



THE YAK

Volume 37, Number 5

May 2023



R. rigidum 'Bodinieri'

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. rigidum 'Bodinieri'

Lepidote

Sub Genus: Rhododendron

Section: Rhododendron

Sub Section: Triflora

Height: 0.6-3m in cultivation, to 10m in the wild, habit erect, compact to loose.

Leaves: evergreen, leathery, 2.5-6.8 x 1-3.2cm, elliptic to oblanceolate, upper and lower surfaces usually glaucous, the lower surface with golden or brown, unequal scales, 2-8 x their own diameter apart.

Flower/Truss Description: Inflorescence terminal or terminal and axillary, 2-6 flowered. Corolla widely funnel-shaped, 1.8-3.1cm long, white, through lilac-rose to deep rose lavender, +/- spotted or marked gold, olive brown, to reddish brown, (as cultivated) often with a curious fragrance which is very attractive to insects; calyx minute, usually glabrous.

Bloom Time: March to May

Distribution: N. Yunnan and S. Sichuan, 2,000-3,400m (6,500-11,000ft) in open, forest margins, cliffs and rocks and in coniferous forest.

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

This Month

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

Place: In person at 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!

Upcoming Meetings

The Fraser South Rhododendron Society



When: Sunday June 25th

Where: at the home of Aird and Sheila Flavelle in Abbotsford.

This will be the first FSRS picnic since June 2019. Mark your calendars NOW! for this return event.

Details are currently being finalized and will be distributed via email at the end of the month to all members.

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 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



It is amazing how a few days of hot weather can make our rhododendrons flower out!!!

It looks like I may have some samples to bring to our "Show and tell" on May 17th.

Remember, this "Show and Tell" can be anything you want to share with us. There are many things blooming now and in fact we may have some lilac blooming by that date.

I was hoping to bring "Wine and Roses" to show but I fear it might be over by that date. I have a bonsai azalea that I will bring and hopefully it will have a few blooms.

I look forward to seeing many of you on that date.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald Nemanishen, President

April Meeting Review

What a great feeling in April to finally have another in-house get-together, even with a rather small but enthusiastic turnout. Lots of person to person chatting, good coffee (thanks to Barb) , plenty of sweet treats, and a packed raffle table. Then a top presentation by Philip McDougall on the Rhodos and Azaleas in the Pacific “Ring of Fire” geographical areas. Beautiful photos and videos of flowers and plants, sweeping natural terrains and stunning landscapes, and a bonus of some neat species added to the raffle table. Good discussions followed.

I surely hope that all our members will make a special effort to attend the May meeting. This is a wonderful opportunity to share all our garden treasures in a much more relaxed and personal way than the usual truss show, and even if we don't know what some things are, it doesn't matter – we'd love to see. It's time we got used to being together and sharing knowledge and experiences again, and I think this will be an excellent beginning. See you all there.

Colleen B. (past President)



John and Gael Dodd will be opening their garden on Sunday, May 21, from 10 a.m. – 4:00 P.M. Their address is 24365 61st Ave, Langley.



From the Editor

Thanks to the recent warm weather, the perennials have put on a growth spurt and many of the rhododendrons are either in full or partial bloom. Unfortunately with the heat forecast for the weekend, the blooms may be short lived so I've been busy snapping pictures. So many pictures that it's difficult to choose which ones to put into the YAK! Unfortunately some of the beauties have lost their name tags and are discarded for possible publication. The hope is that when there is a bit of time they can be identified and retagged. Some labels seem to disappear due to age and perhaps the weather. Others if they were tagged near the base when the plant was small have been removed by the junior gardener racing through the flower beds as she chases rabbits or squirrels that results in the lower branches being trimmed along with the name tag.

While out and about the garden over the last few weeks I've noticed that a number of rhododendrons are not blooming this year. They all have strong new growth but no flowers. Other normally heavy bloomers (e.g. Unique) have spotty blooming this year. Whether this is due to the weather over the last year (excessive heat, drought, wind storms, and snow) or just a cycle in the life of the rhododendron is debatable. The pear trees this year picked a perfect time to blossom and judging by the number of bees on the trees will produce a good crop. Last year we had only a handful of pears due to heavy rain following only a couple of pollination days.



The emerging leaves of the potted patio maples recently put on a nice display following a day of rain.

We're still waiting for the Hawthorne tree to blossom (about a month late so far) and our final magnolias to bloom. Even with less rhododendron blooms this year, it's still a pleasure to see the backyard full of colour.

The mason bees also had a late start this year due to the inclement weather but

are now out doing their thing with the plants and creating the next generation of bees in the mason bee house. It appears that one or more of them took a wrong turn on the way back to their house and have been using structural openings in our patio umbrella and chairs to house the next generation.

Remember to join us this month for a relaxed evening of blossom "show and tell". Bring whatever is blooming in your garden to share with the group. Enjoy your gardens and the sunshine!

Maureen Worden



The following article originally appeared in the Fraser South Newsletter, May 2012 by Sean Rafferty

R. augustinii (epithet: after Augustine Henry)

If space would permit, a great deal more would be written of Augustine Henry other than that he was a Medical Officer in Chinese Customs and later, Professor of Forestry, Dublin. Further information may be gleaned from a pdf file at: <http://arnoldia.arboretum.harvard.edu/pdf/articles/1983-43-1-augustine-henry-and-the-exploration-of-the-chinese-flora.pdf>, that will give a glimpse to the breadth of the man's capabilities

R. augustinii was discovered by Henry in 1886 in the Patung district, of Hupeh Province, China. It was subsequently collected by others in the same region, and in western Sichuan, east and southeast Tibet, and northwest Yunnan. This is a large area of distribution and it also has a large range in elevation, growing from 4,000 feet to 11,000 feet, which contributes to *R. augustinii*'s variability in its general features. This is a tall bushy species (4 ft. - 20 ft.) with generally hairy young stems. It grows at the margins of woods, in woodlands, spruce and pine forests, and in



R. augustinii: painting by Carlos Reifel from "The Rhododendron" Vol. I, Edited by Leslie Urquart

The "Encyclopedia of Rhododendron Species", Cox and Cox, suggests that *ssp. rubrum* may be deserving of specific status as *R. bergii*, although they believe it to be a natural hybrid of *R. augustinii ssp. chasmanthum* x *R. rubiginosum*

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

rocky situations. The leaves are lanceolate, oblong-lanceolate or obovate-elliptic, and downy when young. This downiness is retained on the midrib of the lower leaf surface. A diagnostic feature of all subspecies of *augustinii* is the densely hairy midrib of the lower leaf surface. The corolla is widely funnel shaped and 0.5 inches - 1.75 inches long and the flower colour ranges from pink, rose, pale lavender-rose, purple, lilac purple, deep lavender-purple, pale or dark lavender-blue, intense violet, white, or white tinged pink. It is a tetraploid with 52 chromosomes.

Presently, there are four subspecies of *R. augustinii*

R. augustinii ssp. augustinii -

tall, bushy species with the leaf petiole fringed with hairs. wide funnel shaped flowers range from lavender-blue to mauve, pink and white, often with a blotch and/or spots. Corolla tube is lepidote.

R. augustinii ssp. chasmanthum

close to *ssp. augustinii*, but with wider leaves and mostly smooth petiole.

flowers appear later than *ssp. augustinii*, and are more widely funnel shaped. Native to the south and west of *ssp. augustinii*.

R. augustinii ssp. hardyi

deciduous foliage that emerges a bronze reddish-brown. white flowers with yellow-green spots.

R. augustinii ssp. rubrum.

formerly known as *R. bergii*
low and compact habit with dark green leaves.
leaf petiole is densely covered with strap-like and thread-like hairs.

purple-red flowers much earlier in the season than its related subspecies.

There are also a great many named forms of *R. augustinii* resulting from the efforts of collectors and hybridizers to intensify some of the hues of this marvelous species

This species has such a lovely range of colour and hue that it understandable that many botanical and large private gardens attempt to amass all of these shades within their collections of *R. augustinii*. And successfully so, you will discover, if you can manage to find your way, at this time of year, to VanDusen Gardens, UBC Botanical Garden or head down the road to the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington.



R. augustinii ssp.
augustinii
Wolong, Sichuan,
China

Above left: image
Sean Rafferty
Below left: image:
Brenda Macdonald

From The Garden



Magnolia 'Anna'



R. oreotrephes x R. cinnabarium



Bambi x R. proteoides



Peter Faulk



Laramie



Angelo



Starbright Champagne



Saffron Silk



R. ambiguum



R. augustinii 'Lu Zhu'



Silver Skies



Seaview Sunset

Rhododendron of the Year Plant Awards

NW USA / Canada Region (2006)



Elepidote Rhododendron: 'Point Defiance'

Flower white in center, edged purplish red on all lobes, fading in time to nearly pure white, of heavy substance, widely funnel-shaped, 4½" across. Buds are strong red colored. Held in trusses with 15 to 17 flowers. Blooms midseason. Leaves elliptic, mucronate apex, rounded base, 7¼" long, re-curved edges, leathery, impressed mid-rib, dark green. Upright plant habit. Grows to a typical height of 6 ft. in 10 years. Cold hardy to -5°F (-21°C). Hybridized by Lem.



Lepidote Rhododendron: 'Wee Bee'

Flower vivid red shading to pink in throat, red rays down each lobe, wavy lobes, openly funnel-shaped, 1½" across. Held in lax trusses of 3-5 flowers. Blooms early midseason. Leaves elliptic, acute apex, cuneate base, 1¼" long, bronzy-red in fall. Rounded, dense, very compact habit. Low growing to a height of about 1 ft. in 10 years. Plant is cold hardy to 5°F (-15° C). Hybridized by Berg. Won an Award of Excellence from the ARS in 1989.



Evergreen Azalea: 'Silver Sword'

Flower strong purplish red, unmarked, openly funnel-shaped, wavy lobed, about 2" across. Dome-shaped inflorescence with 5-7 trusses, each 2-8 flowered. Blooms midseason. Leaves narrowly elliptic to elliptic, irregularly shaped, 1½" to 2" long, glossy, sparsely hairy, variegated white and green, tinged red in fall, retained 2 years. Upright, broad, well-branched plant. Grows to a typical height of 2 ft in 10 years. Cold hardy to 0°F (-18°C). Selected by Meivogel.



Deciduous Azalea: 'Washington State Centennial'

Flower light orange paling to white, with prominent strong orange yellow blotch and discontinuous strong pink edge and veins, tubular funnel-shaped, very deeply ruffled edges, 3½" across, fragrant. Ball-shaped truss holds 10-12 flowers. Blooms midseason. Leaves elliptic and narrowly obovate, apiculate, cuneate, 3⅞" long, revolute, glossy, moderate yellow-green. Upright, open growth habit. Grows to a height of 5 ft. in 10 years. Hardy to -10°F (-23°C). Hybridized by Mossman. Selected by the Washington State Centennial Commission to honor 100 years of statehood.

Photos: (top to bottom) by Don Wallace, Kenneth Cox, Harold Greer, Harold Greer Content: ARS Website



Elepidote Rhododendron: 'Nancy Evans'

Flower light yellow with some early orange shading on lobes and reverse, orange-red buds, hose-in-hose, openly funnel-shaped, wavy lobes, 2½" across. Held in ball-shaped trusses of 19 flowers. Blooms midseason. Leaves narrowly elliptic to elliptic, 4" long, glossy, medium green, bronze colored when new. Rounded, compact plant habit. Grows to a typical height of 3 ft. in 10 yrs. Hardy to 5°F (-15°C). Hybridized by Brockenbrough.



Lepidote Rhododendron: 'Blaney's Blue'

Flower inside light purple, outside strong violet, unmarked, funnel-shaped, wavy-edged lobes, 1½" across. Lax truss holds 3 flowers. Blooms midseason. Leaves elliptic, acute apex, rounded base, 1" long, flat margins, glossy, dark yellowish green, changing to a bronze tone in winter. Grows to a typical height of 5 ft. in 10 years. Plant and bud hardy to at least -5°F (-21°C). Hybridized by Blaney.



Evergreen Azalea: 'Mitsuki'

Flower white with numerous irregular streaks of light purple, openly funnel-shaped, 2½" across. Flat truss holds 2-3 flowers. Blooms early midseason. Leaves elliptic, broadly acute apex, cuneate base, margins up-curved, 1⅞" long, dull green. Dense growth habit. Grows to a typical height of 2 ft in 10 years. Cold hardy to 5°F (-15°C). Grown from seed obtained by Higashi Nursery from Hiroshima, Japan.



Deciduous Azalea: 'Cecile'

Flower salmon pink with yellow blotch on upper lobe, tubular funnel-shaped, 3" to 5" across. Ball-shaped, dense truss contains 8-11 flowers. Blooms midseason to late midseason. Leaves elliptic with acute apex and cuneate base, deciduous. Upright, open habit. Grows to a typical height of 6 ft. in 10 years. Cold hardy to -5°F (-21°C). Initially raised by Lionel de Rothschild.

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