



# THE YAK

Volume 32, Number 4

April 2018

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

<http://frasersouthernrhodos.ca>

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

Langley Mennonite Fellowship Church  
20997 40<sup>th</sup> Street  
Langley, B.C.

Map : <https://goo.gl/maps/ZB1m1jnF9DP2>



## *This Month*

**Date:** Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at  
7:30pm

**Speaker:** David Sellars

**Topic:** Alpine Jewels of the Olympic and  
Wenatchee Mountains

**Kitchen Duties:** Ginny Fearing and  
Evelyn Jensen

**Plant Sales:** Kirsten Martin

***We hope to see you at the meeting!***

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### **Magnolia 'Royal Crown'**

(*M. liliiflora* 'Nigra' x *M. xveitchii*) hybridised by  
Todd Gresham, California, USA

**Height** - 6m (20ft)

**Spread** - 6m (20ft)

**Flower Colour** - Purple - Shades of  
purple/mauve/lilac/violet - reddish violet, creamy  
white inside.

**Flower Shape** - Cup-and-saucer-shaped -  
narrow, pointed tepals to 15cm (6in) long.

## 2018 OFFICERS

Acting President:	Evelyn Jensen	604-857-5663
Past Pres:	Evelyn Jensen	604-857-5663
Vice Pres:	Colleen Bojczuk	604-826-4221
Secretary:	Barbara Mathias	778-580-6404
Treasurer:	Harold Fearing	604-857-4136
Directors:	Caroline Feldinger	778-545-8994
	Judy Wellington	604-597-9156
	Jim Worden	604-541-4754
Programme:	Vacant	
Membership:	Ginny Fearing	604-857-4136
Newsletter:	Maureen Worden	604-541-4754
Librarian:	Gerald Nemanishen	604-826-0166
Website:	Maureen Worden	604-541-4754
Hospitality:	Gail Floyd	604-541-2884
	Lois Williams	604-535-0543
BCCGC Liaison:	Vacant	

## From The President

Our ANNUAL PLANT SALE is April 21<sup>st</sup>, from 10 AM until 3 PM. Even if you haven't signed up to help, come out for a couple of hours, shop and help out or come out at 3 PM to help with take down.

Coffee and tea will be available, please BRING YOUR OWN MUG. As NO FOOD is available on sight, please bring your own lunch.

Colleen will be in charge of the Members' Table. Please bring your plant donations before 9:30. All plants need to be LABELED with species name if you know it OR the common name. Either is required. TIDY UP THE POTS. (No soil on the outside of pots and adequate soil over the roots.) Colleen will price the plants.

I look forward to seeing you there.

*Evelyn*

## The Calendar

Fraser South Rhododendron Society Wednesday, April 18, 2018 7:30 pm Langley Mennonite Church	David Sellars – Alpine Jewels of the Olympic and Wenatchee Mountains
Vancouver Rhododendron Society Thursday, April 19, 2018 7:30 pm VanDusen Gardens	Judy Walker, author of "A Garden for Life: Mary Greig & the Royston Rhododendrons" will speak on the Royston garden.
Fraser South Rhododendron Society Saturday April 21, 2018 10:00 am – 3:00 pm Langley Mennonite Church	Annual Plant Sale
Fraser South Rhododendron Society Wednesday May 16, 2018 7:30 pm Langley Mennonite Church	Annual Truss Show
Vancouver Rhododendron Society Thursday May 17, 2018 7:30 pm VanDusen Gardens	Guided evening visit to the Royston collection, the Ted and Mary Greig Rhododendron Garden in Stanley Park.

## March Meeting Speaker Review

After a bit of a nervous start, we were thoroughly charmed by the sheer exuberance and enthusiasm of Jennifer Hussain from Wild Birds Unlimited on how to attract and keep wild birds on our gardens. We learned about which species to expect, the best seeds for each type, and the various feeders available. We heard how to discourage squirrels, bears, ants, starlings and other raiders. We were also made aware of the importance of water and misters, and how to clean feeders and houses. Jennifer had prepared a very informative handout with a wealth of info, in case we couldn't remember all her details. She spoke from many years of experience as a bird lover, and had also brought a large variety of products from her store to demonstrate. . There was even an extensive list of bird watching trails and sanctuaries to visit in the lower mainland.

Well done Jennifer, and thank you.

Respectfully submitted by Colleen Bojczuk

### Reminders

Our raffles help finance chapter activities. Please bring your contributions, extra plants, garden items, etc.

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Feel free to suggest program topics and/or speakers to any member of the executive.

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Submit articles, photos, or suggestions for the newsletter or else you will be stuck with the editors choices.

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### COMING UP – Mark your Calendars

**Plant Sale** - Plants on the Members' Table are the extra plants from your Garden that you donate to FSRS. Any plants EXCEPT Rhodos and Azaleas are welcome, as we don't wish to compete with our Sellers. Please tag the plants with their name and FSRS Members will price them. There is still time to pot up a few plants for the members' table!

**Truss Show** – annual event held at the May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting

**FSRS Picnic** - June 9<sup>th</sup>, start gathering those items for the silent auction tables now!

### From the Editor

This is a busy time of the year for the club with all the upcoming events (check out the "Coming Up" entry) in Reminders. Be sure to mark your calendar for these events and support the club.

I have my plants potted up for the plant sale and hope to get a few more shortly, as some of the perennials are taking their time coming up this year. I'm always on the lookout for trilliums at the sale, got some a few years back but haven't seen any since. They are a great sign of spring in the garden. The first veggie seeds have been planted in the garden and others started in the greenhouse. We are ahead of schedule this year which is something considering the ever changing weather.

Some of the photographs in this month's newsletter have definitely suffered due to the lack of sunshine but as the rhodos are coming out at a fast pace, I just had to get them in as next month they will be gone. New ones seem to be opening daily with the warmer weather. I attempted to capture *R. calophytum*'s spring bloom this year. The buds were enormous and as they opened, they looked like little pineapples with flowers emerging out the top.

For those of you who enjoyed reading – Watts In A Name – last month, I managed to find part 2 of the article to complete our (i.e. my) education.

Maureen Worden

## From the Archives

The following article by Lynn Watts originally appeared in the Fraser South Newsletter, April 1998, courtesy of the Eugene Chapter.



### Watts In a Name? (Part 2) Lynn Watts, Western Vice president, ARS

A second group of epithets (geographical) refers either to the region where a species is naturally found (indigenous) or to a place where it was first discovered. Example: *R. hongkongense* was first discovered in Hong Kong but it is also found in Guangdong Province. *R. yunnanense* was first discovered in Yunnan Province by Abbe Delavay but later sightings by other explorers indicate that it has a very wide geographical distribution and is found also in Sichuan, Guizhou, Burma, and Tibet. One cannot assume, however, that the geographical distribution of species extends beyond the boundaries suggested by the name. Example: *R. taiwahalpinum* is strictly limited to the alpine regions of the island of Taiwan and *R. formosanum* is also endemic to (confined to) Taiwan. The wonderful world of plants is not without its subtle traps as in the name *R. formosum*. Here the name means beautiful and is not a geographical to Formosa.

Many of the geographical second names of rhododendrons are state, province or country names given Latin endings and are easily recognized and need no translation or explanation: *canadensis*, *californicus*, *oregonum*, *americanum*, etc. Besides the preceding more or less precise terms, several geographical epithets are more general in their meaning; *australis* (southern), *borealis* (northern), *occidentale* (western) and *orientalis* (eastern).

The very common adjectives *canadensis* and *missouriensis* must not be interpreted in their modern sense. Many species labeled *canadensis* appear widely throughout the United States; at the time they were named, "Canada" meant almost every place west of the Appalachians. Similarly, *missouriensis* often referred to the vast territory watered by the Missouri River. Even "Louisiana" was often taken to include most of the country west of the Mississippi, as "upper Louisiana".

A third group of rhododendron names (epithets) describes the sort of place where the plants grow. Example:

<i>oreotrepes</i>	= of the mountains
<i>alpicola</i>	= of the mountains
<i>bryophyllum</i>	= moss-loving
<i>drumonium</i>	= of the woods
<i>niveum</i>	= snowy
<i>paludosum</i>	= marsh loving
<i>ripense</i>	= on the river banks
<i>rupicola</i>	= among the rocks

Yet another group of epithets describes or designates color:

<i>albiflorum</i>	= with white flowers
<i>aureum</i>	= golden
<i>canescens</i>	= with white hairs
<i>cerasinum</i>	= with cherry colored flowers
<i>cyanocarpum</i>	= with blue fruits
<i>dichroanthum</i>	= with different colors
<i>flavidum, luteum</i>	= yellow
<i>sanguineum</i>	= red

Words that describe the shapes and margins of leaves:

<i>acuminatum</i>	= tapering to a point
<i>ellipticum</i>	= elliptic
<i>orbiculare</i>	= circular
<i>lanceolatum</i>	= with lanceolate leaves
<i>obtusum</i>	= blunt
<i>ovatum</i>	= egg-shaped

Words that describe the surface of leaves and/or stems:

<i>barbatum</i>	= bearded or barbed
<i>cilcatum</i>	= with hairs (cilia)
<i>hirsutum</i>	= with coarse hairs
<i>lanatum</i>	= woolly
<i>molle</i>	= with soft hairs
<i>subpilosum</i>	= with red hairs
<i>scabrifolium</i>	= with rough leaves
<i>vellereum</i>	= fleecy
<i>villosum</i>	= with long hairs
<i>viscidifolium</i>	= with sticky leaves

## From the Garden



### Lucy Lou

Semi-dwarf-Low. Flower campanulate, pure-white with black stamens, in lax trusses of 3 - 5. Leaves elliptic, hairy and scaly and dark green. Compact, dense and broadly branching habit. Surprisingly frost-resistant buds.

(*leucapsis* x [*ciliatum* x *leucapsis*]). Larson.

### Mary Fleming

Semi-dwarf. Flower campanulate, pale yellow-cream with blotches and streaks of salmon, in a truss of 2 – 3. Small leaves. Bronze young growth. Sun and heat tolerant.

( [*racemosum* x *keiskei*] x *keiskei* ).



### PJM

Medium. Flower openly funnel-shaped, lilac purple to light violet. Leaves elliptic, rust coloured scales, deep mahogany-purple. Upright, dense growth habit.



### **Bo-Peep**

Semi-dwarf-Low. Flower funnel-shaped, creamy yellow with yellow-green spotting, 2-3 flowers per truss. Leaves small, recurved, glossy, on an upright somewhat rangy plant. Early into flower and growth, so needs shelter but one of few very early yellow dwarf hybrids.

(*lutescens* x *moupinense*). Rothschild.

### **Cilpinense**

Semi-dwarf. Flower funnel shaped, pale pink shaded darker pink, in trusses of 2-3. Leaves elliptic, shiny, green with a fine covering of light hair. Compact and rounded habit. Avoid dense shade. Very bud tender.

(*ciliatum* x *moupinense*) Puddle/Aberconway.



### **Magnolia sprengeri var. diva 'Eric Savill'**

This sprengeri 'Diva' seedling is a fast upright grower. Named in 1982, by John Bond for the creator of Savill Garden in Windsor Great Park. With fragrant flowers of distinctive, extraordinary pink and large stature, this Chinese magnolia is quite attractive. 'Eric Savill' was a 'Diva' seedling found in England. Flowering is delayed just enough to miss troublesome late frosts in most areas.



## *R. calophytum*



Native of C. and E. Sichuan and N.E. Yunnan, in forests, scrub and on hillsides of bamboo at 1800-4000 m. Large evergreen scrub or tree to 12m. Flowers openly campanulate, white to pale-pink, with a dark-red blotch, 15-30 per truss. Leaves to 30cm, narrow, stiff and pointed, lower surface glabrous or with indumentum on the midrib. A tough handsome species suitable cold climates. Best with wind shelter.



### **Thomsonii**

Medium – Tall. Flowers in shades of red, waxy, with large calyx and nectar pouches, in a loose truss of 3-12. Leaves +/- ovate, glabrous, often glaucous. A smooth and peeling bark. One of the finest red species. Variable in flower colour and quality and hardiness.

### **Sutchuenense**

Medium – Tall. Flowers widely campanulate, pal-pink to mauve-pink, spotted red, about 10 per truss. Large handsome leaves to 30cm long. One of the easiest larger-leaved species to grow. Best to shelter from wind and to protect early flowering.



### **Pseudochrysanthum**

Semi-dwarf – medium. Flowers campanulate, pink in bud opening white or pale pink, usually spotted red, in loose truss of 5 – 10. Thick and rigid pointed leaves with indumentum on the lower surface midrib. Young growth covered in silvery hairs that persist for several months. Habit neat and compact in most forms. A fine species for flower and foliage.

## Top Rhododendrons

Continuing with the list of the top 100 rhododendrons that was compiled from a survey of over 250 worldwide submissions from members of the RHS Rhododendron, Magnolia & Camelia Group, this month we feature the rhododendrons that came in positions 51 through 60 in the survey.



51. vaseyi



52. pseudochrysanthum



53. yuefengense



54. campanulatum



55. oreodoxa



56. griersonianum



57. sappho



58. Lem's Cameo



59. lutescens

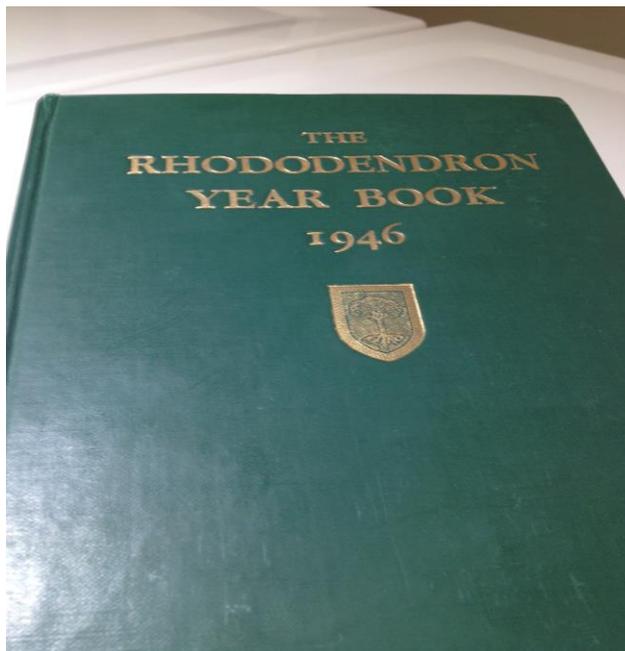
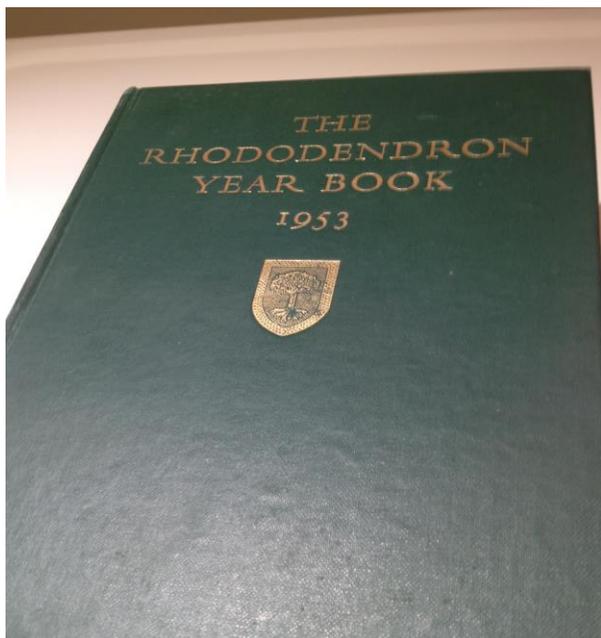


60. montroseanum

Credits: All pictures are from <http://hirsutum.info>

- 51. Hank Helm, Bainbridge Island, WA, USA
- 52. Jens Birck, Greenbank, WA, USA
- 53. Peter Norris, Martha's Vineyard, MA, USA
- 54. Coen Zonneveld, Diepenveen, Netherlands
- 55. Garth Wedemire, RSBG, Federal Way, WA, USA
- 56. Garth Wedemire, LuZhu, Agassiz, B.C.
- 57. Hank Helm, Bainbridge Island, WA, USA
- 58. Susan Lightburn, Vancouver Island, B.C.
- 59. Everard Daniel, Reigate, Surrey, UK
- 60. Everard Daniel, Sussex, UK

## *From the Library*



“New” addition to the library:

Last year, Harold Fearing presented me with two boxes of books and periodicals that had been donated to the group. Some of these have appeared on the raffle table at our meetings.

This book in one I thought should be including in our library for its historical perspective. This is a copy of the 1953 (that’s right, a 65 year old book) issue of The Rhododendron Yearbook from the Royal Horticultural Society.

The reason for adding this to the library is related to two articles in the issue.

The first is the article: “Rhododendrons in the Royal Botanical Garden, Edinburgh”. During our Christmas quiz we discovered that this is the largest Rhododendron Garden in the world! This is an interesting perspective from 65 years ago.

The second article: “Some Notes of Rhododendrons” is written by the late Lionel N. de Rothschild, a famous hybridizer in England. His garden at Exbury is a must visit for rhododendron aficionados. We see the name “Exbury” in the name of several hybrids.

The second book is the 1946 issue of The Rhododendron Yearbook. This has an article about Lionel de Rothschild and another about Exbury rhododendrons.

Enjoy the read.

*Gerald Nemanishen*, Librarian FSRS