



THE YAK

Volume 32, Number 1

January 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 40th Street
Langley, B.C.

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

This Month

Just Deserts Extravaganza and the Annual
General Meeting.

After a break from all the Christmas
goodies, it's time to temporarily put aside
those New Year's resolutions and bring
your favorite desert to share with the group.

Also on the books is the Annual General
Meeting where all AGM related items will
be addressed and the 2018 FSRS
executive officers will be confirmed to take
on the task of guiding the club through the
coming year. Vacancies are still available,
please consider volunteering!



C. Zonneveld

R. moupinense

- featured in this month's "From the Archives"



Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at
7:30pm

Kitchen duties: Gail Floyd &
Lois Williams

2017 OFFICERS

President:	Evelyn Jensen	604-857-5663
Past Pres:	Chris Hodgson	604-541-2382
Vice Pres:	Colleen Bojczuk	604-826-4221
Secretary:	Margaret Cadwaladr	604-859-3690
Treasurer:	Harold Fearing	604-857-4136
Directors:	Terry McLellan	604-888-5098
	Sandra Short	604-859-8591
	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

I hope you've had a great Holiday Season.

The Christmas Party was a great success. The meal was very good. Colleen's quiz kept us all guessing – some of us more than others!

January 17th is the Annual General Meeting and JUST DESSERTS PARTY. Please bring a dessert for us to enjoy.

Please bring a few slides to show after dessert: your garden, a garden you visited or.....

The KITCHEN DUTIES list will be passed around. Please sign up to help out.

Evelyn

The Calendar

Vancouver Rhododendron Society Thursday, February 15, 2018 7:30 pm VanDusen Gardens	Atsuko Gibson - Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden - Japan
Fraser South Rhododendron Society Wednesday, February 21, 2018 7:30 pm Langley Mennonite Church	TBA
Vancouver Rhododendron Society Thursday, March 15, 2018 7:30 pm VanDusen Gardens	George Woodard – The famous Phipps Garden on Long Island
Fraser South Rhododendron Society Wednesday, March 21, 2018 7:30 pm Langley Mennonite Church	TBA



Thanks to all who have already renewed their memberships for 2018. The 2018 membership list has been distributed along with the January copy of the YAK.

For those members who have yet to renew their membership, this will be the last YAK you will receive via email.

Ginny Fearing



Reminders

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

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

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

.....

Looking for a volunteer that is willing to provide a summary of speaker presentations. The summary would be included in the Yak the following month for those unable to attend a meeting.

From the Editor

Happy New Year!

Winter definitely came upon us for the festive season but with the New Year and the receding of the snow, ice and cold temperatures, the signs of a new gardening season are starting to arrive.

The days have already started to get longer (ok maybe by just seconds per day) and with the return to milder temperatures, the rhododendrons in the garden no longer look so severely "shrivelled".

The chickadees have already started to "plant" what will become this seasons black oil sunflowers in my perennial pots on the back patio. Last year I had beautiful sunflowers compliments of the chickadees. They even came back to "harvest" their plantings.

The sun is out today as I wonder around the garden, I am reminded that there is still cleanup to do but today (in between throwing balls for the dogs) I'm focussing on the numerous buds that come spring will provide quite a show in the yard. The buds of the early bloomers are already starting to swell. I highlight R. moupinense in this months "From the Archives" as it is typically one of the first rhododendrons out in our garden. This is not always a good thing as it usually gets hits by a snowfall or cold temperatures shortening the life of the flowers. But it along with Witch-hazel "Jelena" featured in this months "In the Garden" are my signs that spring and a new growing season are definitely on the way.

Maureen Worden

CHRISTMAS POTLUCK - 2017



Last month was our annual Christmas Potluck Dinner. Everyone brought fabulous and tasty dishes and as usual at a FSRS potluck event I did not see one duplicate on the buffet table! Amazing how this works out. Good food combined with excellent rhodo company resulted in very few leftovers.

Thanks to everyone that attended and contributed to the bountiful buffet.

A special thanks to Colleen for preparing the turkey (complete with gravy) and to Ginny for cooking the ham. Both were delicious!

Thanks to Evelyn, Ginny, and Nancy who created the table decorations. One lucky person at each table left with the festive tree decoration.





After dinner, Colleen once again provided one of her head scratching Christmas quizzes – “Twisted Rhodos and Other Flora (2nd edition)”

With over 27 “puzzles” to figure out, some with multiple parts, a point was awarded for each correct answer. It could have been all the turkey and other wonderful food that slowed down the thinking process, but we all persevered. The “high” score on the quiz was only 19.

Swags were handed out for the top scores. One of two swag types is shown below.

Many thanks to Colleen for creating and presenting the quiz as well as creating the beautiful swag prizes.

(Editor’s note: I displayed mine at the front door and received many compliments).



The following recipe from the Christmas dinner was requested by a few members. The recipe is originally from the kitchen of Dorothy McCarron (my mother).

Enjoy, Maureen

Corn Bread Recipe

Ingredients:

½ lb margarine	1 cup flour
1 cup sugar	1 cup cornmeal
4 eggs	4 tsp. baking powder
½ cup grated cheddar cheese	¼ tsp. salt
½ cup grated jack cheese	1 can (10 oz./284 ml) cream corn

Cream margarine and sugar. Add eggs one at a time. Add remaining ingredients.

Put in a greased 8x8 or 9x9 metal baking pan.

Bake at 300 degrees about 60 minutes until lightly browned and firm in the center. Freezes well.

From the Archives



The following article by Brenda MacDonald originally appeared in the Fraser South Newsletter, January 2012.

R. moupinense

On everybody's wish list, this is one of those shrublets that always seem to grow better in someone else's garden.

First discovered by Père David (he of *Davidia involucrata*, *Rhododendron davidii*, and who knows how many other zoological and botanical specimens) in 1870, it was introduced into cultivation by 'Chinese' Wilson in 1908 from seed collected around Mt. Omei in Sichuan.

Sometimes epiphytic, *moupinense* has a lax, somewhat straggly habit, allowing the lovely cinnamon-brown, peeling bark to show through the slightly bristly branchlets. Its dark green, shiny leaves seem disproportionately small when compared with the large, openly funnel-campanulate blossoms. The flowers are sometimes pure white with wine-coloured speckles, but more often have a pale or sometimes quite bright pink wash on the upper lobes.

Relatively slow growing, *moupinense* makes an excellent rockery plant. It is even somewhat (note the qualifier) tolerant of drought, but you will have the best results if you can provide that most elusive of growing media - the freely draining but moisture retentive, not barren but not overly rich, not compacted but not subject to constant soil

movement, loam - the Holy Grail of gardeners. Like its near relative *R. dendrocharis*, *moupinense* is a prime candidate for a stumpery. A well-rotted tree stump seem to provide the perfect consistently dampish but never really waterlogged environment necessary, plus it gets the blossoms up where they can be more closely examined and enjoyed.

An early bloomer, often starting to break in late February or early March, a late frost can sometimes lead to browned blossoms, but the damage is rarely severe and does not damage the bronzy new growth that will start to emerge after blossoming. More likely is that a series of spring downpours will reduce the delicate blossoms to a wet-tissue consistency, but again, the damage is never permanent.

The heavily-spotted white form typified by Smith's illustration (at left) of one of Wilson's collections is probably both less common and slightly less hardy than the pink-washed forms of later collections.

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



Engraving by Matilda Smith, 1915
Curtis's Botanical Magazine



And now to the progeny. Not widely used in hybridizing schemes, there have nevertheless been some remarkably attractive hybrids. On the face of it, it is hard to see why it was deemed suitable for hybridizing at all. A small, slow-growing plant with brittle shoots and a small root ball, subject to late frost damage - it must not have looked very promising. But then there are those blossoms - those first-glimpse-of-spring, disproportionately large but exceedingly delicate blossoms. Not to mention the red, peeling bark and dark green, shiny leaves. How could a hybridizer resist?

And they did come up with some classics: what would we do without the pale mauve signals from 'Olive' that spring is finally back. There is also 'Cilpinense', which allows us to have a *moupinense* look-alike when the species is hard to find.

Easy to tuck into the smallest urban garden, this is, all in all, a gem of a plant.

Brenda Macdonald



above - *R. 'Bo-Peep'*
- Rothschild, 1934
R. lutescens x *R. moupinense*
The influence of *lutescens*
can be seen in the yellow
spots on the upper lobe,
and the long recurved pistil.

below - *R. 'Olive'*
- Stirling-Maxwell, 1936
R. moupinense x *R. dauricum*



All photos harvested
from the wonderful
"Hirsutum" site
[www.hirsutum.info/
index.html](http://www.hirsutum.info/index.html)
except for the
first photo of *R.
moupinense*, which
came from the
equally wonderful
"Botany Photo of
the Day" site at
UBC
[http://www.
botanicalgarden.ubc.
ca/potd/](http://www.botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/potd/)



top

R. 'Jodi'

- Lem, 1966

R. racemosum x *R. moupinense*

The upright habit, leaf shape and flower shape are strongly reminiscent of the *racemosum* parentage.



middle

R. 'Pink Snowflakes'

- Scott, 1968

R. racemosum x *R. moupinense*

Another *racemosum* cross, this one looks completely different from 'Jodi' - more *moupinense*, less *racemosum*.



bottom

R. 'Fine Feather'

- Aberconway, 1934

R. 'Cilpinense Group' x *R. lutescens*

Another *lutescens* cross, this one shows that influence in a pale yellow wash rather than in yellow spots, and in the longer narrower leaves and more rangy habit.



left and below
R. 'Cilpinense'
- Aberconway, 1923
R. ciliatum x *R. moupinense*
The classic *moupinense* cross
and beloved choice for nooks
and crannies everywhere.
Actually a grex or group of
sibling seedlings, the colours
can vary from the warm
pink at left to the pure white
below.



right
R. 'Seta'
- Aberconway, 1928
R. spinuliferum x *R. moupinense*
Another small gem, there is
a satisfying rhythm to the
blossom placement.



Witch-Hazel *Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Jelena'



M. Worden, January 2018

Prized for its attractive winter blooms and superb fall colors, *Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Jelena' (Witch hazel) is a large deciduous shrub with large, bright, coppery orange flowers in late winter to early spring. Fragrant, each flower consists of 4 ribbon-like, crinkled, strap-shaped petals. Clustered along leafless branches, the flowers unfurl their spidery petals on mild days. But on cold days, they curl up again and nearly close up to prevent damage from freezing temperatures.

Hardiness zone 5-8 Height 8'-12' Spread 8'-12'

Native Americans used witch hazel leaves and bark as a poultice to reduce swelling and inflammation. Witch-Hazel has long been among the best known and widely used home remedies. The word "witch" in the name is actually a derivative from the Anglo-Saxon word *wych* meaning flexible. The word described the flexibility of the branches that Native Americans used to make bows.

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 21 through 30 in the survey.



21. luteum



22. Niveum



23. barbatum



24. lindleyi



25. roxieanum



26. Sir Charles Lemon



27. yunnanense



28. fortunei



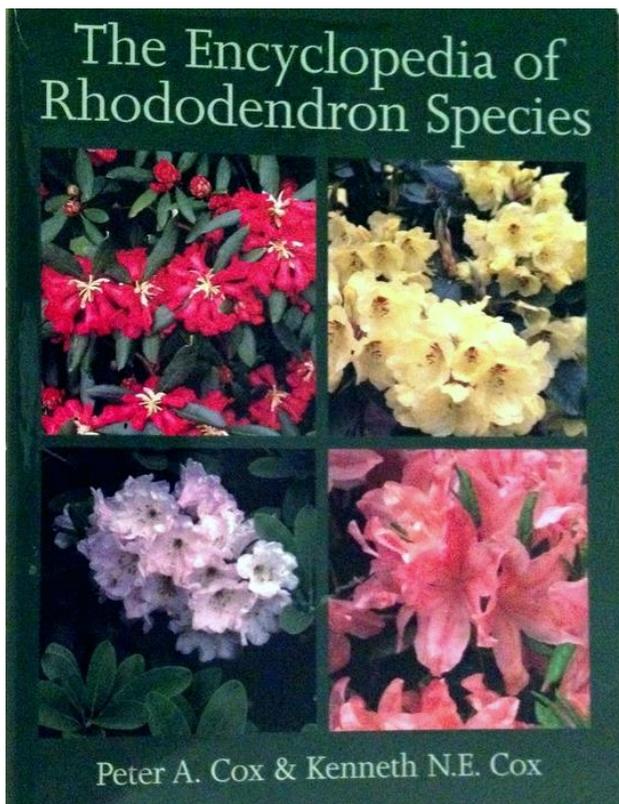
29. rex



30. decorum

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

- 21. Garth Wedemire, Agassiz, B.C.
- 22. Hank Helm, Chimacum Woods Garden, WA
- 23. Ken Gibson, Tofino, BC
- 24. Garth Wedemire, RSBG, WA, USA
- 25. Hank Helm, RSBG, WA, USA
- 26. Hank Helm, Bainbridge Island, WA, USA
- 27. Garth Wedemire, Agassiz, B.C.
- 28. Paul & Linda Laury, Lantzville, B.C.
- 29. Coen Zonneveld, Diepenven, Netherlands
- 30. Douglas Justice, UBC Botanical Garden, B.C.



From the Library

Encyclopedia of Rhododendron Species

by Peter A. Cox and Kenneth N.E. Cox.

Glendoick Publishing, Perth, Scotland.

Copyright 1997 Peter A. Cox and Kenneth N.E. Cox.

416 pages, 1510 photographs and 2 maps.
Glossary,

Bibliography and Index. Hardbound. ISBN 0-9530533 (hardcover).

Peter A. Cox(father) and **Kenneth N.E. Cox**(son) are jointly, and individually, the authors of many books on Rhododendrons and Azaleas. Glendoick Gardens evolved many years after Euan Cox, Peter's father, returned from a trip to Burma in 1919. The books written by Peter and Kenneth Cox are considered internationally as offering the most comprehensive lists of rhododendrons available to gardeners.

Glendoick Gardens, Glendoick, Perth, Scotland, PH2 7NS is owned by Peter and Kenneth Cox and is a world renowned rhododendron nursery, exporting plants to many parts of the world. The nursery grows species and hybrid rhododendrons as well as Camellia, Primula, Phyllodoce, Mangnolia, Meconopsis, and many other genera, especially from wild origin seed.

From the dust jacket:

“Unique in the history of rhododendron book publishing, this encyclopedia brings together all the temperate species of rhododendron in cultivation in one volume with extensive photographic illustrations of nearly all taxa described. Each species is covered by a full botanical description. A second paragraph contains a summary of the most important taxonomic characteristics used to identify each species and a discussion of how each species differs from its nearest relatives. A final paragraph covers brief cultivation details, dates of introduction and flowering time.”

This is a companion volume to the *Encyclopedia of Rhododendron Hybrids* by the same authors and previously reviewed in the *Yak* by Margaret Hodgson.

This is not a book that you can read leisurely by the fire. The amount of information is almost overwhelming but it is an excellent reference volume for those intensely interested in species rhododendron.

Gerald Nemanishen,
Librarian FSRS