



THE YAK

Volume 37, Number 4

April 2023



R. tatsienense

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

<http://frasersoutherhododendron.ca>

Map : <https://goo.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. tatsienense

Lepidote

Sub Genus: Rhododendron

Section: Rhododendron

Sub Section: Triflora

Height: 0.3-2.7m, a spreading to erect, often rather untidy shrub. Branchlets deep red to crimson.

Leaves: rigid and leathery, 1.6-6 x 1-3.1cm, elliptic, obovate, oval, oblong to oblong-lanceolate, apex usually rounded; upper surface usually lepidote, lower surface pale to glaucous-green, with unequal, brown scales, ½ to their own diameter apart, rarely wider; petiole lepidote.

Flower/Truss Description: Inflorescence terminal or terminal and axillary, 1-6 flowered. Corolla widely funnel-shaped, 1.4-2.3cm long, blush-white, to rose pink to rose-lavender or purple, +/- red spots; calyx disc-like or undulate, often ciliate.

Bloom Time: Early to mid-season

Distribution: N.W. Yunnan and W. & S.W. Sichuan, 2,100-3,700m (7,000-12,000ft) in open areas.

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

This Month

Date: Wednesday, April 19 at 7:30 pm.

Place: In person at Langley Mennonite Fellowship Church

Title: Rhododendrons along the Pacific Oceans Ring of Fire by Philip McDougall

Philip is a semiretired RN with distant study in botany and plant biochemistry. He has a keen interest in woodland plants, focused on members of the Ericaceae and Berberidaceae

Typically his vacations have been spent hiking through temperate biological hotspots. Tonight's talk highlights the Rhododendrons along the Pacific oceans ring of fire, outliers from the main areas of Rhododendron diversity yet some of the most effective and common plants of this genus used in our gardens.



Upcoming Meetings

Date: Wednesday, May 17 at 7:30 pm.

Place: Langley Mennonite Fellowship Church

Title: Member Blooms Show & Tell

Bring your rhododendron bloom(s) or whatever is blooming in your garden to "show and tell" members about them. Don't know the name of your bloom or having plant problems bring them anyway, other members may be able to help!

2023 ELECTED 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(s):	Gerry Nemanishen	604-826-0166
	Colleen Bojczuk	604-826-4221
Directors:	Robert Talbot	604-720-0134
	Colleen Bojczuk	604-826-4221
	Cheryl Harvey	604-556-2441
	Aird Flavelle	604-870-4221

VOLUNTEERS

Programs:	Aird Flavelle	604-870-4221
Membership:	Vacant	
Newsletter:	Maureen Worden	604-541-4754
Librarian:	Gerald Nemanishen	604-826-0166
Website:	Maureen Worden	604-541-4754
Hospitality:	Vacant	

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

Vacancies - Please consider contributing to the group by volunteering for one of the vacant executive or still very important volunteer positions. Contact a member of the executive for further information.

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

From the President



Spring is here despite the ice pellets we encountered in Vancouver on Sunday.

Last Saturday, I attended the BC Council of Garden Clubs AGM. My intension was to make our group more visible but I don't know if I accomplished that. I did network with a few people including the in-coming president who happened to be at my table. There are 206 affiliated clubs although a small number attended the meeting.

I would encourage those of you who attend local garden club meetings to talk up our group to attract new members. On Vancouver Island, there are hundreds of members in the several District 1 rhododendron groups.

On April 19, 2023, Philip MacDougal will be presenting on Rhodos in China/Taiwan at the Langley Mennonite Church. It starts at 7:30 pm and we encourage you to bring items for the raffle table.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald Nemanishen, President

From the Editor



We are now officially in spring! I hope everyone had a lovely Easter weekend. Easter as you know is a holiday that moves on the calendar from year to year. Sometimes it's in March and other years in April. Did you know that where Easter falls depends on celestial events? So for this year it was: The first Sunday (April 9th) after the first full moon (April 6th) following the Spring Solstice (March 20th).

Pretty much on schedule, the male Rufous hummingbirds were spotted at my feeders shortly after the April newsletter was put to bed and a couple of days prior to the first day of spring. The females have now joined them and along with the male/female Annas hummingbirds, the feeders are busy and need frequent replenishing.

"In the Garden" this month is once again featuring active garden blooms. Magnolia "Eric Saville" had a spectacular display of flowers this year which lasted about three weeks until the last series of windstorms over the long weekend pretty much cleared the tree. Likewise the blooms on Magnolia "Royal Crown" are abundant and still out in full bloom. Other magnolias are just starting to open.



While on garden cleanup duty, it's become clear that the weather this past winter has affected not only the blooming time of the rhododendrons but the number of blooms on some of the plants. It looks like we may have lost a few rhododendrons to the cold (I really think it was the ice



storm) but we will have to wait and see if those few show any sign of regeneration. As the perennials continue to grow, the daffodils and cyclamens are providing the colour one needs to see to brighten an overcast day.

This month we are starting a new series that highlights the ARS Rhododendron of the Year (ROY) winners. Every year, twenty-nine rhododendrons are selected for their adaptability in eight regions of the United States and Canada and are awarded Rhododendron of the Year (ROY) honors. To be selected for a ROY award a plant must have excellent foliage and flowers, have an attractive plant habit, be pest and disease resistant and be cold hardy for the region. For each region, the Plant Award Committee chooses four plants - an elepidote and a lepidote rhododendron, a deciduous azalea and an evergreen azalea. We will focus on the winners for the Pacific Northwest US / Canada region in our series.

Also this month we have our first in person meeting of 2023. Philip McDougall will be presenting "Rhododendrons along the Pacific Oceans Ring of Fire". I encourage everyone to take advantage of the extended daylight and softer weather conditions to come out, enjoy the presentation, contribute to and partake in the raffle, and enjoy the evening with your fellow members. (I've heard that coffee and goodies will be available as well!). Hope to see you there!

Maureen Worden

From the Archives



The following article originally appeared in the Fraser South Newsletter, April 2013 by Sean Rafferty

R. cinnabarinum (epithet: Cinnabar-red)

Rhododendron cinnabarinum was discovered and introduced by J.D. Hooker in 1849 from Sikkim and reintroduced by Ludlow and Sherriff along with other collectors from the Himalayas.

I believe that the best way to sort the differences between the various subspecies of Subsection cinnabarinum, is to set them out as seen below. This information is taken from a study guide prepared by Steve Hootman some years ago for the Species Study Day courses he taught at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden. The various comparisons are quite clear, and succinct and much more digestible than those given by most of the other authorities.

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



R. cinnabarinum var. *roylei*: painting by Carlos Reifel from "The Rhododendron" Vol. 2, Edited by Leslie Urquart



R. cinnabarinum ssp. *cinnabarinum*
Image: hirsutum.info



R. cinnabarinum ssp. *roylei*
image: hirsutum.info

General description: Upright evergreen (sometimes deciduous) shrubs with terminal or axillary clusters of pendulous tubular to bell-shaped flowers with nectaries in their bases. The fragrant leaves are densely scaly on their lower surface. Native from the eastern Himalayas east into extreme NW Yunnan.

R. cinnabarinum

- leaves elliptic to lanceolate and often glaucous blue-green when young
- flowers in a terminal inflorescence

Subspecies *cinnabarinum*

- leaves more narrow than in ssp. *xanthocodon* and typically without scales on the upper surface.
- flowers red, orange, yellow, or a combination thereof.
- the furthest west populations (Nepal, Sikkim and adjacent parts of SE Tibet)
- includes Blandfordiiflorum Group with bi- or tri-colored flowers. This group is very susceptible to powdery mildew.
- includes Roylei Group with red to purple-red flowers with a waxy bloom. Less susceptible to powdery mildew.

Subspecies *xanthocodon*



- leaves more broad than in ssp. *cinnabarinum*, with persistent scales on the upper surface.
- flowers broader in shape (tubular bell-shaped to bell-shaped) in various shades of yellow, orange, apricot or purple (Purpurellum Group).
- the eastern subspecies (Arunachal Pradesh, Bhutan and Tibet).
- moderately susceptible to powdery mildew
- includes Concatenans Group with rounded and more compact habit, large broad glaucous leaves and apricot-yellow flowers.
- only from the Pemako region of SE Tibet.
- includes Purpurellum Group with small, rounded and dark green leaves, and short bell-shaped purple to rose-purple flowers

Subspecies *tamaense*

- leaves almost deciduous, glaucous blue-green when young.
- the large bell-shaped flowers are purple with scales on the outside.
- disjunct in N Burma and adjacent extreme NW Yunnan.



R. keysii

- tall and leggy, vigorous evergreen shrubs.
- elliptic to lanceolate, non-glaucous leaves
- flowers in clusters, both terminal and in the upper leaf axils.
- the distinct narrowly tubular flowers are usually bicoloured in shades of red to orange or salmon with lobes of yellow or red, occasionally solid red or even yellow.
- native to the eastern Himalayas

Cultivation: These plants require good light and very good drainage. Some forms are very susceptible to powdery mildew and may need fungicide treatments to prevent loss of foliage or even death (rare).

From The Garden



Mary Fleming



R. xichangense



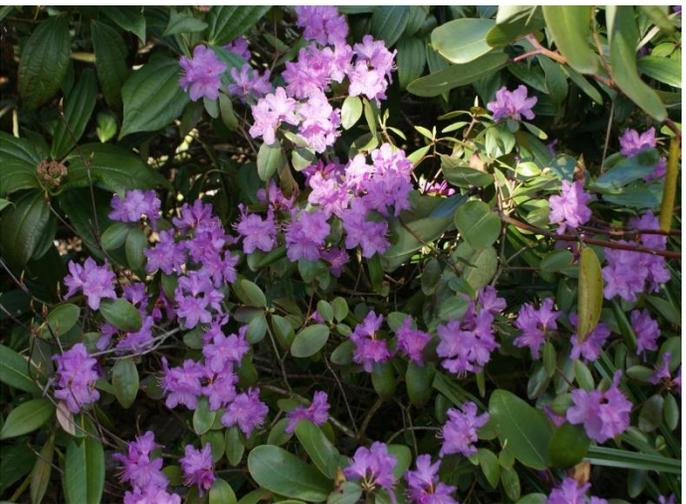
LucyLu



R. campanulatum ssp. *campanulatum*



R. pachysanthum



PJM



Magnolia "Eric Saville"



Magnolia "Royal Crown"

Garden Friend - Dragonflies



Location: Worden garden

Dragonflies are ideal hunting machines. More than 80 percent of their brain is used for processing visual information, and it is believed that some species can see objects up to 30 feet away and detect movement as far as 60 feet away.

And how do they direct these tremendous talents? Dragonflies hunt, and eat, a lot: The diet of a dragonfly does not consist of any of the plants in your garden. Your flowers and vegetables will remain untouched. Instead, dragonflies will prey on the pests that are actual threats to your garden.

They consume 10 percent to 15 percent of their own weight per day on insects such as mosquitoes, termites, deerflies, blackflies, horseflies and midges. They make welcome residents in the yard, as they'll keep it far less buggy.

Dragonflies lay eggs in or near water, where their young hatch and develop into nymphs. They live underwater for months and sometimes years before emerging as adults. But even as nymphs, they are voracious eaters, happily dining on mosquito larvae and other underwater creatures.

Attracting dragonfly delicacies in the landscape is easy. Just plant a diverse landscape of trees and shrubs around the perimeter of the yard to provide hiding places for young dragonflies, and add a variety of blooming plants. Incorporate plants like black-eyed Susan or Rudbeckia hirta, swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnate*), Joe-pye weed (*Eupatorium fistulosum*), Cornflower, Coreopsis, Aster, and Cleome into your garden.

Dragonflies like to sun themselves, and the warmth of flat rocks provides the perfect setting. Try setting out a mix of light and dark rocks and observe which colour attracts more dragonflies to your area.

While Dragonflies are not harmful to humans, they can bite when provoked, but will usually just fly away when bothered or when they feel endangered. If one does bite you, it probably won't even break the skin. The worse you'll feel is a painful pinch, which you might have deserved in the first place.

Sources: Various Gardening internet sites

Rhododendron of the Year Plant Awards

NW USA / Canada Region (2004)



Elepidote Rhododendron: 'Percy Wiseman'

Flower cream, growing darker towards base, very lightly flushed pale purplish pink, and spotted moderate orange on the dorsal lobe. Ages to creamy white with yellow throat. Ball-shaped truss holds about 14 flowers. Blooms midseason. Leaves elliptic, acute at apex, cuneate at base, 3" long, glossy, medium green. Compact, well branched plant with dark green foliage. Typical height: 3 ft. in 10 years. Flower bud hardy to -5° F (-21° C). Hybridized by A. Waterer.



Lepidote Rhododendron: 'Dora Amateis'

Flower white with faint green spotting, openly funnel-shaped, 2" across. Held in lax truss of 6-8 flowers. Very floriferous plant. Blooms early midseason. Leaves elliptic, acute apex, cuneate base, re-curved, 2" long, light green with bronze highlights, if grown in full sun. Compact habit. Grows to a typical height of 3 ft. in 10 years. Grows twice as wide as high. Plant is hardy to -15°F (-26°C). Prefers some shade for best performance. Hybridized by Amateis.



Evergreen Azalea: 'Harris Fascination'

Flower moderate purplish pink with a prominent deep purplish pink edge, unmarked, broadly funnel-shaped, 3" to 4½" across. Truss holds 3 flowers. Blooms midseason. Leaves elliptic, broadly acute apex, cuneate base, slightly up-curved margins, 1¾" long, semi-glossy, dark bluish green, retained 2 years. Rounded plant habit. Grows to a height of 3-4 ft. in 10 years. Cold hardy to -5°F (-21°C). Hybridized by Harris.



Deciduous Azalea: 'Arneson Gem'

Flower vivid yellow in throat, shading to reddish-orange at margins, outside red, widely funnel-shaped, 3¾" cross. Held in ball-shaped trusses with 10 to 15 flowers. Blooms early midseason to midseason. Leaves elliptic, apiculate apex, cuneate base, 2½" to 3½" long, slightly wrinkled above, slightly hairy below. Upright, spreading habit. Grows approximately 3ft. tall in 10 years. Cold hardy to -15°F (-26°C). Hybridized by Arneson.

Photos: (top to bottom) by Harold Greer, Eleanor Philp, Joe Coleman, Harold Greer
Content: ARS Website



Elepidote Rhododendron: 'Horizon Monarch'

Flower greenish yellow with a small, vivid red flare, openly funnel-shaped, wavy edged, 4" across. Held in large ball-shaped truss of 5-8 flowers. Blooms midseason. Leaves elliptic, apiculate apex, cuneate base, concave, 6¾" long, olive green. Upright, spreading plant habit. Grows to a typical height of 6 ft. in 10 years. Cold hardy to 5°F (-15°C). Hybridized by Brockenbrough.



Lepidote Rhododendron: 'Ramapo'

Flower pinkish violet, held in small clusters. Very floriferous plant. Blooms early midseason. Leaves bluish-green, elliptic, very aromatic. Dense and very compact habit. Grows well in sun or partial shade, being more compact in sun. Reaches a typical height of 2 ft. in 10 years. Plant is cold hardy to -25°F (-32°C). Hybridized by Nearing. Evergreen Azalea: 'Harris Fascination'



Evergreen Azalea: 'Hilda Niblett'

Flower pale tints of strong pink to pale purplish pink, variously marked strong red, throat greenish white spotted deep pink or deep purplish red, broadly funnel-shaped, wavy edged, 3¼" across. Blooms early midseason. Leaves elliptic, about 1½" long. Spreading habit. Grows approximately to 3 ft. tall in 10 years. Cold hardy to -5°F (-21°C). Hybridized by Gartrell. Deciduous Azalea: 'Arneson Gem'



Deciduous Azalea: 'Nifty Fifty'

Flower vivid yellow with vivid orange yellow throat, broadly funnel-shaped, wavy edged, 4½" across. Held in ball-shaped truss with 13 flowers. Blooms early midseason to midseason. Leaves elliptic, broadly acute apex, cuneate base, flat, 2-1/2" to 3½" long, slightly bullate, slightly hairy below, deciduous. Upright, spreading habit. Grows to a typical height of 3 ft. in 10 years. Cold hardy to -15°F (-26°C). Named for the 50th anniversary of the American Rhododendron Society. Hybridized by Arneson.

Photos: (top to bottom) by Steve Henning, Harold Greer, Richard Clapp, Harold Greer.
Content: ARS Website