



THE YAK

Volume 32, Number 3

March 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



Date: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at
7:30pm

Speaker: Cliff Jury from Wild Birds
Unlimited

Topic: Birds in the Garden

Kitchen Duties: Ron Talbot and
John Lapins

Plant Sales: Harold Fearing

We hope to see you at the meeting!

Hummingbird Group

Flower/Truss Description: Flower broadly
campanulate, about 2½" across, pink, unmarked. Lax
truss has 4 flowers.

Bloom Time: Early Midseason

Parentage: haematodes x williamsianum

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

Is it Spring at last? The Robins think so!

First, I would like to thank Maureen Worden for the excellent job she is doing producing the YAK. A round of applause, please!

The past few days have been ideal gardening weather. Please pot up your extra plants for the Member's Table at the April 21st Plant sale.

The volunteer schedule for the plant sale will be circulated at the March meeting, please sign up to help out in any way you can.

November 2018 is the 30th Anniversary of FSRS. Do you have any ideas how we can celebrate the occasion.

Evelyn

The Calendar

Vancouver Rhododendron Society Thursday, March 15, 2018 7:30 pm VanDusen Gardens	VRS member Philip MacDougall will speak on 'Green Patience' the formula for woodland perennials.
Fraser South Rhododendron Society Wednesday, March 21, 2018 7:30 pm Langley Mennonite Church	Cliff Jury – Birds in the Garden
Fraser South Rhododendron Society Wednesday, April 18, 2018 7:30 pm Langley Mennonite Church	TBA
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 9:00 am Langley Mennonite Church	Annual Plant Sale

NOTE: The next VRS meetings is a week prior to the FSRS meeting due to the 2018 calendar.

**Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden
Annual Symposium
April 6 & 7th, 2018**

Everyone Welcome!

Location: Best Western Plus, Federal Way,
WA and Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden

Featured Speaker: William McNamara,
Executive Director of Quarryhill Botanical Garden

Information & Registration: www.rhodygarden.org

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.

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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.

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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. Start those plants now so they look great
for the buyers come April.

From the Editor



Welcome to SPRING!

Okay, spring is still officially one week away but the warm weather last weekend along with the move to daylight savings time is making the birds, plants, dogs and I do the Happy Spring dance.

The last and late blast of winter did in all the flowers on R.reiriei. "From the Garden" this month includes R.praevernum that bloomed *both* before and after the snow along with other rhododendrons currently in bloom.

"From the Archives" this month is an interesting article on how rhododendrons are named. Unfortunately it had to be retyped as the print on the original article was so small I almost had to get out the magnifying glass. I have had my co-editor and proof reader review the newsletter but as they say, you see what you expect to see, so any typos on rhododendron names are strictly mine.

While contemplating content for this month's newsletter and with our guest speaker being from Wild Birds Unlimited, I thought of the rhododendrons named after birds in our yard, so I've included a section on some of the "Glendoick Bird" Rhododendrons. They are some of my favourites not only due to the fact that I'm fascinated by the petite stature of the plants and miniature flowers but they remind me of Glendoick in Scotland. Jim and I visited there when we attended the Silver Jubilee of the Scottish Rhododendron Society at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Edinburgh. At Glendoick, we were privileged to have Peter Cox, along with his trusty lab, show us the gardens up the mountain and the Glendoick nursery areas.

Maureen Worden

From the Archives

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



Watts In A Name? Lynn Watts, Western Vice President, ARS

I have been asked to write an article (or several) on the naming of plants, specifically the species names in the genus *Rhododendron*. Although botanical nomenclature can be a very complicated subject it becomes much simpler when applied to a single genus such as the genus *Rhododendron*.

(This, by design, will be a simplified explanation of the botanical nomenclature as applied to the genus *Rhododendron*. For a more comprehensive treatment of this subject please refer to reference 4 and 5).

Within the genus *rhododendron* are the species. Their names are composed of the genus name, *rhododendron* (the generic name) plus a second word, the species name. This second word, called the specific epithet, distinguishes one particular species from all the others in the genus.

Species names are Latinized and are derived from:

1. Names of persons.
2. Compound words which describe the plant.
3. Geographical names.
4. Words that describe the plant habitant.
5. Words that describe the color.
6. Words that describe the leaf shape.
7. Words that describe the surface of the leaf and/or stem.
8. Words that describe the growth habit.
9. Words describing various characteristics of the plant.

This article will deal with species (1) named for persons and species(2) whose specific epithets are compound words describing the plant.

1. **Names of persons**

Usually the name of the person honored has been Latinized by adding *ii*, *ium*, *iae*, *iana*, *anum*, etc. We will not attempt to list all the species *rhododendrons* whose names commemorate persons, rather we will give specific examples illustrating the reasons for such naming.

Rhododendron wardii named in honor of Frank Kingdon Ward, one of the most famous of the early plant explorers. (loosely translated as Ward's *rhododendron*). *Rhododendron beanium* named after W.J.Bean, Former Curator, Royal Botanical gardens, Kew. *Rhododendron clementinae*, after Clementine, wife of George Forrest.

After a little study it will become relatively easy to identify the person for whom the *rhododendron* has been named. Then it becomes intriguing to learn more about that person.

2. Species names which describe the plant

Compound words which form a descriptive adjective.

Rhododendron <i>macrophyllum</i> :	macro = large	phylum = leaves
Rhododendron <i>brevistylum</i> :	brevi = short	stylum = style
Rhododendron <i>pachysanthum</i> :	pachy = thick	anther = flowers
Rhododendron <i>pachytrichum</i> :	pachy = thick	trichum = hairs
Rhododendron <i>oreotrepes</i> :	oreo = mountain	trepes = bred

Additional prefixes which describe parts of plants include:

albi, leuco:	white	<i>R. albiflorum</i> , white flowered
lutea: aurea:	yellow	<i>R. luteum</i> , <i>R. aureum</i> , yellow
longi:	long	<i>R. longistylum</i> , long flowers
multi:	many	<i>R. multicolor</i> , many colored
parvi:	small	<i>R. parvifolium</i> , with small leaves
pauci:	few	<i>R. pauciflorum</i> , with few flowers
rhodo:	red	<i>R. rhodostomum</i> , with a red mouth
steno:	narrow	<i>R. stenophyllum</i> , with narrow leaves
trans:	long	<i>R. transtylum</i> , with a short style

Additional species names which numerically describe parts of plants:

uni:	one	<i>R. uniflorum</i> , with one flower
bi, di:	two	<i>R. dichroanthum</i> , with flowers of two colors
tri:	three	<i>R. triflorum</i> , with three flowers
quinque:	five	<i>R. quinquefolium</i> , with five leaves
penta:	five	<i>R. pentaphyllum</i> with five leaves

The second part of the compound words which describe plants or parts of plants is formed by the following Latin or Greek words.

caulis:	stem
carpum:	fruit
florum:	flower
anthum:	flower
folium:	leaf
phylum:	leaf
petalum:	petal
sepalum:	sepal

I hope this stimulated some of you readers to further investigate the meanings behind the names of the wonderful world of species rhododendrons.

References:

1. A Source Book of Biological Names and Terms, Edmund C. Jaeger; Charles C. Thomas, publisher, Third Printing 1955
2. Selected Rhododendron Glossary and Botanicals terms, Pat Nelson, Marlene Buffington, Nadine Henry, 3-D Publications 1982
3. The Rhododendron Handbook, The Royal Horticultural Society, Alan Leslie, Compiler, 1980
4. The Encyclopedia of Rhododendron Species, Peter A. Cox and Kenneth N.E. Cox, Glendock Publishing 1997.
5. Notes from the Royal Botanical Garden, Edinburgh, James Cullen and David Chamberlain, Edinburgh, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1980,1982.

The Glendoick Bird Hybrids

At Glendoick, Peter Cox was inspired to start breeding with a hitherto largely neglected group of rhododendrons. the small leaved alpine and dwarf species. He was interested in the little and never-used lepidote dwarf species with yellow flowers. The first to catch peter's eye was *R.ludlowii* which was flowering in the Sheriff garden at Ascreavie in Angus, Scotland. The virtues of this species are its compact habit and its freely-produced bright yellow flower, relatively large for the size of leaves. The main drawback of *R.ludlowii*, found only twice in the wild, in 1936 on the India-Tibet border by Ludlow & Sheriff, and by Peter & Kenneth Cox in 2002, is that in gardens, it seems to have little will to live. It struggles at Glendoick, and there are healthy specimens in only a handful of other gardens. Miraculously, it proved to be a great parent, and its offspring have been much easier to grow than the species itself.

Peter's first cross produced "Chikor" (named in 1962, a delightful award winning plant only a few inches in height which covers itself with yellow flowers in early May. After this early success, and with the help of his father Euan Cox, Peter Cox began systematically crossing as many of the dwarf lepidote species as he could. (Source: *Glendoick, A Guide* by Kenneth N.E. Cox)

Some of the approximately 20+ Glendoick "birds" are shown below. Pictures are from the ARS website: www.rhododendron.org



CHIKOR

Yellow, flat-faced flowers with reddish spots in a truss of 3 – 6. Leaves tiny and slightly shiny. Compact and rounded. A delightful dwarf that needs cool roots and moist but well-drained soil. The first Cox bird.

(*rupicola* var. *chryseum* x *ludlowii*)

CRANE

Buds pale greenish yellow, opening palest creamy yellow both inside and out, unmarked, in trusses of 3. Small leaves. A white version of 'Ginny Gee', which is hardy, very free flowering.

(*keiskei* Yaku Fairy x *racemosun* Whitelace)





CURLEW

Flower openly campanulate, 5cm across, bright mid-yellow, spotted red, incompact trusses of 1 – 3. Leaves small, shiny, dark green, on a dwarf, compact plant. Needs shade in hotter climates, and good drainage.

(ludlowii x fletcherianum)

EGRET

Flowers tiny, bell-like, white slightly tinged pale green toward the throat, in loose trusses of 2 – 6. Leaves small, shiny, dark green, on a compact plant (unless in shade).

(campylogynum x racemosum White Lace)



PTARMIGAN

Flower funnel-shaped, pure white with black stamens, in terminal clusters of 2 – 3, opening in batches over several weeks. Leaves small, dark green. Spreading and sprawling habit. The 'Snow Grouse' is one of the best early hybrids in the UK.

(orthocladum var. microleucum x leucapsis)

RAZORBILL

Flower tubular-shaped, rose-pink with variable darker pink overtones, in upright clusters of 6 – 14. Leaves medium-green, crinkly, hair-fringed, scaly underneath, growing wider than tall.

(spinuliferum x unknown)





WIGEON

Flowers light purple-pink flushed rose, with red spotting on upper lobes, short red stamens, in trusses of about 5. Leaves greyish green, new growth silvery.

(*minus Carolinianum* Gp. X *calostrotum* 'Gigha')

WREN

Flowers clear yellow, with red spotting, in small tight trusses of 3 – 5. Leaves small, dark-green, glossy, recurved, turning bronze in winter. Prostrate habit and slow growing.

(*ludlowii* x *keiskei* 'Yaku Fairy')



PINTAIL

Flowers brightest pink in multiple trusses from leaves, axils and terminal buds. Small medium-green leaves on a fairly compact plant with good foliage.

(*racemosum* x Snipe)

PIPIT

Flowers flat-faced, pink with darker markings in trusses of 2 – 3. Very slow and low growing, semi-deciduous. A natural hybrid from Nepal.

(*lowndesii* x *lepidotum*)



R.strigillosum



Flowers are tubular-campanulate with nectar pouches, deep red to crimson-scarlet, in usually flat-topped trusses of 8 – 12.

Distinctive recurved leaves and bristly branches.

One of the best early flowering red species, which is quite hardy but needs shelter for its early growth and flowers.

R.praevernum



Flowers campanulate about 10 per truss. Leaves with recurved margins to 18 cm long.

Very closely related to *R. sutchuenense* but tends to be more compact and the flowers are paler.

R.pachytrichum



Flowers campanulate, with nectar pouches, pink or white with deeper reddish or purple blotch in a loose rounded truss of 7 – 17.

Leaves with recurved edges, branches with bristles.

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 41 through 50 in the survey.



41. Rubicon



42. trichostomum



43. lacteum



44. Taurus



45. Loderi "Venus"



46. Lady Alice Fitzwilliam



47. quinquefolium



48. Alison Johnstone



49. keysii



50. griffithianum

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

- 41. Garth Wedemire, LuZhu, Agassiz, B.C.
- 42. Hank Helm, Bainbridge Island, WA, USA
- 43. Hank Helm, RSBG, Federal Way, WA, USA
- 44. Garth Wedemire, LuZhu, Agassiz, B.C.
- 45. Hank Helm, Bainbridge Island, WA, USA
- 46. Rinus Manders, Rhodenpark, Bremen, Germany
- 47. Hank Helm, RSBG, Federal Way, WA, USA
- 48. Garth Wedemire, LuZhu, Agassiz, B.C.
- 49. Hank Helm, Bainbridge Island, WA, USA
- 50. Rinus Manders, Glenarn Garden, Rhu, Scotland