



The Yak

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRASER SOUTH RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

VOLUME 28 NUMBER 8, OCTOBER 2014

R. hippophaeoides



This Month's Meeting

Date: Wednesday, October 15th, 2014 @ 7:30 pm

Topic: **The Ability to Prune: The Art and the Science**

Speaker: **Janis Matson**

Plant sales: Les Clay

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<http://frasersouthrhodos.ca/>

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

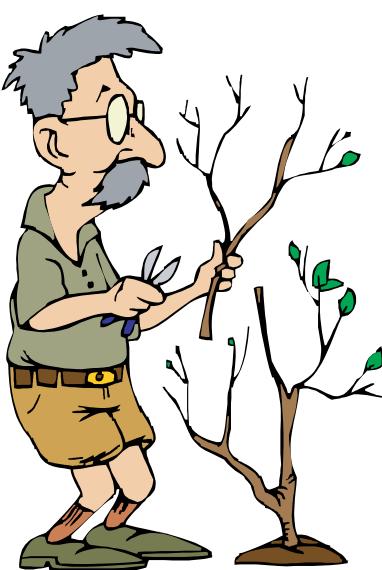
Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the
third Wednesday of each month
(except June, July and August) at:

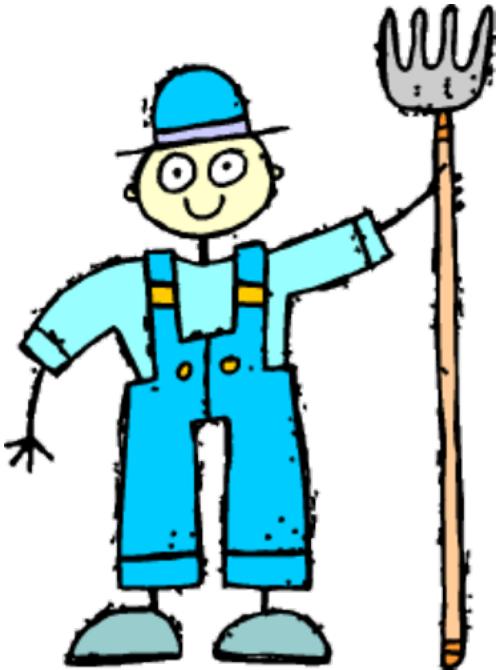
United Church Hall
5673 - 200th Street
Langley BC



Quick Hits

This month's meeting will focus on the art and science of pruning. This is an important task for all of your shrubs and trees, especially rhododendrons. In order to maintain good health for your shrubs and trees it is critical to prune correctly as improper pruning may lead to both poor health and aesthetically displeasing results with your plants. Please come and listen to Janis Matson at our Wednesday meeting and learn how the professionals do it.





President's Remarks : Good things about fall !

Do you remember that poem "Autumn Fires" by Robert Louis Stevenson?

"Sing a song of seasons!
Something bright in all!
Flowers in the summer,
Fires in the fall!"

Burning leaves was a fall highlight in my youth. Unfortunately in today's world, outdoor burning is considered antisocial and even damaging to the planet. Thus we must content ourselves with other garden delights. The dainty cyclamen is now at its showiest, as is the floozy fall crocus, *Colchicum autumnale*. The skimmia by the back door, chameleon like, has converted its green berries to scarlet in just days, while berries on our Callicarpa are still debating a metallic make-over. Blossoms on our hardy *Fuschia magellanica*s will soldier on until the first frost, attracting a regular clientele of hummingbirds. These fuchsias are native, of course, to Patagonia where many if not most shrubs and trees also have tubular blossoms and rely on hummingbirds for pollination. This interesting

symbiosis really has me stumped: which came first, the tubular blossoms or the hummingbirds?

The rhododendrons at our place survived the summer drought reasonably well, thanks to regular drip watering. Most have set healthy buds with the promise of a good show next spring. Of course there are always the few renegades who insist on blooming in October, *R. 'Medusa'* being chief among them.



R. 'Medusa'
image: Garth Wedemire

So as
the
days
draw
in and
with
rain,

wind and darkness in the forecast, we should all try to think positively: no further need to lug those garden hoses around every other day and no more pulling weeds until March. Of course some labour is required in every season. You can and should subdivide those perennials to give them a good start next spring, and now's the time to transplant that little rhodo up front where it can be appreciated. But for the most part you can put your feet up by the fire, scroll through the seed catalogues and garden magazines, and dream of the perfect garden, if such exists.

And here's something else to think about with your feet up. We can all get involved in selecting the rhodo of the year for our region. Each year the ARS solicits suggestions for rhodos of the year from each region. You can find on the [ARS website](#) the ROY choices for 2014. The idea is to select one lepidote and one elepidote rhodo, one deciduous and one evergreen azalea. Recall your favourites of this past spring, and we'll note your suggestions at our upcoming meeting. You may choose two of each category to avoid a tie vote.

Chris Hodgson



F. magellanica
image: Chris Hodgson



Last Month:

Conway Lum gave us a terrific lecture on the use of beneficial insects in our gardens by employing such helpful beasts as lacewings, parasitic wasps, nematodes, ladybugs, and more. Conway, was an intense yet delightful speaker with a supreme command of his subject matter. He only touched lightly on the benefits of adopting Integrated Pest Management which allows for the limited use of insecticides when other options are insufficient, preferring correctly, to inform us

FROM THE EDITOR

about the use of beneficial insects alone in the home garden.

I took most keenly to his suggestion of leaving a part of the garden in a scruffy state as a refuge and habitat for beneficial insects, unaware that my own gardening practices in this vein had been so avant-garde and cutting edge.

Last month was also the farewell meeting for Brenda and I on a regular basis. We shall make an effort to attend whenever possible, as Fraser South has been a lovely well of friendship for the both of us for so many years and you will all be missed terribly. We have overwhelming gratitude for the wonderful and thoughtful gifts and kind wishes showered upon us at our last meeting. The sand shovels and pails will be put to excellent use. Many, many thanks for this fine ride and I shall see you at this month's meeting.

This Month:

Janis Matson will return to inform us about proper pruning techniques. Some years ago, I was fortunate enough to work with Janis on some of her installations and witness her talents first hand. She is among the best at all she does, and in particular, she possesses more knowledge of proper pruning practices than anyone that I know. Her bio reads:

Bio: Janis Matson

- Grew up in Burnaby
- Very creative, enthusiastic and fun
- Nature and plant lover
- Amateur photographer and sport enthusiast
- Delights in sunsets and the beach
- Enjoys working with people
- Enjoys the challenge of making garden spaces look good and feel good
- Worked in Murray Nurseries in southlands from 1988-1993
- Owner and operator of Shoreline landscape design for over twenty years
- Contract faculty instructor at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Langley, with the horticultural apprenticeship program
- Instructor with Burnaby community education with the horticultural apprenticeship program and the Residential Landscape Certificate program
- Adult education course instructor at Van Dusen Botanical Gardens

Credentials:

- Landscape design and horticultural diploma
- Floral design certificate
- Arborist certificate
- Provincial Instructors diploma

Strengths:

- Enthusiastic and approachable
- Plant knowledge and design knowledge



Dragonfly

Other Duties as Assigned:

The sign up sheet that I posses mentions that the kitchen duties this month are to be handled by Chuck Floyd ... all by himself; truly a man of superhuman capabilities. While he may indeed wish to fly solo, please let us assist him in bringing some delights for the goodies table and offering any other help that we can.

And it now seems to go without saying that the Fraser South raffle table is the ultimate place in the world to discover the most marvelous of horticultural treasures. Please keep a great thing going.

The Business Stuff:

The American Rhododendron Society 70th. Anniversary Convention

May 6-10th 2015

Mary Winspear Centre, Sidney, BC, Canada

The Rhododendron Chapters on Vancouver Island will be hosting the ARS 2015 Convention in Sidney, from May 6th through 10th. Registration will take place in October.

There is most impressive group of speakers which will set the gold standard for all subsequent conventions to try and emulate, and there will be garden tours galore. This should be a fabulous event and everyone should make every effort to attend. Please visit their [website here](#). The wise among you will start to book their hotel rooms immediately.

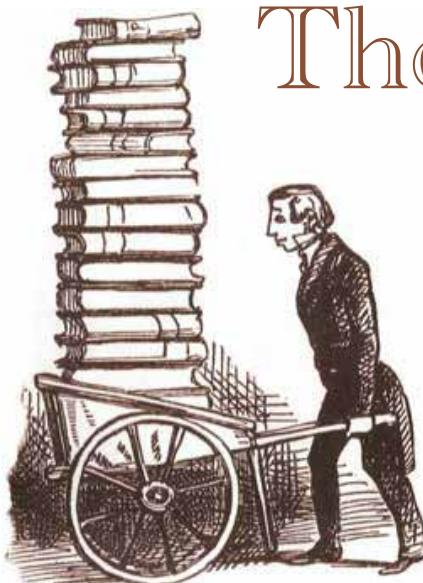
Sean Rafferty



THE CALENDAR:

Wednesday, Oct. 15 7:30 pm	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Janis Matson: The ability to prune. The art and the science
Thursday, Oct. 16 7:30 pm Van Dusen	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Egan Davis
Wednesday, Oct. 23 7:30-9:00 pm Van Dusen	Alpine garden Club of BC Egan Davis: Alpine Explorations
Saturday, Oct. 25, 7:30 pm Sooke Community Hall	Sooke Philharmonic Orchestra: "Celebration of Young Artists"
Wednesday, Nov 12 7:30-9:30 pm Van Dusen	Alpine Garden Club of BC AGM and Ron Long: Alpine Flower Photography
Wednesday, Nov 19 7:30 pm	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Dr. Iain Taylor: Myths of Organic Gardening
Thursday, Nov 20 7:30 pm Van Dusen	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Mike Stewart:
Wednesday, Dec. 10 7:30-9:30 pm Van Dusen	Annual Christmas Potluck and Rare Plant Auction
Wednesday, Dec 10 6:00 pm set up	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Annual Christmas Party





The Book Cart

Azaleas, Revised and Enlarged Edition by Fred C. Galle

519 pages, 108 colour plates, photos,

Appendices - includes Azalea Hybridizers and Introducers, Selected References, Glossary, List of Registered Azaleas. Index of Azaleas by names, Hybrid Groups, Species, Cultivars, Subject Index, and Index of Colour Illustrations.

Hardbound, Copyright 1987.

Published by Timber Press, Portland, Oregon, USA. Second Printing 1991.
ISBN 0-88192-091-6 \$84.13 (1987)

Fred Charles Galle, a native of Dayton, Ohio, was formerly the Director of Horticulture at Callaway Gardens, June 1953 to December 1979, and served as curator until retiring on August 31, 1983. He served many positions on a number of organizations, including The American Horticultural Society,

The American Association of Botanic Gardens and Arboreta, the International Shade Tree Conference, the Georgia Horticultural Society and was and a long-time associate of the American Rhododendron Society.

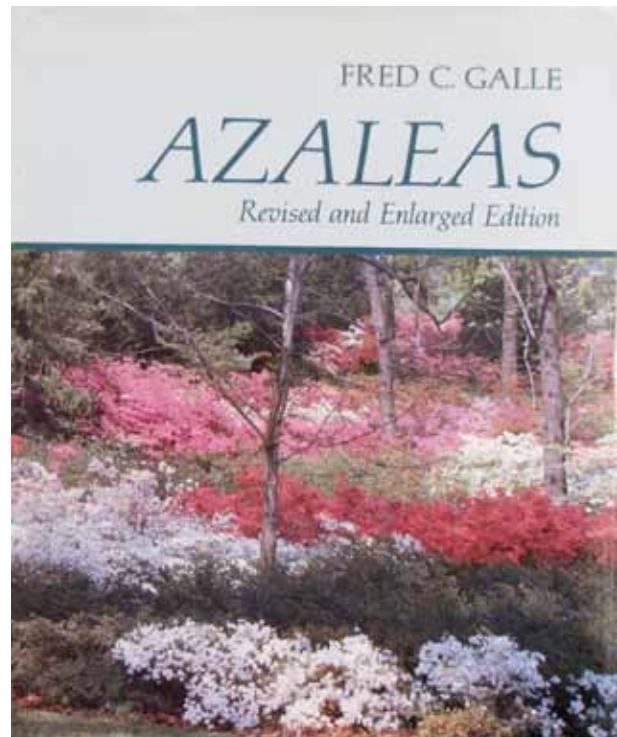
In 1964, he was appointed as a member of the Advisory Council for the United States National Arboretum in Washington, where he served until 1972. In 1974 he was awarded the American Horticultural Society's Citation for outstanding contributions to Professional Horticulture. The Garden Club of Georgia presented a certificate of Merit for the years 1976-77 to Mr. Galle in recognition of his outstanding contribution. In 1977 the National Council of State Garden Clubs awarded him their Silver Medal and in 1978 he received the Porter Henegar Award for horticultural research.

Azaleas, Revised and Enlarged Edition, for those who are seriously into azaleas, is a real treat to read as the organization of the material is very well laid out into four main sections, followed by the appendices and several indices.

Fred Charles Galle's book on azaleas, when it first appeared, was referred to as "the new standard book on azaleas". It is a complete book which serves well as a reference book on azaleas, includes descriptions of all of the species of azaleas and over 6000 cultivars derived from them. The breeding work of the Japanese, English, Dutch, Belgian, Australian and many other hybridizers as well as North American growers is well documented.

Section 1 covers descriptions of azaleas in the landscape and as companion plants in the garden. Section 11 gives attention to Taxonomy, Nomenclature, and Azalea Series Key. Section 111 takes the reader into very detailed descriptions of hybridizing of azaleas, and introducing new cultivars, as well as a good comprehensive coverage of deciduous azaleas and also lengthy description of evergreen azaleas. Section IV covers in detail the planting and care of azaleas, transplanting of azaleas, special care needed for hanging baskets, bonsai azaleas, and problems with diseases, pests, mites, animals.

The Appendices and accompanying Index give much information. This makes the book extremely useful to the reader as the material is so quickly at one's finger tips.



Margaret Hodgson

Rhododendron schlippenbachii

(Epithet: After Baron von Schlippenbach, Russian naval officer and traveller)

This species was named after the above-named Russian naval officer and hobby botanist who in 1853 discovered the species on the eastern coast of Korea. It was described by **Karl Johann Maximovitz**, head botanist and curator at the St. Petersburg Botanical Garden in 1870. It was introduced to cultivation in 1893 from Japan by J.G. Veitch, and by E.H. Wilson, from Korea, in 1917 and also in 1918.

Also known as the 'Royal Azalea', *R. schlippenbachii* is native to Korea and the Korean archipelago, and is also found in the border areas of Russia

		Species and their Hybrids	
		pollen ♂	
		B	b
pistil ♀	B	BB	Bb
	b	Bb	bb



R. schlippenbachii
Illustration by Marianna Kneller



R. schlippenbachii
image: Garth Wedemire



R. schlippenbachii
image: Hans Eiberg

up to Vladivostok, growing from sea level to 650 feet. It is not particular about the type of soil in which it grows and may be found growing, remarkably, in soils with a pH ranging from 3.9-6.9; growing in humus-rich soils, weathered clay soils, under pine needle layers and sandy soils interspersed with shell fragments. It is also tolerant of dryness and strong sunshine. Such a relatively wide degree of tolerances is remarkable in a rhododendron.

The flowers are large, 3.5 inches wide, flat, saucer-shaped, pale to rose pink and occasionally white with red-brown spots on the upper three lobes. There are ten elegantly long exserted stamens in each flower and an inflorescence is three to six flowers. The flowers open before or with the leaves and the flowers and leafy shoots, distinctively, are produced from the same terminal bud. The obovate leaves appear in whorls of five at the ends of the branchlets and are 3.5 inches long and 2.5 inches wide, dark green on top, lighter underneath and deciduous. If grown in a sunnier location the leaves in autumn will turn a lovely strong yellow and then into a glowing carmine

(continued on page 9)

red, creating a gorgeous second showing of colour in the fall.

Rhododendron schlippenbachii is classified under Section Sciadorhodion, (from the Greek “skiadon” meaning shading roof - the whorls of leaves arranged like an umbrella shading the shoots), along with its cousins, *R. albrechtii*, *R. pentaphyllum* and *R. quinquefolium*. All four of these rhododendrons are beautiful plants, in leaf and in flower and should be in everyone’s garden collection. They are all native to the area of eastern Asia in Japan, Korea and adjacent Russia. Also, all four of these rhododendrons have two attributes in common: they are all difficult to root and of all rhododendrons, they will not hybridise with each other or any other rhododendron.

In anticipation of any queries concerning the inclusion of a rhododendron which will not hybridise, within a section of a newsletter dealing with “Species and their Hybrids”, I simply offer up, as a good deed to all of you aspiring hybridisers out there, a saving of your time and futility in attempting to breed any of the Section Sciadorhodian species with any other rhododendron. Also I felt a need to showcase *R. schlippenbachii* as a beautiful plant that everyone needs to have and enjoy.

Sean Rafferty



R. schlippenbachii
image: Susan Lightburn



R. schlippenbachii
image: Hans Eiberg



R. schlippenbachii
image: Garth Wedemire



R. schlippenbachii
image: Garth Wedemire