



THE YAK

Volume 33, Number 3

March 2019

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 Ave.
Langley, B.C.

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



This Month

Ole Jonny Larsen (see page 16 for Bio) from Norway will present "Rhododendron Species Culture in Scandinavia".

The interest in Rhododendron culture is high in Scandinavia, especially along the coast lines. The Norwegian west coast (where I live) have among the best climates in Europe for growing Rhododendrons, after the British islands. Collectors in Denmark and Norway have been doing lots of research over the last decades to test out which species can be grown, and the results have been surprising. Especially in western Norway the so-called big leaved species have had focus over the last years. One of my special interests are American native species. This speech will also show lots of rare and newly introduced species, now being tested out in Scandinavia.

Date: Wednesday, March 20th, 2019.

Kitchen Duties: Nancy Moore &
Gerald Nemanishen

Plant Sales: Kirsten Martin

R. praevernum

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BCCGC Liaison:	Vacant	

From the President

Soooo – is it ever going to be spring? I am so anxious to get busy with clean-up, but the 2 foot piles of snow in the yard are cramping my style. There are lots of bulbs coming up under the hedge, the snowdrops are exposed again and looking quite perky, and flower buds are swelling on the Rhodo. PJM close to the house. Alas though, the perennials I wish to split and share are still in dire need of thawing , but they should come with a vengeance when it warms up – pots and soil, trowel and splitting knife are all at the ready!

I'm really looking forward to Mr. Larsen, our March speaker – not often do we get a chance to have an international presenter , especially one of such vast experience and knowledge. Anyone who has read his bio online will see that we will be very well entertained and enlightened. I'm sure Harold will be able to add more to the story after hosting him and his wife for the evening. I hope everyone will attend, and please bring any interested gardener friends – they won't be disappointed.

Colleen B.

The Calendar

Fraser South Rhododendron Society Wednesday March 20, 2019. Time: 7:30 p.m. Langley Mennonite Church	Ole Jonny Larsen from Norway, The Rhododendron Species Culture in Scandinavia
Vancouver Rhododendron Society Thursday March 21, 2019 6:30 pm VanDusen Gardens 5251 Oak Street at West 37th Avenue (access off West 37th), Vancouver, BC See Page 17 for presentation description	Ole Jonny Larsen from Norway, "Plant Hunting - the experience of an amateur". Refreshments (wine/cheese etc.) at 6:30, speaker at 7:30 PM. Visitors welcome – Non-members \$10 at the door (no advance registration required and fee dropped if membership is purchased). Free admission for FSRS members.
Fraser South Rhododendron Society Wednesday April 17, 2019. Time: 7:30 p.m. Langley Mennonite Church	Ron Long, The Unique Botany of Southern Oregon Ron was the sciences photographer at Simon Fraser University for thirty-six years. Now retired, Ron travels extensively to botanic hotspots around the world and enjoys sharing his experiences and photographs with interested

R. praevernum



Predominant Flower Color: White, Pink

Flower/Truss Description: Campanulate, white, pale to deep pink or pinkish lilac, large purple or crimson blotch. Open topped truss holds 8-15 flowers. Bloom time: Very Early to Early

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.

Speaker reviews are always welcome!

Members are welcome to send their own "In the Garden" photos to the editor for inclusion in the YAK.

From the Editor

Well March has been interesting weather wise. As I write this the sun is out but it is hailing. Every time I've mentioned the "S---G" word the last few weeks, the next morning I wake up to the "S--W" word. I'm definitely ready to move on so let's hope the meteorologists are correct and a warming trend is imminent.

Last year at this time R. praevernum, R.strigillosum, and R.pachytrichum were out in full bloom. This year, R.praevernum has been trying to bloom since early February and has been holding back until recently. As you can see from the picture on the left, it has decided that Spring (there I said it) is here and has started to bloom profusely.

There has been a change in the birdsong the last few days and their activity level has moved into mating rituals as winter leaves us. A flicker has taken up daily residence on our metal chimney top and proceeds to send out coded messages to other flickers in the vicinity. With the change to daylight savings time, the dogs are once again happy they can get out after dinner to patrol the back yard and chase the bunnies which have once again appeared in the yard – don't know where the bunnies spent the winter but they certainly look well fed!

You may notice that this month, one of the "Reminders" is bolded. I understand that contributions to the raffle table have been thin over the last couple of months. Please remember that the raffles are important to our group and try to become a regular contributor to the raffle at the monthly meeting. Thank you to all that contribute regularly.

The FSRS Plant sale is coming up in April. Please keep this in mind as you divide and relocate your perennials etc. Potted and labelled contributions will be greatly appreciated for the members table at the sale.

Last month we visited Wales and this month's travel itinerary takes us to Scandinavia with our special speaker from Norway. It promises to be a great session so bring a gardening friend or two or ... to enjoy the trip.

Maureen Worden

February Speaker Review

We all were pleased again to welcome Susan Murray to our meeting, and what a visual treat we were given! Twelve historic and renowned gardens in Wales in the springtime – who could ask for more?

The maturity of the plant material, the meticulous care that the gardens were given and the beautiful old manor homes were amazing to see. We have very little to even remotely compare in our area – our culture seems far more concerned with tear down and build new rather than preserve and protect. The National Trust is such a valuable system there, although even so it has its trials. The passion with which the gardeners and caretakers kept up the properties, whether large or small, was certainly evident, and we could all take a lesson from them. Thanks again to Susan for sharing such treasures with us.

Respectfully submitted by Colleen B.

Upcoming Events

Denman Island Home and Garden Tour June 15-16, 2019

Tickets are now on sale for this enchanting Tour, deemed by the Globe & Mail "one of Canada's top six horticultural events." Every two years this idyllic island throws open its garden gates, inviting the public for a rare up-close look at the creativity, skill and passion Denman residents pour into their properties.

The Denman Conservancy has declared 2019 to be The Year of the Wetland, and many of our extraordinary properties offer natural and man-made water features, creating complex, lively ecosystems. The famous Des Kennedy Garden is a major attraction again this year, and other highlights include an organic vineyard (with tasting room), a home build from creatively

recycled components, a modern homestead and market garden, a couple of oceanfront west-coast architectural delights, and an island-style chocolate factory. Bloom lovers will not be disappointed, either - roses, lilies, and a whole host of other blossoms will be found in abundance.

This weekend event provides an unforgettable experience for lovers of gardens, homes and rural charm. Many people return year after year, and are never disappointed. Join them! Come for a day trip, or book into a cozy B&B and stay for the weekend.

Early bird tickets are \$18, and can be purchased online at <http://www.denman-conservancy.org/home-and-garden-tour/>.

New member

Please welcome new FSRS member Allison McConnell who has recently joined our group.



From the Archives

The following article originally appeared in the Fraser South Newsletter, February 2003 by Brenda MacDonald



This is the first of a series of articles that celebrate members of the FSRS and their work in developing new rhododendron hybrids.

Hybridizing is a hopeful art, one undertaken by both the backyard enthusiast and the career horticulturist. It requires almost endless patience and demonstrates an extraordinary ability to take the long view. Developing a new rhododendron hybrid is not a task for those seeking immediate gratification.

Will it be the right colour, will it be frost hardy and/or heat hardy, will it be easy to propagate, will it be fussy about growing conditions, will the foliage be worth looking at for the 11 months of the year when the plant is not in blossom, will it be floriferous or a shy bloomer, will it produce blossoms on the propagating bench or will it be a substantial shrub of 10 years before we can even see what the blossom colour is? These are all questions which reverberate in the mind of the hopeful propagator as the pollen of one plant is dusted on the stigma of another.

It is all a matter of chance, and hope.

'Lionheart'
(‘Rimini’ x ‘Mrs. Lammot Copeland’)
M.L. “Mike” Trembath, 1971
(photo Mike Trembath)



In January, 1995, Mike wrote an article for *The Yak* in which she describes the subdued frenzy of the late 60's and early 70's as rhododendron fanciers sought the development of a really good yellow rhododendron.

“At this time everyone was searching for buttercup yellow rhodies. The Hawks were available - only just - but Crest was not easily acquired. When E.J. Trayling brought a truss of Larsen's Mrs. Lammot Copeland to a show we held in the Cowan Centre in Burnaby we all drooled over it. The Traylings were, at that time, neighbours of the Finleys, and Vern was able to get some pollen from Mrs. L.C. With great enthusiasm we rushed about putting pollen on any bloom showing even a hint of yellow in both our gardens. We divided seed - and grew on hoards of plants. Most of these were bitter disappointments, of course - tending to be bicolours which faded out to cream - or unpleasant, (to my taste at least), mixtures of orange with greeny-yellow throats and edged in red - yuck!”

The immediate parents of ‘Lionheart’ were known: ‘Rimini’ was an established plant in Mike’s garden in Surrey, B.C., and the blossoms were dusted with pollen from the Trayling’s truss of ‘Mrs. Lammot Copeland’, but things were a little less precise beyond that point. In fact, when Mike submitted ‘Lionheart’ for registration at the Royal Horticultural Society she was requested to provide more information about ‘Rimini’ since the Registrar had no record of it.

Only by determined sleuthing was Mike able to ascertain that ‘Rimini’ was a Lionel de Rothschild cross of the 1930's, of what was then termed *R. apodectum* x *R. discolor* but is now known as *R. dicroanthum* ssp. *apodectum* x *R. fortunei* ssp. *discolor*. Due to Mike’s efforts Exbury was prompted to quickly lay claim to ‘Rimini’ and register it with the RHS.

As for the other parent, the very desirable 'Mrs. Lammot Copeland', it was the result of a cross by Hjalmer Larson of his own 'Virginia Scott' and *R. wardii*. That seems pretty straightforward, since 'Virginia Scott' was another Larson cross, but this one was only half known: *R. souliei* x unknown.



'Lionheart'
(photo Mike Trembath)

So, gathering up the progenitors of 'Lionheart' we have (that we know of) *R. dicoanthum ssp. apodectum*, *R. fortunei ssp. discolor*, *R. souliei*, and *R. wardii*.

Of course the traits of the parents show up in the progeny in various combinations. The trick is to discover the particular seedlings which display as many of the parents' best characteristics and as few of the worst characteristics as possible.

Further on in her article, Mike describes the funnel-campanulate blossoms of 'Lionheart' as "a warm yellow with brick red buds, a frilled calyx and a bloom time of June 1 – 14."

In this particular case we can conjecture that *R. dicoanthum ssp. apodectum* contributed the warm colouring and fleshy substance to the corolla and calyx, that *R. fortunei ssp. discolor* imparted the large open to funnel shaped blossom shape and the late flowering period,

and *R. wardii* gave its yellow colour and large wavy calyx. Unfortunately the only thing which *R. souliei* seems to have brought to the table is its great reluctance to be propagated, either by rooting or by grafting.

All of 'Lionheart's parents bloom relatively late in the season, with *discolor* very late - at the end of June and beginning of July. Having a rhododendron blossom so late in the year is a definite plus for the committed gardener, but it does not make for a very commercially attractive plant. The general public is just not out in the heat of summer looking to see if there are any rhododendrons which would look nice. In addition, 'Lionheart' apparently did not inherit the positive traits of flowering freely and at a young age from *wardii*, but instead wound up with the late developing and somewhat shy flowering attributes of *apodectum*. These characteristics, in conjunction with the difficulty in propagation, served to effectively remove 'Lionheart' from candidacy as a commercially viable hybrid.

But still it is a lovely plant because above all, as Mike says,

"It makes me happy to look at it - maybe because of the lateness of the bloom, or perhaps because of its rich, warm colours, or the layered look it has when in bloom - from the rather flat topped trusses - it is a smiling plant."

A good enough reason for anyone to admire the results of this backyard propagation.

Brenda Macdonald

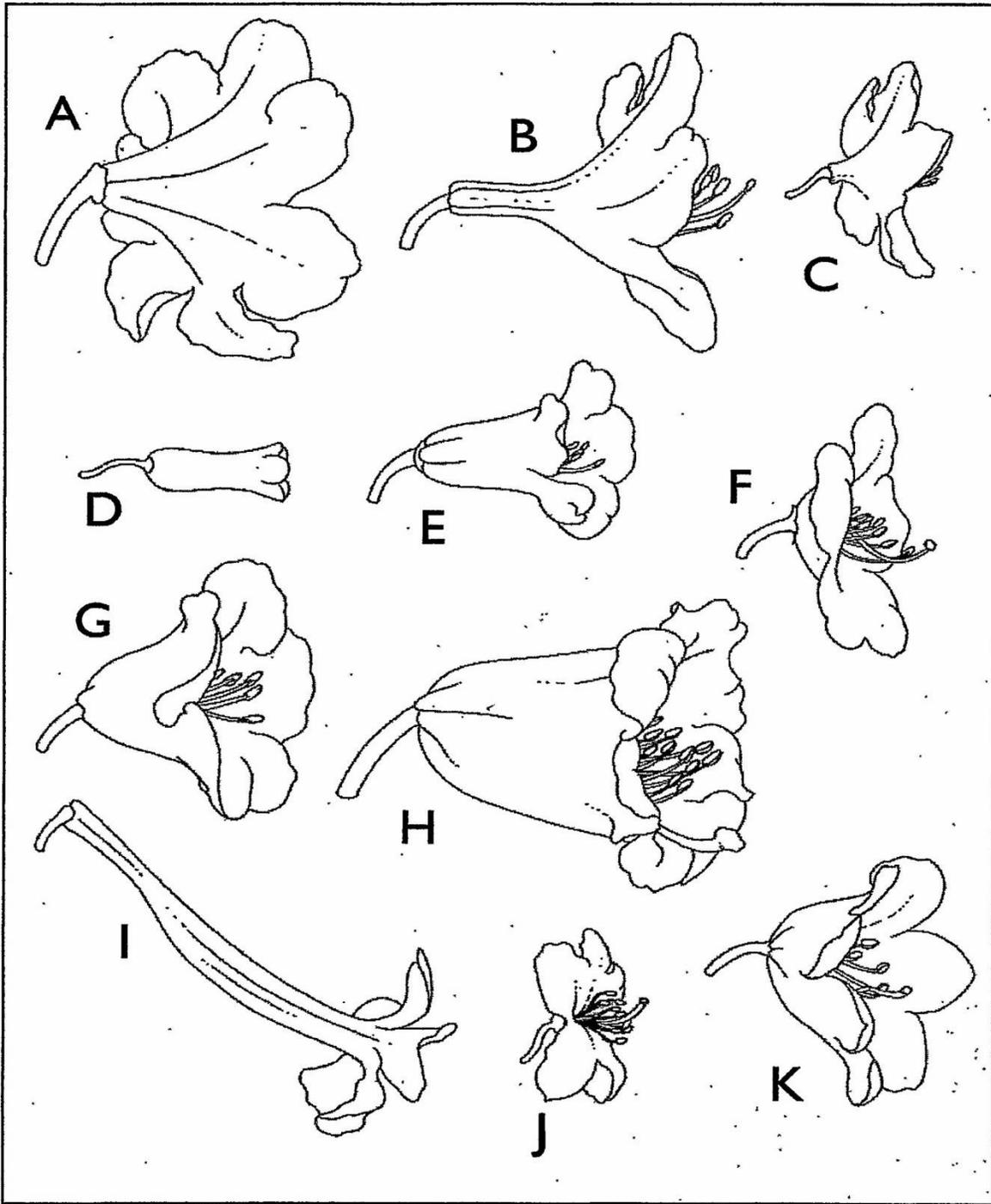


'Lionheart'
(photo Mike Trembath)

Editor's Note: As a follow-up to "From the Archives" for all the "budding" hybridizers out there, a glossary of terms used to identify registered rhododendrons from "The International Rhododendron Register and Checklist, Second Edition" (2004) compiled by Sr. Alan C. Leslie, International Rhododendron Registrar.

GLOSSARY

- ACUMINATE** tapering very gradually to a point
ACUTE coming to a point that would be contained within two lines set at 90°
ANEMONE-CENTRED of a double flower with numerous petaloid segments in the centre
ANTHER the pollen-bearing part of the stamen, borne at the end of the stalk-like filament
APICULATE terminating in a small, abrupt point (the point formed only from the vein or midrib)
APPRESSED lying flat
ARISTATE extended into a long bristle
ATTENUATE narrowing gradually
AURICULATE with small, ear-like projections at the base of the leaf
AXILLARY growing from the angle formed by the junction of leaf and stem
BLOOM waxy covering
BLOTCH a defined area of often contrasting colour; may be solid, spotted or a mixture of the two
BULLATE with a blistered or puckered surface
CALYX the outermost whorl of floral parts; in some rhododendrons reduced to a mere rim
CAMPANULATE see figs G and K
CAPITATE forming a dense head-like structure
CILATE fringed with hairs
CLONE two or more genetically identical individuals originally derived from one plant by asexual propagation
CORDATE with two rounded lobes forming a deep sinus
CORIACEUS leathery
COROLLA the whorl of floral parts immediately inside the calyx; in rhododendron flowers usually fused to form a corolla tube towards the base with free lobes towards the apex
CRENULATE with small rounded teeth
CUNEATE with straight sides converging at the base
CUSPIDATE tapering to a short, narrow point
DENDROID of a hair that is branched like a tree
DETERSILE of an indumentum that is eventually completely shed
DIMORPHIC of scales or leaves that are of two distinct kinds
DORSAL in a rhododendron flower used to refer to the top or upper lobe or lobes
DOUBLE of flowers with numerous extra petals or petal-like organs within the corolla (often developed from and replacing the stamens and or pistil)
EGLANDULAR lacking glands
ELLIPTIC see fig. P
EYE sometimes used interchangeably with blotch but typically a contrasting marking restricted to the base of the corolla
FERRUGINOUS rusty brown
FILAMENT the stalk-like part of the stamen, bearing the anther at its apex
FIMBRIATE with a fringed margin
FLARE sometimes used interchangeably with blotch, but usually a marking with a flame-like outline.
FLOCCOSE with dense woolly hairs that fall away in tufts
FUNNEL-CAMPANULATE intermediate in shape between funnel-shaped and campanulate
FUNNEL-SHAPED see figs A and C
GLANDULAR HAIRS hairs bearing glands at their tips
GLAUCESCENT becoming bluish green
GLAUCOUS bluish green
HOSE-IN-HOSE of flowers with two corolla whorls, one within the other; a normal calyx may or not be present
IMBRICATE overlapping at the margins
INFLORESCENCE a flower cluster
INDUMENTUM the covering of hairs and/or scales; may range from very sparse to dense and multilayered
LAMINA the blade of the leaf
LANCEOLATE see fig. R
LEPIDOTE bearing scales
LINEAR see fig. Q
MATT with a dull surface
MUCRONATE terminating abruptly in a short, hard point (the point formed from the limb and vein/midrib)
NECTAR POUCHES see under nectary
NECTARY nectar-bearing areas on the corolla, sometimes in sac-like protuberances or pouches
OBLANCEOLATE see fig. N
OBLIQUE of a leaf base where the two margins reach the petiole asymmetrically
OBLONG see fig. L
OBOVATE see fig. O
OBTUSE rounded end which would not be contained within two lines set at 90°
ORBICULAR see fig. M
OVARY the basal part of the pistil, containing the ovules; it matures to form the capsule containing the seeds
OVATE see fig. S
PEDICEL the stalk of an individual flower
PETALOID petal-like
PETIOLE the stalk of a leaf
PILOSE with long soft hairs
PISTIL the female reproductive organ, consisting of the ovary at the base, which is prolonged apically into the style that is tipped by the stigma
PLASTERED an indumentum with the components stuck together to form an apparently continuous sheet (sometimes described as agglutinated)



Figs A to K: Flower shapes

A = funnel-shaped

B = tubular funnel-shaped

C = broadly funnel-shaped

D = tubular

E = tubular-campanulate

F = saucer-shaped

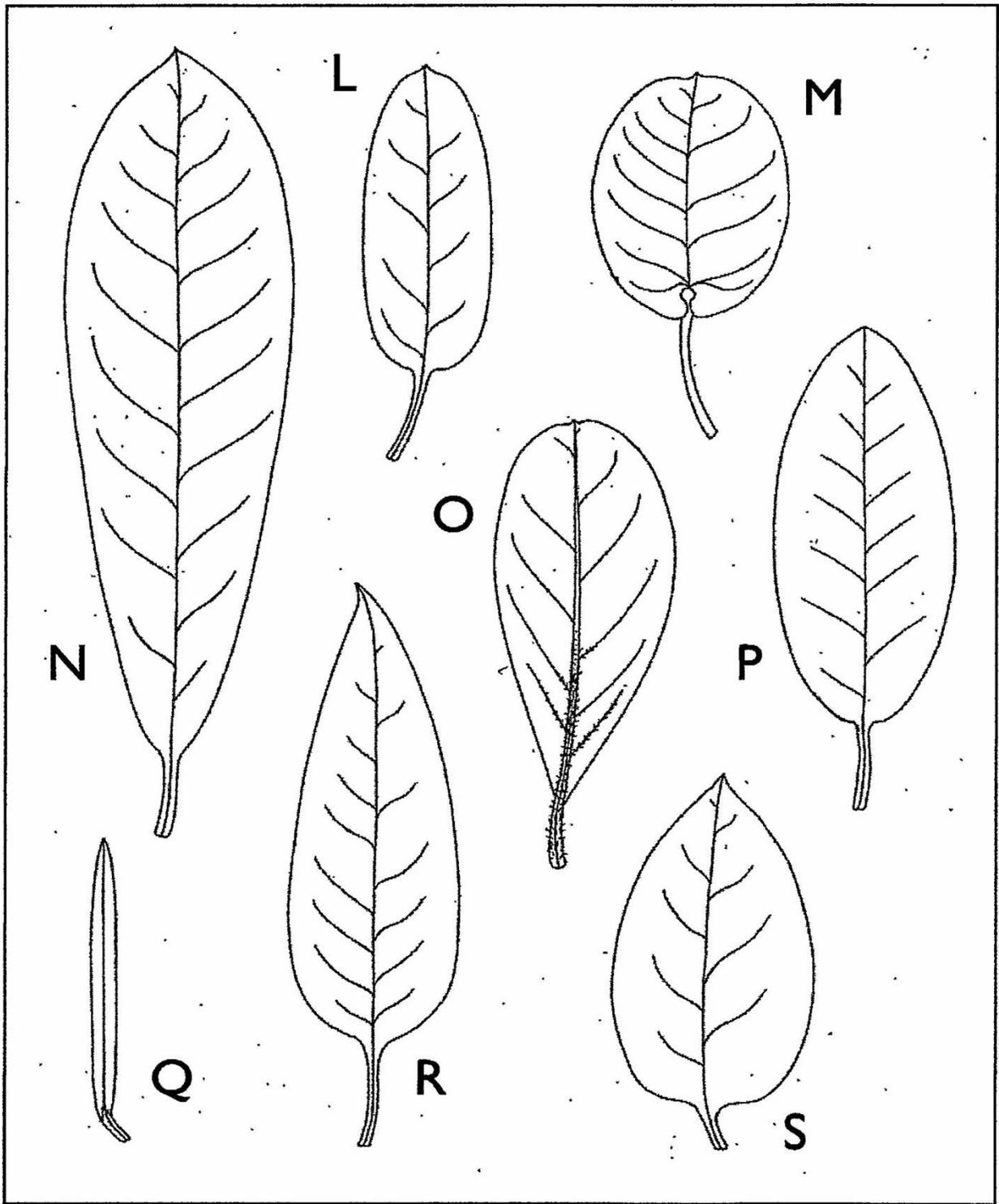
G = campanulate

H = ventricose-campanulate

I = trumpet-shaped

J = rotate

K = broadly campanulate



Figs L to S: Leaf shapes
 L = oblong
 M = orbicular
 N = oblanceolate
 O = obovate

P = elliptic
 Q = linear
 R = lanceolate
 S = ovate

PUBERULOUS minutely hairy
PUBESCENT with short hairs
RACEMOSE of an inflorescence whose growing point continues to add to the inflorescence, usually lacking a terminal flower and with a lengthened axis
RETICULATE marked with a network of veins
RETUSE with a shallow, blunt notch at the apex
REVOLUTE rolled downwards
RHACHIS the axis of the inflorescence
ROTATE see fig. J
RUFESCENT becoming reddish
RUGOSE with a wrinkled surface
SALVERFORM a corolla with a long narrow tube and a shorter spreading border at its mouth
SAUCER-SHAPED see fig. F
SELF refers to a corolla of only one colour
SEMI-DOUBLE of flowers with a few extra petals or petal-like organs within the corolla
SESSILE with no stalk
SETOSE of an indumentum consisting of stiff hairs
SINGLE of flowers without additional petals or petal-like organs within the corolla
SINUS the depression between two lobes or teeth
SPATHULATE paddle-shaped
STAMEN the male reproductive organ, consisting of a stalk-like filament bearing the pollen-bearing anther

STELLATE star-shaped
STIGMA the apical part of the style which is receptive to pollen
STOLONIFEROUS with (at least some) procumbent stems
STRIGOSE of an indumentum consisting of stiff, appressed hairs
STYLE the usually attenuated, often stalk-like beak to the ovary, with the stigma at its apex
TOMENTOSE with a dense covering of short often more-or-less matted hairs
TRUMPET-SHAPED see fig. I
TRUNCATE terminating very abruptly, as if a piece had been cut off
TRUSS a cluster of flowers
TUBULAR see fig. D
TUBULAR-CAMPANULATE see fig. E
TUBULAR FUNNEL-SHAPED see fig. B
UMBELLATE an inflorescence in which all the pedicels arise from the top of the stem
VENTRAL in a rhododendron flower used to refer to the bottom or lower lobe or lobes
VENTRICOSE swollen or inflated on one side
VENTRICOSE-CAMPANULATE see fig. H
VILLOUS shaggy
VISCID sticky
ZYGOMORPHIC having only one plane of symmetry

From the Garden



February 2019



March 2019

Coming out of the freeze



Promises of Blooms





Rhododendrons of Sikkim-Himalaya

Rhododendrons of Sikkim-Himalaya based on the explorations by Joseph Dalton Hooker and his findings published in 1849.

RHODODENDRON EDGEWORTHII, Hook. fil

Mr. Edgeworth's Rhododendron.

TAB. XXI.

Frutex sepe epiphytus, ramulis petiolis pedunculis capsulis folisque subtus dense ferrugineo-villoso-tomentosis, foliis sublonge petiolatis elliptico-ovatis acutis vel acuminatis subcoriaceis rugoso-reticulatis basi obtusis supra nitidis marginibus recurvis, palmatis 2-3 terminalibus v. ab innovationibus lateralibus, floribus speciosis albis, calyce amplius 5-partito lobis foliaceis oblongo-obovatis inaequalibus lanuginosis ciliatis, corollae tubo breviusculo late campanulato, limbi maximo lobis rotundatis venosis crenato-nudulatis, staminibus 10 exsertis, filamentis inferne villosis, antheris oblongatis, ovario dense tomentoso 5-loculari, stylo gracili basi lanuginoso, capsula oblongo-cylindrica recta obtusa valvis lignosis.

HAB. Sikkim-Himalaya; in valleys of the muer ranges, usually pendulous from trees, sometimes on rocks; elevation 7,000-8,000 feet. Fl. May and June; fr. November.

A small *shrub*, with struggling branches, often pendulous upon trees and rocks. *Branches*, the older ones covered with a dark ashy and slightly glaucous bark; young ones and young leaves and bracts, peduncles, petioles, and the underside of the old leaves, densely clothed with a soft ferrugineo-fulvous tomentum, which is easily detached. *Leaves* two to four inches long, ovato-lanceolate, acute or more usually suddenly acuminate, obtuse at the base, the margin recurved, the upper surface fine glossy green, singularly rugose from the deeply impressed reticulated veins; beneath, too, the principal veins are prominent and conspicuous. *Petioles* about three-quarters of an inch long. *Peduncles* terminal or axillary from innovations, usually two or three from the same point, about as long as the petioles. *Flowers* very large, showy, inclined. *Calyx* large, of five deep, membranaceous or foliaceous, obovate, spreading, unequal, coloured lobes, very downy on the back, the edges finely ciliated. *Corolla* white, often tinged with blush and pale yellow; the *tube* rather short, widening much at the mouth, slightly curved, the *limb* unusually large, more than four inches across, spreading, of five nearly equal, rounded, slightly emarginate lobes, crisped at the margin, delicately veined on the surface. *Stamens* ten, a good deal exserted beyond the mouth of the tube; *filaments* slender, a little dilated downwards, villous on the lower half; *anthers* very large, long in proportion to their breadth, linear-oblong, dark purple-brown. *Ovary* ovoid, six-furrowed, six-celled, densely woolly; *style* elongated, red, woolly below; *stigma* five- to six-lobed. *Capsule* more than an inch long, straight, oblong-cylindrical, obtuse, densely covered with ferruginous wool. *Seeds* pale-coloured.

A truly superb species from the size of the flowers and their roseate tinge on a white ground, also on account of the variety of rich colour in the leaves, bracts, stipules, calyx, &c., while the very wrinkled surface of the leaf adds much to its beauty. In its floccose character and foliaceous calyx it resembles *R. pendulum*; but in the size and shape of the flowers it approaches *R. Dalhousiae*, next to which I would place it.

The majority of my specimens were obtained from the land-shoots, or -slips, in the rocky ravines, which bring down in their course those Pines on the limbs of which this species delights to grow.

I dedicate this Rhododendron to my accomplished and excellent friend, M. P. Edgeworth, Esq., of the Bengal Civil Service, now Commissioner of Multan, who has long and successfully studied the Botany of Western Himalaya, and of North-western India generally.



J. D. H. M. Hook. del.

Barne & Mahala. imp.

RHODODENDRON EDGEWORTHII, Hook. fil.



Ole Jonny Larsen

- Newly retired teacher after 41 years in Norwegian state school
- Live in Ålesund at the west coast of Norway with my wife Kari
- Have been on the board of the Norwegian Rhododendron Society for seven years. Leader of the society since 2016.
- Author of books about Rhododendrons and Plant hunter history.
- Editor of a book about Rhododendron gardens in Norway.
- Have over many years written several articles for the ARS Journal, The RSF yearbook, The Royal Horticultural Society, Rhododendron, magnolia and Camellia yearbook plus magazines for Scandinavian Rhododendron Societies.
- Often invited as a speaker for Rhododendron societies' meetings in Norway, Sweden and Denmark.
- One of the main speakers during the ARS 2018 convent in Bremen, Germany
- Running a small "backyard" nursery producing species Rhododendrons for collectors in Norway (and Scandinavia). At the moment the main supplier for this market.
- Have participated in three plant hunting expeditions to Yunnan and Sichuan, China.
- Holds one of the biggest collections of Rhododendron species in Norway (and Scandinavia).

VRS Ole Johnny Larsen presentation – Thursday March 21st

Plant hunting – the experience of an amateur

I will go through my three expeditions to Yunnan and Sichuan between 2010 – 2016. I will show how plant hunting can be done by hard struggle but also the easy way. You do not have to be very fit to go plant hunting. There is always a possibility to a “Rhododendron Tourist” in China and elsewhere. Plants vary enormously in nature, and even amateurs can find interesting things. I will also discuss the new regime which is establishing through the so-called Nagoya Protocol.

