



THE YAK

Volume 38, Number 01

January 2024



Cosmopolitan

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:



Cosmopolitan

Lepidote rhododendron

Height: 5 feet in 10 years

Leaves: are rugose, glossy and dark green colored, retained three years. Broad, dense habit.

Flower/Truss Description: Flower openly funnel-shaped, 1 ½” to 3” across, light purplish-pink, fading to pale pink with dark red to deep purplish-pink markings. Held in conical-shaped trusses with 10-18 flowers.

Cold Hardiness Temp: -10°F (-23°C)

Parentage: (Seed Parent x Pollen Parent):
(Cunningham’s White x Vesuvius)

Bloom time: Midseason to Late Midseason. May bloom again in the fall.

Hybridized or Selected by: Hagen

Sources:
Rhododendrons & Azaleas A Colour Guide, Kenneth N.E. Cox
ARS: www.rhododendron.org

Next Meeting

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

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

Topic: Gardens for the Ages: Cowichan Valley, Garth Wedemire

In May 2018, the North Island Society members organized a Bus Tour of six locations in the Cowichan Valley. It was a one-day tour that offered an opportunity to visit some of the “Gardens For The Ages” in the Duncan, Genoa Bay and Cobble Hill areas of Vancouver Island.

This presentation by Garth Wedemire will focus on three of the gardens visited with special attention to some of the best rhododendrons and azaleas growing in those gardens. Mistyview Farm Garden (Alan and Liz Murray) in Cobble Hill will be our first stop. Camelot Ridge (Don Loewen) located on Genoa Bay will be our second garden. The final garden will be a visit to a historic garden (Maple Bay Manor) on Maple Bay near Duncan.

BIO: As a 6-year-old, Garth was caught picking roses from the rectory garden in his hometown of Seaford Town, Jamaica. Explaining to the priest that the little bouquet was meant as a gift for the priest, Garth demonstrated early on that he was not only fascinated with plants and flowers, but quick-witted and keen to share his love of plants with others.

Garth was a member of the Vancouver Rhododendron Society for 40 years and was one of the founding members of the Fraser Valley Rhododendron Chapter. Latterly, he has memberships and associate memberships in the Nanaimo, North Island, Fraser South Victoria, and Atlantic Rhododendron chapters. Garth is the recipient of three American Rhododendron Society Bronze medals – one from the Vancouver chapter, one from the Fraser Valley chapter and one from the North Island chapter. He received a Silver Medal from the ARS District 1 in 2013.

Relying on the knowledge he gained as a math and computer studies teacher, Garth was instrumental in developing and maintaining many of the websites of District 1. He is on the board of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington and a member of the Rhododendron, Magnolia and Camellia Group of the Royal Horticultural Society.

His love of the genus Rhododendron is manifested in his prolific photography as well as plant-hunting travels to Nepal and China and his visits to many gardens throughout Canada, the U.S., New Zealand, and Great Britain. He currently lives with his wife Sue in Langley.

2023 ELECTED OFFICERS

President:	Gerry Nemanishen	604-826-4660
Past Pres:	Colleen Bojczuk	604-826-4221
Vice Pres:	Jim Worden	604-541-4754
Secretary:	Vacant	
Treasurer(s):	Gerry Nemansihen	604-826-4660
	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:	Vacant	
Membership:	Vacant	
Newsletter:	Maureen Worden	604-541-4754
Librarian:	Gerald Nemanishen	604-826-4660
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

Happy New Year!!

A very warm winter so far but this week is predicted to be colder. I have one rhododendron; I think "Forever Red" has a few blooms. It's stressed, the drought in the fall which might explain the blooms. My snow drops are up and nearly blooming in a sheltered planter on our deck. Can spring be far behind?

I have included a pic of a hellebore that started blooming before Christmas. I think it might be "Ice N'Roses white" that Colleen got for me from Minter Gardens. Very pretty.

Zoom presentation this month with Garth Wedemire. It is a tour of Island gardens and should be excellent. I will forward the link to log on later this week.

Finally, it is renewal time for your membership. I sound like a broken record but there are still about ten or twelve members who have not renewed. 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

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and had to opportunity to spend time with friends and family. With the new addition to our household it was a busy time, especially on turkey day. We attempted to block the kitchen off when final dinner preparations were underway which worked fine for the retired and junior garden crew members, but the new recruit kept managing to break through the barriers and finally had to be banned to his house until after dinner. An 18 month old great niece provided lots of action and was more interested in repeatedly climbing the stairs than in the tree or the gifts.

As I write this, the snow is falling and has been since early this morning. They say it will change to rain for the next couple of days only to return again later this week with much colder temperatures. I've enjoyed the mild winter we've had so far and being able to get outside and putter (also helpful when trying to train the new recruit). Yesterday, I found some bulbs that I had dug up after last year's flowering. Seeing they had been outside in the sun and rain since then I was sure they were dead. However they had started to sprout so I quickly planted them in some a couple of empty patio pots. Only spring will tell me if they are daffodils or tulips (I lost track of where they came from).



As usual the bird feeders are busy most of the day with only a short noticeable absence of feathered friends in the early afternoon (must be siesta time). The occasional hawk flies through scattering all as they head for the cover provided by the rhododendrons and other bushes and shrubs. Sadly, occasionally there is evidence that not all successfully scattered. I'm headed back to my local bird store again this week as the suet is proving extremely popular this year. I have a male and female downy woodpecker that take turns coming multiple times a day to one of my suet feeders as well as a flock of bushtits that put in regular appearances. The Downey's are not as skittish as most of the birds and will continue to help themselves at the feeders as long as you don't get too close while most birds will hightail it at any movement in the vicinity. The Douglas squirrels continue to be regulars at my caged feeders to help themselves to black oil sunflower seeds or the peanuts that I put in the bottom of one of the feeders.

The cover for this month's YAK was inspired by a single rhododendron bloom that came out in December and was still in not bad shape this past weekend for a photo shot. "In the Garden" features the reliable witch hazel (which had a brief bloom back in November, but is now fully in bloom and an early blooming rhododendron (not usually THIS early) but spurred on by the mild weather has started to bloom. Unfortunately its very early debut this year will have consequences once the cold weather arrives. It's a shame as the color and size of the rhododendron make a great display of color when it usually blooms and doesn't have to contend with cold weather and snow.

We're starting off the New Year with a Zoom presentation by Garth Wedemire. Having previously toured some gardens in the Cowichan Valley area as part of rhododendron conventions, I can attest that they are well worth seeing so I hope you will join us and put the forecasted cold weather briefly to one side and look forward to spring and enjoy the color, beauty, comfort that gardens provide and of course we can't forget the effort and hard work that goes into these gardens. Enjoy!

Maureen Worden



The following article originally appeared in the Fraser South Newsletter, January 2011 by Brenda MacDonald

R. williamsianum

Rhododendron williamsianum, introduced to horticulturists of the western world in 1908 by Ernest “Chinese” Wilson is at once one of the most recognizable and one of the most enchanting of the elepidote or scaleless rhododendrons.

Its unique combination of almost orbicular, mid-green leaves, spreading and somewhat rounded or dome-shaped habit, and disproportionately large, candy-pink, campanulate flowers make it easy to recognize, and well-adapted to gardens both large and small. Its densely mounded shape often has a somewhat brooding appearance, a bit like having a very large toadstool in the garden, but its solid presence makes a good anchor to a plant grouping, and can provide an effective screen if needed.

Although never thought of as a large rhododendron, it can in time become quite massive, spreading up and out in large billowy curves that are certainly beyond the reach of vertically-challenged gardeners such as myself.



Illustration by Lilian Snelling, 1925
Curtis's Botanical Magazine

It was a species that has so captured the imagination of rhododendron fanciers that a veritable frenzy of hybridizing ensued. After all, there were so many positive characteristics to try to attach to other rhododendrons: small, tidy, glabrous leaves, with lovely bronze new growth, well-shaped, pretty pink blossoms that were large in relation to the leaf size, and a spreading compact habit that kept the blossoms down where people could easily admire them. Everything from *haematodes* to *fortunei* was used, producing many hybrids still commonly used today.

Looking through Salley and Greer's "Rhododendron Hybrids" I gave up counting at the end of the C's, having reached something over 55 hybrids. Each decade seemed to bring on a new wave of *williamsianum* crosses: Rothschild in the early 30s, including the iconic hybrid 'Bow Bells'; Lord Aberconway in the late 30s and early 40s, with a whole series of hybrids beginning with "A" ('Adrastia', 'Adrean', 'Amata') as if he were trying to get in first in the Yellow Pages, but also developing the wonderful 'Cowslip', a *williamsianum* x *wardii* cross; Hobbie in the mid 40s, with his 'Gartendirektor(s)' 'Glocker' and 'Reiger'; all the way up to Weldon Delp and Hans Hachman. Even J. C. Williams of Caerhays Castle used this namesake rhodo in his inspired 'Hummingbird' cross with *R. haematodes*. *Williamsianum* is truly endemic to Sichuan, China, being found only there, and even within that province its distribution is very limited. However it is now in constant and widespread production and cultivation all over the horticultural world.

Brenda Macdonald

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



On the left, the very attractive bronze new growth.

On the right, the overly-large, candy-pink, bell-shaped blossoms, contrast well with the small rounded leaves.





All photos harvested from the wonderful
"Hirsutum" site
www.hirsutum.info/index.html

R. 'Cowslip'
R. williamsianum x
R. wardii ssp *wardii*
Aberconway
1930



R. 'Gardendirektor Glocker'
R. arboreum ssp *arboreum* cross (*R.*
'Doncaster') x
R. williamsianum
Hobbie
1952



R. 'Gardendirektor Rieger'
complex *campylocarpum*/
griffithianum/catawbiense cross x
R. williamsianum
Hobbie
1947



R. 'Winsome'
complex *haematodes* ssp
haematodes/griersonianum/
williamsianum cross
Aberconway
1930

From The Garden



Hamamelis x intermedia 'Jelena'



R. ririei

Rhododendrons of the Year Plant Awards

NW USA / Canada Region (2018)



Elepidote Rhododendron: *R. hodgsonii*

Flower pink, purple or red, sometimes blotched, tubular-campanulate, 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ "-1 $\frac{2}{3}$ " across. Ball-shaped truss has 15-25 flowers. Blooms early to early midseason. Leaves thick, obovate, oblanceolate or elliptic, prominent midrib, up to 15" long, silver to cinnamon-colored indumentum. Large shrub to small tree, 5-10 feet high in 10 years. Cold hardy to 0°F (-18°C). Species found growing in the wild in Nepal, India (Sikkim, Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh), Bhutan, and China (S. Tibet).



Lepidote Rhododendron: 'Mary Fleming'

Flower cream colored, flushed strong to light purplish pink, with a darker pink blotch in throat, campanulate-shaped, wavy edges, about 1" across. Buds hold 2 or 3 flowers. Blooms early midseason. Leaves approximately 2" long, dull, dark green. Leaves are bronze when new and in the winter. Plant is sun and heat tolerant. Typical height: 2 ft. in 10 years. Plant is cold hardy to -15°F (-26°C). Prefers some shade for best performance. Hybridized by Nearing.



Evergreen Azalea: 'Ben Morrison'

Flower deep yellowish-pink with red spotting and irregular white margins, openly funnel-shaped, wavy edges, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " across. Blooms midseason. Leaves elliptic, flat, acute apex, cuneate base, 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " long, discrete, colorless hairs above and below on midribs and at margins. Spreading, dense habit. Grows twice as wide as tall. Grows to a typical height of about 2 ft. in 10 years. Hardy to 0°F (-18°C). Hybridized by Morrison.



Deciduous Azalea: 'Rosy Lights'

Flower deep purplish pink with vivid reddish orange spotting on dorsal lobe, openly funnel-campanulate, wavy dorsal lobe, 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ " across. Dome-shaped truss with 8 flowers. Blooms late midseason. Leaves oblanceolate to narrowly elliptic, acute apex, cuneate base, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " long, flat, bullate, moderate yellowish green. Upright, well-branched shrub. Typical height: 4-5 ft. in 10 years. Very cold hardy to -35°F (-37°C). Hybridized by Pellett.

Photos (top to bottom) by Hans Eiberg, June Bouchard, Boris Bauer, Todd Boland.



Elepidote Rhododendron: 'The Hon. Jean Marie de Montague'

Flower strong red with dark red spotting in the dorsal throat, wavy edges, broadly funnel-campanulate, 3 $\frac{1}{8}$ " across. Domed-shaped truss holds 14 flowers. Blooms midseason. Leaves elliptic, heavy textured, 5" long, dull, mid to dark green. Dense, upright plant habit. Thrives in heat and sun. Grows to a height of 5 ft. or more in 10 years. Cold hardy to -5°F (-21°C). Hybridized by van Nes & Sons.



Lepidote Rhododendron: 'Crater Lake'

Flower brilliant violet, with no markings. Flat saucer-shaped, wavy lobes, 2" across. Held in trusses with 3 flowers. Blooms early midseason. Leaves elliptic, acute apex, cuneate base, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " to 2" long, yellow-green, retained for 2 years. Plant has upright habit. New growth bronze yellow. Grows to a height of 5 ft. in 10 years. Cold hardy to -5°F (-21°C). Hybridized by Phetteplace.



Evergreen Azalea: 'Gumpo Fancy'

Flower white flushed and marked deep pink, single, funnel-shaped, wavy-edges, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 3" across. Blooms late midseason to late. Leaves elliptic, $\frac{1}{2}$ " long, glossy, dark green. Grows wider than tall. Grows to a typical height of about 2 ft. in 10 years. Hardy to 5°F (-15°C). Hybridizer is unknown.



Deciduous Azalea: 'Klondyke'

Flower strong yellow, suffused with reddish-orange, with an orange-yellow blotch, funnel-shaped, 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ " to 3 $\frac{1}{8}$ " across. Ball-shaped truss holds 8-15 flowers. Blooms early midseason to midseason. Deciduous. Leaves deep brownish-red when new, deep bronze in autumn, mildew-resistant. Broad, upright, dense growth habit. Height: 5 ft. in 10 years. Cold hardy to -15°F (-26°C). Raised and introduced by Edmund de Rothschild. Winner of the Royal Horticultural Society Award of Garden Merit.

Photos (top to bottom) by Courtesy of the Deutsche Genbank Rhododendron, Loyd Newcomb, Don Wallace, Kenneth Cox.



SAVE THE DATE !
ARS 2024 Spring Convention
Bellingham, Washington
May 2-5, 2024

Four Points by Sheraton, Bellingham
Hotel and Conference Center
714 Lakeway Drive, Bellingham, WA, USA, 98229
Phone: +1 360-671-1011

Highlights:

Pre-Tour: May 1: Private Gardens around Seattle

Convention: Tours * Seminars * Workshops * Banquets

Post-Tour: May 5: Gardens around Vancouver, Canada

Time to check your Passport!

Plus:

Plant Sales * Auctions * Raffles * Photo Booth * Poster Session

Help get the message out!

**Please forward to friends and gardeners in your
community and around the globe.**

Visit ARS2024.org for more information and to register.

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 604-826-4660 or to any other FSRS officer.

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