



# THE YAK

Volume 35, Number 7

October 2021



*R. calophytum*

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).

In person meetings are not being held at this  
time.

## Cover:



*R. calophytum*

Rhododendron subsection: Fortunea

One of the hardiest large species, the better forms making a wonderful sight in early spring in sheltered gardens. Takes some years to bloom but is an easy long lived plant.

Height: 1.5-18m, rounded or upright shrubs or small trees. Bark roughish, brown to grey, not peeling.

Leaves: ro 36 x 12.5 cm, +/- glabrous

Inflorescence: 5-30 flowered, often lax

Corolla: often glandular, usually more than 5 lobed, often scented, white to pink to purplish-pink

Calyx: usually small stamens 12-25; stipitate-glandular to tip

Stamens 7-10

Ovary glandular, style glabrous

Blooms: February – March-April

From central west, and east Szechwan and north Yunnan, being the dominant species of the Mt. Omei region at 1,800 – 4,000 m (6,000 – 13,000 ft) where it is very constant, in woods, thickets and bamboo.

Source:

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

## This Month

**Date:** Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 7:30 pm.

**Place:** Zoom meeting from the comfort of your own home

**TITLE:** What's new in the world of Hydrangeas and Dogwoods – Malonie Hewstan

I have been gardening for 50 years, carrying on in my mother's tradition. I started the Mission Garden Club and continued for 10 years. I belonged to Mission Toastmasters and from there became one of the garden speakers on the BC Council of Gardens club's speakers list, talking about my passion for Hydrangeas, Dogwoods and Variegated plants. Now my time is spent on my dream garden, 23 fruit trees under planted with 138+ Hydrangeas.



Trained as an artist, here in the Fraser Valley and in NYC, when not gardening I'm occupied with working on my paintings, photography and in Community theatre

## Next Month

**Date:** Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 7:30 pm.

**Title:** A presentation by Mary Blockberger, Manager of the Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden in Sechelt, B.C.

Details will be in the November YAK and available on the website.

## 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
Treasurer:	Harold Fearing	604-857-4136
Directors:	Gerry Nemanishen	604-826-0166
	Robert Talbot	604-720-0134
	Nancy Moore	604-859-3690
Programme:	Jim Worden	604-541-4754
Membership:	Evelyn Jensen	604-857-5663
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 - !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**WE ARE ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR MEETING SPEAKERS. PLEASE SEND YOUR SUGGESTIONS TO THE YAK EDITOR.**

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**Submit articles, photos, or suggestions for the newsletter or else you will be stuck with the editors choices.**

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

## From the President

Happy Thanksgiving to all ! I am certainly thankful that we and all our family and friends are safe and healthy, and I'm happy that it's time for turkey again! A friend has given us her homemade cranberry sauce that is well laced with Grand Marnier, that might very well be eaten right out of the jar even before the bird is done. I feel I must apologize if I came over a bit too negative in my last message – chalk it up to total workplace burnout from the last 18 months. Now I've finally gotten some good time off and got to hang out with my family in Alberta – good times.

I would like to encourage all our members to stay the course, keep up membership and join in to the zoom meetings if at all possible. Maureen is stellar at making the newsletter so informative and interesting, and Jim is doing a wonderful job at making sure we have a presentation for each meeting, which is certainly more than some clubs are managing. Let's be sure to support his efforts – it's not easy to do. This month we'll enjoy a presentation with Malonie Hewstan from the Mission Garden Club on hydrangeas and dogwoods, it'll be lovely.

The fall colors on a lot of plants are sure showing nicely already – maples, dogwoods, deciduous azaleas, ginkgos, summersweet, and more. Perennials especially Rudbeckia, Asters, Fall anemone and the ubiquitous 'Mums are still in full color, and the grasses, oh my gosh, the plumes on Miscanthus and Pennisetum, and the fall colors of Andropogon, Panicum and Schizachyrium are stunning – they certainly relished the summer heat. We all can take a good walk after our big meal and enjoy the rich warm tones around the neighborhood. Take lots of photos and send to Maureen for the newsletter – we all love to see them.

See you all at the meeting,

*Colleen B.*

## Membership Renewal

A reminder that it's time to **renew your membership** for the upcoming 2022 year.

The form is attached and should be mailed with your check to Evelyn Jensen, address on the form. Dues are the same as last year. By renewing your membership you are expressing your continuing support of Fraser South and your interest in our activities in what are far from normal times.

You will continue to get the YAK and notifications of events and activities as we gradually are able to restart. Please renew today!



### *R. nuttallii*

This plant came from the Rhododendron Species Foundation in 2009 as a small 6 inch seedling. It finally bloomed this spring - after 12 years. Even as a young plant it showed the characteristic new growth of deep maroon leaves, which are almost as attractive as the flowers. It is a member of the Maddenii Section and the flowers are typical of that group. They are large and white with a yellow throat. Unfortunately it is a bit tender.

Greer rates it at 15F, the same as edgeworthii. In our garden very few 15F rated plants survive. So I have every winter moved it into our little glass greenhouse which is heated enough to keep it above freezing. Not sure what I am going to do when it gets too large for me to move!

*Harold Fearing*



## *From the Editor*

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. As always we buy a big turkey which means lots of leftovers (even after providing meals to a sibling) that allow for additional turkey dinners and lots and lots of turkey sandwiches. The last act of the turkey will be a hearty soup which given the weather lately will be thoroughly appreciated!



While working on this month's edition of the YAK, I happened to review some pictures that I'd taken last year at the end of October. Without the warm days and cold clear evenings that we've experienced the last few falls, the colours in our backyard are still very green. The picture on the left was taken the last week of October 2020. The picture below shows the same maple this week.

What a difference!

We'll see what happens over the

next couple of weeks. A potted maple on our patio, an unnamed bush, and the *Stewartia pseudocamellia* (pictured below) are the only pops of colour currently in the yard.



Fall cleanup has been postponed due to the damp weather but I

understand that some gardening gurus say that it's better not to cleanup too much nor too early. Leaving the plants with the seed heads provides nourishment for the birds even though it means a somewhat messy looking yard. While this approach provides justification to avoiding a timely cleanup, at some time in the near future it will have to be tackled. Hopefully the leaves will be off the trees by then and all can be dealt with at the same time.

The rhododendrons are looking refreshed after the rain we've been having and I hope the draught we had this year will not affect the upcoming season that will start in 3-4 months.

This month we welcome Melonie Hewstan as she talks about "What's new in the world of Hydrangeas and Dogwoods". We have a few hydrangeas in the yard which faithfully provide us with flowers every year. I've always wondered whether to prune them in the fall or in the spring. Perhaps she'll provide some direction on that topic. Unfortunately we lost our only dogwood during a wind storm a few years ago.

We look forward to "seeing" you at the October meeting. Even if you don't have a camera on your PC don't let that stop you from joining the conversations and enjoying the presentation. So grab a coffee and some goodies and consider signing in prior to the 7:30 meeting start to "see" and visit with other club members.

Remember, we've made it this far so please remember to renew your membership and continue to support the FSRS group until we can meet again.

*Maureen Worden*



The following articles originally appeared in the Fraser South Newsletter, October 2009 by Harold Fearing



From the President

### Notes From the Chair

As I write this in early October it is clear the gardening season is drawing to a close. We have had the first touch of the winter rains. The nights are becoming colder and the maple trees are just beginning to show some color. It is time to start thinking about mulching and otherwise protecting the more tender rhodos for the winter.

One can still plant rhodos however. I have in past years planted a lot in October. The theory is that the soil is still warm from the summer, and with the rains they can get established for the next spring. Our garden is pretty exposed to the winter winds however, so we have had to balance this theory against the fact that the early freezing winds as we have had in the last couple of years can be pretty hard on newly-planted rhodos. So I think this year I am going to wait until spring to plant. Those of you with more sheltered gardens can probably

plant for another month or so.

For most of us though, now is the time to look back over what we should have done differently in our garden, and more importantly start planning and dreaming about what we will do next season. Thus what I thought I would do in this month's column is to talk about some of the sources of information now available that can help in this planning.

First, what most of us do, is to make a list of those rhodos we have seen, or heard about, which we would like to have in our garden. The old standby and still most comprehensive source of information on available rhodos is "Greer's Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons". The most recent edition dates from 1996, so it is getting a bit old now, but it includes information about most of the hybrids and species which were in cultivation or available at that time. There is also a rating system - that I don't always agree with - but that at least gives some indication of which plants do better, or are perceived to have nicer flowers, better leaves, etc. than others.

Since Greer's book was published there has been an explosion of information available on the internet, and there are now quite a few sites with large collections of pictures of various rhodos, both hybrids and species. Since a picture beats a wordy description any day, browsing these pictures is a good way find things you would like to have.

A good place to start on this is our own Fraser South website <<http://www.flounder.ca/FraserSouth>> which has been so ably managed by Chris Klapwijk. Chris has a Gallery Page with really excellent pictures of almost 300 species and hybrid rhodos. The American Rhododendron Society website <<http://www.rhododendron.org>> has a searchable database of more than a thousand rhodos and azaleas, with pictures of many of them. For species, the Rhododendron Species Foundation <<http://www.rhodygarden.org>> maintains an extensive database including pictures.

There are a number of more specialized sources too. I just discovered a site with pictures and info on the 16 or so native North American azaleas <<http://www.tjhsst.edu/~dhyatt/azaleas>>. I have grown most of these and they do pretty well here. There is a certain satisfaction in being able to grow native varieties. The Danish ARS chapter website <<http://www.rhododendron.dk>> has a lot of good pictures, with text in a mixture of Danish and English. A good site for vireyas, which are the tropical rhododendrons (houseplants in our area), is <<http://www.vireya.net>>.

So now you have a list of those rhodos you have drooled over, and just have to have. What next? Unfortunately it is a lot easier to make a list than to find plants on the list. There are thousands of hybrids and hundreds of species, and any given source can only grow a few of these. When I first started with rhodos Ginny and I toured the local nurseries. It was a great Sunday afternoon expedition and we had a lot of fun doing it. However one soon finds that local nurseries tend to have pretty much the same varieties, and these tend to be the common hybrids particularly those easy for the nurseries to propagate. It is a good start, but one quickly exhausts most of the possibilities there. The next stage is to approach our local growers, several of whom are members of our own chapter. These are mainly hobby growers who propagate interesting and unusual plants, often initially for their own collections, but with an excess to sell. The District 1 website <<http://www.rhodos.ca>>, managed by Garth Wedemire, has a list of some of these growers, with links to their catalogs of available plants. Some of these lists, including my own, are not really up to date, but they provide a good starting point for what is available locally.

Finally it is possible to import plants from the US, from one of the specialty nurseries there. In most cases

Continued ..

I have not found this practical, though I know people have done it. One has to get the plants inspected and get a phytosanitary certificate, which involves a hassle and some expense, but it can be done. Nowadays one has to worry about importing diseases, e. g. Sudden Oak Death, so that is a consideration. The one exception though, which is practical, is to buy from the Rhododendron Species Foundation. They have spring and fall sales, with the catalogs posted on their web site. The plants are shipped en masse to UBC, with the phyto and import paperwork taken care of by the RSF. The order can then be picked up at UBC during a specified week. I have done this for several years, as have a number of FSRS members. It works fine, and provides access to species one can't find elsewhere.

So now you have your plants, how do you take care of them? Again there is a huge amount of information on the internet. Our own FSRS website has a lot of general care information, as does the American Rhodo Society website. Henning's Rhododendron and Azalea Pages <<http://www.rhodyman.net/rahome.html>> is another good site with many good articles on rhododendron care and problems.

Finally one should not overlook the expertise of members of our own chapter. We have a lot of old timers who have been growing rhodos for many years and almost without exception are willing and eager to share their knowledge with the rest of us. So don't hesitate to buttonhole people at our meetings and ask. If they don't know the answer they can often direct you to someone who does.

Finally what happens when you just can't find that rhodo you absolutely must have, or the answer to that particular question? There is a relatively new phenomenon, an internet forum, which gives one access to experts all over the world. In general I have never been a great fan of these, as in many cases people seem to be posting a message just to hear themselves talk. The important content could be summarized in many fewer, sometimes zero, words. However the Yahoo group on rhodos <<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rhodo>> seems to be run at a much higher level than most, with a lot of the well-know experts contributing, and quite a bit of useful information. Other such forums include <<http://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/azalea>> and <<http://www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org/forums/forumdisplay.php?f=131>>.

So I hope this gives a starting point for some rhodo adventures this winter. Let me know if you come across other valuable sources of rhodo info.

*Harold Fearing*

*From Colleen Bojczuk*



Assorted gourds

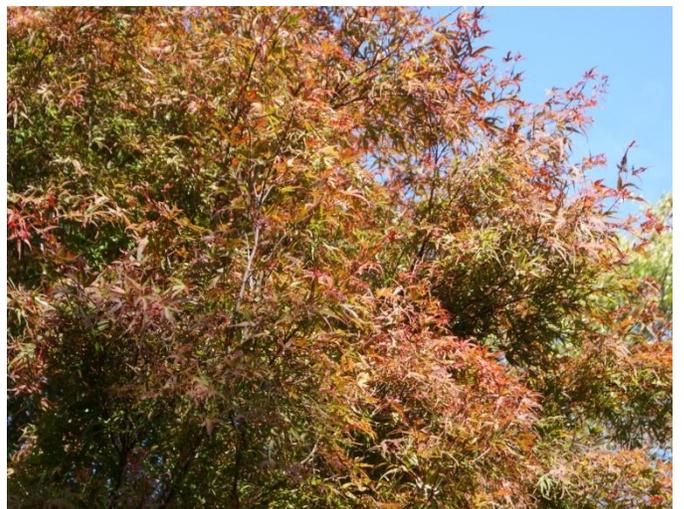


Pumpkins and Painted Kale



Rudbeckia Little Henry

*From the Garden*



## From Our Members



One of my other hobbies has been carving. Spoon carving is an element of my Duokhobour heritage so I thought I would give it a try. I have carved about six or seven spoons so far. The spoon is being smoothed before I will sand it. I usually oil my spoons. I have recently started using hemp oil for this.

The pictures show a current project. What is unusual and of some interest to our group is that the wood is rhododendron.



Last winter's heavy snow fall took its toll on one of my "Red Whalloper". One thick stem broke off from which I salvaged the wood for this spoon. I splinted the split trunk of the rhodo and it has survived. The area below the break has sent our good shoots that will likely replace the cracked trunk sometime in the future.

*Gerald Nemanish*

"Striker" Williams



(I'm told he is Byran and Lois' personal therapy dog) is anticipating the pie that could arrive from this humongous pumpkin.

From Colleen Bojczuk



*Itea Scentlandia*



*Gaultheria winter Splash*



*Gingo Autumn Gold*



*Hypericum Magical Series*



*Acer Aconitifolium*



*Camelia sasanqua var's*



*Panicum Hot Rod*

From Barbara Mathias



*Jim Barlup Hybrids*

Picture credit : Jim Barlup



*Jennica (Anna x lems x fortunei x siouxon)*



*Jessica (Gustavson x Violet Mist x Plum Passion)*



*Jessies Song (Nancy Evans x Golden Anniversary)*



*Jokers Wild (Sun Stream x Hills Low Red)*



*Journey (Minds Love x Mesquite))*



*Judy Judy Judy (Peach Charm x Piroitte)*



*Judys Choice ( Hachmanns Charmont x Tia)*



*Just Dessert (Mindys Love x Whopper x Lems Cameo x Whopper x Brandts Tropicanna)*



*Kailey (Polarnacht x Wild Berry)*



*Karalee (Hotei x Whitneys Late Yellow)*



*Karls Surprise (Fantastica x Snowcandle)*



*Ken Gibson (Lemon Embers x Fortune x Bergs Yellow x r. proteodies)*



# Fraser South Rhododendron Society

frasersouthernrhodos.ca

## 2022 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: Evelyn Jensen, 4614 Saddlehorn Cres. Langley, B.C. V2Z 2L7  
Membership questions may be addressed to the FSRs Membership Chair,  
Evelyn Jensen at 604-857-5663, or to any other FSRs officer.

Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_; FSRs database \_\_\_\_\_; YAK Editor \_\_\_\_\_ or Snail Mail \_\_\_\_\_; ARS \_\_\_\_\_.