

PARS News

Coming Events

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| Feb 24 | General Meeting |
| 19:30 | Speaker: Graham Lane Topic: Dart's Hill |
| 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**

As our Feb meeting approaches please remember that we are going to have a meeting with a party atmosphere to make up for the lack of a Christmas party. So please bring some nice finger foods and something a little extra for the draw table. This party will be themed Valentines. This time I feel confident that snow will not be around here at that time. Chris Hodgson has been busy organising our first trip this year, down to the species foundation near Seattle. It will be a bus trip at a cost of \$25 per person to take place late March. Chris will have precise details. This will be followed by a local trip during April.

Recruiting for the new executive is proceeding well, there is still a couple of directors positions available. It should be noted that the current incumbents would be willing and able to offer help and advice. Our March meeting will be the AGM, Richard will be presenting the financial statements and the budget for this year.

I look forward to seeing everybody, after all it was late November when the last meeting occurred. So I am anticipating lots of fresh energetic people revitalised by the Christmas break.

Book Review – Margaret Hodgson

The Landscape Design Answer Book by Jane Bath

Cool Springs Press, Division of Thomas Nelson Inc., Nashville, Tennessee, USA., copyright 2005. 400 pages, more than 300 specific design solutions for your landscape, approx. 276 pages colour photos/illustrations with markers to highlight the focal point of the photos, glossary, good general index as well as landscaping terms and gardening terms. Soft cover, ISBN 1-59186-250-7 (paperback).

Jane Bath is one of America's premier landscape designers. During her twenty-five-plus year career, she has designed more than 4000 landscapes in the Atlanta area, including residential, commercial, and retail sites and public gardens. Bath's design for the perennial garden at Barnsley Garden was featured in *Southern Living* as well as on the cover of *Southern Heirloom Gardens*. Bath discovered the perennial that was named for her, "Bath's Pink" dianthus, which is still ranked as one of the Top Ten most-often sold perennials in the United States. In addition to her extensive landscape design business, Bath owns and operates a plant nursery, and is a popular and prolific speaker.

Jane lives with her husband, Nick, on a farm in Bogart, Georgia.

The Landscape Design Answer Book is built on the concept that each landscape element can be considered part of a giant puzzle. Once these elements are understood, the homeowner can use them to achieve desirable goals, and avoid unappealing or unsatisfactory results.

The book is divided into nine chapters, each chapter tackling a major landscape design. In Chapter One, the author discusses the importance of low maintenance, the size and use of the land, the importance of views and focal points, need for enclosures, choosing plants with mature heights in mind, power of the sun and many other topics of how to avoid problems. In Chapter Two, the reader learns how to use trees and shrubs in good landscape design, how to distinguish between "Significant", "Ornamental" trees and "Trash" trees, as the authors terms them. She advises on proper pruning and shearing methods. She points out the techniques of formal versus informal plantings. A pruning guide is included in this chapter. Chapter Three contains much information about flowers and containers in landscape design, including use of herbal and wildflowers, growing for cut flowers and care of perennials. From Chapter Four on, the book delves into specific information of certain areas within a landscape design. The fourth chapter deals with the proper design of entrances, car parking areas, plant groupings and fences, pathways, outdoor living spaces. Chapter Five moves into the front entrance impressions and the focus of the home within the landscape design. In Chapter Six, detailed information of how to solve problems with steps, porches and decks and shows the use of much natural stone in the pathways leading up to entrances which soften harsher brick usage. The last three chapters focus on structures such as outbuildings, pools, fireplaces, children's play areas which often require a different lawn treatment of landscaping consideration.

UPCOMING PARS TOURS (see also the tours summary table)

Chris Hodgson
Tel 604 541 2382
11 Feb./09

Species Foundation Tour

As the snows recede and days lengthen, we are reminded that a new season of gardening and exciting PARS garden tours is almost upon us. Our first tour will be to the Rhododendron Species Foundation and Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington (about 35 km south of Seattle) on **Saturday, March 21**. This will be an all-day event.

We have arranged minibus transportation for maximum 20 participants, departing South Surrey Park and Ride (off King George Highway near Highway 99) at 7 am sharp on Mar 21. We will be met at the Foundation by Executive Director Rick Peterson who has personally guaranteed that almost all the species will be in full bloom for our visit! We tour the grounds in the am and lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon we tour the propagating facility and make our rhody purchases (see below), departing for home around 3 pm. Return e.t.a. at South Surrey Park and Ride is 6 pm. Individual cost is \$25 for the bus ride. Being ARS members, we have free admission to the grounds. Lunch of course will be extra. Oh, and **don't forget your passport and out-of-province medical insurance!** You might check with Mountain Equipment, as they offer free out-of-province insurance to members for trips up to 48 hours.

Due to the limited capacity, bus seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis. **You will be required to pay \$25 (cash or cheques payable to PARS)** at the upcoming PARS meeting on **February 24** to secure your seat. Your payment receipt will be your bus ticket, so don't forget it on March 21. The bus service requires a minimum of 12 passengers. Any unsold seats following the February PARS meeting will be offered to members of the Fraser Valley or Fraser South clubs. Those who think they can drive down and back cheaper than that can find driving directions to the Species Foundation at www.rhodygarden.org.

For those who wish to make purchases, in order to avoid any customs hassle at the border Steve Hootman of the Foundation will deliver our plant purchases to UBC the week of April 20-24. Members will be notified by UBC of their arrival and details for pickup. More details during the tour.

Fearings' Farm Nursery, Abbotsford

Please note that the date for this event has been changed to **Saturday, April 18**. This will be another all-day blockbuster, a triple- or even quadruple-header event, starting at 9 am at Harold and Ginny Fearing's species rhody farm near Abbotsford. Next we visit the nearby Bradner Daffodil Festival and enjoy a sit-down lunch (about \$5 per person) at the Community Centre and perhaps even a private tour of organizer Audrey Satkin's daffodil farm. After lunch we tour the five-acre garden of Anna Burian's parents in Aldergrove. Time permitting, we may also visit Rain Forest Nursery in Langley on the way home. For those who wish to carpool, we'll meet at South Surrey Park and Ride, departing at 8:15 am. Further details and guide maps will be provided at the March PARS meeting.

| Proposed Trip | What's to see? | Timing (exact dates to be confirmed) | Contact Person | Comments |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| Rhodo Species Foundation and Botanical Garden, Federal Way, Wa. | The authority on species rhodos | Mar 21/ 2009 (Sat) (confirmed) | Rick Peterson (253-838 4646); Shirley's Shuttle (604-454-8247, SharonsShuttle@hotmail.com) | We make a long day of it, leaving WR at 7am, returning 6pm. Bus transport. Restaurants nearby. |
| (1) Fearing's Farm Nursery, Abbotsford; (2) Bradner Daffodil Festival; (3) Burian's Garden, Aldergrove; (4) Rain Forest Nursery, Langley (time permitting) | (1) Mature species rhodos and nursery; (2) a zillion daffodils (3) rare and unusual trees and plants, and (4) hostas and many old favorites. | *April 18/09 (Thurs) (Confirmed) | Harold Fearing, (604 857 4136); the Burians; Rain Forest Nursery (604 530-3499) | Species rhodys for viewing and purchase at Harold & Ginny Fearing's place; daffodils to make your eyes pop and sit down lunch at Bradner; many rare and unusual trees and plants at the Burian's; and hostas and many old favorites for sale at Rain Forest Nursery. |
| (1) Free Spirit Nursery, Langley; (2) Wingswept Garden, Langley; (3) pot-luck lunch at the Hodgson's, Crescent Park | (1) Superior collection of mature and for-sale perennials and private garden tour (2) Excellent 3 acre rhodo garden beside a spring-fed stream; (3) A not-so excellent (hope springs eternal) work in progress. | *May 16 / 2009 (Sat) | John and Gail Dodd, 24365 61 Ave., Langley, (604 530-0153); Lambert and Marjanne (604 533-7373) | Free Spirit grow 90% of what they sell. Many species plants in natural setting. Start at 9 am sharp and allow 2 hrs. Proceed to Wingswept Garden then to Hodgson's place in Crescent Park for late pot-luck lunch. |

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| Ryder Lake Ramble | Tour of 10 unique gardens (English country, irises, orchids, llamas, blueberries, native plants, and of course rhodos) | June 13 (Sat), 2009 | For details see Ryder Lake Ramble website. Ryder Lake Hall, 49265 Elk View Road, Chilliwack | In 2008, fee was \$5 pp or \$15 per car load. This is a full day tour. Car pool and pack a picnic lunch. |
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*new dates

Ask Doctor PARS – editor

With this issue a new column is introduced: *Ask Dr. Pars*. To make the PARS Newsletter more interactive, readers are encouraged to write or telephone the editor with their specific garden problems of general interest. Your questions will be passed on to other PARS members with known expertise in those areas. The experts will then stand and explain their proposed solutions for 5 minutes at the start of the next meeting. Members are encouraged to join in the discussion. Starting questions follow:

Dear Doc:

I have a serious wort issue and they're totally devastating the complexion of my front side garden. I believe the medical term for the infliction is *Hypericum*, alias St. John's Wort. I have tried manual removal but it's very time-consuming and bloody boring. Please understand we're talking about a 100-foot bed of the stuff. Besides, if a single millimetre of root remains, up pops another wort. I considered napalm, but I'm told it's out of vogue these days and hard to come by. Which brings me to my question: Can Roundup be counted on to deliver a mortal blow to plants with as invasive a root network as St. John's Wort? What is the minimum temperature for Roundup to be effective? How many dry days prior to rain must it be applied to be effective? Does heavy overnight dew render it ineffective? How many days (weeks) are required for it to take effect at, say, 0-5 degrees Celsius? I find the website for Roundup is singularly useless in answering these basic questions. Anyway, what with the leaf die-back this winter, I imagine I'll have to wait until new leaves sprout in March to zap those worts. But if you tell me Roundup will work, Doc, it's worth the wait.

And while we're on the subject, I would be delighted use Roundup right now on Public Enemy Number 2, the dreaded *Lamium*, if it's guaranteed effective at current daytime temperatures of 2-5 deg. C. What do you say, Doc?

Desperate in Surrey

Dear Dr. Pars:

We have this low boxwood hedge leading to the front door. It's kind of cute and we like it very much. The problem we are confronted with is knowing the best time to prune it back. Last year we pruned in mid-September and the poor thing has looked dead for months. Come to think of it, maybe it is dead after this dreadful winter. On the other hand, by pruning in March we're removing all the current year's buds, right? Another garden book I've just read recommends pruning in late spring or early summer. So what's *your* opinion, doctor?

Prunella in White Rock

Peace Arch Rhododendron Society Executive 2008-2009

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