



THE YAK

Volume 35, Number 4

April 2021



R. campanulatum ssp *campanulatum*

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

<http://frasersoutherhododendron.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).

In person meetings are not being held at this
time.

Cover:



R.campanulatum ssp campanulatum

Rhododendron subsection: Campanulata

Height: 2-11m, a low compact to taller bush or small tree. Branchlets usually glabrous, sometimes hairy, bark grey to fawn, rough with age.

Leaves: elliptic. Obovate, oval or oblong oval; 9.5-18cm long, without a glaucous bloom, and usually glabrous on upper surface when mature, lower surface covered with a thin, suede-like, fawn, brown or rusty-brown, continuous, unistrate indumentum of capitate hairs

Petiole: Purple

Inflorescence: 6-12 flowered, compact

Corolla: broadly campanulate, 2.8-4.5 cm long, lavender-blue, pale purple, lilac mauve, various shades of mauve, rose or white, with or without purple or red spots.

Bloom: April-May

Distribution: Kashmir eastwards to Sikkim, 2,900-4,100m (9,500-13,500ft), forest, thickets and scattered above the tree line.

Source:

- *The Encyclopedia of Rhododendron Species* by Peter A. Cox and Kenneth N.E. Cox

- *Pocket Guide to Rhododendron Species* by J.F.J. McQuire and M.L.A. Robison

This Month

Date: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 7:30 pm.

Place: Zoom meeting from the comfort of your own home

TITLE: Supporting Nature: Gardening with Native Plants – Tamsin Baker (Fraser Valley Conservancy)

Want to have a thriving garden that helps local wildlife? This presentation will discuss reasons for gardening with native plants, native plant recommendations, where to find them, and other tips on how you can be a nature steward in your backyard.

Tamsin Baker, MSc, is a nature stewardship specialist with over 20 years of nature conservation experience in the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley. She currently works with the Fraser Valley Conservancy and South Coast Conservation Program coordinating various land and species at risk conservation initiatives, and is the co-author of the booklet *Gardening with Native Plants in the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley*.

Next Month

Date: Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 7:30 pm.

Place: Zoom meeting from the comfort of your own home

TITLE: All Seasons Interest in the Garden - Nancy Moore

There are many ways to have an interesting garden throughout the entire year. Floral colour is usually our first thought, but plant foliage, texture, bark and form can also be delightful. When you combine those features with creative, thoughtful and well-placed hardscaping, then you have a garden for all seasons.

2021 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
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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	

Reminders

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 **Encouraged** to send their own "In the Garden" photos to the editor for inclusion in the YAK.

From the President

As soon as I recover from the chocolate egg high I'm on now, courtesy of Lindt and Purdy's, I should be back to normal – whatever that is! I can barely think straight by the end of the day now that spring is upon us – with gusto. So many smart people stayed home over the school spring break and Easter weekend, and were bound and determined to spend money on plants and such. We're already scrounging to restock things we've sold right out of, but even the wholesalers are running out of ready stock, especially larger sizes.

I've so far managed a few good hours of clean-up in the garden, and although none of my Rhodos are open just yet, the *Pieris Valley Rose* is full out and glorious – it sure does respond well to a good deadheading and trim later in the spring. And the *Helleborus* – WOW! they've never looked so good, amongst the soft yellow *Primula vulgaris*, bright magenta *Primula Wanda*, and purple *Aubretia*. I'm also looking forward to planting some of the new (to us) *Primula "Oakleaf Yellow Picotee"* that seems to keep blooming forever. I usually don't much go for yellow flowers as a rule, but the primroses do speak to me.

As soon as we get a warm spell without these cold near-frost nights, I imagine the Rhodos will be opening with a vengeance, and then we'll have plenty of photos the share. I do look forward to this month's presentation by Tamsin Baker on the use of native plants in the landscape – we get quite a number of calls for that, and most people don't even know where to start. I'll definitely be taking a lot of notes.

Hopefully you've all had fun with the Brain Teaser this time, and here are the answers to put you out of any possible agony suffered.

See you all on the 21st

Respectfully, *Colleen B*

From the Editor

The rhododendrons are blooming as you will see in “In The Garden” this month and on the cover. The leaves on the trees are starting to display either a green or red tinge to them and the garden is coming alive. The cool nights while prolonging some of the rhododendron blooms, unfortunately has caused the delicate flowers on some plants to brown around the edges. All in all a great time of the year!

Where are plant sales when you need them? I did some fairly serious cutting/dividing of some perennials that I had ignored too long and they were taking over some spots in the garden. I gave what I could away, but the rest were consigned to the green waste. Also an great opportunity to attach my nemesis before it comes up (Morning Glory).



No sooner had the March YAK been put to bed, the Rufous male hummingbirds arrived at the feeders followed very quickly by the females. I've had to add a third feeder to keep up with the demand. At dusk they area like little airplanes lined up to land for their final nights feed. As long as the feeders are full, there is very little brawling between the Annas and the Rufous regardless of their sex.



The pool season appears to also be underway with Mr. Mallard dropping by for a swim. (no sign of Mrs. Mallard yet this year). It also appears that we have nocturnal swimmers visiting. Given the number of prints, it must be a swim team. I captured the evidence one frosty morning.

Once again this year's May edition of the YAK will feature a “YAK Truss Show” in place of our annual in person truss show. Like last year, hopefully this will be the last one. Details and the truss photo deadline are on the next page.

Ginny Fearing's “Hop, Skip, and Jump through Eastern Australia” last month was very well received and it was obvious that she put a lot of work into the presentation. Thank you Ginny!

I hope everyone will take the time to join us this month for the presentation by Tamsin Baker of the Fraser Valley Conservancy and South Coast Conservation Program. With the climate changes we continue to experience and the threat to bees and butterflies, I look forward to seeing what I can do to encourage the populations.

Keep well and continue to enjoy your garden, no matter how big or small it may be!

Maureen Worden

The YAK Truss Show

Who knew a year ago that we would be holding the 2nd “YAK Truss Show”? Once again, I’m asking all members of the group to use your phone, iPad, tablet, or dust off that camera to take a picture or two or more of your favourite blooms and send them to me. They can be rhododendrons, azaleas, magnolias, or companion plantings. This is not a competition (i.e. no category classifications, no judging and therefore no prizes) but a chance to share some of the blooms and colors of your garden with all of our members during this ongoing time of “social distancing”.

Please include the name of your “truss” or simply indicate it as an “unknown” if you don’t know the proper name. I will (to the best of my ability) include all submitted photographs in the May YAK. Submit one or submit many – although if you submit many and publication space becomes tight, the YAK editor reserves the right to select her favourites from your many. (That’s the only fine print for this show).

We had a great response to last year’s YAK Truss Show, let’s once again make the May edition bright by showing off the wonderful blossoms that you are or will be enjoying over the next few weeks.

Deadline for pictures is Saturday, May 8th. Contact me if you have any questions. ..*Maureen*



From the Archives

The following articles originally appeared in the Fraser South Newsletter, April 2014 by Scot Henney



My Orphan Azalea

It hasn't a name. It appeared with no more fanfare than greeted **Ernest** on his arrival in a handbag at Victoria Station. There is no record of when and how it was deposited in my garden. Over several years it has grown to portray a personality that says "I am worthy to be regarded for myself, whether I have a name or not." Faced with its forthright presence, the least I can do is to try to discover what its true label should be.



The flowers of my evergreen azalea are distinctive, being what one might describe as "candy striped", red on white. It is low-growing, less than three feet in five years. The leaves are evergreen, small and dark green. It is somewhat tender, having been cut back twice in severe cold weather. Flowers are medium sized, about two and a half inches across, and prolific. Flowering time is late April to early May.

In May, 2012, I took a spray of flowers to the Fraser South Rhododendron Society's annual show. There was general interest in the flower's unusual colouring. No-one there suggested a name for my azalea, but Sue Klapwijk, who I had known for several years as an expert grower and vendor at club sales, said she would ask a knowledgeable friend. Sue took home the spray and by her special magic produced several cuttings from the by-now wilting clipping. Only one cutting survived, but it

proved to be a vigorous plant. The picture 'unknown azalea' is of the first flowering of the plant and is by permission of Sue Klapwijk. Sue is now taking and propagating cuttings from the original survivor. Sue's friend suggested 'Kasa-no-yuki'. On a bonsai related site, bonsaispecials.nl, I found a photograph and its description as a Satsuki azalea. I thought the stripes were too broad and diffuse so I looked further, beginning by seeking general information on evergreen azaleas. I received no reply to my e-mail requesting permission to use the 'Kasa-no-yuki' picture.

In Japan evergreen azaleas have been hybridized for hundreds of years. In North America in the twentieth century there has been great activity by hybridizers. Groups of hybrids are listed under such names as Glenn Dale, Robin Hill, Bowie Mill and Deckert. The names of more than 10,000 of these hybrids are registered. The hybridizers experimented widely in choosing from species azaleas and hybrids as parents.



I looked on the internet for photographs of azaleas with similar colouring to mine. I found 'Ben Morrison' and 'Antoinette Martin'. The pictures are by permission, from the www.pbase.com/azalea_society web site devoted to azalea pictures.

'Ben Morrison': A Glenn Dale hybrid, propagated by Ben Morrison but introduced by the US Dept. of Agriculture, parentage unknown. Is said to be columnar in habit, blooming mid to late May.

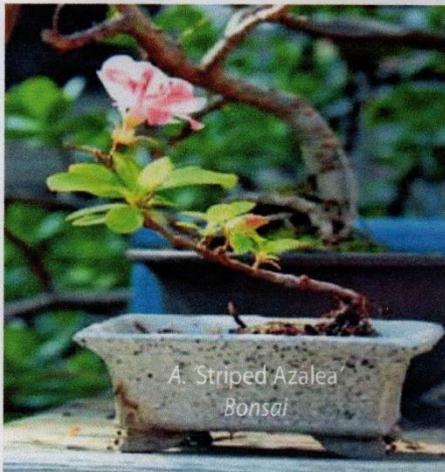
'Antoinette Martin': A hybrid by Joe Klimavicz based in Vienna, Virginia who has been hybridizing since the late 1980s. In the Azalea Society notes it was described as a cross between A. 'Festive' and A. 'Satellite', introduced in 2013. I found A. 'Striped Azalea' on a private website for friends and relatives featuring a southern California garden. My enquiries led to an engaging email correspondence with the owner. The pictures 'striped azalea' and 'bonsai azalea' are by permission of the owner. A. 'Striped Azalea' was bought in 2008 or 2009 as a remnant with no tag from a nursery no longer in existence. Flowering time in southern California is January-February. The leaves are said to match a detailed description I had sent.

After reviewing the pictures from the internet, I concluded that A. 'Ben Morrison' was too late flowering.

but that *A. 'Antoinette Martin'* and *A. 'Striped Azalea'* were by appearance, distinct possibilities. Against *A. 'Antoinette Martin'* is its introduction date which is several years after *A. 'Unknown Azalea'* and *A. 'Striped Azalea'* were acquired. When Sue looked at the picture of *A. 'Striped Azalea'*, she said "Mmm!" which I interpreted as "Yes, this is it". So perhaps we have found a clone of my azalea, itself without a name.

In comparing the photographs the question of colour accuracy seems very important. Should I discount a picture because the flower is orangey red, rather than the purple red of another possible choice? I have tried to obtain the most authentic pictures for this article, but some doubt must remain based on the limitations of photography.

Bearing in mind that there are thousands of



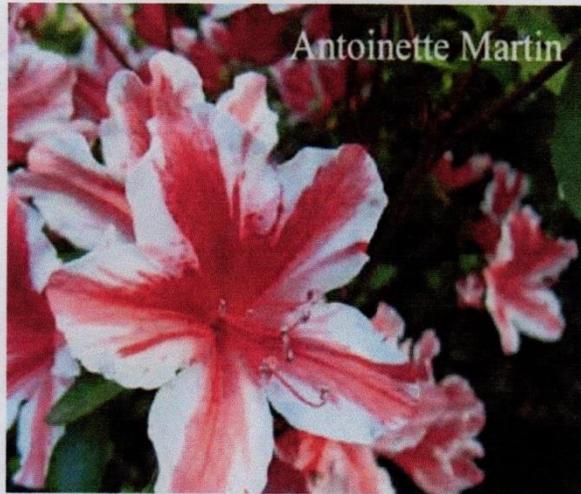
named hybrid evergreen

azaleas and many more thousands unnamed, it seems that the only chance of establishing a name would be to have both known and unknown flower and leaf specimens in hand. Then by careful inspection and reference to plant size and form, an identification might be possible. Even it were possible to arrange such a comparison, who but the original hybridizer could guarantee that the supposed named hybrid was indeed truly named? It would be a different matter if we were dealing with species azaleas where a key might be followed and a precise identification made.

Should someone have a plant similar to mine, I give further details which might help in confirming that a match is possible. In January I examined leaves stems and the one calyx remaining on my plant. The leaves are up to one and a half inches long and are slightly obovate.

Under a magnifying glass I saw that the leaves had sparsely occurring hairs on upper and lower surfaces and also hairs projecting out from the leaf edges. The new wood leading to the calyx was densely clad with hairs. On Sue's plant she observed petal-like doubling of the calyx.

The versatility of small-leaved evergreen azaleas is demonstrated by the history of *A. 'Striped Azalea'*. Quoting from the owner's email: "It was growing in the ground for a season, then I decided to move it into a pot. There was a tiny portion of the plant that had self-layered from the parent plant, so I made it into a bonsai. It has grown in a windswept style and is about 3 inches high". This type of plant can be very rewarding in the variety of ways it can be used.



Now I can look at my azalea and say, "I have done my best to give you a name. I know you better now than I did before. You remain in my affectionate regard whether or not you remain an orphan of unknown parentage."

Scot Henney

From the Garden



Magnolia "Royal Crown"



Seta



R. faucium



Mary Fleming



R. schlippenbachii



Double Winner



Magnolia "Eric Savill"



r. coeloneuron



r. barbatum



Harry Carter x Avalanche



Lucy Lou



Malahat

Jim Barlup Hybrids

Picture credit : Jim Barlup



Drifting Dreams (Summer Sunrise x Plum Passion)



Early Winters (Independence Day x Snow Candle)



Elegant Touch (r. yakushimanum x 1000 Butterflies)



Evening Breeze (Bambi x r. proteoides x Plum Passion)



Evening Embers (Plum High x Olin O Dobbs)



Fancy That (Kera x Christina Dee)



Farewell Bend (Mrs.Furnivall x 1000 Butterflies)



Fiesta Ribbons (White Fire x Snow Candle)



Fire Rim (Nancy Evans x Pink Petticoats)



First Impression (Independence Day x Mrs Furnivall)



First Touch (Nancy Evans x Mrs Furnivall)



Fragrant Sensation (Horizon Monarch x Gargantua)