



THE YAK

Volume 33, Number 5

May 2019



R. cinnabarinum

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

<http://frasersouthernrhodos.ca>

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

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

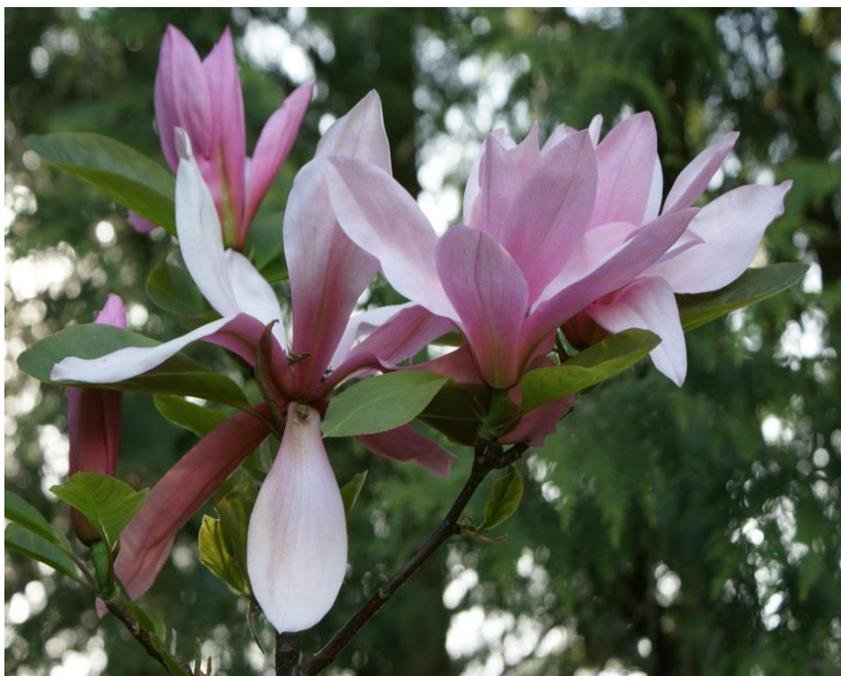
Langley Mennonite Fellowship Church
20997 40th Ave.
Langley, B.C.



Magnolia “Caerhays Surprise”

M. campbellii mollicomata x M. liliiflora 'Nigra'

Bright violet flower buds, pinkish purple when open, 20cm. diameter. Prolific bloomer, at an early age, a good hardy plant of outstanding merit. Medium size, deciduous tree.



This Month

The justly famous Fraser South Beer Bottle Truss Show

Come and join us for the 25th annual truss show.

If you're looking to expand your Rhododendron knowledge or ideas for new rhododendrons for your garden or you just like to admire incredible blooms in so many different colors, this event is for you.

Entering the show is not a requirement for attendance. Just come, enjoy and vote for your favourite in each of the classifications.

Division and classification details can be found on page 13 of this newsletter.

Date: Wednesday, May 15th 2019.

Kitchen Duties: Ann & Randy McDougall

Next Month

The Fraser South Rhododendron Society



Saturday June 8th – see page 7 for all the details.

2018 OFFICERS

President:	Colleen Bojczuk	604-826-4221
Past Pres:	Evelyn Jensen	604-857-5663
Vice Pres:	Jim Worden	604-541-4754
Secretary:	Barbara Mathias	778-580-6404
Treasurer:	Harold Fearing	604-857-4136
Directors:	Caroline Feldinger	250-614-6626
	Gerry Nemanishen	604-826-0166
	Shawn O'Neill	604-583-1817
Programme:	Jim Worden	604-541-4754
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	

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 President

Firstly, I would like to offer up a big shout out all the very willing volunteers that made our sale day go so smoothly. We had perfect weather, loads of colorful and interesting plants, and lots of helpers to put up signs, set up tables, organize plants, price things on the member's tables, help customers to load purchases, and even fetch water for plants that needed it. And extra kudos to Nancy and Barb for manning the cashier table for the entire day themselves (with some help from Gerry too), as no one else had signed on to take over. Thanks so much to everyone involved!

As I write this, our side yard is in great disarray due to the necessary repair of a section of retaining wall. Dennis' friends are doing all the bull work while he supervises. Needless to say, there's not much gardening able to be done – things are dug out, cut down, pots moved to anywhere there's room, piles of soil here and there, gravel for cement, etc etc. Despite all that, the big Rhodos are all looking pretty good – very little wind/frost damage; the augustinii's are full out, but the fortunei's are blooming too – that doesn't usually happen! Dora Amateis and oreotrepes are making a lovely combination, but I fear they won't last in the heat. Murphy's Law generally dictates that there'll be a heat spell just as the fortunei's are full out, and then they will burn. Oh well, I won't miss the incredible amount of very sticky bud scales that get brought into the house on shoes, pants, shirt, hair, and face from them. The bloom schedule seems quite compressed, so the truss show will be interesting to see what holds on till then. Please bring all you can, and remember to bring other flowering things for the show and tell companion plant table. This year's prizes will somewhat different from the past, but still very nice.

Also, let's keep our eyes and minds on neat things for the silent auction at the picnic.

Colleen B.

Upcoming events

Fraser South Rhododendron Society Wednesday May 15, 2015 7:30 pm Langley Mennonite Church	Annual Truss Show
Vancouver Rhododendron Society Thursday, May 23, 2019	Garden Field Trip / Walk in the Garden. Visit two South Surrey gardens – The Glades and Darts Hill.
Fraser South Rhododendron Society Saturday June 8, 2019 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Annual South Fraser Rhododendron Picnic
Vancouver Rhododendron Society Saturday June 8, 2019	Annual Vancouver Rhododendron Society Picnic

ARS 2019 Fall Conference

The ARS 2019 Fall Conference “Rhododendrons By the Seaside” is being hosted by the Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society (MARS) September 27th – 29th in Parksville.

The conference features twelve distinguished speakers whose overall theme is ‘Rhododendrons as the World Warms’. Three bus tour options are included, along with a bulbs workshop and sale, two propagation workshops, plant sale, photo exhibition, and silent auction.

Registration is now open. More details can be found at: <http://marsrhodos.ca/ars2019/>



Les Clay works on the memorial garden for his late wife Beverly Anne Clay, known as Bev.

From the *Langley Advance Times* – Friday April 12, 2019

SFRS member Les Clay planted the first rose bush in the Beverly Anne Clay Memorial Rose Garden at the Derek Doubleday Arboretum located at 21559 Fraser Highway, Langley.

Last Month

FSRS Annual Plant Sale was held Saturday, April 20th.



I just wanted to say thank you to all the people who contributed to our sale last Saturday. Particular thanks go to our sellers without whom we wouldn't have a sale, and to those who contributed to the member's and FSRS tables.

Thanks also to our hardworking cashiers, and to all those who helped with set up, take down, setting up signs, making coffee, helping customers, etc. Gross sales were down this year, about 25% below the long term average. The fact that it was Easter weekend may have been a factor.



Our sales in 2017, 2014 and 2011 were also on the Easter weekend, and they were also all below average. The long cold spring may have influenced things too.

Several people told me that they had not been able to get out into the garden yet and so weren't quite ready to buy new plants.

On a positive note our net profit will probably be average, or only very slightly below average, thanks to results from the member's and FSRS tables which were about as good as last year.

Harold Fearing

From the Editor

The bloom is on resulting in so many rhododendron pictures that it was hard to choose which ones to include this month. I take the camera into the yard every few days and each stroll usually results in 30+ pictures. Of course not all turn out well as our backyard faces south and I've learned that there are certain times of the day that are better for picture taking than others. Thought I would save some for our winter YAK issues to remind us all of spring during the gloomy winter months. Our Hawthorne trees have started to bloom this week and already the trees are full of bees. I never realized how many different types / colors / sizes of bees there were until I saw them busy on the Hawthorne trees. It is definitely a unique experience to stand under these trees as the hum of the bees on the tree sounds like a prelude to takeoff. After a slow start our mason bees are busy filling the tubes in their house. At last count we had 28 tubes filled (almost half full now) with the remaining tubes showing signs of activity. With an average of 4-5 bees laid per tube, I don't think we'll have to purchase any cocoons next spring.

I'm thinking about putting up a sign in my perennial bed that reads "Dog Path". For years I've attempted to fill the bed with various perennials that will handle hot sunny afternoons. After years of having a path beaten through the perennial bed because the dogs prefer that rambling route to the back of the yard rather than a straight line, I've given in and purposely leave the preferred route free of any plantings. So to avoid having to explain why my perennials have a rambling path through them, I figure a sign would work while providing a talking point and a bit of garden decoration.

Mr. & Mrs. Mallard have been joined in the neighbourhood by Mr. & Mrs. C. Goose. If not seen noshing on a neighbour's front lawn the pair can be seen winging down the street at a very low altitude or coming in for a rooftop landing. They landed on our roof the other day and after a lengthy (and loud) conversation between themselves (perhaps deciding what lawn to hit next), they removed themselves for a stroll.

I hope everyone is enjoying their rhododendron blooms and plans to attend the truss show. I've once again been volunteered to help out and will also be attempting to take pictures. Remember, that entering the show is not a requirement for attendance. Just come and enjoy!

Maureen

P.S. To the FSRS member that provided the bee balm for the plant sale my "wee friends" (the hummingbirds) thank you!

APRIL SPEAKER REVIEW

Once again Ron Long delighted us with his superb photography and plant knowledge, this time about some very niche areas of southern Oregon. The unique and isolated geography and weather contributed to types of plants not found in other places. His obvious passion for Mariposa Lilies was beautifully portrayed in the startling close-ups of such wondrous blooms. He explained that the exuberance and profusion of blooms of so many species all together was due to the shortness of the season at altitude. There were even the native Rhododendrons – *macrophyllum* and *occidentale*, along with *erythroniums*, *camassia*, and so many others. Thanks Ron.

Respectfully submitted by Colleen

Next Month

IT'S PICNIC TIME!

On June 8th, our Annual Picnic will be held at the home of Ann and Randy McDougall. 11375 133A Street, Surrey.

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!



From the Archives

The following article originally appeared in the Fraser South Newsletter, March 2000 by David Sellars



Only One Rhodo?

Last month we had an interesting discussion on choosing a list of “good doers” for our region. The list was sent to the ARS which is compiling a brochure of “Proven Performers” for each region. There are so many choices of rhododendrons for our mild climate that we had difficulty keeping the list down to a manageable number. But imagine you were going to live on a temperate island somewhere and were allowed to take only one rhododendron with you, rather like participating in the old BBC radio programme “Desert Island Discs”. What rhodo would you choose?

Some of the most attractive rhododendrons available these days are hybrids of *R. yakushimanum*. For some odd reason, there are many who denigrate the yak crosses as being too boring “all pink fading to white”. While this is true of some yak crosses there are a surprisingly large number with stunning foliage and beautiful flowers that hold their colour for weeks. How is it possible that the wonderful pink and white flowers of *R. ‘Mardi Gras’* set off in large dark green leaves could be boring? Or the subtle soft pink flowers of *R. ‘Queen Alice’* or the stunning flowers and foliage of *R. ‘Silver Skies’*. The yak-bureavii crosses such as *R. ‘Teddy Bear’* probably win the amazing foliage competition with their brown fuzzy indumentum just like yours truly.

But unless it was an extremely small island, the one rhodo that I would take would not be one of these. My choice would be the finest hybrid ever made, the magnificent *R. ‘Loderi King George’*. This was a cross of *R. fortunei* and *R. griffithianum* that was made by Sir Edmund Loder of Leonardslee in 1901. The buds are pink and become extended candelabras opening pure white. The flowers are huge and fragrant and have inherited all the best characteristics of the parents. Coming across a specimen in full bloom is a stunning sight and the fragrance is heady. The new growth is entrancing and the attractive bark of old plants adds a nice touch.

But you probably think your garden is too small for such a strong grower. Do not despair for you can grow it as a small tree by pruning away the lower branches. It will only grow as fast as a Japanese maple and most gardens can find room for one or two small trees. Imagine walking underneath the huge fragrant trusses on a warm evening in early May and you will have found your island paradise.

(Rootstalk, March 2000)



From the Garden



R. kesangiae var album



Harry Carter



Laramie



Wind River



Biskra



Cosmopolitan



Seaview Sunset



Silverwells



Alison Johnstone



Festivo



R. yakushimanum



Vibrant Violet

Rhododendrons of Sikkim-Himalaya

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



II.

RHODODENDRON FALCONERI, *Hook. fl.*

Dr. Falconer's Rhododendron.

TAB. X.

Arborescens, foliis oppositis vixve cuneatis obovato-ellipticis obtusis cum mucronulo basi cordatis supra nitidis glabris reticulatis venosis subtus ferrugineis costa petioloque validis rubro-tomentoso-hirsutioribus, capitulis globosis densis multifloris, pedunculis erectis pubescenti-villosis, floribus parvis (pro planta) albis, calyce immixtissimo vix lobato, corollae lobis 10 cordatis, staminibus 16, ovario lineariformi viscoso 18-loculari, stylo flexuoso incrassato longe exserto, stigmate dilatato.

Hab. Sikkim-Himalaya. Summit of Tonglo, elev. 10,000 feet.

A tree thirty feet in height; two or three trunks springing from the same point, and they are often two feet in diameter. The bark is pale and smooth; branches few, spreading, leafy at the points; the young leaves clothed with velvety down, and in the state of the bud concealed by downy glutinous scales, of which the outer are subulate, the inner ovate. The perfect leaves are very coriaceous, from eight inches to a foot in length, five to seven inches wide, the upper side glossy green, but fading into yellow at the margins, which margins are quite plane (not recurved), beneath, except on the mid-rib and reticulated veins, clothed with a short, dense, pale, ferruginous down. Petioles long and very thick, plane and glabrous above, semiterete and clothed with dark rusty down beneath. Heads not large, but composed of numerous, rather small, white, densely placed flowers. Stamens sixteen. Style much exserted. Peduncles erect, elongated after flowering. Capsules erect, eight to ten-valved, hispid, an inch and a half long, with numerous cells.

If not the most showy, this is certainly one of the most striking and distinct of the genus. The noble foliage has some resemblance to that of the variety of *Myrsina grandiflora*, which has the leaves ferruginous beneath. The dense many-flowered head, the multiplication of the lobes of the corolla, and of the stamens and cells of the fruit, and the exserted style, bring it very near *R. grandis*, Wight's Ic. Plant., vol. iv. tab. 1202; but the foliage is totally different.

TAB. X. *Rhododendron Falconeri*. Fig. 1. Buds and scale. 2. Flower. 3. Stamens. 4. Petal. 5. Section of ovary—magnified.

The world famous Fraser South Beer Bottle Truss Show will be held at our May meeting, Wednesday, May 15th.



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' (Iepidotes)
- Class 2. Azalea (deciduous and evergreen)
- Class 3. Sub-genus 'Hymenantes' (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'