



THE YAK

Volume 36, Number 8

November 2022



R. wallichii

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

<http://frasersoutherhododendron.ca>

Map : <https://qoo.gl/maps/ZB1m1jnF9DP2>

In person 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.

Cover:



r. wallichii

Elepidote

Height 2-6m (6-20ft). Habit as campanulatum. Branchlets glabrous or floccose, Bark pinkish-brown to grey, fairly smooth to rough.

Leaves: Leathery, 5.2-14 x 2.2-5.8cm (2-5.5 x ¾-2 1/3in.), elliptic, obovate to oblong, apex obtuse to rounded, base cordate to obtuse, dark and often shiny above, glabrous at maturity, numerous or few dots of hair tufts, not continuous below, loose, black to brown or almost balbrous. Leaves are retained for 1 to 2 years. Petiole 0.4-2.8cm glabrous or sometimes tomentose. Inflor 6-10, rachis about 2cm. Pedical 1.5-2.5 cm glabrous or slightly floccose.

Flower/Truss Description: Cream flushed mauve, lilac, lavender, violet, rose-purple, blue-mauve, pink or white, +/- spotted, 4-5 cm (about 2 ins.) long, broadly campanulate. Calyx minute. Ovary and style glabrous

Bloom Time: March - May

Cold Hardiness Temp: 5°F (-15°C)

Sub Section: Cinnabarina

Distribution: East Nepal. Sikkim, Bhutan. South Tibet and Arunachal Pradesh, 2,900-4,300m (9,500-14,000ft), common; under junipers, among spruce, fir, birch, and scrub,

Sources: *The Larger Rhododendron Species*, by Peter Cox

This Month

Date: Wednesday, November 16 2022 at 7:30 pm.

Place: Via Zoom

Title: Lois Moss – “Interesting Gardens of Oregon, Washington, and B.C.”

Consider exploring some of the world-class public gardens, nurseries, display gardens and other horticultural treasures in Oregon, Washington, and B.C. This presentation will include photos and tips on places you can visit in the Pacific NW.

As a serial entrepreneur and dedicated volunteer, Lois Moss has been involved in a number of careers from being a CPA, to owning bicycle stores, to founding a non-profit, to events management. She relocated from Ohio to Oregon in 2010, expecting to glide into a peaceful early retirement. Gardening and horticulture caught her interest and she jumped in with both feet, serving as Treasurer for the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon and completing Master Gardener training. She has organized and led 11 multi-day group tours and was focusing on highlighting garden tourism of the Pacific NW before the pandemic shut down travel. She loves sharing information with people and helping them explore places they might not know about, might take for granted, or might enjoy seeing again.

Upcoming Meetings

No meeting will be held in December

Date: Wednesday, January 18 at 7:30 pm. Via Zoom

Title: Rhodos and Related Plants of the North Cascades (David Anderson and Andrew Stern)

Date: Wednesday, February 15 at 7:30 pm. Via Zoom

Title: Meerkerk Gardens (Re McClung (President of Meerkerk) and Meerkerk staff)

2022 OFFICERS

President:	Gerry Nemanishen	604-826-0166
Past Pres:	Colleen Bojczuk	604-826-4221
Vice Pres:	Jim Worden	604-541-4754
Secretary:	Barbara Mathias	778-580-6404
Treasurer:	Harold Fearing	604-857-4136
Directors:	Robert Talbot	604-720-0134
	Nancy Moore	604-859-3690
	Colleen Bojczuk	604-826-4221
Programs:	Vacant	
Membership:	Vacant	
Newsletter:	Maureen Worden	604-541-4754
Librarian:	Gerald Nemanishen	604-826-0166
Website:	Maureen Worden	604-541-4754
Hospitality:	Vacant	
BCCGC Liaison:	Vacant	

Reminders - !!!!!!!!!!!!!

Vacancies - the positions for FSRS Membership and FSRS Programs are now available. Please consider contributing to the group by volunteering for one of these positions. Contact a member of the executive for further information.

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.

From the President

Fraser South Rhododendron Society has been active for over 30 years. We have an excellent newsletter that is a source of pride for District 1 of the American Rhododendron Society. Over the years we have had presentations on topics including gardening and the natural flora that many of us have been able to travel to see. In the past we have had excellent plant sales that have subsidized the group.

Unfortunately, times are changing. Garden clubs are seeing an aging of their memberships and few younger members. We have lost some nurseries that would supply plants for our plant sales. Our group is not alone in this situation. The Covid pandemic resulted in a loss of in-person meetings and some members. Our remaining executive is being stretched and we have been unable to attract members to sit on this committee.

Our annual general meeting (AGM) is usually in February. Unless the situation changes, we will not be able to maintain the executive and we may be forced to fold the group, which I feel would be a significant loss for the rhododendron community as we are the only such group on the mainland. If you feel you want to maintain the group and volunteer to help, please contact a member of the listed executive this month. Our next executive Zoom meeting is on January 3, 2023 and we will have to make a decision to submit to the membership at the AGM.

Respectfully, *Gerald Nemanishen*

FSRS Business Items



Please join me in welcoming new members:

- Cheryl and Ian Harvey of Abbotsford
- David Leith of Vancouver.

Welcome to the group and we look forward to meeting you soon!



The FSRS Executive Team requires the following:

Membership Chair: It is not a particularly hard or time consuming job. Most of the work is in September and October when you would be responsible for collecting renewal dues, perhaps contacting people who are slow in renewing, and getting the money to the treasurer. You also are expected to keep membership records, distribute a membership directory once or twice a year, and send in the names of any ARS renewals to the ARS.

For the rest of the year you would collect data from any new members and work to make them welcome in the chapter. You (with the help of the rest of the executive) would also do anything you could think of to solicit new members and integrate them into the chapter.

Program Director: working with the executive, this position involves the identification of potential speakers, contacting potential speakers and making arrangements with the speakers for approximately six meetings a year. Ideas for speakers can come from the executive, past speakers from other Rhododendron Groups and other garden clubs. While we are primarily a rhododendron group, we are interested in all varieties of plants and trees and garden related topics.

The Program Director is a member of the Executive so there is an executive meeting about every two months.

Director: One of the director positions will become vacant at the end of the year.

Contact any member of the executive for more information on the above positions.



Thanks to all who have already renewed their memberships for 2023!

If you have yet to renew the form is attached and should be mailed with your check to Harold Fearing, address on the form. Dues are the same as last year.

From the Editor

Welcome to Winter and my 5th year anniversary edition of the YAK. We seemed to have jumped past fall (OK, maybe we had a couple of weeks) and ended up in winter. But at least the jump has finally provided us with our fall colour. The coleus and other annuals are pretty much gone and potted perennials like agastache are putting forward their final blooms. I purchased this perennial



in the spring but before I could get it planted, the youngest garden team member decided to run around the yard with it causing a great deal of breakage. So I planted it in a pot to recover and of course can't remember the logical place I put the plant tag. So I'm hoping that the blueish flower buds in the process of coming out do, so I can identify it! In ground perennial fuchsias continue to attract the hummingbirds that have setup shop for the winter. Still lots of garden cleanup to do with the majority of the trees still retaining their leaves even in spite of the windstorms we've had recently. The nocturnal swim team continues to make regular appearance and this morning I found frozen paw prints around the pool, not sure if they're bathing or washing the evening's menu items. Happy 13th birthday this month to our senior garden crew member.

I hope everyone reads the Presidents message and takes it to heart. We have worked hard throughout the Covid period to keep the membership engaged, from continuing with the YAK to putting Zoom meetings in place. Believe me when I say it was not an easy task for the Program Director to find speakers that were willing and able to embrace the new Zoom concept for group meetings. But we did it and managed to provide a wide range of garden related topics from bats to botanical gardens to plant expeditions. We lost some long time members as they moved out of the area but we did gain some new members. While I understand that zoom may not be everyone's choice, it is a logical one at this time for the upcoming winter months given our demographics, weather, and that our members reside in a wide area of the Lower Mainland / Fraser Valley . We have managed to secure speakers for January and February with the intention of going back to in person meetings in March, the return of the highly acclaimed beer bottle truss show in May and spring garden tours. **BUT** in order to do this the executive team needs help.

For the past couple of years the team has been operating with vacancies which the existing members have taken on in addition to their original executive role. While this has worked in the short term, it is not a sustainable model for the group. Life happens be it long term travel plans, family obligations or illness etc. which can result in either short or long term absences or the need to resign from the executive team. Any such event means that an executive member temporarily filling two additional roles means we are now down three positions, not one. We **ARE NOW** in this position for the foreseeable future prompting Gerald's message.

Don't allow our efforts in keeping the group together during the pandemic to be for naught. If you've been on the executive team before, we'd love to have you back with your experience to help us move forward. If you've never been on the executive before, we'd love to have your thoughts and fresh ideas. Everyone in this group has something to offer! Contact an executive member to see how you can help. Remember that while primarily a rhododendron group we enjoy all garden related topics so no rhododendron expertise is required. We need you **NOW!**

Maureen Worden

Garden Friends

Caching: Remember or Die!



Each fall, chickadees, nuthatches, titmice and jays begin caching seeds by the thousands to ensure they will have something to eat during harsh weather and when natural foods become scarce in the future.

In a behavior called scatter hoarding, each seed they collect is individually hidden in locations such as under tree bark, dead leaves, in knotholes and even under house siding and shingles.

The amazing thing is that they can accurately remember the location of each and every one of the seeds they hide

for months to come!

It all has to do with their hippocampus, the region of the brain that stores locational memories. Especially in chickadees, it is proportionately larger when compared to birds that do not cache food. Favorite foods for birds to cache from your feeders include sunflower and safflower seeds, tree nuts and peanuts. So keep your feeders filled this fall and watch as your birds cache foods for winter. Source: Wild Birds Unlimited

Facts

- Every autumn Black-capped Chickadees allow brain neurons containing old information to die, replacing them with new neurons so they can adapt to changes in their social flocks and environment even with their tiny brains.
- Chickadee calls are complex and language-like, communicating information on identity and recognition of other flocks as well as predator alarms and contact calls. The more dee notes in a chickadee-dee-dee call, the higher the threat level.
- Winter flocks with chickadees serving as the nucleus contain mated chickadee pairs and non-breeders, but generally not the offspring of the adult pairs within that flock. Other species that associate with chickadee flocks include nuthatches, woodpeckers, kinglets, creepers, warblers and vireos.
- Most birds that associate with chickadee flocks respond to chickadee alarm calls, even when their own species doesn't have a similar alarm call.
- There is a dominance hierarchy within flocks. Some birds are "winter floaters" that don't belong to a single flock—these individuals may have a different rank within each flock they spend time in.
- Even when temperatures are far below zero, chickadees virtually always sleep in their own individual cavities. In rotten wood, they can excavate nesting and roosting holes entirely on their own.
- Because small songbirds migrating through an unfamiliar area often associate with chickadee flocks, watching and listening for chickadee flocks during spring and fall can often alert birders to the presence of interesting migrants. Source: Facts and Photo: The Cornell Lab

Courtesy of Nancy Moore



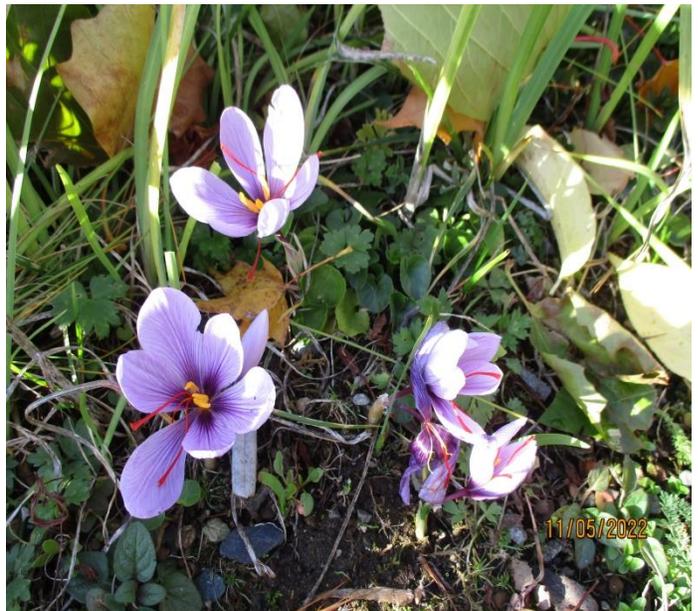
Nerine bowdenii



Fothergilla Mt. Airy fall colour



Hesperantha coccinea



Crocus sativa (the red filaments are the saffron)



The following articles originally appeared in the Fraser South Newsletter, November 2014 by Sean Rafferty

Rhododendron arborescens

(Epithet: Becoming treelike)

R. arborescens was discovered by the famous American botanist John Bartram, and described, in 1814, by Frederick Traugott Pursh from plants seen in the Blue ridge Mountains of Pennsylvania and in Bartram's garden.

It is a medium to large shrub to fifteen feet or more. *R. arborescens* has a very wide distribution from New York and Pennsylvania south to Georgia and Alabama and west to Tennessee, growing at elevations of 1,000-5,000 feet in stream sides, moist woods and mountain tops. This wide distribution

Species and their Hybrids		pollen ♂	
		B	b
pistil ♀	B	BB	Bb
	b	Bb	bb



R. arborescens
Line drawing by Rodella A. Purves



results in *R. arborescens* being a variable species. It has branchlets which are yellow-brown and glabrous with smooth lustrous leaves 4 inches long by 1 inch wide. The inflorescence has 3-7 flowers which appear with or after the leaves. The corolla is 1.5-2 inches long and is white, often tinged pink, sometimes with a yellow blotch and a wonderful fragrance described as heliotrope-cinnamon. Style and stamens are reddish, prominent and twice as long as the tube, creating a very striking effect. It blooms very late in June and July, which to my mind assures its garden worthiness. Notwithstanding *R. luteum* and *R. atlanticum* and that fragrance is an entirely subjective matter, I find the sweet, fresh scent of *R. arborescens* to be the most appealing of all Subgenus Pentanthera. It is with great regret that our *R. arborescens* was one of the plants in the North Vancouver garden that was too large to relocate to the Island.

Some images of hybrids using *R. arborescens* are found on the following page.

Sean Rafferty



R. 'Ribbon Candy'
R. viscosum x *R. arborescens*
E. Mezitt, 1965



R. 'Weston's Innocence'
R. arborescens x *R. viscosum*
E. Mezitt, 1963



R. 'Sommerduft'
R. viscosum x *R. arborescens*
H. Hachmann, 1984



R. 'Pink and Sweet'
R. arborescens x *unknown*
E. Mezitt 1963

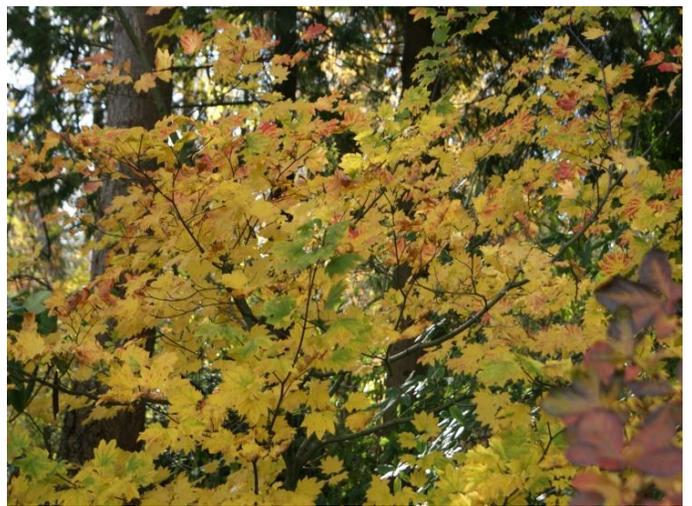
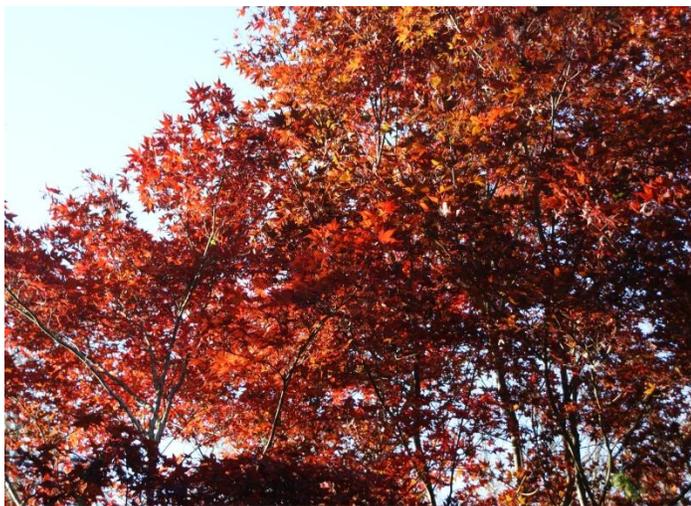


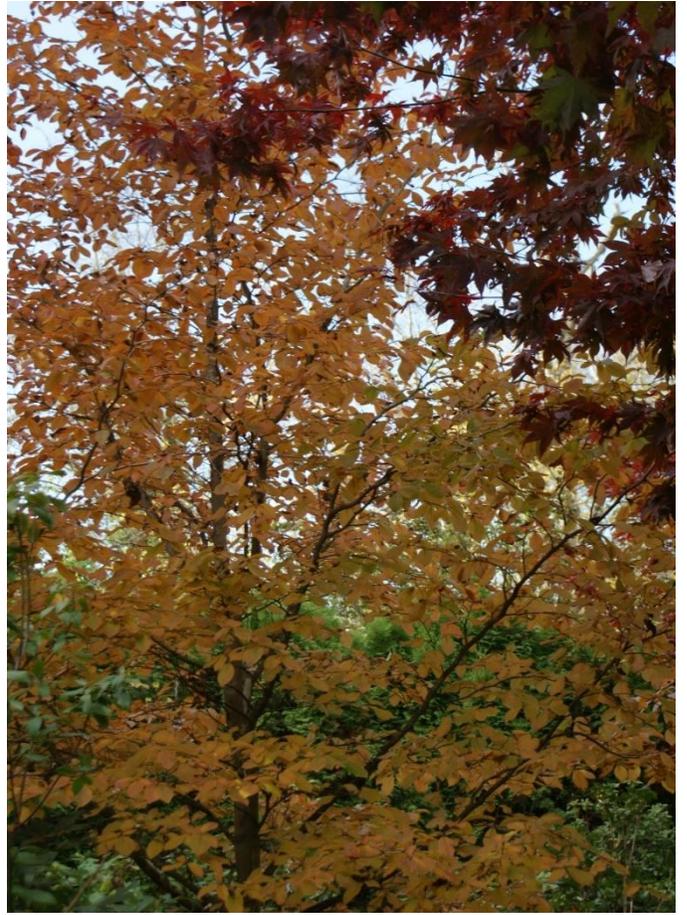
R. 'Popsicle'
R. viscosum x *R. arborescens*
E. Mezitt, 1963



R. 'Quiet Thoughts'
R. unknown x *R. arborescens*
E. Mezitt, 1980

From the Garden





Jim Barlup Hybrids

Picture credit : Jim Barlup



Terra (Recital x Nelda Peach)



Teton Twilight (Coral Blossom x Christina Dee)



Tip Toe (Nadia x Senator Henry Jackson)



Tisa (Nancy Evans x Bambi x r.proteoides)



Toti (Ingrid Mehlquist x Snow Candle)



Trade Winds (amber Waves x Bell Ringer x Fashion Plate)



Trina (Coral Blossom x Tia)



Tropical Gem (Mindys Love x Lems Cameo x r. repens x Lems Cameo x Brandts Tropicana)



Tulare (Mrs. Furnivall x Lems Cameo)



Twilight Fire (Maricela x Lems Cameo x Lem Cameo x Ken Janeck x Brandts Tropicana x Whopper x Brandts Tropicana)



Twilight Sun (Nancy Evans x Whopper x Brandts Tropicana X Whitneys Pumpkin)



Twilight Torch (Light Years x Percy Wiseman)



Fraser South Rhododendron Society

frasersouthernrhodos.ca

2023 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: Harold Fearing, 5376 Ross Road, Abbotsford, B.C. V4X 1Z2
Membership questions may be addressed to
Harold Fearing at 604-857-4136 or to any other FSRS officer.

Treasurer _____; FSRS database _____; YAK Editor _____ or Snail Mail _____; ARS _____.