



THE YAK

Volume 32, Number 5

May 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>

R. ambiguum Hemsley 1911

Habit: shrub to 5m; young shoots scaly; bark greyish brown; shredding



This Month

Date: Wednesday, May 16, 2018 at 7:30pm

Event: Justly Famous Beer Bottle Truss
Show

Kitchen Duties: Colleen Bojczuk and
Alyssa Chuback

We hope to see you at the meeting!

Leaves: narrowly ovate or obovate or narrowly elliptic, 3-8 x 1.5 x 3.2 cm; upper surface dark green, persistently scaly; lower surface densely scaly, with contiguous or overlapping, dark brown, somewhat unequal, large, broadly rimmed scales; leaf stalk and midrib downy towards base.

Raceme: 3 – 5 flowered

Calyx: wavy or slightly 5-lobed, scaly, sometimes with short hairs

Corolla: funnel-shaped, 2-2.6 cm; yellow, often with darker yellow or greenish spots on the upper side of the tube, variably scaly but not hairy outside

Ovary: scaly Style: usually hairless

Capsule: 9-13mm Distribution: Central Sichuan

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

A big thank you to all those who came out to help with the Plant Sale. The weather cooperated and the day was quite successful.

Our FAMOUS BEER BOTTLE TRUSS SHOW will be held at the May meeting. Please bring your favorite trusses; best weevil notched leafed truss, as well as your best last year's truss to beat Harold's!! In a beer bottle of course!!!

Jim Worden will be taking your registrations and counting your "beady ballots".

Reminder: Our Annual Picnic will be held June 9th at the home of Barbara Mathias.

Please give some thought to the Silent Auction and an item or two to donate to the Auction.

Evelyn

The Calendar

Fraser South Rhododendron Society Wednesday May 16, 2018 7:30 pm Langley Mennonite Church	Twenty-fourth anniversary of the Justly Famous Fraser South Beer Bottle Truss Show.
Vancouver Rhododendron Society Thursday May 17, 2018	Guided evening visit to the Royston collection, the Ted and Mary Greig Rhododendron Garden in Stanley Park. Contact VRS for more details
Fraser South Rhododendron Society Saturday June 9th	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Annual Picnic and Silent Auction.
Vancouver Rhododendron Society Saturday, June 16th, 2018	VRS Annual Picnic location TBA
Fraser South Rhododendron Society Wednesday September 19, 2018 7:30 pm Langley Mennonite Church	TBA



You're Invited!

John and Gael Dodd will be opening their garden on Sunday, May 20, from 10 a.m. – 4:00 P.M.

Their address is 24365 61st Ave, Langley.

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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COMING UP – Mark your Calendars

Truss Show – annual event held at the May 16th meeting

FSRS Picnic - June 9th, start gathering those items for the silent auction tables now!

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From the Editor

What a difference a few weeks and a couple of very warm days makes to the garden this time of year!

The early magnolias are finished, Yellow Bird has just come out and the sieboldiis are budding up nicely. Last year the fruit trees were blooming mid April, during the rain, which resulted in a very poor fruit crop. This year the sun and fruit trees are co-operating. We put up mason bees house this year and its fascinating to watch them going in and out of the houses. The mason bees along with the other bees are busy in the trees so I predict a good fruit crop this year. (A repeat of the pearmagedon of a couple of years ago!)

Our Hawthorne trees are running 2-3 weeks behind their normal bloom time but the rhododendrons have been furiously blooming. 'In The Garden' shows only a small number of the rhodos currently in bloom.

We have a south facing back yard which is fairly wide open providing ample sunlight for the veggie and the rose gardens as well as the fruit trees. The downside for the rhododendrons planted in this area is that a lot of them tend to come out on mass and earlier than perhaps in other gardens. Fortunately the various acers are now out providing the much needed shade from the afternoon sun for some of the more tender rhodos and helping to prolong the blooms. Others, like the big leaf rhodos reside in a wooded area or on the north side of the house and seem to bloom in their own timeframe.

All the categories for the truss show can be found in the This Month section of the newsletter and early picnic details in the Next Month section as the release of the June YAK may postdate the actual picnic.

I'm looking forward to my 1st Truss show (I've been 'volunteered' to help) and hope the participation level is high! Pictures in the June YAK – I hope.

Maureen Worden

Last Month

APRIL SPEAKER REVIEW

David Sellars - Alpine Jewels of the Olympic and Wenatchee Mountains



Both Dave and his wife Wendy have made such important contributions to our club in the past, and it was so nice to see him again and revel in his photography now that he is in the Alpine Club. We were treated to views of magnificent mountain vistas from their travels in many Pacific Northwest areas, including the Wenatchee Mountains, East and West Cascades, and the Olympic Peninsula. When we see the small plants offered, albeit rarely, in plant centers and club sales, it's hard to imagine them in nature – the huge drifts of *Phlox caespitosa* and *Erythronium*; the tenacity of *Lewisia rediviva*, and the diminutive *Penstemon* and *Saxifraga* , and many others . Notwithstanding that many are growing in such places that no plant would seem to establish. The quality and beauty of the photos was awe-inspiring, especially seeing the ruggedness of the terrain involved in getting them. Dave's vast knowledge and easy delivery style made for a very engaging presentation (despite the spook in the projector!).

Respectfully submitted by Colleen Bojczuk

APRIL PLANT SALE

I would like to personally thank all the members who pitched in so cheerfully to make our sale a success – the sign crew; the pickup and set up tables and tent crew; the truck unloaders and re-loaders; the carry out and car loading crew; the cashiers , and all the question answerers. The sellers brought an amazing array of color and variety, and the many plants brought for the members table were very much sought after.



I am also very thankful for all the plants supplied or donated by Minter Country Gardens(Chilliwack), Frasersview Nursery(Aldergrove), and Greater Valley Nursery (Aldergrove). Their generosity was much appreciated. And lastly, we are so grateful that the weather cleared and gave us a beautiful day.

Thanks again, Everyone,
Colleen

This Month



The world famous Fraser South Beer Bottle Truss Show will be held at our May meeting, Wednesday, May 16th.

This is a fun event in which everyone can participate.

1. Entry to the hall will be by bringing at least one truss. It is not necessary that it be a rhododendron.

2. There will be three areas for display:
a. competitive rhododendron trusses
b. non-competitive rhododendron trusses
c. companion plant displays, including bonsai

3. To assist in deciding which class to enter, an Advisory Panel will provide guidance and make any final decisions necessary.

4. All trusses must be in glass bottles. (Cans and plastic pop bottles are too unstable.)

5. Judging will be by member votes. Having given up on the too-sticky and too-tasty Smarties, we will be continuing with the counting beads used for the last few years. Just drop your bead in the receptacle in front of the truss you wish to vote for.

6. All entries to be rhododendrons (not azaleas) unless otherwise specifically noted.

Division I

Species Classes

- Class 1. Sub-genus 'Rhododendron' (lepidotes)
- Class 2. Azalea (deciduous and evergreen)
- Class 3. Sub-genus 'Hymenanthes' (elepidotes)

Division II

Hybrid Classes

- Class 4. Any lepidote hybrid
- Class 5. Any deciduous azalea hybrid
- Class 6. Any evergreen azalea hybrid

Colour Classes (rhododendrons only)

- Class 7a: Red - (small)
- Class 7b: Red - (large)

- Class 8a: White - (small)
- Class 8b: White - (large)

- Class 9a: Pink - (small)
- Class 9b: Pink - (large)
- Class 9c: Pink - (really, really, large)
- Class 10a: Yellow & Cream (small)
- Class 10b: Yellow & Cream (large)
- Class 11a: Mauve & Purple (small)
- Class 11b: Mauve & Purple (large)
- Class 12: Orange
- Class 13: Bi-colour

Division III

Special Classes

- Class 14: "What's it Called" - best new non-registered hybrid - a special class for the hybridizer
- Class 15: Truss with the Best Fuzzy Foliage
- Class 16a: Best Blotched (small)
- Class 16b: Best Blotched (large)
- Class 17: Best Speckled
- Class 18: Most Lurid
- Class 19: Best Last Year's Truss
- Class 20: Most Elegantly Weevil-Notched
- Class 21: Best Hammerhead
- Class 22: Most Flaccid
- Class 23a: Best Miniature - under 6" (species)
- Class 23b: Best Miniature - under 6" (hybrid)
- Class 24a: Most Fragrant - Rhododendron
- Class 24b: Most Fragrant - Azalea
- Class 25: Bridesmaid (for anyone not previously an award winner)

Judged

Lionheart Award: best over-all yellow, any Class

Definitions:

1. Small - 6" or under
2. Large - 6" to 10"
3. Really, Really, Large - over 10"
4. Blotch - each individual flower shows a solid colour mark on dorsal lobe (or three lobes), distinctly different from the base colour of the flower.
5. Lurid - most vividly garish
6. Hammerhead - an inflorescence which arises from more than a single flower bud
7. Speckled - distinguished from blotches by non-solid colour sprinkles and spots, either around entire flower, or at least on upper lobe(s) - e.g. 'Paprika Spiced'

Next Month

IT'S PICNIC TIME!

On June 9th, our Annual Picnic will be held at the home of Barbara Mathias. 4327 -232nd St. Langley. Phone: 778-580-6404

We will gather at 3 PM and the meal will be served about 4:30 to 5 PM. Items for the SILENT AUCTION can be bid on throughout the afternoon and dinner. Shortly after dinner, the Auction will close. The happy winners can collect their goodies, visit the cashier, and be on their way whenever they please.

Don't **forget** to bring:

- a chair to sit upon
- a plate to eat off
- cutlery to eat with
- the beverage of your choice, if desired
- a mug for the beverage of your choice, or the tea and coffee which will be provided
- your potluck contribution, for sharing with others
- utensils to serve your potluck contribution, if necessary
- any friends, neighbours, or visiting relatives whom you think would enjoy meeting us and learning more about the FSRS are welcome



Remember to bring your items for the auction. There is sure to be something worthwhile to contribute to the auction: superfluous gardening tools or equipment? horticultural texts on a subject which no longer interests you? Garden decorations? Bring something someone else will be interested in (doesn't have to be Rhodo or garden related), and then bid early and bid high for something you are interested in.

We hope to see everyone at the PICNIC!



The following article originally appeared in the Fraser South Newsletter, May 1994.



Deadheading Revisited

by Mike Trembath

I have lived with, collected, grown and looked at rhodies for some thirty years. More important than the resulting improvement in appearance, deadheading prevents seed production, and permits the more rapid development of axillary new growth buds.

The largesse with which seed is produced by rhododendrons seems to be a varietal pattern—i.e., some produce small, almost unapparent seed pods, others flaunt great capsules like mini-bananas. Although rhododendron seeds are small, the number of seeds per capsule, or even segment of a capsule, is staggering. When you consider that your average garden hybrid carries a truss on every terminal branch (you hope) of eight to 20 florets—each of which may develop a capsule containing millions of seeds; and when you consider that the production of viable seed is a prime directive for the plant kingdom, you begin to appreciate the demands made on the plant's nutritional system—demands which are more imperative than those for growth and new bud. Those varieties prone to set abundant seed show more marked changes—undeadheaded, the foliage produced is smaller, flower buds are absent or uncharacteristically small, and the branch may even die and be shed. Permitted to continue without deadheading, the entire plant loses vigor and may die. There are other factors involved, and seed production is not the sole cause of demise even in my above description—but plants stressed by heavy reproductive duties are ill equipped to withstand other stresses, such as competition or drought.

Individual branches of rhododendrons support a terminal whorl of leaves with a central bud. The bud may be a flower bud or a leaf bud. In the latter case spring growth causes the bud to grow—straight ahead as it were, the branch is lengthened and forms another terminal whorl of leaves and its central bud. If the central bud is a flower bud, growth of the branch occurs from the tiny axillary buds that lie at the junction of the leaf stalks and the main stem. When the spent flower is snapped off, one, or more, of these small buds will lengthen and grow and create the next branch (or branches) with their leaves and terminal buds. If the spent truss is *NOT* removed, development of the axillary buds is often delayed. Delayed new growth may fail to produce flower buds, or may be insufficiently ripe to withstand a hard winter.



The job of deadheading is relaxing in its sheer mindlessness. So if you have the time, and don't mind having the thumb and forefinger of your right hand glued together (I've yet to find a solvent) your plants will be stronger and healthier and will produce more flowers.

This article is taken from a letter by Mike Trembath published in the May edition of Gardens West. The letter is in response to an article by Judy Newton where she commented that it wasn't necessary to deadhead rhododendrons. ☼

From the Garden

Four hybrids by Frank Fujioka (Whidbey Island, Washington).



Starbright Champagne
(Yaku Sunrise x Hansei) x Lem's Cameo



Vibrant Violet
(*R. impeditum* x *R. augustinii* ssp *augustinii*)



Seaview Sunset
(Nancy Evans x Canadian Sunset)



Saffron Silk
Nancy Evans x (Odee Wright x Crest)



Glendoick Ice Cream



Sea-Tac



Canadian Sunset



Horizon Jubilee



Horizon Monarch



Carmen



R. augustinii



R. fortuneii



Evening Glow



Silver Skies



First Love



R. erbus x Yak x Etta Burrows



Clayquot Warrior



Festivo



Golfer



Double Winner



Unique



R. cinnabarinum

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 61 through 70 in the survey.



61. Lem's Monarch



62. argyrophyllum



63. Lady Chamberlain



64. cerasinum



65. viscosum



66. dauricum



67. calostrotum



68. Crest



69. Elizabeth



70. grande

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

- 61. Paul & Linda Lawry, Lantzville, Vancouver Island, BC
- 62. Garth Wedemire, RSBG, Federal Way, WA, USA
- 63. Herb Spadey
- 64. Everard Daniel, Reigate, Sussex, UK
- 65. Hank Helm, RSBG, Federal Way, WA, USA
- 66. Han Boerrigter, Groningen, Netherlands
- 67. Garth Wedemire, RSBG, Federal Way, WA, USA
- 68. Coen Zonneveld, Diepenveen, Netherlands
- 69. Susan Lightburn, Vancouver Island, BC
- 70. Ken Gibson, Tofino, Vancouver Island, B.C.