



THE YAK

Volume 37, Number 9

November 2023



R. schlippenbachii

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

<http://frasersouthernrhodos.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. schlippenbachii

Elepidote rhododendron

Sub Genus: Pentanthera

Section: Sciadorhodium

Height: 1-4.6m, a shrub or small tree. Vegetative shoots appear from within the terminal bud. Branchlets pale brown and glandular at first, turning grey and glabrous.

Leaves: in whorls of 5, 2.5-11.7 x 0.9-7.2cm, obovate, apex rounded or notched, largely glabrous when mature.

Inflorescence: 3-16 flowered; flowers appear before or with leaves.

Corolla: broadly rotate funnel-shaped, 5.5-8.8cm across, pale to rose-pink, occasionally white, spotted red-brown, lightly fragrant; calyx large c.7mm, glandular and fringed with hairs; stamens 10; ovary glandular-pubescent; style +/- glabrous, with a few hairs in lower half.

Bloom Time: early Midseason

Cold hardiness: -20°F (-29°C)

Distribution: Korea and N.E. Manchuria, common in open woodlands.

Sources:

The Encyclopedia of Rhododendron Species, Peter A. Cox & Kenneth N.E. Cox
ARS: www.rhododendron.org

This Month

Date: Wednesday, November 15th at 7:30 pm.

Place: Zoom meeting (in the comfort of your own home)

Title: Dr. Charles McKee's rhododendron's

This photo is of one of our members, Aird Flavelle, climbing on one of Dr. Charles McKee's rhododendron's in Abbotsford. Aird will be telling us about Dr. McKee, about Dr. McKee's Rhodos, and why he (Aird) cares!



Next Meeting

Date: Wednesday, January 17th 7:30 pm.

Place: Zoom meeting (in the comfort of your own home)

Speaker: TBA

2023 ELECTED OFFICERS

President:	Gerry Nemanishen	604-826-0166
Past Pres:	Colleen Bojczuk	604-826-4221
Vice Pres:	Jim Worden	604-541-4754
Secretary:	Vacant	
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 the 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



I hope you survived Halloween and fireworks. I have friends who were injured by stray fireworks and there have been news reports of fires from the use of fireworks. We can only hope for more stringent enforcements of firework bans.

I'll get off my soap box now. The weather is still favourable enough to get those potted trees and rhododendrons in the ground. I moved an air-layered rhododendron today. For those of you who attended our show and tell, this was my Non-Walloper. I have had three successful layerings of this rhododendron. I have another, Wojinar Purple, which has been overgrown by shrubs around it.

Unfortunately, a lot of you missed our last meeting which was a Q&A format and was very informative. I think it is worthwhile doing it again next year.

Finally, it is renewal time for your membership. I am disappointed that only seven renewals have come in so far. Maureen will include a renewal form in this issue of the Yak. The membership fees remain the same. My address will be on the form to mail me your renewal and cheque.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald Nemanishen, President

From the Editor

The few cold nights we recently had along with warm sunny days appears to have triggered the fall colour in our backyard. The red, orange, and golden leaves provide a colourful display against the green of the rhododendrons and evergreens. The leaves are slowly falling and at this rate I expect we'll still be raking / blowing them for either green waste pickup or the garden leaf mulch bins well into December.

The recent time change has once again proven that the "garden helpers" (retired or in-training) keep to their own schedule regardless of whether its PDT or PST. Doing so results in the assistant gardener being somewhat sleep deprived and trying to gradually ween stomach clocks to the new time. (either that or I will be purchasing industrial strength ear plugs).

The mystery of the "Who am I" perennial from last month's YAK has been solved. No, the plant tag remains carefully tucked away in the logical spot where I put in and which I still haven't found. As no one in the group had any suggestions on what the plant might be (perhaps resulting from a not so great description from me), I spent some time perusing perennial books and the internet and finally hit paydirt. The plant name and details are included in this month's YAK. As an FYI, "Who am I" is still blooming and our brief bout with the cold weather didn't harm the flowers. A winner in my books!

We were somewhat surprised with the recent reblooms in late October. "**Medusa**" which regularly reblooms with at least a few flowers was out in full bloom. One of the "Dwarfs" (it might be Grumpy) has a number of buds opening which I believe is a first. The size of the rebloom on "*r. praevernum*" was really a surprise.

"In the Garden" features a couple of the late reblooms, fall colour, as well as a visit from another usually nocturnal feathered friend that spent 8 hours perched in our wooded area alternately napping and watching the squirrels and birds at the feeders. Obviously wasn't hungry as the squirrels are still with us! This month "From the Archives" takes us back to a nursery that was most likely the source of many rhododendrons in member gardens as well as the general public gardens through our plant sales.

I have sent out a reminder requesting information on a potential Christmas gathering (so far a luncheon on December the 6th is the preferred choice) to those I haven't heard back from. Please take a minute and respond so I get an idea on numbers and preferences. To those that have responded, Thank you.

It's our first zoom meeting of the season, so pull up a chair, grab a coffee and a snack to enjoy our own Aird Flavell's present on a passion of his – Dr. Charles McKee's rhododendrons.

Maureen Worden

Announcements

Membership Dues

It's that time once again to renew your membership for the upcoming 2024 year. The price is the same as it has been for several years. The membership form is included on the last page of this month's newsletter.

As membership dues are our primary source of income, which we use to pay for speakers and other expenses, it is important to get these dues in right away. Please complete the form and return it (with your dues of course!) to Gerry Nemansihen at the address on the form.



The following article originally appeared in the Fraser South Newsletter, November 2013 by Sue Klapwijk

Finley's Rhododendron Nursery a Brief History by Sue Klapwijk

The Finley Rhododendron Nursery grew out of a passion for rhododendrons and azaleas. My parents, Vernon and Gordon (aka 'Fin') Finley, loved to spend their summers touring the B. C. coast by boat, so mum wanted a garden that was colourful in spring and could withstand summer drought.

They had many friends who shared the same passion for the genus *Rhododendron*. They would continually trade cuttings, share seeds of new crosses, hybridize their own plants and purchase new varieties of plants. A dear family friend once gave Mom a tablespoon full of seeds, which were all planted. That fine dust turned into thousands of seedlings. It did not take Dad long to figure out that one might need a place to plant them out and that was the beginning of the nursery in Langley.



Above
R. 'F.B.C. 3'
(R. 'Fabia' x R. 'bureavii') x R. 'Crest' #3

Continued on page 9

The land was cleared, a huge lathe house was constructed to protect the seedlings and two large greenhouses were erected. This left a large open field as well as a long narrow strip by the driveway open for planting out the larger of their hybrids. They produced a number of hybrids, which they felt were good plants to propagate. None of these have been registered so far with the exception of *R.* 'Burnaby Centennial'. They always believed that a plant should not be registered until it had bloomed for about ten years to prove its worthiness and to be assured of the stability of the bloom.



Some of the tablespoon
(*R.* 'C.I.S.' x *R.* 'Lem's Goal') x (*R.* 'Jalisco' x *R.* 'Yellow Creek')
x (*R.* 'Seattle Gold' x *R.* 'Lemon Custard')

Over the years, Dad produced many cuttings. He turned his hobby into a full time occupation after his retirement from medicine. He had always said to colleagues, "If you do not have a hobby, do not retire". This "hobby" also kept Mum very busy weeding, transplanting, and selling plants. All of my siblings and their children would pitch in and help with transplanting. The "Potting Parties" were a lot of fun, and thousands of plants were moved into the greenhouses in very short order. We all loved to go to plants sales. We

would set up the displays and truss shows, while the younger boys would always help people to their cars with their newly acquired plants. Mum and Dad continued for 20 years longer and at that point Mum preferred to go golfing and Dad was no longer able to work due to failing health.

At this time the nursery was going to be closed. I always felt that they had a lot of plants that were worthy of propagation and therefore I continued with their legacy.

Sue Klapwijk



Sue & Vern in front of *R.* 'rubiginosum', *R.* 'Carita', and *R.* 'Calstocker'

From The Garden



Barred Owl



r. schlippenbachii - this month's featured rhododendron in fall colours



Medusa – October rebloom



r. praevernium – reblooming now



Acer palmatum 'Osakazuki'- glorious fall colour

Who Am I? - has been identified

Gentiana “True Blue”

(Gentian) Gentiana ‘True Blue’, a lovely “true” blue perennial that produces large 2-inch tubular blue flowers with white throats that open at the nodes all up and down the stems. The plant has smooth, green, lance-shaped leaves and grows to a height of 24-30 inches. Hummingbirds and butterflies love ‘True Blue’! The compact well-branched habit thrives in a full sun to part shade location and will continue to bloom into the fall. Its pointy leaves remain green in colour throughout the season.



Gentiana ‘True Blue’

Common Name: Gentian

Plant Type: Perennial

Hardiness Zone: 4, 5, 6, 7

Max Spread: 1 – 2 Feet

Exposure: Full Sun (+6 hrs.), Part Shade (4-6 hrs.)

Nature Attractions: Butterflies, Hummingbirds

Critter Resistance: Deer

Flower Color: Blue Shades

Soil Moisture Needs: Moderate, Moist

Attributes: Cut Flower or Foliage, Deciduous

Design Use: Borders, Container planting, Rock/Alpine gardens

Season of Interest (Flowering): Summer, Late Summer, Fall

Source: Various Internet gardening sites



Rhododendrons of the Year Plant Awards

NW USA / Canada Region (2014)



Elepidote Rhododendron: 'Fire Rim'

Flower light yellow with purplish-red edge, deep red ectarines red filaments and style, openly funnel-shaped, frilly edges, 3" across. Ball-shaped truss of about 20 flowers. Blooms early midseason. Leaves elliptic, concave with wavy edges, broadly acute apex, cuneate base, 5" long, dull, olive green, retained 2 years. Dense grower. Grows to a typical height of 3 ft. in 10 yrs. Plant and bud hardy to 5° F (-15°C). Hybridized by Barlup.



Lepidote Rhododendron: 'Ginny Gee'

Flower white with pink mottling at edges both inside and on reverse, tubular funnel-shaped to widely funnel-shaped, wavy lobes, 3/4" - 1" across. Flowers fade to light pink or white. Held in terminal clusters of multiple buds each with 3 - 5 flowers. An early midseason bloomer. Leaves elliptic, acute apex, cuneate base, 1¼" long, dark matte green, retained 2 - 3 years. Some reddening of leaves in winter. Compact, very dense growth habit. Grows to an approximate height of 2 ft. in 10 yrs. Cold hardy to -10° F (-23° C). Hybridized by Berg.



Evergreen Azalea: 'Komo Kulshan'

Flower vivid purplish red, lighter in center, funnel-shaped, 1" across. A late midseason bloomer. Leaves elliptic, textured, about 1" long, mid green. Has a spreading growth habit. Grows to a height of 2 ft. in 10 yrs. Cold hardy to -10° F (-23° C). Selected form of *R. kiusianum*.



Deciduous Azalea: 'Homebush'

Flower vivid purplish pink on a base of vivid purplish red, openly funnel-shaped, slightly recurved lobes, about 1½" across, semi-double. Tight, ball-shaped truss with 12-16 flowers. Holds color well in sun. Blooms late midseason. Leaves elliptic, broadly acute apex, cuneate base, light green. Upright, open growth habit. Grows to a typical height of 6 ft. in 10 yrs. Cold hardy to -20° F (-29°C). Hybridized by Waterer (Knaphill).

Photos (top to bottom) by Jim Barlup, Ron Knight, Sally and John Perkins, Sally and John Perkins.



Elepidote Rhododendron: 'Taurus'

Flower vivid and strong red with darker throat and black spots on dorsal lobe, campanulate, 3½" across. Large ball-shaped truss holds about about 16 flowers. Blooms early midseason. Deep red winter buds. Leaves elliptic with acute apex and rounded base, about 7" long, dark green, retained 3 years. Afternoon sun protection is preferred. Grows to a typical height of about 6 ft. in 10 yrs. Cold hardy to -5°F (-21°C). Hybridized by Mossman. RHS Award of Garden Merit 1993.



Lepidote Rhododendron: PJM Group

Flower lilac purple to light violet, openly funnel-shaped, wavy edges, 1½" across. Several clones are known as well as a number of forms. Ball-shaped truss holds 5-12 flowers. Blooms early midseason. Leaves elliptic, flat to convex, obtuse apex, cuneate base, 1¼" to 2" long, glossy green, rust colored scaly indumentum, deep mahogany-purple in winter. Upright, dense growth habit. Grows to a height of about 4 ft. in 10 yrs. Plant is cold hardy to -25°F (-32°C). Heat and sun tolerant. Hybridized by Mezitt.



Evergreen Azalea: 'Everest'

Flower white with a pale greenish-yellow blotch. Inflorescence 3-4 flowered. A late midseason bloomer. Leaves elliptic, 1½" long, dull, mid green. Compact, spreading habit. Grows to a height of 4 ft. in 10 yrs. Cold hardy to -5°F (-21°C). Hybridized by Morrison.



Deciduous Azalea: 'Strawberry Ice'

Flower pale pink, heavily veined and netted deeper pink, with a deep orange-yellow blotch, funnel-shaped, slightly wavy edges, 2¾" across. Ball-shaped truss holds 7-15 flowers. Blooms midseason to late midseason. Leaves elliptic, broadly acute apex, cuneate base, 3" to 4" long, medium green, hair on upper surface. Broadly upright, somewhat open habit. Grows to a typical height of 4 ft. in 10 yrs. Cold hardy to -25° F (-32°C). Hybridized by de Rothschild. Award of Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society in 1962.

Photos (top to bottom) by Doug Irish-Hosler, Chris Klapwijk, courtesy of U.S. National Arboretum, Chris Klapwijk.



Fraser South Rhododendron Society

frasersouthernrhodos.ca

2024 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: Gerald Nemanishen 31930 Viewcrest Ave. Mission, B.C. V4S 1E7
Membership questions may be addressed to the FSRS Membership Chair,
Gerald Nemanishen at 604-855-3335 or to any other FSRS officer.

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