



THE YAK

Volume 37, Number 8

October 2023



R. pseudochrysanthum

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. pseudochrysanthum

Elepidote rhododendron

Sub Genus: Hymenanthes

Section: Ponticum

Sub Section: Maculifera

Height: 0.5 to 3m, a low shrub, variable in habit, ranging from very dwarf and compact to upright and occasionally leggy. Young shoots tomentose.

Leaves: 3-8 x 1.5-5cm, ovate to oblong-lanceolate, thick and rigid, margins usually recurved, retained c. 2 years; upper surface glabrous or covered in a thin grey indumentum, lower surface glabrous with a persistent indumentum on midrib only.

Inflorescence: 5-10 flowered, loose to fairly loose.

Corolla: campanulate, without nectar pouches, 3-4cm long, pink in bud opening white, white flushed pink or pale pink, sometimes striped pink outside, spotted red; calyx c.2mm, glandular-ciliate; ovary densely glandular; style glabrous.

Bloom Time: early Midseason

Cold hardiness: -10°F (-23°C)

Distribution: Central Taiwan, 1,800-4,000m (6,000-13,000ft), in conifer forests and above the tree line.

Sources:

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

This Month

Date: Wednesday, October 18^{at} 7:30 pm.

Place: In person at Langley Mennonite Fellowship Church

Title: Round "circle" discussion.

Bring your problems or questions regarding rhododendron problems, pests or other issues. Questions about other ericaceous plants as many of these plants have suffered with the heat and drought are also welcome.

Next Meeting

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

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

Speaker: TBA

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 a meeting or send it to the address on the form.

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 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



Another month has flown by. The welcome rains have come although my well has not fully recovered. I had to supplement with rainwater I collected in the spring which has held up well.

I have been planting some of my rhododendrons that I had in pots: some of Harold's and several that I propagated from cuttings in 2017.

We are trying something new for our October in person meeting. We will have a round "circle" discussion. Bring your problems or questions regarding rhododendron problems, pests or other issues. Colleen suggested questions about other ericaceous plants as many of these plants have suffered with the heat and drought.

Finally, it is renewal time for your membership. 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

I hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving dinners this past weekend and didn't have to contend with the turkey recall. Rather than settling for a smaller turkey (which was the brand eventually recalled), I managed to find my preferred turkey size that happened to be a different brand at another store. Glad I dodged that one or it might have meant breaking tradition and having a ham instead.

The vegetable garden is winding down for the season. The final tomatoes have been picked as well as some acorn squash but the brussel sprouts, carrots, and kale remain for future harvest. All in all a good year for produce with a note to the head gardner to *please* start the patty pan squash in the greenhouse next year instead of planting the seeds directly in the garden.

Rhododendron planting is in full swing with space becoming available with the removal of the japanese maple that died over the winter. It was a large old tree and thus has provided a great deal of space for planting. With these plantings and some in our small wooded area, the number of potted rhodos that we watered all summer is dwindling. Plantings had to take into consideration the squirrel / bunny hunting routes of the novice gardener to ensure that the smaller tender plants were kept out of harms way.



The unknown magnolia that resides off the back patio that is still generating the occassional flower has been a hive of activity the past few weeks. With the seeds ripening we have flickers in the tree multiple times a day gorging on the ripened seeds.

Not all branches are strong enough to hold them so they put on quite an acrobatic display as they attempt to get to the seed pods that are dangling from the younger more flexable branches.

With the change of weather, the wasp visibility has diminished (not entirely gone yet) so I will soon commence fall flower bed duties and eventually pruning activites once the annual harvest of the seed producing trees (like the magnolia / hawthorne) is complete.

I understand that last months meeting with Glen Jamieson's presentation was well received and attended. It has become increasingly difficult to find local rhododendron speakers and expensive to bring in out of town speakers willing to speak in person at our meetings as their numbers have greatly diminished over the years. Like we've done in the past, other rhododendron groups are also expanding into speakers of other gardening related topics and interests for inhouse speakers and going further afield for the out of town rhododendron speakers to connect wih us via Zoom meetings. If you have a topic that you feel would be of interest to the group, please let our Program Director or any member of the Executive know.

This month "From the Archives" expands on last months YAK featured rhododendron ***R. decorum***. "In the Garden" highlights the only rebloom we've experienced this year and shows just the beginnings of some fall colour. The fall colour of ***Witch-Hazel Hamamelis x intermedia 'Jelena'*** is not something we've seen before. Only watered by Mother Nature over the summer, it's produced some amazing colour and patterns this fall.

As Gerald mentioned, something new for our October meeting, Hope you give it a try and remember to bring something for the raffle table,

Maureen Worden



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

R. decorum (epithet: Ornamental)

R. decorum was first described by Adrien René Franchet (French botanist at the National Museum of Natural History in Paris) in 1886 from a plant collected in Moupin, western Sichuan in 1869. It was introduced to cultivation in 1887, by Père Jean Marie Delavay. Later introductions by Wilson, Forrest, Kingdon-Ward, Rock, McLaren, and Hu, attest to its wide distribution throughout west and south-west Sichuan, south-east Tibet, north-west Yunnan and north-east upper Burma. It grows in pine, spruce, and open deciduous forests. Also it is happy on grassy mountains, rocky scrub and tolerates dry, open situations, and is found at elevations of 5,900 to 14,900 ft.

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



R. decorum: painting by Carlos Reifel from "The Rhododendron" Vol. 2, Edited by Leslie Urquart



R. decorum, Yunnan, China
Images: Sean Rafferty

R. decorum grows between 3 and 50 ft. in the wild and about 15 ft. in cultivation. The foliage is variable but typically oblanceolate to elliptic, smooth green on both surfaces, with

rounded ends.

The 6 to 8-lobed openly funnel-campanulate flowers are white to pink to pale lavender, variously marked and quite fragrant. The stamens are more or less hairy at their bases. *R. decorum* shares similarities with *R. vernicosum*, which has red glands on the style and hairless stamens, and has non-fragrant, earlier-blooming flowers. It is allied with *R. diaprepes*, but is distinguished from it by having smaller leaves and corolla and fewer stamens. *R. decorum* also differs from *R. diaprepes* by growing further north and east and having an earlier-blooming time.

This species is extremely widespread and common in the wild, and as one might expect given its wide range in

elevation, is quite variable in hardiness. Most specimens in cultivation, however, are easily grown and generally bloom floriferously at an early age, and taken together with a late season bloom-time (May/June) and the aforementioned fine fragrance, should make it a keeper in anyone's garden.

It is little wonder that such a fine species has found considerable use with those who hybridise rhododendrons. Many fine hybrids have been produced from the early 1920's in the British Isles and Continental Europe, and continuing in Australia, New Zealand and to North America. A soupçon of which, courtesy of the website "Hirsutum", is shown below.

Sean Rafferty

R. 'Alena'

***R. decorum ssp decorum x*
R. 'Cunningham's White'
Kyndl, 1970**



R. 'Caroline'

***R. decorum ssp decorum x R. brachycarpum*
ssp brachycarpum
J.B. Gable 1927**



R. 'Allissa Charlene'

**R. 'Emily Allison' x
R. decorum ssp decorum
C. Weeks, 1985**



R. 'Newcomb's Sweetheart'

**R. 'Pink Walloper' x
R. decorum ssp decorum
L.L. Newcomb, 1968**



R. 'Apricot Sherbert'

**R. 'Comstock' x (*R. dichroanthum*
ssp dichroanthum x
R. decorum ssp decorum)
H.E. Greer, 1982**



R. 'Dexter's Cream'

R. decorum ssp decorum x *R. haematodes ssp haematodes*
C.O. Dexter, 1943



R. 'White Swan'

R. decorum ssp decorum x
R. 'Pink Pearl'
Waterer, 1958



R. 'September Song'

(*R. dichroanthum ssp dichroanthum* x
R. decorum ssp decorum) x *R. 'Fawn'*
Dr. C.E. Phetteplace, 1988



From The Garden



Bob's Blue re-bloom



*Tibouchina & Firelight Tidbit Hydrangea
(from Lois Williams)*



The tag for this perennial remains safely hidden away. In its 2nd year in a patio pot, it has a lot more blooms than last year growing in morning sun and shaded in the afternoon. When I moved it directly into all day sun in September, the number of flowers buds increased and started to open. The flowers close up at night.



Who am I?

Fall colour is starting to appear



Vine Maple



Witch-Hazel Hamamelis x intermedia 'Jelena'



Stewartia pseudocamellia



Acer palmatum 'Osakazuki'

Rhododendrons of the Year Plant Awards

NW USA / Canada Region (2012)



Elepidote Rhododendron: 'Lem's Monarch'

Flower pale pink to white with pink edges and two narrow rays of red spots on upper lobe, openly funnel-shaped, wavy edges, 5" across. Dome-shaped truss holds 16 flowers. Blooms midseason. Leaves ovate, flat, broadly acute apex, rounded base, slightly wavy margins, 7" to 8½" long, dull, olive green, retained 2 years. Moderately dense habit. Grows to a typical height of 6 ft. in 10 years. Plant and bud hardy to -5°F (-21°C). Hybridized by Lem.



Lepidote Rhododendron: Blue Baron'

Flower light violet inside, vivid violet outside, broadly funnel-shaped with wavy edges, 1¼" across. Held in dome-shaped truss with 20 flowers. Blooms early midseason. Leaves oblong, wavy margins, broadly acute apex, cuneate base, 2" long, glossy, dark green. Compact, mounding growth habit. Grows to a typical height of 2 ft. in 10 years. Cold hardy to -10°F (-23°C). Hybridized by Mezitt.



Evergreen Azalea: 'Hino-crimson'

Flower strong red, darker in throat, openly funnel-shaped, slightly wavy edges, 1⅞" across. Lax, ball-shaped truss has 6 flowers. Blooms early midseason to midseason. Leaves elliptic, cupped under at the edges, heavy textured, about 1" long, glossy, mid green. Turns bronze to red in cold weather. Plant grows upright, spreading in tiers. Grows to a typical height of 2 ft in 10 years. Cold hardy to -10°F (-23°C). Hybridized by Vermeulen.



Deciduous Azalea: 'Nifty Fifty'

Flower vivid yellow with vivid orange-yellow throat, broadly funnel-shaped, wavy edges, 4½" across. Held in ball-shaped truss with 13 flowers. Blooms early midseason to midseason. Leaves elliptic, broadly acute apex, cuneate base, flat, 2½" to 3½" long, slightly bullate, slightly hairy below, deciduous. Upright spreading habit. Grows to a height of about 3 ft. in 10 years. Hardy to -15°F (-26° C). Hybridized by Arneson.

Photos (top to bottom) by Roland Kersten, courtesy of Weston Nurseries, Steve Henning, Harold Greer.



Elepidote Rhododendron: 'Windsong'

Flower light greenish yellow, with dark red nectarines, openly funnel-shaped, wavy edged lobes, 3" across. Ball-shaped truss holds 17 flowers. Blooms early midseason. Leaves elliptic, obtuse apex, rounded base, 4¼" long, flat, glossy, moderate olive green, retained 2 years. Open growth habit. Grows to a typical height of 4 ft. in 10 yrs. Plant and bud hardy to 0° F (-18°C). Hybridized by Barlup.



Lepidote Rhododendron: 'Razorbill'

Flower near pale purplish-pink, with variable darker pink overtones, tubular-shaped, about ½" across. Held in conical-shaped trusses with 6-12 flowers. Blooms early midseason. Leaves ovate dark green, ¾" to 2" long, dull, dark green, ciliate, scaly underneath. Vigorous plant grows wider than tall. Grows to a typical height of 2 ft. in 10 yrs. Cold hardy to 0° F (-18° C). Hybridized by Cox.



Evergreen Azalea: 'Purple Splendor'

Flower hose-in-hose, vivid reddish-purple with darker blotch, openly funnel-shaped, 2" across, frilly edges. A midseason bloomer. Leaves elliptic, textured, about 1" long, mid green. Has a spreading growth habit. Grows to a height of 4 ft. in 10 yrs. Cold hardy to -15° F (-26° C). Hybridized by Gable.



Deciduous Azalea: 'White Lights'

Flower white, reverse of tube light purplish-pink. No markings. Held in dome-shaped truss with 5 flowers. Blooms late midseason. Leaves oblanceolate to elliptic, apiculate apex, cuneate base, 2¾" long, flat, both surfaces hairy, moderate yellow-green, deciduous. Rounded, well-branched habit. Grows to a height of about 5 ft. in 10 years. Hardy to -35° F (-37° C). Hybridized by Pellett.

Photos (top to bottom) by Loyd Newcomb, Kenneth Cox, Hank Helm, Sally and John Perkins.



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 _____.