



THE YAK

Volume 35, Number 1

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R. ririei

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. ririei*



Elepidote rhododendren.

Habit: 3.5 – 13m, an erect but bushy shrub or small tree. Branchlets covered in thin whitish tomentum; bark roughish, brownish-black,

Leaves: 7-16 x 2.7-5cm, retained 2-3 years; upper surface glabrous, lower surface with a thin compacted silvery-white indumentum. Growth buds long, thin and pointed.

Inflorescence: 4-10 flowered, loose

Corolla: 5-7 lobes, campanulate, with glistening deep violet nectar pouches, 4-5cm long, lilac-purple to redish-purple.

Calyx: length very variable, sometimes coloured as the corolla and reflexed

Ovary: Whitish-tomentose
Style: glabrous

Distribution: S. Central Sichuan, 1,200-2,200m (4,000-7,250ft), forest or thickets

R. ririei has fine large but very early flowers (January – March) which last well if there is no frost; it is often the earliest elepidote species to bloom. Growth also comes early, often getting frosted, causing slight dieback.

Introduced 1904.

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

This Month

Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 7:30 pm.

Place: Zoom meeting from the comfort of your own home

TITLE: Highlights of the Danish/Swedish/German 2018 ARS Tours.

Dr. Jamieson was a member of the ARS contingent to the 2018 ARS Spring International Convention “North America meets Europe” in Bremen, Germany. He elected to travel to Denmark and Sweden with the group that chose that optional pre-tour, leading up to the convention start. Glen will share some sights and insights from the beautiful garden destinations and rhododendrons in bloom from this unique shared convention with the German Rhododendron Society (Deutsche Rhododendron Gesellschaft). His photo tour through Denmark and Sweden will be grouped into categories including paths, water features, use of rock and elevations.

Glen will begin with a short and informative tutorial on mycorrhizae—“Roots and a Happy Plant”—pointing out that a plant that “rocks” doesn’t have its hair roots firmly in place and should be dug up and replanted.

Next Month

Date: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 7:30 pm.

Place: Zoom meeting from the comfort of your own home

We are waiting final confirmation on speaker details for the February meeting and will send out an email once they are finalized.

In addition to the presentation there will be a short AGM held after the presentation.

2020 OFFICERS

President:	Colleen Bojczuk	604-826-4221
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Vice Pres:	Jim Worden	604-541-4754
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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

Happy New Year to everyone – I do hope we've all been healthy and staying safe throughout the holiday season. That dump of snow (we had ~ 6") that lasted over Christmas was my dream come true, but truthfully, shovelling the slop was a bit much! We had no breakage of limbs on our trees, but at work we're advising on many calls – some very severe.

This year is going to be a trial again, but I hope we can come up with some innovations to allow some kind of outdoor events that will conform to all the protocols – possibly meeting in public parks or garden centers, so as not to have a collection of excess cars in a residential area to attract attention. Our April sale may not happen unless the rules change, but BOY! The plants we've been growing on for so long are going to be fabulous! Certainly we can all share our garden pictures for the Yak and the website, and at least at our Zoom meetings we can hear each other's voices and see the smiles - I encourage everyone to join in if you can.

Jim is working hard on lining up some good presenter topics, and any ideas would surely be welcome. Please contact Harold if you're still not sure of the process. Some of us 'oldies' are sure getting a brain workout for these new things, but it's all good. And speaking of brain work, the solution to December's Brain Teaser is included here, so check your answers and we'll see if anyone aced it. There's another one already prepared if members would like to try again. So let's all stay healthy, stay positive, keep in touch, enjoy the outdoors and look for early spring flowers, and we will look forward to better times

Respectfully, *Colleen B*

From the Editor

Happy New Year everyone! Like most people I talk to, I was glad to see the end of a year that came with unexpected challenges that we've all had to navigate. While the challenges remain, I am hopeful that as we progress through the year, we will start to see changes and maybe even be able to resume in person meetings, a plant sale, or a garden tour at some point in this year.

The mild weather we've been experiencing continues to confuse the plants, animals, and birds in my part of the world. The witch hazel (In the Garden) has been blooming since mid-December, and *R. ririei* (featured this month) continues to bloom sporadically as it has since early December only to have the flowers suffer on nights when the thermometer dips below zero. The courtship rituals of the black and grey squirrels have started and even the male Annas hummingbirds have started their springtime dances and flashing any female in sight. My backyard Douglas squirrel(s) continue to come every day to feed and to build up or replenish (not sure which) their peanut stashes. They are feisty little things. Last week I observed a black squirrel exiting the woods at a high rate of speed being chased by a Douglas squirrel – maybe the black discovered a Douglas peanut stash?



Green tops of daffodils and snow drops can be seen poking through the dirt and new hellebores growth is emerging. An early spring perhaps? Unlike some areas of the Lower Mainland, we managed to have a white Christmas which was promptly dealt with by all the rain on Boxing Day.

The work crew has been taking advantage of the wet weather by snoozing the mornings away. They stir around noon, do a perimeter check for intruders of any kind, play for a bit and then back to snoozing until it's time for their daily trip to the park. What a life!

Our search for presenters willing and available to do a zoom presentation on our meeting nights continues. It seems you have to cast wide and often and sometimes if you're lucky you get an affirmative response. If anyone has speaker suggestions please let me know and I'll pass them on. This month's presentation from Glen Jamieson promises to provide us with some wonderful garden sights from Denmark and Sweden. With foreign travel curtailed lately I look forward to "travelling" with his presentation. If you haven't joined us on zoom yet, give Harold a call if you have any questions on how to join us and participate in the sessions.



This month is the start of a new series highlighting the rhododendron hybrids of Jim Barlup. I've never heard of or seen some of these beautiful hybrids, so I hope you enjoy. A reminder to consider contributing "your garden" pictures as we move towards the blooming season and any articles etc. that you think the membership will enjoy. I wish everyone a safe and healthy New Year!

Maureen Worden

The following articles originally appeared in the Fraser South Newsletter, January 1994 and March 1994 by David Sellars



SPECTACULAR SPECIES

Calophytum means 'beautiful plant' and it could be argued that, for both flower and foliage, *R. calophytum* is one of the finest rhododendrons. I particularly like *calophytum* because it exhibits all the classic attributes of the genus rhododendron. Whether you look at it from afar or up close it is unquestionably a rhododendron! The dense foliage, sturdy branches and huge buds and flowers complement each other to provide a satisfactory overall picture.

There is a remarkable grove of *R. calophytum* just north of the waterfall in the Himalayan Garden at VanDusen. They are planted among larch trees which always seems to me particularly clever as the larches allow the sun to shine in during early March when the plants begin to flower and provide shade for these large-leaved plants in the heat of summer. Surprisingly, the plant is also heat tolerant and a number of large specimens can be seen grown in the open near the entrance to the UBC Asian Garden. According to Nick Weesjes he grew these plants from seed.

R. calophytum is one of the hardiest large species and according to Cox it is an easy, long-lived plant. It was discovered by Abbé David and collected by

Wilson in 1904. It grows in Sichuan and north Yunnan in China and is the dominant species in the Mt. Omei region between elevation of 1800 m and 4000 m growing in woods, thickets and bamboo.

Naturally, a fine species such as *R. calophytum* has been used for hybridizing. At Exbury, Lionel de Rothschild crossed *calophytum* with 'Loderi' and produced the early-flowering 'Avalanche'. Dave Dougan writes about this plant in 'Rhododendrons on a Western Shore' and described it as "one of our most beautiful rhodos". 'Avalanche' has been on our list for a couple of years but we still have not found a supplier. It is reported to be hard to root and because it is a large plant there may be less interest these days.



R. calophytum

Another fine cross is *calophytum* crossed with *praeevernum* to produce 'Babylon'. Harold Greer describes the

flowers as "huge and satiny-white flowering at a time when spring is just beginning to take off its winter coat". The habit and foliage are also outstanding. It is curious, therefore, that Cox says, "it is difficult to see the aim of making a cross between two such similar and already fine species." We have managed to obtain 'Babylon' and it certainly grows like *calophytum* and if it flowers as a younger plant, so much the better.

David Sellars

SPECTACULAR SPECIES



R. schlippenbachii

The Royal Azalea, *R. schlippenbachii* is often considered to be the finest azalea species. It occurs in drifts of tens of thousands as an understory plant in Korea and northeast Manchuria and can reach a height of 15 feet. The flower is exquisite, fragrant, star-like and delicate, and the colour defies accurate description. Pale pink to rose-pink according to Cox, but light purplish pink to strong pink according to Galle. Delicate lavender-pink with a white throat may be more accurate. As a bonus the leaves provide gorgeous reddish fall colour.

This deciduous azalea was discovered by a Russian naval officer, Baron A. Von Schlippenbach in 1854. The plant was introduced to Japan much earlier, however, under the name Korufune Tsutsuji which means 'foreign ship'.

It has been reported as difficult to grow, eccentric and unhealthy and has been nicknamed 'slipping backward'. It certainly didn't do very well the first year we planted it. The leaves turned dark brown in the summer and dropped off. We moved it to a location with more afternoon shade and it has since flourished.

As a lovely, hardy plant, with an exquisite flower and fall colour, it is not as commonly seen as one would suppose. There is a group of *R. schlippenbachii* planted unexpectedly in a shady grove of conifers at the park behind the cemetery in Fort Langley. Despite the dry conditions and dense shade they are not doing too badly. We've never seen them in flower as we only pass by during the soccer season on our way from the parking lot to the pitch. So I suppose this rare sighting needs to be confirmed by an expedition in early May.

David Sellars

From the Garden



Jim Barlup Hybrids

This month we start a new series to recognize and appreciate the extensive hybridization work of Jim Barlup. Unfortunately, Jim passed away in October 2020 in Des Moines, Washington at the age of 87. During many hours of photographing plants in the University of Washington Arboretum, Jim was drawn into the world of rhododendron. His search for orange and coral rhododendron for his garden was futile. When told that they virtually did not exist, Jim figured he'd have to create them himself through cross-pollination - and so he did! In the process, he created hundreds of rhododendrons of many beautiful colors.

His accomplishments include registering the names of more than 250 rhododendrons with the Royal Horticulture Society of Great Britain, becoming a popular seminar speaker, authoring articles in the Journal of the American Rhododendron Society; receiving two of the highest awards the ARS offers (Gold Medal and the Pioneer Achievement Award).

A special tribute to Jim is a newly established garden, the Jim Barlup Rhododendron Garden, in Esquimalt Gorge Park, Victoria, B.C. It contains many rhododendrons he gifted to the Victoria Rhododendron Society, which has been supportive of Jim's work over the years.

Picture credit : Jim Barlup



Always April (Mindys Love x Pink Petticoats)



Amber Gold (Lemon Prelude x Trina)



Amber Honey (Apricot Fantasy x Sunstone)



Amber Peach (Apricot Fantasy x Hills Low Red)



Amber sun (Hotei x Brandts Tropicana x Hills Low Red)



Amber Touch (Nadia x Sedona)



Amber Waves (Amber Touch x Janet Blair)



Apollos Touch (Nancy Evans x Mrs Furnivall)



April Morn (Nancy Evens x Tia)



Arctic Dreams (Horizon Lakeside x Arctic Gold)



Arctic Morn (Sun Blush x Golden Mist)



Autumn Orange (Sedona x Flaming Star x Bergie Larson)



Barb Blakenship (Independence Day x peach Charm)



Best of Times (Light Years x Frosted Plum)



Blue Tango (Purple Amethyst x Plum Passion)



Bridal Dreams (Glenna x Dexters Champagne)

Remembering



Clive Lionel Justice August 14, 1926 - December 21, 2020

Clive Lionel Justice, Landscape Architect, Planner, Author and Garden Historian, died in his sleep at his home in Vancouver on December 21, 2020. Son of Clive Charles Maberly Justice and Irene Adelaide (Beddis) Justice,

Clive was born on August 14, 1926 at Ganges, Salt Spring Island, BC. Predeceased by his wife, Wanda and brothers David, Rodney and Beverly, Clive is survived by his sons Clive Michael (Elke), Charles (Candace), David (Dana) and Douglas (Karen), grandchildren Matthew, James, Michael, Andrew, Isaac, Moni and Carla, and great-grandchildren Sasha and Zoé, as well as many other family members, friends and associates.

Clive used his WWII veteran's education allowance to study Landscape Architecture at the University of California, Berkeley, where he met and married Wanda Peckinpah. Clive blazed a trail in his professional life in BC as one of the first registered landscape architects in the province, mentoring a number of enthusiastic interns and employees. Among the firm's notable projects were Park & Tilford Gardens and UBC Botanical Garden. Clive was a founding member of the Vancouver Rhododendron Society and active in protecting local parks and Vancouver's heritage trees. A volunteer with Canadian Executive Services Organization, he spent several years after retirement working with park planners in a number of developing countries. Clive was elected a Fellow of the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects and was an American Rhododendron Society Gold Medal recipient. Ever up for a challenge, Clive entered a PhD program at SFU to study garden history, receiving his doctorate in 2002 at the age of 76. He was a prolific and creative builder and designer and a gifted communicator.

He will be remembered for his insatiable appetite for knowledge, sartorial flair (Stetson, western suit and boots, then later, Scottish kilt and related kit), and irrepressible energy, but especially for his service to the community and indomitable force of personality. The family extends deep gratitude to Dr. Margaret McGregor and the Home ViVE program, Kafiye (Gulie) Khader, and Clive's skilled home care workers, for their superb care and attention.

A celebration of Clive's life will take place at a later date.

Published on December 30, 2020, Vancouver Sun and Vancouver Province