

The Yak

Newsletter of
The Fraser South
Rhododendron
Society

Volume 26 Number 6
September 2012



www.flounder.ca/FraserSouth

Fraser South Rhododendron Society
is a chapter of the
American Rhododendron Society

Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the
third Wednesday of each month
(except June, July and August) at:
United Church Hall
5673 - 200th Street
Langley BC

This Month's Meeting

Date: Wednesday, September 19th, 2012

Topic: "Plant hunting in Guangxi
and Guizhou"

Speaker: Sean Rafferty

Plant Sales: Les Clay

2012 Officers

President:	Brenda Macdonald	604-990-5353
Past Pres:	Bill Bischoff	604-589-6134
Vice Pres:	Chris Hodgson	604-541-2382
Secretary:	Margaret Hodgson	604-541-2382
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Membership:	Evelyn Jensen	604-857-5663
Newsletter:	Sean Rafferty	604-990-5353
Librarian:	Joan McGiveron	604-538-9347
Website:	Chris Klapwijk	604-581-0925
Social Convenor	Karen Linton	604-888-6564
Refreshments	Arlene Darby	604-597-1849
BCCGC Liaison	Bill Bischoff	604-589-6134



Notes From the Chair

And ... we're back!

Welcome back to everyone after what I trust was a productive and enjoyable summer. And if not as productive as one had originally planned, then at least as enjoyable.



I like to think of myself as a re-bloomer. I may (or may not) have experienced a more prolific or more flamboyant period of bloom in my youth, but I am now, in the autumn of my life, reduced to the occasional show of colour - the odd flowering here and there.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

And, I would posit, it is the very scarcity and unexpectedness of the phenomenon of re-bloom that makes it so gratifying, whether in old gardeners like me, or in the rhododendrons in our gardens.

There are those who might complain about fall blooming, since it really represents just precocious spring blooming: flower buds set in the summer and blooming in the fall will not bloom again next spring. But really, spring is such a profligate season, we have more blossoms than we can possibly appreciate. One really shouldn't snivel about the loss of a few flower trusses here and there.

One of our most reliable re-bloomers is *R.* 'Curlew'. One of Peter Cox's "birds", this *R. ludlowii* x *R. fletcherianum* hybrid usually has a blossom or two on almost every main branch. It's proportionately large, yellow, campanulate blossoms are a cheery sight as the days draw down.

Another yellow re-bloomer isn't really a re-bloomer at all. *R.* 'Yellow Hammer' is a cross between *R. sulfureum* and *R. flavidum*, and I suppose it qualifies more as a constant bloomer than a re-bloomer. The tube-like flowers are a lovely shade of clear yellow, but sometimes each truss often comprises only one or two diminutive blossoms. What 'Yellow Hammer' does have going for it is its almost continuous bloom cycle. No matter whether it be spring summer, or fall, if you wander out and look at your 'Yellow Hammer' you are sure to be rewarded with a number of blossoms sprinkled about its somewhat straggly branches.

Moving into the oranges we have the two *R. dicroanthum* crosses, 'Fabia' and 'Medusa'. Both of these usually provide a few trusses in the fall, while still managing to produce a spectacular show in the spring.

Similarly, 'Scarlet Wonder' and 'Ostbo's Red' (or 'Ostbo's Red Elizabeth', or 'Elizabeth Red Foliage' or 'Ostbo's Red Foliage') often produce several trusses





R. 'Rosevallon'

of their waxy red blossoms in August or September.

And although not a consistent re-bloomer, this appears to be the year for 'Rosevallon', which should more properly be designated *R. neriiflorum* ssp. *neriiflorum* 'Rosevallon'. Whatever the designation, everybody's plant seems to be displaying more of the deeply red blossoms set off against that incredible purple of the leaf undersides than in most years.

Many of the lepidote species and crosses seem to be more consistent re-bloomers than the elepidote plants. There is hardly a year that we don't have a reasonable show from the



R. impeditum



R. saluense



R. trichostomum

species *R. impeditum*, or *R. fastigiatum*, or Sir James Horlick's lovely hybrid *R. 'Songbird'*.

Even the lovely, daphne-like *R. trichostomum* usually manages to give us a select and miniature show in the fall.

To some extent one of the virtues of these somewhat sparse and sporadic blooms is that you never have to worry about a colour conflict - nothing is going to clash with the bright magenta of *R. saluense* - there will always be enough green around to soften the effect.

And even though they are not exactly re-bloomers, the exceedingly late flowering period of *R. auriculatum*, as evidenced by the photos of both the pink and white forms provided by Bill Bischoff further on in this edition, provide a welcome finale to the rhododendron season.

Brenda Macdonald



FROM THE EDITOR

Last Month:

Actually, the above heading does not really apply, since our last club activities occurred in May and June, but if I change the header to something else, the gremlins in this computer program will rise up and tie me in knots for days..

So, leaving the gremlins at rest, I shall direct you to Page 12, where you will find the results of the May meeting's Justly Famous Beer Bottle Truss Show.

The June Picnic Potluck and Auction, was once again, graciously hosted by Karen Linton and Larry Morton. Unfortunately Brenda and I were unable to attend, but we hear that it was indeed a splendid affair. Mention was made, however that the magnanimity of our membership with their plentiful donations to the auction lengthened the bidding process past most peoples'

bedtime. The event organisers are preparing ways to improve the situation: one suggestion is starting the auction at an earlier time, another is to make it a three day camping event.

This Month:

Our speaker will be yours truly, who will relate and show images of his and the President's spring vacation adventure of following Steve Hootman around the provinces of Guangxi and Guizho in southwest China. It is hoped that the audience will behave kindly.

This month is also the time to renew your membership in the club, and to that end and for your convenience, a revised membership form is attached as the last page in this issue. Please make every effort to have your membership paid early as it will make very much easier, the lives of both the Membership Chair and Treasurer.

It is also a great month for evaluating any changes you may wish to make in the garden, and should you spy any plants that need removing or dividing, please remember to bring those to the raffle table.

THE CALENDAR:

Wednesday, September 19	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Sean Rafferty "Plant hunting in Guangxi and Guizhou", 7:30 pm
Thursday, September 20th	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Don Hyatt, world expert on deciduous azaleas 7:30 pm
Friday, September 21 - 23	ARS Fall Conference Coast Bastion Hotel, Nanaimo, BC
Wednesday, October 17	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Rosemary Prufer, propagator, Erica Enterprises
Thursday, October 18	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Rosemary Prufer, propagator, Erica Enterprises

Next Month:

Longtime propagator, Rosemary Pruffer, will speak to us on the commercial propagation of rhododendrons and other plants.

The Business Stuff:

The Victoria propagators group has been a very active, talented and generous group for some time and have extended the following invitation. If you have any interest in propagation, you would be well advised to attend.

The Victoria Propagating Group is going to hold another Propagating Workshop. This time it will be on October 13th, 2012. Again it will be at Madeleine and Ken's house – 5008 Old West Saanich Road, Saanich, B.C. This will be a hands-on type of thing where everyone will be able to choose cuttings and actually stick them in our propagator. We will be working mostly outside and in the garden, so warm and dry clothes will be necessary. Talks and discussions will include most of the local propagators and hybridizers. The charge will be \$25 and will include a hot lunch and coffee breaks. We will start around 9:30 am to give people from the mainland and up island time to get here. We hope to finish with an early dinner at a local restaurant (not included) to give enough time for everyone to get home if they have to.

For registration and questions email Ken and Madeleine at kenwebb@live.ca or phone 250-744-1785.

Please register early because we do have limited space.

Victoria Propagating Group

COMING SOON!

ARS Western Fall Regional Conference, Nanaimo B.C.

“RHODOS IN PARADISE - DESTINATION VANCOUVER ISLAND”

September 21st- 23rd, 2012

For full details:

Check out our brand new website at <http://arsnanaimo2012.ca/>

Registration is open now!

We encourage you to register early

Other Duties as Assigned:

The apportioners of bonhomie, coffee and calories at our next meeting will be the Hodgsons, Margaret and Chris, accompanied by the Wrights, Jo and Bob. Would you kindly assist them by bringing some treats for the table.

Sean Rafferty

The Nanaimo Conference Committee writes:

The Western Regional Conference of the ARS, hosted by the Nanaimo Chapter of the ARS is almost here! As of August 26th we have 26 days to go before it begins. The Conference Committee is getting excited and looking forward to meeting new friends and greeting “old” ones. We have over 200 people registered and know that it will be a success – thanks to the many people who have so willingly volunteered their time and talents.

The Committee would like to encourage those of you who haven’t yet registered for the conference to do so ASAP. The Conference hotel, the Coast Bastion Inn is filling up – but there are also reasonable rooms in close proximity as well.

The Plant Sale will be open to Conference attendees and ARS members only on Friday, the 21st of September (between 2 and 6 pm – downstairs in the Benson Room). On Saturday, the plant sale will be open from 10am until 6pm and on Sunday from 10 am until 1:00 pm. We have both Canadian and American growers and they will all have delicious plants for sale, both species and hybrids that you just can’t purchase in any of our local nurseries. One gallon plants will be \$13 and two gallon plants will be \$26, with the exception of the Rhodo Species Foundation plants (over 200 of them) which will vary in price. Remind your friends that September is a great time to buy rhododendrons and fall is one of the best times to plant them. Terry Richmond and a number of outstanding growers and gardeners will be on hand to give advice and help you find those perfect plants for your gardens. Phyto certificates will not be available for our US guests.

The lineup of speakers is impressive and we know that we’ll all learn something new. Both tours are showcasing some fantastic gardens where you’ll pick up ideas you can use in your own gardens. The food and venue are both great – no matter if you’re just participating in some of the conference or taking it all in. We have some excellent items available for the silent auction and door prize draw and the collector’s prints, photo contest and the foliage display will all be well worth seeing.

We are looking forward to welcoming keen gardeners from across North America and sharing our gardening paradise!

See you soon!

Chris Southwick and Gayle McRae
Conference Co-chairs

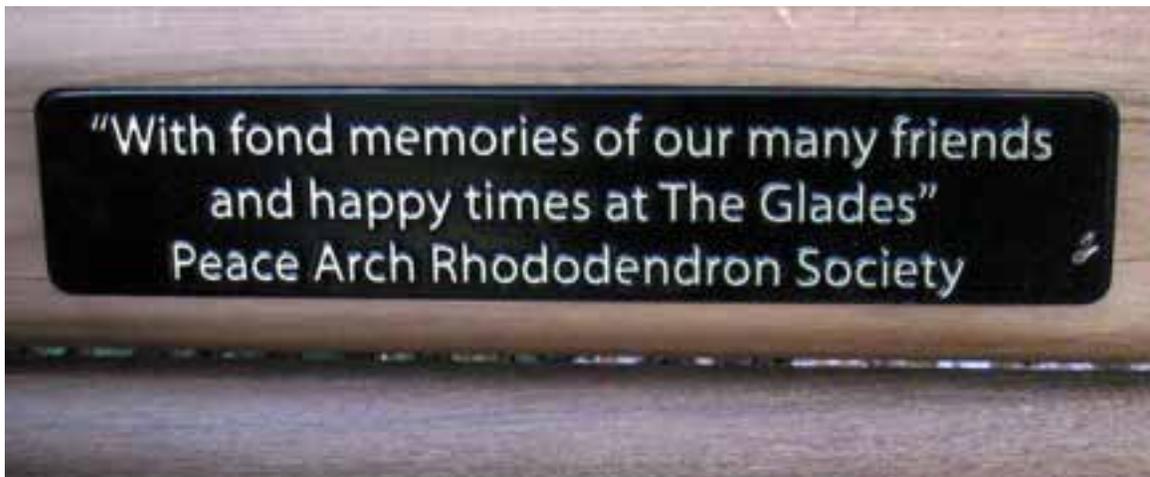
PARS Wrap-up, One Year Later

It doesn't seem like 15 months since our final picnic at the Glades. We all received a two year membership in the Fraser South Chapter, and for those of us who have participated in the FSRS monthly meetings, field trips and June picnic, it has been an enriching experience: a stimulating group of fellow rhodaholics, interesting speakers, great appies, great raffle table, great garden tours. I urge all those holding back to come out and try it. I'm sure you'll like it.

But the main reason for this column is to give an update on our PARS charitable donations. You may recall that we voted on and approved three donations at that picnic (actually four counting the memberships): to the new Derek Doubleday Arboretum in Langley, spearheaded by Les Clay; a donation of two benches to the Glades, which with Surrey's dollar-for-dollar contribution resulted in a total of four new benches; and a scholarship to a horticultural student at Kwantlen School of Horticulture in Langley.

I am happy to report that all donations were completed and put to good purpose. The first photo is of the Arboretum as it appeared in late April after planting out a number of *Acer rubrum* 'Armstrong'. Les advises these trees will grow to over 100 feet tall, so some thinning out may be required in a few years time! The next photo shows the inscription on one of the Glades garden benches. These are quality benches made of hardwood and powder-coated steel to last a lifetime. The third, a photo taken at the award presentation at Kwantlen on April 19, 2011, to Ms Heidi Zutter who has taken up horticulture after a career in photography. We wish her well.



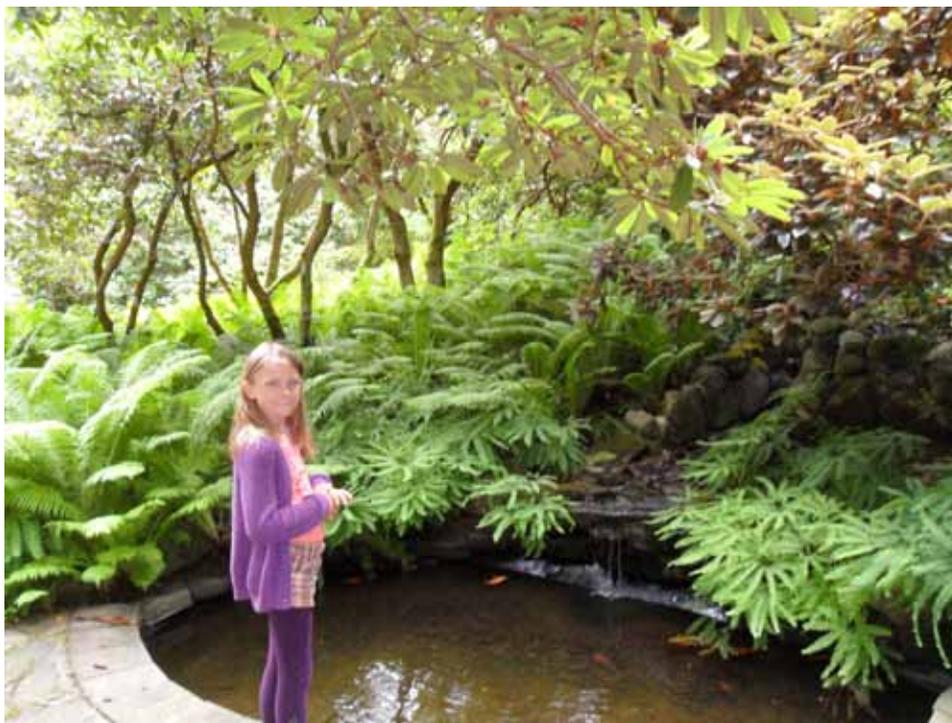


And finally I would like to pass on what a wise man once said to me. "Money is like horse manure. For it to do any good it needs to be ploughed back into the ground."

Chris Hodgson

Members Forum

Bill Bischoff writes: A couple of weeks ago Carla and I, together with our granddaughter, visited the Glades. The occasion was my donation of some Cyclamen tubers. Carla took some photos of *R. auriculatum*, the pink form. I have also attached some pictures of our *R. auriculatum*, the white form. It bloomed rather sparingly this year. Still the flowers were appreciated so late in the season. All pictures were taken by Carla.



Above: Mischa, the Bischoffs' granddaughter, is enjoying the tranquil surroundings of "The Glades".

Below: *R. auriculatum*, pink form

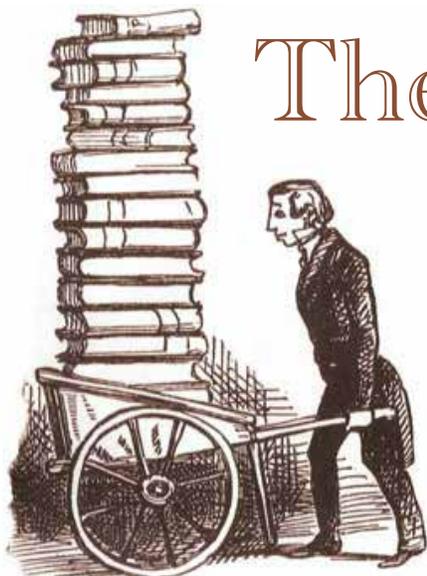




R. auriculatum,
pink form



R. auriculatum,
white form



The Book Cart

Magnolias, Classic Garden Plants

by J.M. Gardiner

Photographs by Vincent Page,

The Globe Pequot Press, Chester, Connecticut, 1989.

144 pages, approx. 81 colour photos, 6 black and white diagrams and illustrations.. \$19.95US. ISBN 0-87106-644-0.

James M. Gardiner is curator of the Royal Horticultural Society's Garden at Wisley, England. He was previously the curator of the Hillier Gardens and Arboretum, one of the major international collections of hardy woody plants

in the British Isles. A member of the Institute of Horticulture, he lectures regularly and has contributed to various horticultural publications, including *The Garden*.

Series Editor Vincent Page is picture editor of the London Sunday Times. A trained photographer, he has had a lifelong interest in plant subjects and has developed a close working relationship with the author.

Magnolias, Classic Garden Plants is a detailed but practical classic text that comes from an expert who felt that these sleeping beauties are just awakening. These remarkable trees and shrubs, the Magnoliaceae, which are closely related to rhododendrons, are considered by paleobotanists to be the oldest angiosperms or flowering plants. Dr. John Fogg, founder of the American Magnolia Society maintained that the *M. grandiflora* is the most widely cultivated tree in the world.

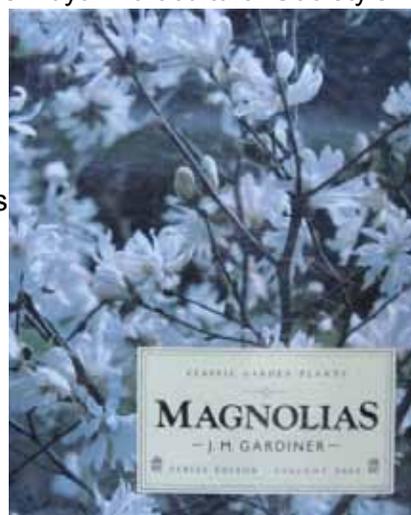
Magnolias range from small shrubs to large trees, flowers differ in size and scent, and in colour from a pure white to a rich royal purple. Plants can be seen in flower over a nine month period from February onwards. Leaves are either deciduous or evergreen, sometimes with a rich russet-brown indumentum on the underside.

The book is very well-organized, starting with the story of the magnolia which was undoubtedly introduced into Britain before 1731 from the Americas as it appears in the first edition of *The Gardener's Dictionary* in 1731 when Phillip Miller wrote that "There is also another species (apart from the *Magnolia virginiana*) which has lately been brought to England". Henry Compton, Bishop of London, 1632-1713, had sent missionaries to America and charged them with the mission of sending back plants to England, as well as spreading the gospel.

The magnolia was named after Pierre Magnol, a physician and botanist of Montpellier in southern France and an inspired teacher. He had been nominated for the Chair of Botany and the Directorship of the Botanic Garden in 1667, but, because of religious differences, he was not appointed until 1694.

The book then divides into separate chapters to discuss the cultivation of magnolias, propagation, pests and diseases, magnolias in the garden, magnolia species, magnolia hybrids, magnolia cousins.

A useful section at the end of the book gives information on recommended species and varieties. The chart gives sizes as well as descriptions of the shrubs/trees. In juxtaposition is the awards chart for the magnolias. The photographs in the centre section of the book are splendid.



Margaret Hodgson



And the winners are ...

Nineteenth Annual Fraser South Beer Bottle Truss Show,
held Wednesday, May 16, 2012

CLASSES

Division I

Species Classes

- Class 1. Rhododendron (lepidotes)
[Cinnabarinum](#) [Les Clay'](#)
Class 2. Azalea (deciduous and evergreen)
[un-named](#) [Joan McGiveron](#)
Class 3. Hymenantha (elepidotes)
[Cherry Brandy](#) [Lori & Dalen Bayes](#)

Division II

Hybrid Classes

- Class 4. Any lepidote hybrid
[no entry](#)
Class 5. Any deciduous azalea hybrid -
[Northern Lights](#) [Joan McGiveron](#)
Class 6. Any evergreen azalea hybrid
[Koromo Shikibu](#) [Maureen Renton'](#)

Colour Classes

- Class 7a: Red - (small)
[Henry's Dark Red](#) [Harold Fearing'](#)
7b: Red - (large)
['Francesca](#) [Larry Morton](#)
Class 8a: White - (small)
[L. Morton/K. Linton - 'Helene Shiffner'''](#)
8b: White - (large)
[White Gold](#) [Lori & Dalen Bayes'](#)
Class 9a: Pink - (small)
[Fantastica](#) [Les Clay](#)
9b: Pink - (large)
[Pink Porcelaine](#) [Carla Bischoff](#)
9c: Pink - (really, really, large) -
[Point Defiance](#) [Joan McGiveron](#)
Class 10a: Yellow & Cream (small)
[Creamy Chiffon](#) [Wenonah March'](#)
10b: Yellow & Cream (large)
[Horizon Lakeside](#) [Lori & Dalen Bayes'](#)

Class 11: Mauves & Purple

[Blue Boy](#) [Larry Morton](#)

Class 12: Orange

[Apricot Fantasy](#) [Les Clay \(tie\)](#)
[Sonata](#) [Colleen Bojczuk \(tie\)'](#)

Class 13: Bi-colour

[Nassalle](#) [Les Clay](#)

Division III

Special Classes

- Class 14: Non-registered hybrid
[Hotei x Paprika Spiced x](#) [Larry Morton'](#)
Class 15: Truss with the Best Fuzzy Foliage
[May Day](#) [Wenonah March'](#)
Class 16: Best Blotched
[Chapeau](#) [Larry Morton'](#)
Class 17: Best Speckled
[Paprika Spiced](#) [Lori & Dalen Bayes'](#)
Class 18: Most Lurid
[Paprika Spiced](#) [Lori & Dalen Bayes'](#)
Class 19: Best Last Year's Truss
[Fortuneii spp Fortunei](#) [Harold Fearing](#)
Class 20: Most Elegantly Weevil-Notched
[Roxieanum x Proteoides](#) [Lori & Dalen Bayes-](#)
Class 21: Best Hammerhead
[Vienese Waltz](#) [Lori & Dalen Bayes'](#)
Class 22: Most Flaccid
[Coral Velvet](#) [Carla Bischoff -](#)
Class 23: Best Miniature Truss - under 6"
[Sanguineum](#) [Lori & Dalen Bayes](#)
Class 24: Most Fragrant (Az. or Rh.)
[H x Yellow Azalea](#) [Carla Bischoff](#)

Judged

Lionheart Award: best over-all yellow, any Class
[Golden Ruby](#) [Colleen Bojczuk'](#)

Aggregate Winners -

[Lori & Dalen Bayes \(7\)](#)
[Les Clay \(5\)](#)
[Larry Morton \(5\)k](#)

All winners were awarded the plant of their choice from the wonderful selection provided by Colleen Bojczuk (Aldergrove Nursery)

Joan McGiveron, kindly sent in just a few of her images from The Justly Famous Beer Bottle Truss Show: including *R.* 'Point Defiance', her winning entry in Category 9C, Pink - Big Guys - over 12 inches tall



Above: unknown deciduous azalea
Below: Azalea 'Northern Lights'



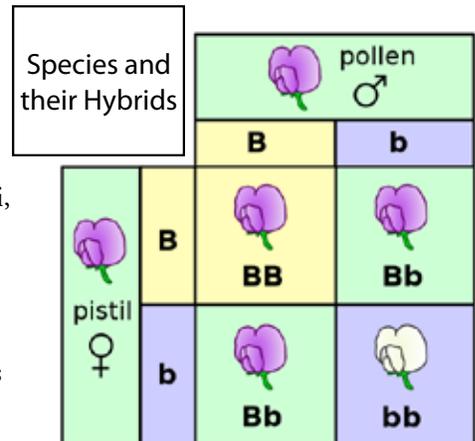
Above: *R.* 'Point Defiance'

All images by:
Joan McGiveron

R. bureavii (epithet: after Louis Edouard Bureau 1830-1918, a French Professor of Botany in Paris)
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_%C3%89douard_Bureau

R. bureavii was first discovered by the Abbe Delavay in 1886, north of Dali, in north-west Yunnan. He later collected it again, as did George Forrest and Joseph Rock, in other localities in the same region, and it was introduced by Forrest in 1917. It grows in rhododendron forest, open pine forest, fir forest, on the margins of open conifer forest, in rhododendron thickets and open pasture at elevations of 10,400-14,000 feet. It is a rounded shrub which grows from 5 to 20 feet and needs a well drained soil and requires some shade. The

most striking feature of the plant is the underside of the leaf which is covered by a thick, woolly cinnamon-coloured or rusty-red continuous, bistrate indumentum. The branchlets and leaf petiole are also covered with the same richly coloured indumentum. All of which contrasts beautifully with the shiny, dark green, upper surface of the oblong-lanceolate or oblong-elliptic leaves. The inflorescence has 6-15 campanulate, 1.5-2 inch long flowers, which are white, white suffused rose, or rose, with crimson spots. This is an absolutely stunning plant which needs to be in



R. bureavii: painting by Carlos Reifel from "The Rhododendron" Vol. 2, Edited by Leslie Urquart



R. bureavii
 Image: Hirsutum

everyones collection.
R. bureavii is found in North Central and North East Yunnan, both in limited areas. However, H H Davidian, in "The Rhododendron Species" volume 111, states that the collectors for Wilson and McLaren found it in southwest Sichuan. Kenneth and Peter Cox in "The Encyclopedia of Rhododendron Species" state that *R. bureavii* is found only in Yunnan. Possibly the *R. bureavii* that Wilson

collected in Southwest Sichuan was in fact *R. bureavoides*, a species that he also introduced from that same area of Sichuan, and which only differs from *R. bureavii* in the width of its leaf and lack of hairs on the ovary and style. *R. bureaviodes* is in its own right a marvelous plant, and in some instances can be just as striking as *R. bureavii*.

Historical quibbles aside, *R. bureavii* is such a glorious foliage plant that it has, thankfully, been put to good use by the hybridisers. Please find some of them below.



R. bureaviodes,
Mujeco Lakes, Sichuan.

Image: *Sean Rafferty*



Above left: *R.* 'Hansel': *R. bureavii* x 'Fabia Group', Lem, 1976
 Above right: *R.* 'Gretsel': *R. bureavii* x 'Fabia Group'. Lem, 1960
 Below left: *R.* 'Hydon Velvet', G. Hydon Nursery: *R. degronianum* ssp.
yakushmanum' x *R. bureavii*, 1960
 Below right: *R.* 'Teddy Bear': *R. bureavii* x *R. yakushmanum*,
 Briggs, 1980





Left: *R.* 'Cherries and Cream': *R.* 'Fabia Group' x *R. bureavii* x *R.* 'Lem's Cameo', Y. Workman, 1989

Below: '*R.* Kodiak', *R. bureavii* x '*R.* KenJaneck', Unknown



Above: *R.* 'Cinnamon Bear': *R. yakushimanum* x *R. bureavii*, C. Smith, 1964

Above right: *R.* 'Kodiak', *R. yakushimanum* x *R. bureavii*, Unknown

Right: *R.* 'Elya', *R.* 'Fabia Group' x *R. bureavii* x *R. yakushimanum*, H Larson, 1968





Membership

As in previous years it continues to be the intent of the Chapter officers to ensure that membership fees be kept as low as feasible in order to make our club accessible to all who wish to join.

It is through the ARS umbrella that many of the educational activities and sharing of information and resources is made possible. A strong ARS, supported by Full Memberships all across the continent, is what makes our rhododendron community possible.

All membership questions should be addressed to our Membership Chair, Evelyn Jensen, or to any other of the FSRS officers.

Fraser South Rhododendron Society 2013 Membership

- New Membership - Have never belonged to an ARS chapter. \$15.00
- Renewal Membership - see below

Date _____

Name _____

Partner or Spouse's Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Province (State) _____

Postal (Zip) Code _____

Telephone Number _____

Fax Number _____

Email Address _____

All personal information collected by FSRS is for Society use only. Chapter members who DO NOT want this information to be included in the FSRS Member List - to be distributed to FSRS members only - should check the appropriate spaces here. Please DO NOT include my ___Address, ___Phone, ___Email in the directory.

Please indicate the type of membership below, and enclose your payment with this registration form.

All cheques should be made out to: **Fraser South Rhododendron Society**
If mailing, send to: c/o 4614 Saddlehorn Cres., Langley, BC V2Z 2L7

- Full Member (includes ARS membership and quarterly ARS Journal) \$35.00
- Associate (full member of other ARS chapter) \$10.00

Please indicate name of primary membership chapter _____