THE YAK

Volume 34, Number 5 May 2020

R. Wind River

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

http://frasersouthrhodos.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.

2020 Officers

President:	Colleen Bojczuk	604-826-4221
Past Pres:	Evelyn Jensen	604-857-5663
Vice Pres:	Jim Worden	604-541-4754
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Membership:	Vacant	
Newsletter:	Maureen Worden	604-541-4754
Librarian:	Gerald Nemanishen	604-826-0166
Website:	Maureen Worden	604-541-4754
Hospitality:	Jim & Margaret Cadwaladr	604-427-1685

BCCGC Liaison: Vacant

Pileated Woodpecker
***G**inny & Harold Fearing*

Western Tanager

From the Editor

Welcome to the May YAK. With no meetings and activities to report, the focus of this edition is a YAK Truss show to share your blooms with other FSRS members. "From the Archives" and "From the Garden" (AKA The Worden garden) are included but a new "From Your Gardens" section includes all (well nearly all) the pictures submitted by FSRS members. My thanks to all those that participated. I tried not to show duplicates so if two members submitted the same plant, the first one that arrived was included. I also cropped a few photos for space reasons – oh I love editorial license!

As I put this edition together we are in the middle of a heatwave. It has put the end to some of the blooms in the garden but some are still opening so the show continues. The work crew and I continue to weed and fight the morning glory and buttercup. They do get exhausted though and require their naps (see below) before continuing on in the yard.

As always, my feathered friends continue to provide song and entertainment as we toil away in the garden. We frequently see pileated woodpeckers which the Fearing's were able to capture (left), and a new addition to our backyard this year is the Western Tanager which likes to visit the gurgler and sit outside our kitchen window in a magnolia that is just starting to get leaves and typically blooms through June and July. The mason bees are hard at work and with the apple trees in blossom and the Hawthorne tree just starting to bloom; our yard is very bee friendly.

I hope you are all safe and well, enjoying your gardens AND that you enjoy this month's YAK Truss show. *Maureen Worden*

From the Archives

The following articles originally appeared in the Fraser South Newsletter, October / November 2000 by Chris Ballyn

I Meet my first Rhododendrons

Chris Ballyn

When I was growing up in Toronto one was as likely to find a rhododendron there as a palm tree. The most exotic outdoor plant then was the deciduous magnolia, and there were only three or four in the whole city. I remember one on a curve in Poplar Plains Road, and to come upon it suddenly in full bloom was the surest sign that spring had arrived. But now magnolias are almost as common in Toronto as they are here, and more rhododendrons are seen all the time. Back then I thought the showiest and most beautiful widely grown shrub was the lilac with its wonderful bonus of a heavenly scent. That was until one May evening. I was walking up Yonge Street after a movie. Passing the florist shop next door to the gates to Mt.. Pleasant Cemetery I was stopped dead in my tracks by the sight before me. No, not a ghost, but something in the shop. The front of the store was in darkness, but a light had been left on in the back room, and through the its open door I could see the most incredible profusion of glorious colours. I felt like Howard Carter must have felt when he first peered into Tutankhamen's tomb and saw "thing, wondrous things ".

As soon as possible the following day I was back and found out it was a newly arrived shipment of a plant called rhododendron. This was a name I was aware of but, probably because of its foreign and pedantic sound, had assumed that it applied to nothing more interesting than some sort of Mediterranean alder - certainly not the incredible plants that surrounded me and which were to be sold as mere house plants. As a student, I could only afford one, and it was a hard choice to make. I was pleased that my plant did well in the garden that summer, and seemed all right in the house in the Fall. However, when the heating system came on, it languished and finally expired in the spring.

It was very shortly after this experience that I first came to the West Coast - again in May. I could not believe my eyes when I arrived - those plants from the florist were growing everywhere ! I was surprised too, to see how large they could be - especially at Royal Roads outside Victoria where I was headed as a naval cadet. Some of them were so large that they formed complete canopies over the driveways.

But when I think of that time, one particular memory always comes back. It is of a lazy spring Sunday afternoon. I was off duty and on my own, and decided to explore the grounds of Hatley Castle. After viewing the terraces, and adjacent Italian garden, I took a pathway that led through a small wood to the west and. to my disbelief, came into a dream.

There, in a large clearing, was a perfect Japanese garden, complete with a meandering lagoon mirroring the blossoms of the surrounding cherry trees and rhododendrons and a superb lacquered pavilion perched on a tiny island in it. It was the most beautiful and tranquil place I have ever seen, and I wandered about it awestruck. I had not known there was such a garden on the grounds and it was the first I had ever seen. To this day, I think it is still the best, and that wonderful afternoon I had it all to myself. I decided then that somehow I had to come to live in the West and try to make such a garden for myself. That was in 1952 - I had better get a move on !!

This article appeared in the May 1990 Newsletter of FSRS. Chris has agreed to bring us up to date - his next article will appear in the November **Yak**

Rhododendrons and I Part 2

Chris Ballyn

It was almost twenty years after that beautiful summer at Royal Roads when an opportunity to finally move here (to BC) unexpectedly arose. I had come to expect that my career would probably keep me in Ontario, and so I had filed away all thoughts of the wonderful gardens and plants I had seen here under " Fond Memories Only". But suddenly the chance was there, and I seized it.

My first months were busy and agreeably challenging, but there was also time to squeeze in some house hunting. One day I was on my way to North Vancouver to meet yet another real estate agent and view yet another property, when I happened to pass the inconspicuous little " House for Sale" sign of a private vendor. The house was a very early Fred Hollingsworth design - more strongly influenced by his time studying with Frank Lloyd Wright than any others of his I have seen. I really liked the layout, and since the property had been rented for years, house and garden were in need of "TLC" and so " the price was right ". I agreed to buy it the evening of that same day, and took possession two weeks later.

My new home had many interesting features, it was perhaps most remarkable for being possibly the only home in North Vancouver without a single rhododendron in its garden. That first summer and fall had to be devoted to pressing work inside and little thought was given to the outside. It was pretty early next year when that changed.

I had met a couple who were about to remodel their home in South Kerrisdale. They had decided that the large rhododendron in front of their kitchen window would have to go - it blocked the light and the view to the street. My distress at their intention to simply chop it down prompted a bemused chuckle at my "typically eastern" reaction to such an idea and then, an offer to give it to me if I would only take it away. Of course I accepted; no matter that they couldn't tell me its variety - or even its colour. It was a rhododendron !

Having no hands-on experience in the matter of removal of large shrubs, I assumed that moving an eight foot high plant of this type would be a logistical problem at least, and probably quite risky. I arranged to have a truck with a fifty-four inch diameter tree spade on its back meet me at home the following Saturday morning to dig the large, conical hole into which the rhododendron would later be planted. The truck then left for South Vancouver, carrying this large plug of soil from my garden to be deposited on the lawn near the plant to be removed. The big apparatus was then positioned to encircle the rhododendron, and the four big spades were successively driven deep into the soil. The tension was dramatically increased by the owners choosing this moment to wonder aloud if the water main did not, in fact, run into the house at this very spot. However, to the relief of everyone, there was no geyser as the rhododendron and its great cone of soil was lifted into the air. When I looked into the hole, I was amazed to see not a single severed root. I expected (feared) there would have been many. Nothing !! The entire root system was in the cone of earth. I could not believe that such a big plant could have such compact roots. The rest of the operation went smoothly as well, but I am sure there were a lot of chuckles from people at the sight of this piece of heavy landscaping equipment (meant for the transplanting of fairly mature trees) lumbering by carrying only a shrub. My new acquisition plugged neatly into its prepared hole, and looked as though it had always grown there. I returned to Angus Drive to fill up the hole there, and to plant something else to say " Thank You " before eagerly returning home.

Spring was around the corner.
I was at last on the West Coast.
I was in the garden of my first house.
I finally had my first rhododendron.
I was in Heaven.

That was 1973

From the Garden

R. Canadian Sunset

R. cinnabarinum

R. Seatac

R. Fantastic

R. Festivo

R. Glendoick's Velvet

R. Measles

R. Ibex

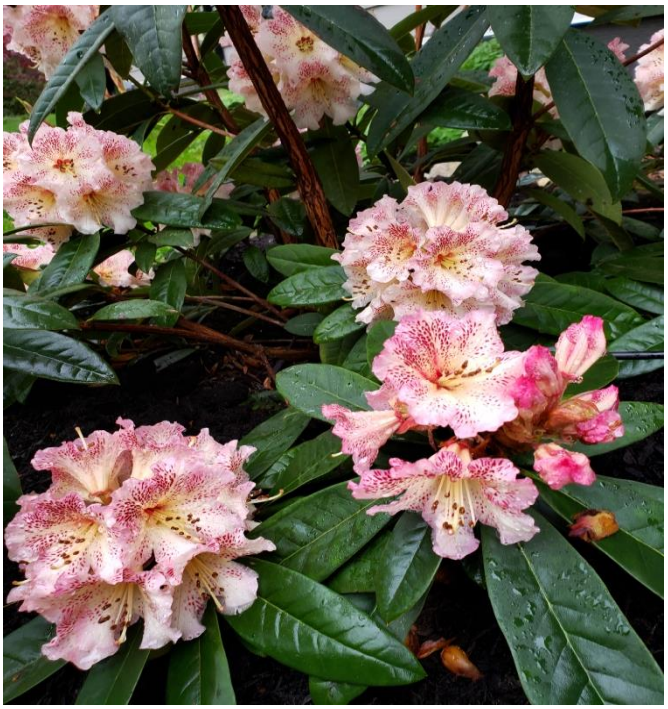
R. Wild ginger

R. Silver Sky

R. Silverwells

R. Saffron Silk

From Your Gardens

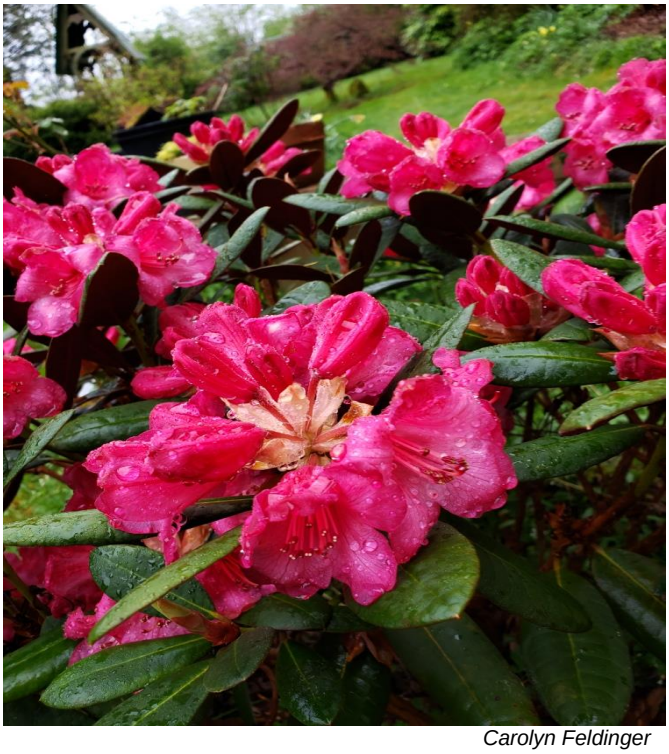


Carolyn Feldinger

R. Cloudburst
(first time blooming)

Carolyn Feldinger

R. Cosmopolitan



Carolyn Feldinger

R. Everred
(beautiful rich red indumentun))

Carolyn Feldinger

R. "Unknown"

Evelyn Jensen

R. Lutescens

Evelyn Jensen

R. Obicular

Evelyn Jensen

R. "Unknown"
(first time blooming)

Evelyn Jensen

R. "Unknown"
(this rhododendron is around 40 years old)

Nancy Moore

R. Hotei

Nancy Moore

R. Alice Johnstone

Nancy Moore

R. Lems Cameo

Nancy Moore

R. Paprika Spiced

Nancy Moore

Pleione

Nancy Moore

R. Ramapo

Nancy Moore

Rhodohypoxis

Nancy Moore

R. Yaku Fairy

John Lappins

Dodecatheon

Margaret Cadwaladr

R. schlippenbachi

Margaret Cadwaladr

Clematis Montana

Margaret Cadwaladr

Magnolia Soulangeana

Ginny & Harold Fearing

Erythronium revolutum

Ginny & Harold Fearing

R. nudipes

Ginny & Harold Fearing

R. cinnabarinum

Ginny & Harold Fearing

R. anwheiense

Ginny & Harold Fearing

R. diaprepes "Gargantua" seedling

Ginny & Harold Fearing

R. cerasinum 'Cherry Brandy'

Ginny & Harold Fearing

Magnolia 'Caehary's Belle'

Ginny & Harold Fearing

Ginny & Harold Fearing

R. huanum

Ginny & Harold Fearing

Magnolia wilsonii

Gerald Nemanishen

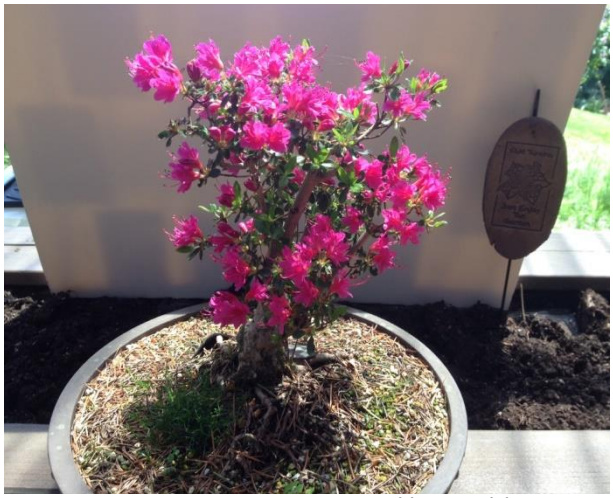
Princess Abkhazi tree peony

Gerald Nemanishen

Renkaku tree peony

Gerald Nemanishen

R. President Roosevelt



Gerald Nemanishen

Bonsai azalea - variety unknown

Gerald Nemanishen

R. “Malahat

Gerald Nemanishen

R. Red Walloper hedge

Colleen Bojczuk

R. fortunei white form

Colleen Bojczuk

R. oreotrephes

Colleen Bojczuk

R. augustinii Playfair

Colleen Bojczuk

R. Lems Cameo

Colleen Bojczuk

R. fortunei

Colleen Bojczuk

R. Midnight

Colleen Bojczuk

R. Crete

Colleen Bojczuk

R. Crimson Pippin

Colleen Bojczuk

Syringa x Josee

Colleen Bojczuk

Terry McGiveron (Sept 9, 1934 – April 29, 2020)

Terry passed away peacefully at 03:30 Wednesday morning, 29th of April. Terry was a long-time member of the Peace Arch Rhododendron Society and more recently the Fraser South Rhododendron Society. Terry and Joan were blessed to be able to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary last August & Terry's 85th birthday last September. Susan, their daughter was able to fly home from PEI in time to say goodbye to her beloved Dad.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to Joan and to the family.

https://vancouversunandprovince.remembering.ca/obituary/terence-mcgiveron-1079111569

Ted and Mary Greig Rhododendron Garden

The “50 rhododendrons of interest” in the Ted and Mary Greig Rhododendron garden in Stanley Park” continues. (Source: City of Vancouver)

the centre and red-edged on all lobes, and will eventually fade to nearly pure white. 'Point Defiance' likes shade and is quite vigorous, and in time will grow to be quite large.

37 *Rhododendron* 'President Roosevelt'

'President Roosevelt' can generally be described as a variegated rhododendron, as both its leaves and its flowers are multi-coloured. 'President Roosevelt's leaves are large and waxy, mixed green and chartreuse, while its flowers are picotee type, and fade from dark pinkish-red at the edges to pure white in the middle.

38 *Rhododendron* 'Professor Hugo de Vries'

Rhododendron 'Professor Hugo de Vries' is notable for its fairly large, unusually coloured magenta-mauve flowers which appear in early May.

39 *Rhododendron* 'Purple Splendor'

This is one of the darkest purples found amongst rhododendrons. 'Purple Splendor' is so dark that the blotch present on its upper lobe seems nearly black. These flowers have frilled edges and are clustered in dense, dome-shaped trusses. Its leaves of 'Purple Splendor' are distinct in that they have a depressed midrib.

40 *Rhododendron* 'Royston Red'

'Royston Red' is a rhododendron that was developed by Ted and Mary Greig at the Royston Nursery. It has dark red, waxy, bell-shaped flowers that are held in truss-es of approximately 5-10 individuals. It has a compact, rounded habit. There are two specimens here, located immediately in front of the split rail fence that encloses the golf course.

41 *Rhododendron* 'Sappho'

'Sappho' has medium-sized white flowers with a dark purple blotch that are held in fairly dense and rounded trusses. It is a sturdy rhododendron, but has a tendency to become leggy.

42 *Rhododendron schlippenbachii*

Also known as royal azalea, *Rhododendron schlippenbachii* is a deciduous shrub with pale rose-pink star-shaped flowers that appear early in the season, and nearly lime green leaves that are arranged in whorls of five at each branch tip. In the fall, its foliage turns various striking shades of crimson, orange and yellow.

43 *Rhododendron* 'Scintillation'

'Scintillation' is another attractive, large-flowered, late blooming hybrid rhododendron. It has fragrant, pale pink flowers with wavy edges and a yellowish-orange-pink blotch. It has attractive, shiny, green foliage and a sturdy branching habit.

44 *Rhododendron smirnowii*

Rhododendron smirnowii has an upright habit and an overall dark look to it with deep purple-pink flowers and thick dark woolly indumentum on the undersides of its recurved, downwards-hanging leave.

45 *Rhododendron* 'Susan'

'Susan' is a very good, reliable rhododendron. It has pale mauve flowers with a darker speckle, a good, rounded habit, nice glossy green leaves and it is fairly fast-growing. It is, overall, a great rhododendron with

5