



# THE YAK

Volume 37, Number 6

June 2023



Hotei

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 40<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Langley, B.C.

## Cover:



**Hotei**

Elepidote rhododendron:

Parentage: Goldsworth Orange x (souliei x wardii)

Hybridised / Named by: K.I. Sifferman & B. Nelson (1953)

Introduced by: K.I. Sifferman & B. Nelson (1969)

Registered by: K.I. Sifferman & B. Nelson (1970)

Height: Shrub 3 feet in 10 years

Leaves: Leaves narrowly elliptic, up to 4", long dark green above, hairless. Compact and tight growing

Flower/Truss Description: Flowers 10-12 held in loose ball truss, openly campanulate, 2.5" across, 5 lobed, light yellow with deeper shading of brilliant yellow. Calyx with irregular lobes up to 20 mm long, yellow

Bloom Time: Midseason

Sources:

The International Rhododendron Register and Checklist Second Edition 2004  
ARS: [www.rhododendron.org](http://www.rhododendron.org)

## This Month

**Date:** Sunday June 25<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm.

**Place:** Aird & Sheila Flavelle's  
3170 Horn St., Abbotsford

**The Fraser South Rhododendron Society**



This will be the first FSRS picnic since June 2019.

## Next Meeting

**Date:** Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2023 at 7:30pm

**Speaker:** TBA



**Have a great summer!**

## 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 Nemansihen	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 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*



The last of my rhododendron blooms are fading. One potted azalea has bloomed, white with pink tinge on the edge.

The issue now is the heat and dryness. Watering of my vulnerable rhododendrons will be needed to reduce stress and prevent their demise.

Unfortunately, I have limitation from my well and my rain water collection is not unlimited. I hope not to run out.

Aird and Sheila will be hosting our picnic in a few weeks' time. The details are in this issue of the Yak.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald Nemanishen, President

## IT'S PICNIC TIME!

On June 25<sup>th</sup>, our Annual Picnic will be held at the home of Aird and Sheila Flavelle. 3170 Horn St. (just off McClure), Abbotsford

Parking is limited; if you have the physical ability to walk down the 100 meter driveway then please leave your car up on the road

We will gather at 3 PM and the meal will be served about 4:30 to 5 PM. Items for the SILENT AUCTION can be bid on throughout the afternoon and dinner. Shortly after dinner, the Auction will close. The happy winners can collect their goodies, visit the cashier, and be on their way whenever they please.



Don't **forget** to bring:

- a chair to sit upon
- a plate to eat off
- cutlery to eat with NOTE: chairs, dishes, cutlery, and tables for up to 20 people are available
- the beverage of your choice, if desired
- a mug for the beverage of your choice, or the tea and coffee which will be provided
- your potluck contribution, for sharing with others
- utensils to serve your potluck contribution, if necessary
- any friends, neighbours, or visiting relatives whom you think would enjoy meeting us and learning more about the FSRS are welcome



**Remember** to bring your items for the auction. There is sure to be something worthwhile to contribute to the auction: superfluous gardening tools or equipment? horticultural texts on a subject which no longer interests you? Garden decorations? Bring something someone else will be interested in (doesn't have to be Rhodo or garden related), and then bid early and bid high for something you are interested in.

***Without a plant sale, this is the main fund raiser for the club, so please plan on participating by bringing an item(s) and purchasing an item(s)***

**We hope to see everyone at the PICNIC!**



## *From the Editor*

Here we are in June with its variable weather and of course the last YAK until we resume activities in September. I am honestly looking forward to the break!

Last month we were fortunate to visit the Dodd's garden during their Open Garden. Judging by the turnout when we were there, it is a popular destination whenever the garden is opened to clubs and neighbours. The garden is a wonderful, relaxing, and peaceful place to wander around with an extensive collection of rhododendrons, perennials, and trees. Love the trees! The Worden head gardener took a number which are included in this month's YAK. John and Gael have put in a new bed to remember Harold Fearing highlighting some of his species rhododendrons. Thank you John and Gael for once again inviting us to share your beautiful oasis!

With the rhododendron blooms all but done for another year, the perennials are slowly beginning their displays. Gardening activities over the past month have confirmed that a number of our rhododendrons did not bloom this year and that we have lost a couple of maple trees that were on the property when we purchased it. Fortunately they are on the perimeter of the property as opposed to being a feature in one of the garden beds. The Hawthorne tree I mentioned last month finally bloomed but the showing was extremely poor this year. The robins will not have their usual bountiful food source come late fall. 'In The Garden' this month features the final rhododendron blooms and includes samples of some new rhododendron foliage that adds interest to the garden while waiting for the perennials.

It's always difficult to know how many Douglas squirrels are around but by seeing three around the feeders at the same I feel they are doing well in our area. Word is obviously spreading that there are peanuts to be had while sitting inside a caged bird feeder away from the brawling grey and black squirrels. The first "batch" of baby chickadees is providing interest at the patio suet feeder. I had to rescue one the other day that was sitting on the ground when the novice gardener (who happens to be a hunting breed) spotted it. The baby couldn't get up the height when trying to fly from the ground but managed to elude the hunter until I picked it up and put it on a branch amid frantic calls from the parents. Once in the tree, it flew off to safety with the parents. This same novice gardener was allowed pool side last week with the Head Gardener when she either decided it was time for a swim OR she thought she could walk across the solar blanket. A rescue ensued that involved going into the water, untangling her, and monitoring the subsequent dog paddle in the direction of the stairs. Fortunately the water was quite warm following the previous days of heat.

The vegetable garden is planted, growing well, and being attended to on a daily basis. Everything is growing and the tomatoes are even showing flowers and fruit. I'm looking forward to a hopefully bountiful yield from all the plantings.

Now I know I've mentioned this many times but our 1<sup>st</sup> picnic since 2019 is happening on June 25<sup>th</sup>. I know that some members don't come to in person meetings for a variety of reasons (weather, driving at night, square dancing etc.) but I hope that everyone takes advantage of this opportunity to come and reconnect with other members of the group.

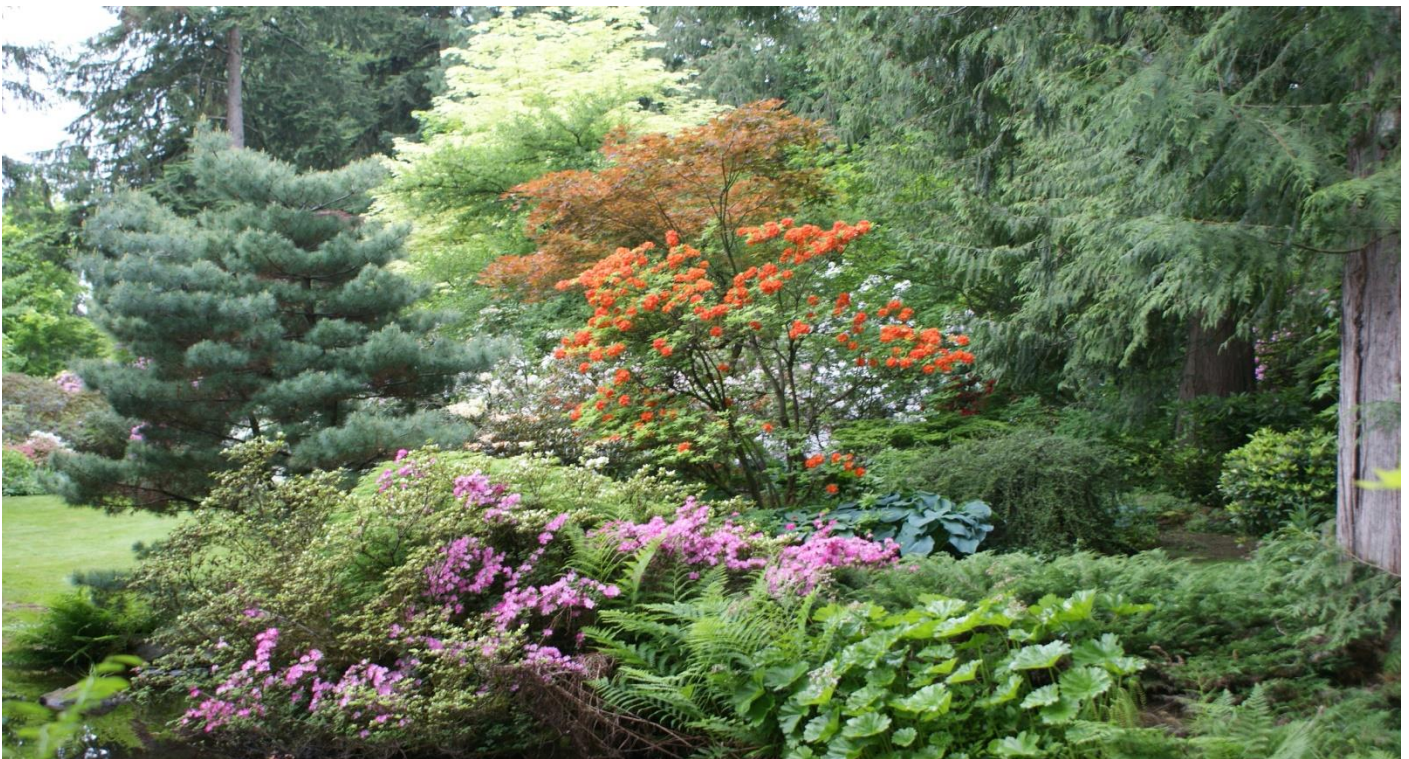
***The silent auction is an important fundraiser for the group so please contribute and bid often.***

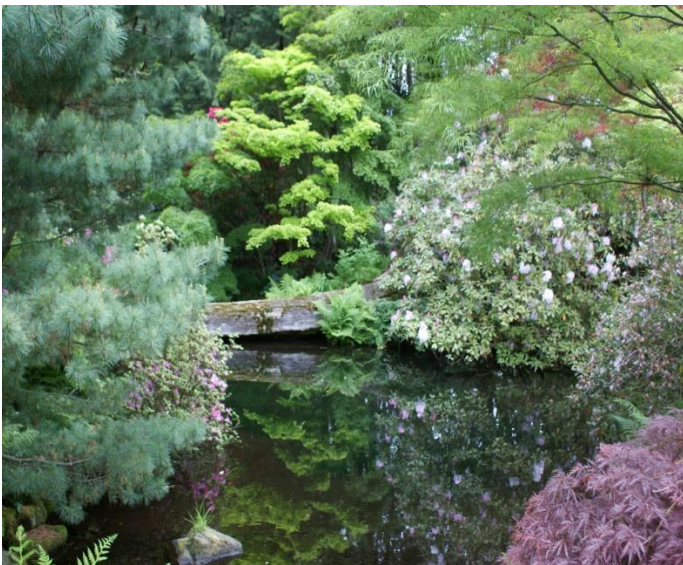
**See you there!**

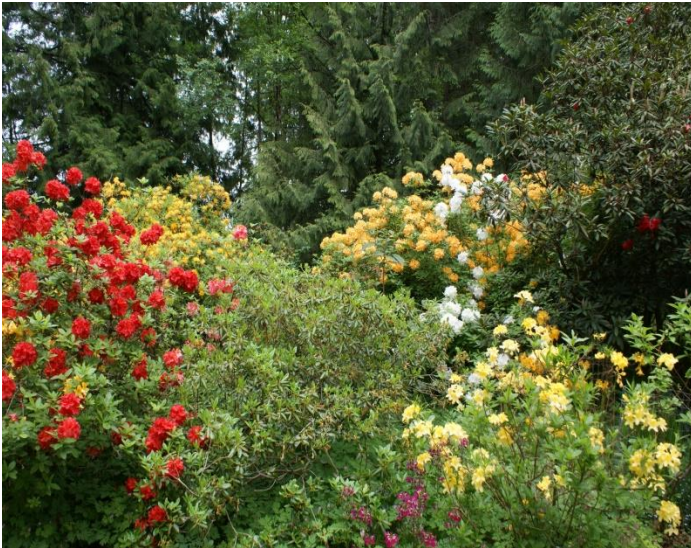
*Maureen Worden*



*John & Gael Dodd's Garden*











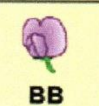



The following article originally appeared in the Fraser South Newsletter, May 2014 by Sean Rafferty

## Rhododendron russatum

(Epithet: Reddened)

First collected by **George Forrest** in 1917 on the Kari Pass, northwest Yunnan, *R. russatum* is one of the most outstanding species of Subsection Laponica and a wonderful plant for the alpine or rock garden.

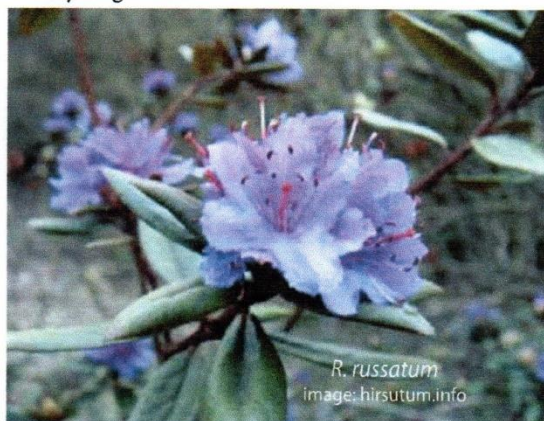
It is found at elevations between 11,000-14,000 feet in north and northwest Yunnan and southwest Sichuan, in alpine pasture and forest margins. Its leaves are oval, oblong-oval to oblong-lanceolate. They are rusty green in varying degrees, densely scaly on both surfaces, and 3/4-1 3/4 inches long and 3/8-7/8 inches wide. The corolla is broadly funnel-shaped, 1/2- 3/4 inch long and is variously deep to medium indigo-blue, deep to medium reddish-purple or pinkish lavender. The colours are very bright and

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



*R. russatum*

Illustration by Valerie Price  
Curtis's Botanical Magazine



*R. russatum*  
image: hirsutum.info



*R. russatum*  
image: hirsutum.info

appear to glow. The calyx is 1/4 inch long and greenish, pink, reddish or crimson purple and often contrasts nicely to its corolla. *R. russatum* is a rather variable plant. It is an upright, compact rounded, cushion, semi-prostrate or straggly shrub growing from six inches to five feet high. It is also tetraploid with 52 chromosomes.

*R. russatum's* closest relative, with which it readily hybridises in the wild, is *R. rupicola*, but *R. russatum* is distinguished by its wider leaves, pubescent style, the non-lepidote corolla and the long hairs on the calyx margins.

The best forms of this hardy dwarf produce a profusion of intense violet-blue, open funnel-shaped flowers. In a genus where true blues are non-existent, *R. russatum* makes fine parents for the hybridisers to work with in order to seek out that elusive blue grail. Several images follow.



R. 'Songbird'  
*R. russatum* x *R. 'Blue Tit Group'*  
Sir James Horlick 1954



R. 'Blumira'  
*R. 'Azurika'* x *R. 'Blue Tit Group'*  
H. Hachmann, 1978



R. 'Blueridge'  
*R. 'Russatum Group'* x *R. augustinii* ssp. *augustinii*  
C. R. Haag & V. Brevard, 1966



R. 'Night Sky'  
*R. 'Blue Steel'* x *R. 'Russatum Group'*  
J. P. C. Russell, 1967



R. 'Azurika'  
*R. russatum* x *R. impeditum*  
H. Hachmann, 1963



R. 'Gletschernacht'  
*R. russatum* x *R. 'Blue Diamond Group'*  
H. Hachmann, 1961

*From The Garden*



*Glendoick Velvet*



*Glendoick Vanilla*



*Thor*



*Blue Peter*



*Fantastica*



*Luteum 'Golden Comet'*



*Climbing Hydrangea*



*R. flinckii*



*R. rothschildii*



*Magnolia Sieboldii*



*Black Magic*



*Golden Gate*

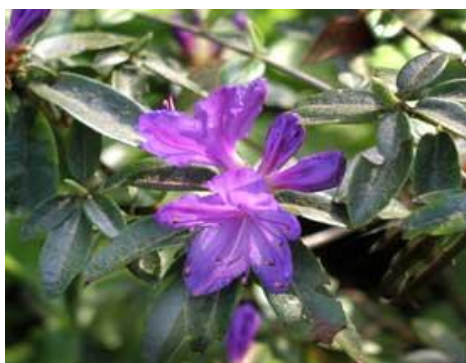
# *Rhododendron of the Year Plant Awards*

NW USA / Canada Region (2008)



## **Elepidote Rhododendron: 'Marie Starks'**

Flower light greenish yellow, more brilliant on dorsal lobes, and with dark red blotch surrounding base of throat and with dorsal dark red spotting, openly funnel-shaped, wavy lobes, 3¼" across. Ball-shaped, somewhat lax, truss contains 14-18 flowers. Blooms early midseason. Leaves elliptic, apiculate apex, rounded base, 4" long, flat, glossy, yellow-green, retained for 2 years. Rounded growth habit. Grows to a typical height of 4 ft. in 10 years. Hardy to -10°F (-23°C). Hybridized by Murray.



## **Lepidote Rhododendron: 'Vibrant Violet'**

Flower vivid violet with brownish-orange anthers, wavy to frilly lobes, widely funnel-shaped, 2" across. Held in terminal clusters composed of 4 to 5 trusses each with 5 - 6 flowers. Blooms early. Leaves near elliptic to wider than lanceolate, concave, acute, cuneate, about 1½" long, dull, dark yellowish-green, retained 2 years. Round, well-branched shrub. Grows to a typical height of 3 ft. in 10 yrs. Plant and bud hardy to 0°F (-18°C). Hybridized by Fujioka.



## **Evergreen Azalea: 'Girard's Fuchsia'**

Flower moderate to deep purplish red with moderate purplish red spots, reverse deep purplish pink, broadly funnel-shaped, wavy lobes, 2½" to 3" across. Inflorescence 3 flowered. Blooms midseason. Leaves narrowly obovate to elliptic, apiculate apex, narrowly cuneate base, 1¾" long, glossy, moderate yellowish olive green. Broad habit. Grows to a typical height of 3 ft in 10 years. Hardy to -15°F (-26°C). Hybridized by Girard.



## **Deciduous Azalea: 'Cannon's Double'**

Flower pale yellow with deep pink veins and outer petals, reverse pink, tubular funnel-shaped, wavy edges, double, 2½" across, slightly fragrant. Dome-shaped truss has 7 - 8 flowers. Blooms late midseason. Leaves narrowly obovate to oblanceolate, flat, mucronate apex, cuneate base, 4¼" long, deciduous, matte green, bullate. Open growth habit. Grows to a height of 6 - 7 ft. in 10 years. Hardy to -15°F (-26°C). Hybridized by Cannon.

Photos (top to bottom) by Bob George, Don Kohlenberger, Harold Greer, Tijs Huisman



**Elepidote Rhododendron: 'Fantastica'**

Flower 1¾ to 2" across, strong purplish pink, shading to white in throat, lightly spotted greenish-yellow. Ball-shaped trusses hold 18-20 flowers. Blooms midseason to late midseason. Leaves elliptic, 4" long, dark green with wooly, tan-colored indumentum. Dense and compact shrub. Grows to a typical height of 3 ft. in 10 years. Cold hardy to -15°F (-26°C). Hybridized by Hachmann.



**Lepidote Rhododendron: *augustinii***

Flower blue to purple, pink, lavender or white, blotched or spotted olive green, ochre or purple, 1½ - 2" across. Held in clusters with 2 - 6 flowers. Blooms early midseason to midseason. Leaves narrowly elliptic to lanceolate, up to 4½" long, ½ - 1" wide, dark green above, underside densely scaly with hairs along veins. Tall, upright plant habit. Grows to a typical height of 6 ft. in 10 years. Plant and bud hardy to 0° F (-18° C). Named after Augustine Henry, who discovered it in 1886. Native species growing in the wild in Hubei and Szechwan China.



**Evergreen Azalea: 'Balsaminiflorum'**

Flower deep yellowish pink, 1½" across, double with about 40 petals and no pistils or stamens. Blooms very late. Leaves elliptic, light green. Low, mounding, dense plant habit. Grows to a typical height of 3 ft in 10 years. Cold hardy to 0° F (-18° C). Raised in Japan and named by Carrière.



**Deciduous Azalea: *R. occidentale***

Flower very variable, white, white flushed pink, or pale pink, often with a yellow blotch, fragrant, 1½ - 2" across, broadly funnel-shaped. Inflorescence usually 3-12 flowers. Blooms late midseason. Leaves usually oblanceolate, sometimes linear or orbicular, deciduous, 1 - 5" long, ½ - 1½" wide. Upright growth habit. Grows to a height of 5 - 8 ft. in 10 years. Cold hardy to -5°F (-21°C). Native species growing in the western U.S. from southern California to Washington.

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