hill. From what Anna tells me is that he will be looking for a little information on where to find certain unusual varieties of Rhodies, apparently some have died off due to the winter weather in Darts Hill, also he will be asking how to name and register a new variety, in order to honour Francisca.

Book Review – Margaret Hodgson

The Gardening Book forward by Stefan Buczacki

Prospero Books, Octopus Publishing Group Limited, London, England, copyright 1999.

456 pages, approx. 240 pages colour photos/illustrations, glossary, very good general index.

Hardbound,

ISBN 1-55267-999-3 (hardcover)

The Gardening Book offers a fresh approach to all aspects of gardening and is perfect for gardeners of all levels. The book is divided into three main sections 1) planning and designing your garden 2) choosing plants 3) garden techniques. The book is packed with new ideas and helpful tips – a good reference book on gardening.

Under the section dedicated to designing your garden, the book covers a vast array of topics such as assessing the site, drawing up plans, elements of design and the look of your garden before plunging into specific garden plans of how to develop a patio garden, a woodland garden, shrub gardens, semi-formal square gardens, split level gardens, Japanese gardens, formal pool gardens, container gardens as examples. From there the reader is given much information of the materials needed for proper drainage, use of mortar and cement, laying paving stones, decking and patio materials, combining materials, creating pathways, constructing trellis, screens and fences for boundaries and a good section on feature elements such as ponds, rock gardens, arches and arbors and outdoor living.

In the second section of the book of using plants in the garden, the general introduction of hardiness zones, role of plants, plant associations and creating borders is given before branching out to give very useful information on garden trees, hedges, shrubs which provide year-round interest, rhododendrons, climbing and screening plants, clematis, and perennials and biennials. The book includes several chapters on herbs, water gardens, roses, container plants, and hanging baskets.

The last section of the book devoted to techniques discusses improvement of soil, compost-making, cultivation techniques, weed control, plant propagation, cuttings and division of plants. A useful section is included on pruning of roses, shrubs, climbers, clematis, hedges, trees and also a chapter about greenhouses and cold frames.

The book has several pages devoted to “troubleshooting” at the end of the book, followed by a good glossary and index which is very comprehensive.

Peace Arch Rhododendron Society Executive 2008-2009

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