



THE YAK

Volume 35, Number 6

September 2021



R. tomentosum

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. tomentosum

Rhododendron subsection: Ledum

A very distinct subsection, characterised by the aromatic leaves, the presence of tomentum and indumentum on the young shoots and leaves and the many-flowered inflorescence. Subsection Ledum contains a number of very hardy species which make fairly accommodating garden plants. All have freely-produced, small white flowers in many-flowered, roundish inflorescences. They appreciate similar growing conditions to those enjoyed by most other dwarf rhododendrons.

Height: 0.3-1.2m, and erect or decumbent shrub, young shoots rufous-lanate, glandular.

Leaves: 0.6-5 x 0.1-1.2cm, linear to narrowly elliptic-oblong, margin strongly recurved, lower surface with dense rufous-lanate indumentum, with or without short, setulose hairs underneath and sometimes with reddish glands.

Inflorescence many-flowered

Corolla: 4-8mm long, white

Calyx minute

Stamens 7-10

Ovary glandular, style glabrous

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

This Month

Date: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 7:30 pm.

Place: Zoom meeting from the comfort of your own home

TITLE: Death Valley Superbloom – Ron Long

Geologically Death Valley is a fascinating place. It is the hottest and driest place in the Western Hemisphere - not a place you would expect to find a floral spectacle. But with exactly the right amount of rain at exactly the right time (a rare occurrence) the desert is transformed.

However, to properly appreciate the plants it helps to know something about the environment. As a lead-in to a discussion of the plants this talk will include some of the unique geological features of Death Valley such as Sailing Stones and Sand Dunes where there is no sand.

Ron Long was the sciences photographer at Simon Fraser University for thirty-six years. Now retired, Ron travels extensively to botanic hotspots around the world and enjoys sharing his experiences and photographs with interested groups.

Next Month

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

Date: Saturday & Sunday, October 23-24
- 2021 Virtual ARS Conference

Conference details can be found at the end of this month's YAK. This meeting will be FREE to anyone in the world but people must register through the ARS link below in order to participate. Please share this link with other gardening groups or any friends who seem to enjoy plants.

[Fall Conference 2021 \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

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.

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

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

From the President

Well – here we go again!

Just when we thought it was safe to finally do something "normal" without having to remember all the protocols. I'm so disappointed in "people" and their greatly inflated sense of entitlement. I'm disappointed that all the careful and well-behaved people have been robbed of their usual summer enjoyments they had hoped could happen. OK now I'm getting down off my soapbox and saying "How are you all doing?" Very well, I hope. This summer has sure been one for the books, and I hope that heat dome was just a one-off. Plant damage in un-irrigated sunny areas is catastrophic, but even damage in shady areas under trees is severe – the trees are bullies that say "Me first". I only wonder what the public and landscape trade reaction will be now or in spring – will they replace and hope for the best; will they replace but install irrigation, or will they just rip everything out and go get some interesting stones and plant succulents? Only time will tell – but it does make it pretty hard to write up bookings for spring stock at the store.

So what have we learned from this situation? Gardeners will need to learn the value of proper soil preparation and the use of effective mulches; gain more knowledge of specific plant needs and pay more attention to correct plant placement; and those with limited well water will learn the value of rain barrels. Many people have made excuses for dead and dying plants - "but we *have* a watering system, and it goes every day", but no knowledge how far down the moisture goes. They need to learn that more infrequent but much deeper watering is far more sustainable in the long run.

...Continued

From the President cont'd

Now then, where do we go from here as a club? The zoom meetings can continue as long as necessary, membership dues can easily be sent to Evelyn, and just maybe, we'll be able to have some kind of modified Christmas get-together. But seriously, I do have certain concerns that we may lose a few more members as time goes on in this fashion. The lack of personal contact and friendly chitchat, fabulous food sharing, raffles, plant sale and garden tours that brought us all together in such good camaraderie is taking its toll. I have to confess I do feel definite regret also, even though being around plant people and being so nutso busy at work all through this. I guess we'll just have to keep our collective chins up, enjoy the early fall colours, maybe plant some bulbs or perennials to cheer us in early spring, and hope that our rhodos and such. Take care all, and I'll miss seeing you at the Sept. meeting, but I'm sure Jim will conduct a good evening.

Respectfully, Colleen B

Membership Renewal

It's that time once again 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!

FREE ONLINE event by UBC Botanical Garden -17 September 10:30am -11:30am

Citizen science, also known as community science, is a type of scientific research conducted by the public in collaboration with scientists to address a research topic. It has a long history of practice in many fields such as medicine and astronomy. This online seminar aims to foster a deeper understanding of the role of citizen science in the fields of biodiversity and conservation. Join us to learn about ways to participate in citizen science and gain insight into the world of plant and pollinators.

Session facilitator, Alex Wong, is a senior Biology student working with the UBC Botanical Garden on citizen science initiatives. He will explain the role citizen science plays in science and explore the various ways to be involved in scientific research. Winnie Hwo is the Senior Public Engagement Specialist for the David Suzuki Foundation,

> and she will be sharing her experience on the impact of citizen science on the Butterflyway Project. Daniel Mosquin, Research Manager at UBC Botanical Garden, will share his knowledge on plant identification and the tight-knit relationship between plants and pollinators.

This workshop is hosted by UBC Botanical Garden in collaboration with CCUB (Climate Crisis in Urban Biodiversity). CCUB aims to inspire the next generation of students to work towards the interconnected global challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss. It works to support student-led, inclusive, and demand-driven research to yield scalable solutions towards the climate emergency and the biodiversity crisis.

[Citizen Science for Plants and Pollinators: Tips and Tools to ID Plants Tickets, Fri, 17 Sep 2021 at 10:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)

From the Editor

Welcome back to the fall season of the FSRS! Like many, I had hoped that we would be back to in person meetings but erring on the side of caution, we will continue with online meetings for the time being. Before I get into my ramblings, I must first apologize for not producing a June YAK! It was my intention to do so, but with no firm date for distribution I put it off, the heat dome arrived, and before I knew it, it was July.

What an interesting summer we've had. While I enjoy the warm weather the couple of "extreme heat" bouts we had were too much. We managed to make it through with lots of inactivity, fans, the BBQ, and the pool. The colourful June garden full of rhododendron and perennial blooms seemed to be there one day and the next time you looked was gone. Some perennials thrived in the heat with little or no water while others had an extremely short blooming timeframe. Flowers that would normally bloom in August were out in early July. While the lawns turned brown (except for the ever green septic field), we had to work to keep some of the rhododendrons hydrated. The ones in the wooded "forested" area were the ones that had to compete for the moisture. Even with the occasional rain we've had over the last couple of weeks, the gardens continue to be extremely dry.

On the plus side we've had a bumper crop of tomatoes this year. By mid-June the Early Girls were already ripening along with the different varieties of cherry tomatoes that were planted. As the Early Girl production was winding down, the harvest of the Beef Steak tomatoes began and is still going strong. The record so far is 1.5 lbs. The cherry tomatoes continue to ripen! I can't remember when I've eaten so many tomatoes!

Also experiencing a bumper year are the hummingbirds. The 3rd feeder I put out in the spring to handle the influx of Rufous has stayed out permanently. The backyard was a continual hive of activity all summer and even though only the Annas remain, I need to refill all three feeders at least twice a day. It's quite the experience to see two hummingbirds chasing one another and coming straight at you only to have the first veer left at the last moment and coming so close you can feel it go by at ear level while the other one decides to increase altitude and brush the top of your head. Their antics and playfulness always make me smile.



A bumper group of feathered babies this year. Gold finches, house finches peeping as they sat in the trees waiting for their parents to feed them along with young chickadees and woodpeckers learning the ropes, the locations of the gurgler, the bird bath, and of course the feeders.

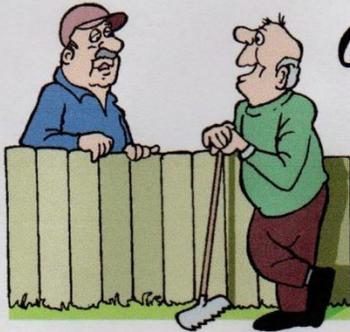
During the heat I saw a young pileated woodpecker under the sprinkler, wings stretched out, having a bath as the rhododendrons were watered. He then joined Mom and was given a lesson on how to get the seed out the feeders even though they have cages on them. IT PAYS TO HAVE A LONG TONGUE! He's the one on the left having what I call a "bad hair day" as his head feathers are just starting to grow in and are more orange than red.

This month we welcome back Ron Long. Given Ron's previous presentations to the group, we can be assured that his presentation on the "Death Valley Superbloom" will contain fantastic photographs and all the information we need to view them in context. Please join us 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 hang in there, 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, September 2005 by M.L. "Mike" Trembath



Over the backyard fence . . .

Mankind endlessly tries to emulate a 'supreme being'; he creates, controls and imposes his will wherever possible. The sub series of humans called 'gardeners' displays this trait very clearly. (if you don't believe me – take a look at bonsai) And the sub group – 'growers of rhododendrons' – shows many similar examples.

Left to themselves, rhododendrons, like humans, may be beautiful babies, then gawky, awkward adolescents, and finally over-blown, sagging adults. Our purist, conforming, grower must avoid this progression. In the case of the rhododendron grower this compulsion to "alter to suit", is exhibited as a need to produce "shapely" plants (Some people simply cannot walk past a young seedling, or cutting without reaching out and nipping off the central growth bud.)

The current trend to produce massively branched and budded plants for the unsuspecting public, plays into the hands of those outspoken landscape designers who insist that rhododendrons are dull garden plants. Certainly after the spurt of colour at bloom time there is an unremitting greenness. If your rhododendron beds contain a neatly rounded pink, next to a shapely lavender, beside a dear little ball of a yellow, next to a shapely pink, next to a rounded red, beside a shapely cream next a curvaceous rosy pink, beside a well shaped white, next to a neat bi-colour beside another well endowed pink – all as shapely as a well-corseted Edwardian lady – you are adding to the detractor's ammunition. Not all rhodies were meant to be discrete 'buns' of assorted sizes. Many of these mutilated rhododendrons will become the horrors of the garden in 10 or 15 years, with no 'skeletal' strength and sprawling, weak limbs, prey to breakage from exuberant pets (or children) or a wet snow load. But then, perhaps we don't plan that far ahead for our gardens, or we plan to grub out the unsightly and replace.

Although I am an unrepentant foe of the "nippers" I admit to the practice being necessary in some situations. Williamsianum crosses – especially those where the other parent is a large flowered plant – tend to produce rather thin and weak stems, not up to the task of supporting the disproportionately large flowers. A vigorous routine of repeated forced branching can shorten stems and then, when the container is filled with the heady mixture to produce buds on each terminal, the totally budded plant will perform go on to 'police' itself. This happy state will continue at least until the buyer forgets where he bought the plant. Some varieties (I think of 'The Hon. Jean Marie de Montague' especially) thoroughly resent this attempt at coercion, and fight it all the way. But hey – you win some, you lose some.

M. L. "Mike" Trembath

The stubbornly vigorous but gloriously red
'The Honourable Jean Marie de Montague'



From the Garden



Hawthorne berries - food for the birds



Ambrosia Apple Tree



Maple (potted) – sun/heat damage



Fall crocus emerging



Cyclomens are blooming now



Sedum with bees

Jim Barlup Hybrids

Picture credit : Jim Barlup



Honey Butter (Nancy Evans x China x Lems Cameo)



Honey Gold (Percy Wiseman x Orange Prelude)



Honey Mist (Invitation x Satin Gold x Whopper x Lems Cameo x Whopper x Brandts Tropicana)



Ice Ballet (e. yakushimanum x Mrs JG Millais)



Ice Music (Nancy Evans x Pirouette)



Ice Peism (e. bureavii x Ken Janeck x 1000 Butterflies)



Icicle Creek (Ingrid Mehlquist x Lems Cameo)



Invitation (Anitya Dunston x Lems Cameo)



Invitations Gift (Invitation x Ivory Dream)



Ivory Dream (r. yakushimanum x r. lacteum x Powder Snow)



Ivory Mist (Recital x Tia)



Ivory Spice (winter Spice x Muffy)



Harold Eldon Greer

Harold Eldon Greer, 76, passed away unexpectedly on August 10, 2021, while tending to his landscape and his beloved rhododendrons. Harold was born to Edgar and Esther Peterson Greer on May 21, 1945, in Greeley, Colorado. His family moved to Eugene, Oregon, when Harold was seven years old and shortly thereafter Harold was introduced to the world of plant materials, and specifically, rhododendrons, by his father. What began as a shared hobby between father and son soon became a business, Greer Gardens Nursery, originally located in the River Road area. In 1961, the family purchased a parcel of land on Goodpasture Island Road and moved the nursery to the site which would be home to the business for the next 50 years.

Harold graduated from North Eugene High School and attended the University of Oregon, but his passion from a very young age was plant materials and rhododendrons. As a teenager, he was the youngest person to be accepted into membership of the Eugene Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society and by the age of 22, he was the youngest person to ever be appointed as a Director for the American Rhododendron Society. His involvement with the international organization continued as he served in a progression of officer roles, culminating as President of the American Rhododendron Society, again as the youngest person ever to do so. Additionally, he served on many ARS committees throughout his lifetime.

Along with his love of rhododendrons, Harold possessed a talent for photography, another passion which continued throughout his lifetime. He had a very good eye for composition and color. Over the years, he photographed thousands of plant blooms, trusses, and leaves, which became the illustrations for the many articles and presentations he prepared. In addition, Harold wrote and illustrated several books about rhododendrons, the best known of which is "Greer's Guidebook To Available Rhododendrons". Harold loved to share his wealth of knowledge about the plant world but he was always striving to learn more. In addition to the American Rhododendron Society, he belonged to the Royal Horticultural Society, the Magnolia Society, the Camellia Society and he was a board member for the Rhododendron Species Foundation in Federal Way, Washington. Harold also loved to travel and he incorporated his thirst for knowledge into the many horticultural tours he and his wife, Nancy, led Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Germany, France, England, Scotland, Ireland and the Scandinavian region over the many years of their life together.

In 2015, as Harold looked forward to retirement, he sold the Greer Gardens Nursery property to The Springs Living, a retirement and senior living company based in McMinnville, Oregon. Harold worked with the new owner, Fee Stubblefield, and his team at The Springs Living to envision and bring into existence a multi-level retirement community on the property, surrounded by beautiful gardens containing the rare and unique rhododendrons Harold had collected and nurtured during his lifetime. An additional aspect of the new construction was a new home for Harold and Nancy's comfort and enjoyment in their retirement years. The Springs at Greer Gardens will always remain as a reminder of Harold's passion for rhododendrons and beautiful gardens.

Harold is survived by his wife of 55 years, Nancy (Scott) Greer; his sister, Elizabeth Montel, of Grants Pass; his sister-in-law, Linda Southwick, of Eugene; his nephew, Scott Reese and wife, Susan, of Eugene; niece Wendy Hitztes and husband, Will, of Denver, Colorado; niece Cassie Gaudette and husband, Brian, of West Point, New York; and numerous other nieces and nephews. A Memorial Service is being planned for a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Research Foundation of the American Rhododendron Society or to the Rhododendron Species Foundation of Washington.



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 _____.

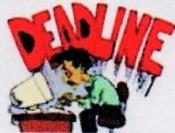
2021 Virtual ARS Fall Conference - October 23-24

(Hosted by the Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society and the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society in partnership with the Vancouver Island Master Gardeners Association)

Glen Jamieson, Parksville, BC



Traditionally, when a Spring ARS Convention is held in eastern North America, there is a fall ARS Conference in western North America. This year's 2021 fall conference, planned in Florence, OR, as an in-person conference, was cancelled as this is not yet practical. District 1 (BC) was then asked to organize a virtual conference. We agreed, and because of the very short notice (two weeks, as we needed to get details into the summer JARS issue),



we have planned the following which we believe will make for an interesting, albeit virtual, event.

In 2018, the Mount Arrowsmith (MARS) and Nanaimo (NRS) chapters organized a very successful day-long, in-person, October "Fall into Gardening" conference style event to build collaboration and bring together Vancouver Island gardeners and ARS members at a time of year when spring and summer gardening events had quieted down (Southwick and Deniseger, 2019, J. American Rhodo. Soc. 73: 21-22). Our meeting was "sold out", with 100 participants (the capacity of the room we had booked) paying \$25 each to cover our meeting room and speaker honours. In 2019, this meeting was replaced by the Mount Arrowsmith Chapter hosting the successful, well-attended

Parksville ARS Fall Conference, and because of COVID-19, an in-person 2020 "Fall into Gardening" meeting was organized and postponed to 2021. Organisers of the 2020 meeting had been expanded to include the Vancouver Island Master Gardeners Association (VIGMA) to further strengthen ties across the island gardening community. The 2021 Fall ARS Conference being presented here was thus organized around the "foundation" of this planned 2021 "Fall into Gardening" meeting, being expanded to include international speakers and broadening both the number and nature of speaker topics. This 2021 Fall ARS Conference meeting is thus being organized by three Vancouver Island groups: MARS, NRS and VIGMA.



To make it as accessible as possible, and because our costs are greatly reduced (no venue, travel costs or food), we are making attendance at this conference **FREE**.

Everyone will have access to all talks. However, we are asking that individuals register so that we can use email to send participants relevant background information. Register at <https://mailchi.mp/9151e79e2a98/fall-conference-2021>. Because of the global range of ARS members, and to make this meeting accessible time-wise to as many as possible, the conference has been structured to just be four hours long on each of two consecutive days, from 9 AM to 1 PM Pacific Time, 12 PM-4 PM Eastern Time, and 5-6 PM to 9-10 PM in much of Europe. Unfortunately, NZ, Australian and Asian members will have to get up early or watch the recorded presentations, which will be available a few days after the conference!



Being a virtual meeting, we are also inviting participation by members of any other gardening society, whether local or distant, as the intent of our "Fall into Gardening" meeting is to

bring together as many interested gardeners as possible, with the hope that some might then decide to join their local chapter of the ARS. All ARS chapters should feel free to pass these Conference details to other gardeners in their community, but again, please ask them to register at <https://mailchi.mp/9151e79e2a98/fall-conference-2021> so they can be informed of background information.

Meeting Agenda (All times are Pacific Daylight Time.)

Day 1 - Saturday, October 23

- 9-9:10 AM: Introduction and Welcome Addresses (Conference organisers, ARS President)
- 9:10-10:00 AM: Hartwig Schepker, Germany: **Sichuan: A Plantsman's Paradise**
- 10:05-10:50 AM: Shannon Berch, BC: **Your Living Soil**
- 11:00-11:50 AM: David Sellars, BC: **From Rhododendrons to Rock Gardening**
- 12:00 PM-12:50 PM: Don Hyatt, VA: **A Walk in the Woods**
- 12:50 PM-1:00 PM: Invitation presentation by the Spring 2022 ARS Conference organisers

Day 2 - Sunday, October 24

- 9:10-10:00 AM: David Millais, UK: **Conservation of Heritage Rhododendrons**
- 10:05-10:50 AM: Linda Chalker-Scott, WA: **Landscape Mulches - The Good, The Bad, and The Just Plain Ugly**
- 11:00-11:50 AM: Richard Dionne, QC: **Growing Rhododendrons in Québec's Harsh Winters**
- 12:00 PM-12:50 PM: Don Wallace, CA: **Fragrant Rhododendrons**
- 12:50-1:00 PM: Promote 2022 Regional "Fall into Gardening" event, Conference organisers; ARS President Conference Closing

Speakers Abstracts and BIOS:

1. Dr. Hartwig Schepker: Sichuan: A Plantsman's Paradise, 2019.

Abstract: Many of our our garden plants were originally introduced from the Western Chinese province of Sichuan. Ernest "Chinese" Wilson is claimed to having introduced more than 1000 garden worthy plants—many of them rhododendrons. Sichuan's landscape and flora is overwhelming—especially in the spring when rhododendrons and many perennials like yellow and blue poppies or primulas turn the mountain sides into a botanical paradise. Six Germans, a Scotsman and a Chinese companion followed in June 2019 the routes taken by Ernest Wilson and the Austrian plant hunter Handel-Mazetti and were blessed with good weather, great plants and lots of stories.



Bio: Dr. Hartwig Schepker obtained his PhD in plant ecology at the University of Hannover. Since 2006, he has been the Scientific Director of the Botanic Garden and Rhododendron-Park, Bremen, Germany, which has world's second largest rhododendron collection. In addition, he is a board member of the German Rhododendron Society and as an intrepid rhododendron explorer, has made numerous trips over 30 years to in North America, Europe and especially Asia.

2. Dr. Shannon Berch: Your living soil.

Abstract: Roots of garden plants grow in association with a vast diversity of other organisms such as bacteria, fungi and fauna, some of which are detrimental (e.g., root diseases) and others beneficial (e.g., mycorrhizas). In this talk, I will discuss this huge array of soil biota, how they interact with garden plants, and how garden management affects them.



Bio: Shannon Berch retired in 2019 and is now Emerita Researcher with the BC Ministry of Environment and Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Land and Food Systems, UBC. She is a founding member of the South Vancouver Island Mycological Society and the Truffle Association of BC. Shannon was born and raised in southern Ontario, did graduate work at the University of Waterloo and Laval University in Quebec City, and a post-doc in Corvallis, Oregon.

3. David Sellars: From Rhododendrons to Rock Gardening: A Rewarding Journey

Abstract: David and his wife Wendy have been developing an extensive alpine and woodland garden in coastal British Columbia. This talk describes their initial focus on rhododendrons and later interest in other woodland plants and rock gardening. Their garden won the 2012 Millstream Garden Award from the North American Rock Garden Society.



Bio: David Sellars is an award winning photographer and is a past-president of the Alpine Garden Club of British Columbia. He is an avid mountain hiker and maintains the website www.mountainflora.ca. David's particular interests are rock garden design and construction, alpine plant photography and using video to illustrate mountain landscapes and alpine plant habitats. David has given talks on rock gardening and alpine plants across North America and in the UK. He has written articles on rock garden design and alpine plant explorations and a selection of his photographs were published in the recent book "Alpine Plants of British Columbia, Alberta and Northwest North America" and a new edition of Arthur Kruckeberg's "Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest".

4. Don Hyatt: A Walk in the Woods

Abstract: Don has spoken frequently on the Southern Appalachians but this will be an update on some of his favorite native azalea and rhododendron populations that he visits frequently. Expect to see some stunning photography and as well as humorous anecdotes about recent treks along the Appalachian Trail and hikes to other locations. He will update progress on trying to preserve rare plants such as the 'Red Max', a solitary red form of *R. maximum* he discussed in the Summer 2020 ARS Journal. He will also provide background on a new lepidote species found in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, *Rhododendron smokianum*, that was just described in March of 2021.



Bio: Don Hyatt is a retired public school teacher who had a very successful 33-year career teaching mathematics and computer science at the secondary school level in Northern Virginia. Retiring in 2002, he has spent most of his time since then pursuing his life-long interests in horticulture. Don's favorite areas of study have been the American native azaleas, rhododendrons, and wildflowers of the Southern Appalachians. A popular speaker at local, national, and international conferences, Don can entertain the novice as well as the expert as he combines his humorous storytelling ability with beautiful photographs in a multimedia presentation. Don has received a number of honors for his work including both the ARS Gold and Silver Medals.

5. David Millais: Conservation of Heritage Rhododendrons

Abstract: The talk reviews the *ex situ* conservation of species and hybrid rhododendrons in garden collections. Habitat loss and climate change require many plants to be saved away from their place of origin. Challenges of conservation include plant identification, labelling, record keeping, data protection,

the Nagoya protocol, conservation policies instigated by botanic gardens and collections, and phytosanitary restrictions imposed by plant health authorities on imported plant material. Rhododendron societies around the world have a leading role in coordinating and saving valuable plants from extinction by identifying “at risk” plants, arranging propagation of them, and distributing them to collections and gardens for safe-keeping.



Bio: David studied Commercial Horticulture and then worked for a large hardy plant nursery in Dorset for six years, rising to Nursery Manager, before taking short internships at Briggs Nursery and the RSE. In 1990 he took over as Specialist Rhododendron grower, Millais Nurseries, from his parents. His great uncle was J.G. Millais who wrote the two volume series on Rhododendrons in 1917 and 1924, and David’s parent’s Ted and Romy Millais trekked extensively in the Himalayas and China during the 1980’s and 1990’s, introducing several new rhododendron species. David is Vice Chairman, and past Chairman of the RHS Rhododendron, Camellia and Magnolia Group and a member of the RHS Woody Plant Committee. Millais Nurseries is a leading specialist rhododendron nursery, growing about 900 different varieties of rhododendron which are supplied throughout the UK from the specialist plant centre and gardens at Crosswater Farm. <https://www.rhododendrons.co.uk>

6. Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott: Landscape Mulches – The Good, The Bad, and The Just Plain Ugly

Abstract: Mulches are an ideal alternative to chemical weed control. If correctly chosen and applied, mulches can not only reduce weed invasions, but also reduce management costs by improving water and air movement, moderating soil temperatures, improving soil structure and nutrition, and enhancing beneficial microbes and insects. How can

you decide which mulch is best for your landscape? This talk will teach you how to make these decisions.



Bio: Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott has a Ph.D. in Horticulture from Oregon State University and is an ISA certified arborist and an ASCA consulting arborist. She is WSU’s Extension Urban Horticulturist and a Professor in the Department of Horticulture, and holds two affiliate associate professor positions at University of Washington. She conducts research in applied plant and soil sciences, publishing the results in scientific articles and university Extension fact sheets. In 2020, she was named the new editor for the *Western Arborist* magazine. Linda also is the award-winning author of five books: the horticultural myth-busting *The Informed Gardener* (2008), *The Informed Gardener Blooms Again* (2010), *Sustainable Landscapes and Gardens: Good Science – Practical Application* (2009), *How Plants Work: The Science Behind the Amazing Things Plants Do* (2015) and an update of Art Kruckeberg’s *Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest* from UW Press (2019).

7. Richard Dionne: Growing Rhododendrons in Québec’s Harsh Winters

Abstract: This educational presentation will focus on plant hardiness along with specific cultivation requirements associated with our climate rather than on rarity.



Bio: I was raised in a big family by a loving mother who had a passion for gardening. Living in a small francophone community in New Brunswick, Canada, Mom grew flowers but mostly vegetables for the locals; but I was totally attracted to the ornamental beds. After completing my education in Ornamental Horticulture and Plant Science at McGill University, I worked at the “Jardin Botanique de Montréal” where I was

the specialized horticulturist appointed to the enchanting “Leslie Hancock Ericaceum” for nearly 30 years and the impressive Shade Garden collection for 20 years. Recently retired, I am now devoted to my garden in Sutton, Québec. I’m also one of the co-founders of the “Société des Rhododendrons du Québec” and since 2019, have been vice-president.

8. Don Wallace: Fragrant & Fancy – Bringing Fragrance into the Showiest Rhododendron Flowers

Abstract: I will discuss what causes fragrance in flowers, and why it is desirable. A discussion of the different fragrant species and who discovered them leads into the idea of producing new hybrids with fragrance and also colorful, showy flowers. Using literature to discover which cultivars will be the best parents for these new hybrids is shown with several examples. Finally, I will list my favorite fragrant rhododendrons that are also available today.



Bio: Don Wallace is the owner of Singing Tree Gardens & Nursery, a small retail nursery located in McKinleyville, California. Over the past 25 years Don has planted, propagated, hybridized, and grown from seed many rhododendrons. He is the past president of the Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society and participated as one of the Show Chairmen at the Western Regional Conference in Eureka back in 1999. Singing Tree Gardens Nursery features a wide range of plants, including some of Don’s new rhododendron hybrids, that are shipped nationwide.