



THE YAK

Volume 33, Number 8

October 2019



R. Black Magic

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 (excerpt June,
July, August) at:

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

This Month



Cover : R. Black Magic ('The Honourable Jean Marie de Montague' x 'Leo')

Elepidote rhododendren.

Hybridised by: H.E. Greer

Grown to first flower by: H.E. Greer

Named by: H.E. Greer

Introduced by: H.E. Greer 1982

Low-Medium. Flower very dark red, opening from Black-red buds, in a ball shaped truss. Medium, matte-green leaves on a well branched plant with an upright growth habit. Best in filtered sunlight in areas with hot summers to avoid yellowing foliage. A little shy flowering, but an impressive colour. Shrub 1.2m in 10 years. Mid May bloom



Odo Tschetsch photo

'The Honourable Jean Marie de Montague' (above)
'Leo' (below)



Don Wallace photo

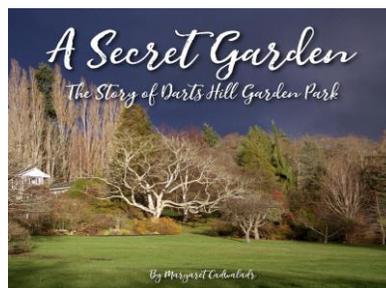


Speaker: Margaret Cadwaladr

Newly released book ***A Secret Garden: the Story of Darts Hill Garden Park*** will be the subject of a talk by author Margaret Cadwaladr.

The book traces the lives of Ed and Francisca Darts who transformed their rough, stump-covered Surrey acreage into an award-winning fruit and nut orchard and then to an acclaimed garden containing rare and unusual shrubs and trees, many grown from seed. With Ed's unwavering support, Francisca became one of the most knowledgeable garden experts in western Canada in the era of "super plants women." Beloved for her enthusiasm and generosity in sharing her immense knowledge of plants, Francisca was associated with many of the most respected groups and individuals in the gardening community of her time.

The Darts donated their garden to the City of Surrey in 1994.



Date: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at 7:30pm

Kitchen Duties: Barb Mathias & Ginny Fearing

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
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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

AIN'T FALL GREAT ?!! Every year I just assume that the colors will be lovely and bright, and every year I'm blown away by the sheer excellence of so many plants, and some things I'm sure I've not seen before. We just returned from Alberta, and even though the plants are different, they are certainly no less beautiful. The Aspens are pure gold, the Saskatoons and chokecherries are ablaze in flame shades, and the lower level is brilliant red with the wild roses, all of which make the spruce and pines seem almost black in contrast. Stunning, especially on sunny mornings with wisps of ground fog. And then it snowed!

Our fall colors here are slower and more drawn out, but each layer is unique and wonderful. I've seen Stewartia, Parrotia, Hamamelis and Japanese maples that stop you in your tracks, and any or all of these certainly grace our very green rhodo gardens. Except for some – the PJM types are showing their inner and outer colors already, Cilpinense is dropping its golden interior to show more of that gorgeous bark, and the Girard's Fuchsia Azaleas are pure shiny burgundy. Any deciduous azaleas that aren't covered in mildew are turning nicely now, especially the occidentales and viscosums. I also can't wait for the Pyracantha and Callicarpa to get to full berry colors, and then the show will be complete.

Let's all be sure to come enjoy this month's presentation by Margaret on the story of Dart's Hill. And please remember that instead of a plant sale, we will have an exchange of gently or never used attractive or interesting pots and/or vases (* read-no black or green nursery pots, thank you.) It will give each of us a chance to recycle things that we have moved on from, or just don't have room.

Respectfully, *Colleen B.*

Upcoming events

Fraser South Rhododendron Society Wednesday October 16, 2019 7:30 pm	Newly released book <i>A Secret Garden: the Story of Darts Hill Garden Park</i> will be the subject of a talk by author Margaret Cadwaladr .
Vancouver Rhododendron Society Thursday, October 17, 2019 7:30 pm VanDusen Gardens	Egan Davis on Fall Clean-up and How to Move Large Rhododendrons
Fraser South Rhododendron Society Wednesday November 20, 2019 7:30 pm	Gwen Odermatt of Petals and Butterflies Nursery
Vancouver Rhododendron Society Thursday, November 21, 2019 7:30 pm VanDusen Gardens	Gordon McKay on Dwarf Conifers
Fraser South Rhododendron Society Wednesday December 11, 2019 Time: TBA	Annual Christmas Potluck Supper
Fraser South Rhododendron Society Wednesday January 15, 2020 7:30 pm	The Annual General meeting and “Just Deserts Extravaganza”.

Upcoming Conferences

ARS 2020 Spring Conference

- ARS 75th Anniversary Convention, Apr. 29 - May 3, 2020, Portland, Oregon.

ARS 2021 Spring Conference

- ARS Annual Convention, June 3 - 6, 2021, Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia, Canada.

R. Black Widow



Elepidote rhododendron: Registered by: R.W. Thompson (2006)

This unique cultivar was created by Roy Thompson of Waldport, Oregon by first crossing the dark purple, flowered rhododendron 'Frank Galsworthy' with 'Leo', which has a rich, dark-red flower. He called this hybrid 'Gal-Leo'. He then crossed this plant with the maroon-flowered rhododendron 'Warlock'. In order to increase his chances of finding a black flower, he planted out several hundred seedlings of this cross. The best one of the lot Roy named 'Black Widow'.

The plant's bright green foliage is 6.5" long, elliptic in shape, ribbed and shiny on top. It has an upright and spreading growth habit, and it grows to a typical height of 3 feet in 10 years. The plant is cold hardy to at least -5°F (-21°C). (Source: ARS Blog)

Membership Dues

If you haven't submitted your membership for the upcoming 2020 year, please remember to do so.

The membership form is included in this month's newsletter. Please complete the form and return it (with your dues of course!) to Ginny Fearing at a meeting or send it to her address on the form.



R. Witchery

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Mars' x R. facetum

Registered and named by : R. Henry (pre 1976)

Flowers fiery red. New foliage with silver tomentum. Shrub 1.5m in 10 years

Fredo Schroder Nursery photo



Origin of Pumpkins

Pumpkins are believed to have originated in North America. Seeds from related plants have been found in Mexico dating back to 5500 B.C. The name pumpkin originated from the Greek word "pepon" which means "large melon". Pepon was changed by the French into "pompon". The English changed "pompon" to "pumpion". American colonists then changed "pumpion" to "pumpkin".

Native American Indians used pumpkin as a staple in their diets centuries before the pilgrims landed. Indians would roast long strips of pumpkin on the open fire and eat them. They also dried strips of pumpkin and wove them into mats.

When white settlers arrived, they saw the pumpkins grown by the Indians and pumpkin soon became a favorite food. Early settlers used them in a wide variety of recipes from stews and soups to desserts.

The origin of pumpkin pie is thought to have occurred when the colonists sliced off the pumpkin top, removed the seeds, and then filled the pumpkin with milk, spices, and honey. The pumpkin was then baked in the hot ashes of a dying fire. (Source: Mason-Dixon Chapter of the ARS)

From the Editor

Last month Jim and I travelled to Parksville to attend The ARS 2019 Fall Conference “Rhododendrons By the Seaside” that was hosted by the Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society (MARS). When registering in at the conference I learned they were just shy of 250 participants. Congratulations to MARS and all those from the other Island groups that helped put on the conference. While I never go to these conferences expecting great culinary cuisine, the catering at this conference was wonderful.

When the plant sale opened on the first day after registration, my job was to “hang” near the side, “collect” and “mind” the plants selected for transportation to our garden here on the mainland. With vendors from the Island and Washington, including the Species Foundation in Federal Way, needless to say we brought home some new additions. In the main conference room they had some wonderful photographs displayed that were taken by conference participants.



In addition to the silent auction that one usually finds at these conferences, rhododendron cuttings were displayed giving a wonderful display that highlighted the varying foliage types and sizes and of the genus rhododendron.



I personally didn't attend any of the daytime workshops (I was busy hitting some craft/antique sales with my sister-in-law), but I did participate in one of the garden tours on offer and attended the Saturday evening banquet. “In The Garden” this month features a few of the many “snaps” that I took on the garden tour. There was one garden in particular, had it been mine, I would never get any work done. I'd be too busy admiring the views and relaxing to the sound of the ocean.

When talking to members of different Vancouver Island groups, I was very surprised that they didn't know where the “Fraser South” chapter was. Perhaps some education is needed here? After all Fraser South is part of District 1 just like the Vancouver Island chapters are.

On the home front, we continue to harvest from the garden fall bounty – kale, carrots, squashes and the pumpkins will be ready in time for Halloween. With Thanksgiving around the corner I need to harness my support team (four legged x 2) and find some time to start the fall cleanup, which of course will go on for quite a while. Summer resident birds have “left the premises” and we are now treated to nightly “V” flying formations of Canada Geese that barely clear the house. Perhaps Mr. & Mrs. C. Goose (that we met in the May YAK) are part of the “V”.

This month, we once again have one of SFRS's own, Margaret Cadwaladr, speaking on her book ***A Secret Garden: the Story of Darts Hill Garden Park***. Prior to this engagement, Margaret has been travelling Vancouver Island to speak to some of the Island groups. As always, consider inviting a friend or a potential new member to enjoy what I know will be a fabulous presentation.

Maureen



The following article originally appeared in the Fraser South Newsletter, October 2002 by David Sellars

ROOTSTALK

BY INDUMENTUM

Many of you will be familiar with the rhododendron stages genre often presented in the form of a list. The classic is of course the nine stages of rhodoholism with the last stage resulting in the hapless rhodoholic shaving his head and becoming a Buddhist monk so he can live among his beloved rhodos. No one has yet tackled "How do you know when you have a really mature rhododendron garden?" - so here is Indumentum's offering.

When you first start growing rhododendrons you are seduced by images of massive colourful plants gracing your estate. The reality is that when you plant out your carefully selected rhodos nothing happens for a long time. They just sit there not doing very much for months on end. Eventually with the passing of a few springs, they do grow and it is with some pride that you realize you have to start thinning them out, rather like carrots. The plants that are pulled can go into a new bed which will eventually need thinning as well. This however is just an interim stage of the development of a mature rhododendron garden.

The first sign of real maturity is when you run out of places to put them. Sometimes the neighbours are only too willing to have a few and there's always the Fraser South annual auction. Some are too big to move and they start to encroach on the grass paths. There is a real feeling of a mature garden when the wife runs over the lower branches with the mower.

Eventually you realize that you are going to have to start pruning, otherwise you will not be able to get around the garden to even see the plants. At first, it is difficult to take sharp pruning shears to your beloved rhododendrons particularly when slicing off a branch with a flower bud. It seems like sacrilege but at least you can console yourself that it's one less flower to deadhead next year. Eventually you can really get into rhododendron pruning and have the added satisfaction of believing you have a really mature rhododendron garden.

But you are not there yet. The ultimate measure of rhododendron garden maturity is when the branches you prune are thick enough to be used as firewood. Sawing through a rhododendron branch is a cathartic experience and chopping it up for the woodpile is even more fun. Dave Dougan on Vancouver Island was reputed to take a chainsaw to his on occasion, rootball and all - he called it plant division.

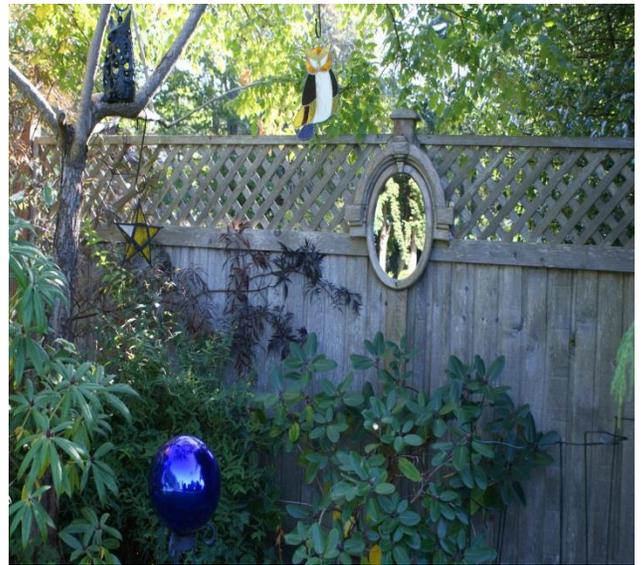
Rather like the Buddhist monk in the ninth stage of rhodoholism you will develop kinship with those who really live among rhododendrons, the Nepalese hill farmers. After all, in Nepal, firewood is what rhododendrons are for.

From the Garden

ARS Fall Convention - Garden 1



ARS Fall Convention - Garden 2



ARS Fall Convention Garden 2 - continued



ARS Fall Convention - Garden 3



Rhododendrons of Sikkim-Himalaya

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



I.

RHODODENDRON DALHOUSIÆ, Hook. fl.

Lady Dalhousie's Rhododendron.

TAB. I., II.

Frutex gracilis, ramis remotis verticillatis vixque patentibus, foliis obovato-ellipticis obtusis coriaceo-membraceis subtus pubescentibus sparse rubro-punctatis, basi in petiolum attenuatis, floribus (sepalis albis) 5-7 cuspitate-embellatis, lobis calycinis foliaceis oblongis obtusis, corolla coccinea basi profunde 5-furcata, staminibus 10 filamentis inferne pilosis, ovario 5-loculari.

HAB. Parasitical on the trunks of large trees, especially Oaks and Magnolias. Sikkim-Himalaya: elevation 7,000-8,500 feet. *Fl.* April to July.

A straggling *shrub*, six to eight feet high, always seen growing, like the tropical *Orebiolus*, among moss and Ferns and *Ardisias*, upon the trunks of large trees: the *shrub* clothed with a reddish papery bark, the *branches* straggling, patent, whorled, the whorls distant; each branch bearing its leaves and flowers only at the extremity. *Leaves* few, patent or reflexed, petiolate, about four inches and a half to five in length, elliptical-obovate, between coriaceous and membranaceous, obtuse at the base, attenuated below into a more or less *downy footstalk*, about half an inch long, the margin plane (not revolute), the upper surface darkish-green, inclining to a yellow hue, even on the surface, beneath paler, dotted with very minute, scattered, rusty-coloured scales or points (scarcely sufficient to change the general tint), the mid-rib prominent, the rather close parallel *veins* scarcely so. *Flowers* three to seven in a terminal, umbellate *head*, the spread of which is greater than that of the leaves. *Peduncles* nearly an inch long, stout, cylindrical, *downy*. *Bracteoles* ligulate, membranaceous. *Calyx* large, deeply divided almost to the base into five ovate-elliptical, very obtuse, spreading, foliaceous lobes. *Covella* very large, three inches and a half to four inches and a half long, and as broad at the mouth, capsulate, white, with an occasional tinge of rose, in size and colour and general shape almost resembling that of the white Bourbon Lily, *Lilium candidum*, very fragrant. At the contracted base of the tube are five deep *furrows*. *Lobes* of the *limb* nearly equal, very broad, rounded, *waved*, spreading. *Stamens* ten: *filaments* longer than the tube, curved upwards, *downy* below. *Ather* oblong-ovate, dark purple-brown. *Ovary* ovate, furfuraceous, five-celled, tapering into the thickened *style*, which is longer than the stamens. *Stigma* an orbicular, convex disk.

Certainly, whether we regard the size, the colour, or the fragrance of the blossoms of this plant, they are the noblest of the genus *Rhododendron*. The colour partakes of that of the Lemon. In age the flowers assume a delicate roseate tinge and sometimes become spotted with orange, which rather adds to, than detracts from, their beauty.

TAB. I. Represents a plant of *R. Dalhousiæ*, on a very reduced scale, in its native locality.

TAB. II. Flowering branch. 1. Stamen. 2. Anther. 3. Petal:—natural size. 4. Section of ovary. 5. Pollen with *boyan*:—enlarged.



Fraser South Rhododendron Society

frasersouthernrhodos.ca

2020 Membership Form

Date _____

Membership: *[An individual or two people residing at the same address]*

_____ Full Member: (Includes ARS membership & quarterly ARS Journal)	\$55	_____
_____ Associate: (Member of _____ ARS Chapter)	\$15	_____
_____ FSRS Chapter member (ARS membership & journal NOT included)	\$25	_____

All personal information collected here is for FSRS or ARS use only. Your contact information will be included in the FSRS membership directory, distributed to FSRS members, unless you indicate here that all or part should be kept confidential.

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province (State) _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone Number _____ Email Address _____

All cheques should be made out to: **Fraser South Rhododendron Society**

If mailing, send to: Ginny Fearing, 5376 Ross Road, Abbotsford, BC V4X 1Z2
Membership questions may be addressed to the FSRS Membership Chair,
Ginny Fearing at 604-857-4136, or to any other FSRS officer.

Treasurer _____; FSRS database _____; YAK Editor _____ or Snail Mail _____; ARS _____.