



Membership News

April 2010

Vol 1, No 2

Greetings VRS Members

Well, we have arrived at the second edition of our experimental newsletter, and there is good news and bad news. The good news is that we have been overwhelmed with the input of items, many related to the upcoming show and sale at Park and Tilford, and also, we have pictures ! The bad news is that we are victims of our own success ... with the introduction of colour photos, the cost of printing and mailing out the full newsletter has become prohibitive, about \$10 per member. As an interim compromise solution, we are mailing out a black and white version to our members who are not on-line.

President's Message

In lieu of a President's message this month, Don has made detailed notes of Douglas Justice's Bouquet, a feature of most meetings. The notes are attached as a separate item at the end of the newsletter.

Upcoming VRS Meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday, April 15, at the Van Dusen Floral Hall. We generally gather at around 7:00 pm, the meeting starts at 7:30 pm. Guests are always welcome. The following was sent to us by Joe Ronsley:

Our speaker ... is **Michael Hickson**, former Head Gardener of Knightshayes, County Devon, England—surely one of England's great gardens, at least since the arrival of Michael Hickson. Not surprisingly, his lecture title is

'The Gardens at Knightshayes'

Michael writes that 'since a child I have been interested [as had been his father] in wildlife and plants'. He 'studied gardening at Dartington Hall, followed by landscape design and commercial training before joining Sir John and Lady Heathcoat Amory at Knightshayes in 1963'. At Knightshayes he had, he says, 'a wonderful time developing that garden from 12 acres into a 50 acre garden before I retired ... During that time' he continues, he 'chaired the steering committee of the then newly-formed Devon



Knightshayes Court, Devon

Garden Trust, and helped develop the Devon Group of the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens'. He is currently, in his retirement, Vice President of both organisations, as well as a member of several committees of the RHS, especially those having to do with woody plants. More unusually, he is currently the Chair of the 'Windlesham Committee, a group of people who visit prisons in England and Wales encouraging the development of gardens within HM Prisons'. Surely this project must have some kind of civilizing effect on the inmates who participate in it. He is a 'Judge at numerous RHS flower shows and at similar events in Belgium and France'. Clearly a busy man in retirement, Michael also works 'as a Gardens Consultant to a number of large estates, which', he says, 'keeps me from being under [his wife] Lena's feet. We both have a lot of enjoyment out of our two acre garden which is set in rolling countryside above the river Exe'.

Jo and I visited Knightshayes in October 2008, chancing upon it, about one hour before closing time. We rushed around in the gathering darkness, trying to take in as much of this

beautiful, and fascinating, garden as possible. We plan to return next year, and devote a full day to exploring its many delights ... highly recommended !



Knightshayes Court, Tiverton, Devon



The Hounds



The Fox

Sue Klapwijk will be selling her plants at the April meeting. Sue specializes in a wide variety of hybrid as well as species rhodos. A percentage of sales goes to the club, so don't miss this opportunity to benefit the club, Sue, and yourselves ... We hope to see all of you there ...

Don't forget those contributions to the **Raffle Table**, which helps offset the rental of the Floral Hall. Plants, books, jam, etc. are always welcome!

For the **Refreshment Table**, donations of cookies, cakes, cheese, and other snacks are greatly appreciated.

Proven Performers List

The following was forwarded to us by Don Haslam:

It is important to the Rhodo World in general, and to those members in the Pacific North West in particular, that we contribute to an update of the Proven Performers List.

There have been new hybrids and species introduced since the existing list was prepared many years ago; some species died over the previous winter; in sum, there is a greater variety to consider. Besides climate, there is the demographic shift to smaller gardens and to dwarf and semi-dwarf plants. Before our next VRS meeting I would request that everyone consider this issue ... in preparation for a 15 or 20 minute discussion.

Please come to the April meeting, prepared to discuss what is 'working' in your gardens, and what isn't ... with a photo of your 'winners', or perhaps a truss, if it's in bloom ... The last list compiled for the VRS, was prepared by Clive Justice sometime before 1992 and is included in the book "Success with Rhododendrons and Azaleas" by H. Edward Reilly, published in 1992. A slightly modified version of the table follows ...

VANCOUVER ... Rhododendrons Widely Grown and Well Adapted

ELEPIDOTE SPECIES

R. calophytum
R. fictolacteum
R. morii

R. williamsianum
R. yakushmanum

ELEPIDOTE HYBRIDS

'Albert Close'
'Anna Rose Whitney'
'Beauty of Littleworth'
'Blue Peter'
'Bow Bells'
'Britannia'
'Christmas Cheer'
'Cynthia'
'Elizabeth'
'Jan Dekens'

'Moonstone'
'Mrs. Betty Robinson'
'Mrs. G. W. Leak'
'Olympic Lady'
'Pink Pearl'
'Roseum Elegans'
'Sappho'
'Susan'
'Unique'
'Virginia Richards'

LEPIDOTE SPECIES

R. augustinii
R. concatenans
R. dauricum

R. davidsonianum
R. lutescens

DECIDUOUS AZALEA SPECIES

R. arborescens
R. calendulaceum
R. canadense
R. japonicum
R. occidentale

R. pentaphyllum
R. periclymenoides (nudiflorum)
R. schlippenbachii
R. vaseyi
R. viscosum

DECIDUOUS AZALEA HYBRIDS

'Apple Blossom'
'Bouquet de Flore'
'Coccinea Speciosa'
'Fraserii'
'Gibraltar'

'Irene Koster'
'Koster's Brilliant Red'
'Narcissiflora'
'Oxydol'

EVERGREEN AZALEA SPECIES

R. kaempferi
R. mucronatum

R. poukhanense
R. yedoense

EVERGREEN AZALEA HYBRIDS

'Adonis'	'Hinomayo'
'Aladdin'	'James Gable'
'Amy'	'John Cairns'
'Cameo'	'Louise Gable'
'Christmas Cheer' ('Ima-shojo')	'Orange Beauty'
'Corsage'	'Palestrina'
'Diana'	'Purple Splendour'
'Elizabeth Gable'	'Rosebud'
'Fedora'	'Sakata Red'
'Hino Crimson'	'Stewartstonian'
'Hinode Giri'	'Ward's Ruby'

Other Chapters

Guests are always welcome at these other chapters, and, as a member of the VRS, you can get a year's associate membership for \$ 10 or 15 ... a bargain !



- **Fraser South** ... Wednesday, April 21 ... 7:30 pm
United Church Hall, 5673 – 200th Street, Langley
Speaker ... **Douglas Justice** ... VRS member
Topic ... **UBC Botanical Garden**



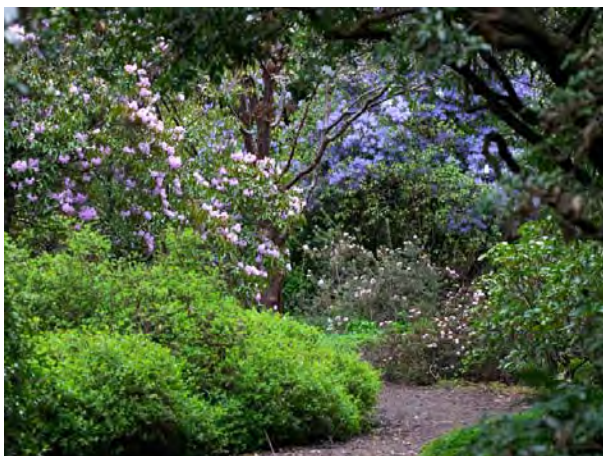
- **Fraser Valley** ... Monday, April 26 ... 7:30 pm
St. Andrew's Heritage Hall, 22279 - 116th Avenue, Maple Ridge
(off the Haney by-pass)
Speaker ... TBA
Topic ... TBA



- **Peace Arch** ... Tuesday, April 27 ... 7:30 pm
Cranley Hall, 2141 Cranley Drive, White Rock
Speaker ... **Ron Knight** ... VRS member, and District 1 Director
Topic ... **The Evolution of Caron Gardens**, the Knight's 2.5 acre garden at Pender Harbour

Ultimate Rhododendron Conference

As most of you are aware, Ron Knight and Douglas Justice are hosting a rhododendron workshop/conference at UBC on April 9, 10 and 11, and will include tours of the UBC and Van Dusen rhodo gardens.



Cox Walk ... UBC Botanical Garden

Level 1 classes, with Ron, are all about rhododendron gardening and provide an excellent opportunity to more deeply involve potential and newer rhododendron club members in the wonderful world of rhododendrons.

Level 2 classes, with Douglas, are for veteran collectors who want to know more about classification, identification, culture and care of species rhododendrons.

Friday April 9th is the garden tour day. Douglas Justice (Curator of UBC Botanical Garden) and Todd Major (former Director of the Park and Tilford Gardens) will be conducting morning tours of Canada's premier rhododendron garden, UBC Botanical Garden. In the

afternoon, Gerry Gibbens (Head Gardener for the Sino-Himalayan Garden), Roy Forster (original designer of the Rhododendron Walk) and Todd Major will be leading tours at the world-class VanDusen Botanical Garden. A large selection of species and hybrid rhododendrons will be offered for sale on Saturday and Sunday.

Looks to be an excellent opportunity for both novices and experienced members to hone their skills, and network with other rhodo aficionados. For more information, call Ron Knight at (604) 929-5670, or contact rcknight@telus.net. At last count, there were only a handful of spaces left.

Spring Plant Sales

The **Vancouver Rhododendron Society** will be holding its Spring Show and Sale on Saturday and Sunday, May 1 and 2, at Park and Tilford, North Vancouver, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. There will also be a truss show in the pavilion adjacent to the garden. For more information, or to volunteer to help out, please contact Sean Rafferty, at seanraff@shaw.ca or phone evenings at home, (604) 990-5353, or during the day, (604) 889-2095. A sign up sheet will be passed around at the April 15th meeting. The Spring sale is also the time when the majority of new members join the club. If you can help out with manning (personning?) the membership table, please sign up on Sean's list.



Peace Arch ... will hold its Annual Plant Sale and Flower Show on Saturday, April 10, from 9 am to 3 pm at the Elgin Hall, 14250 Crescent Rd, Surrey



Fraser South ... will hold its Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, April 24, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, in the United Church parking lot at 5673 – 200th Street, Langley



Fraser Valley ... will hold its Truss Display and Plant Sale on Sunday, April 25, from 11 am to 3 pm at Whonnock Lake Centre, 27871 113th Ave., Maple Ridge

10th Annual George Fraser Day and Heritage Fair



The following was sent to us by Noni and Dave Godfrey, of the North Island Rhododendron Society, in Comox ... to advertise the upcoming 10th Annual George Fraser Day and Heritage Fair, Saturday, May 22, 2010 Ucluelet Community Centre, 500 Matterson Drive, Ucluelet BC 10:30 am - 4:00 pm

As a result of world-acclaimed work in hybridizing rhododendrons, Mr. Fraser was posthumously awarded the American Rhododendron Society's Pioneer Achievement Award in 1991. He is the only non-American to ever receive this prestigious award. A note of interest to some of your members is that this is the long weekend in May and the same weekend that Tofino's Stubbs Island does its open garden tours. Many rhododendrons and beautiful gardens are to be seen on the West Coast.

The Stubbs Island is a two day event, so one could take in the George Fraser celebrations on Saturday and travel to Stubbs Island on Sunday. Many rhododendron enthusiasts have been suggesting these two events be tied into the same weekend to facilitate travel.



10:30 - 11:30 am ... Grand Opening of George Fraser Community Room

Honorary Award Presentations

Bench Unveiling in Dedication to 'Coombs Old Time Fiddlers'

11:30 am - 3:30 pm ... Guided bus tours to G Fraser Memorial Park, Fraser gardens & historical sites ... to include photo-ops with heritage R 'Fraseri' rhododendron

Noon - 2:00 pm ... Bistro Lunch

1:00 - 4:00 pm ... Heritage Fair ... featuring: Historical exhibits • Live music by 'Coombs Old Time Fiddlers' • Silent Auction • Wheelbarrow decorating contest • Door prizes • Aquarium display • Plant sale • Raffle • Kids activities • Power point slideshows & MORE...

Heritage Fair .. \$2; Children 7yrs/under .. Free • Bus Tour ..\$10 • Bistro Lunch ..\$5

OR ...Purchase one \$15 ticket for Heritage Fair, Bus tour & Bistro lunch ...

\$15 Tickets available in advance & on May 22 at 10 am

9 pm - 1 am ... Evening Dance, with Live Music by 'Celtic Chaos' (Scottish Ceilidh Performance) (19+Yrs Venue) ... Tickets: \$10 Advance / \$15 at the door

All dance proceeds supporting Ucluelet's future Aquarium and Museum

Hosted by: George Fraser Committee • Ucluelet & Area Historical Society • District of Ucluelet

For more information and advance ticket purchases please contact Wanda McAvoy

wmcavoy@ucluelet.ca ... (250) 726-7772 ext 225

Australian Rhododendron Society

The attached poster was sent to us by Marcia Begg, of the Australian Rhododendron Society, advertising their 50th Anniversary conference, to be held in Olinda, Victoria, Australia, in October 2010. If anyone is interested, we have registration forms and conference details available at the membership table, and would be pleased to send them to any members, on request.



New Alternate Director for ARS District 1



Congratulations to **Mary Parker** of Nanaimo who has been elected by acclamation as the Alternate Director for ARS District 1 (BC). Having assumed this position, she is now the district's nominee for Director and will take over that job when Ron Knight's term is completed at the end of May 2010. Mary is a veteran rhodo-dendron collector. She is a past-president of the Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society and has experience on ARS committees. Mary is known as a very friendly and out-going person and District 1 is fortunate to have her as part of the leadership team.

New Members

There were no new members this month. Remember that we encourage guest visitors, so please make an effort to invite friends and fellow gardeners to our upcoming meetings. As always, if you give us their names a day or two before the meeting, we will prepare guest nametags, to facilitate their full enjoyment of club hospitality.

2010 Membership Directory

By now, all of you should have received your directory, either by email or by mail. We don't plan to issue any further updates of the directory, but



Colchicum 'Waterlily'

new members will be listed elsewhere in this newsletter. We hope to circulate a 2011 directory in January 2011, which will include all members who have renewed by that date. We will assume that your preference for inclusion on the list will continue ... if you wish to make any changes, for example, adding an email address, please let us know. Those of you who did not respond to our emails or phone calls concerning the 2010 directory, and who were not included in the directory, please contact us, to ensure your inclusion in the 2011 directory.

Membership Cards

New membership cards have been issued for all 2010 members. Many of you picked them up at the January, February and March meetings, and some were mailed out to out-of-towners who can't get to meetings. The remaining cards, after the March meeting, were mailed out. If you do not have a new membership card for 2010, please contact us.

Member News

Both Martie Irwin and Alan Cheung are back on their feet, and were able to attend meetings last month. If you know of anyone who is unable to attend meetings due to health concerns, please notify us, so that we can extend the club's best wishes in an upcoming Membership News.

Darts Hill Garden Tour

A tour of the Darts Hill Garden in Surrey, in May, is being arranged by Alan Cheung, manager of the garden. The garden is open by appointment only, so this is a rare opportunity to visit one of the outstanding gardens in BC. Members interested in details should contact Alan at acheung@surrey.ca ... or phone (604) 501-5050 (the number listed in the Darts Hill website). Once numbers have been determined, carpooling can be arranged.

The following was sent by Alan:



The Orchard at Darts Hill

I would like to suggest adding a link in the newsletter for Darts Hill Garden's 2010 Public Open House schedule.

<http://www.dartshill.ca/calendaropen.html> ..There are five dates this year for the open house, and they are free of charge to the public. This may provide another option to visit and tour Darts Hill Garden. The Spring dates are the most popular, with the number of visitors ranging from 800 to 1200 per day. The garden atmosphere is very pleasant and fun, with organized garden tours provided by Darts Hill Garden Society members and the Garden Tour Guides.

For those of you not on-line, the following was extracted from the Bulletin of the BC Council of Garden Clubs

April 24 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and

May 29 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

DARTS HILL GARDEN spring public open house ...The 7.5 acre highly-acclaimed "plantsmans" garden features rare and unusual plants and the most diverse collection of tree species in the Pacific Northwest; a superb collection of Magnolias and Rhododendrons. Plant sale. No pets please. Most trails are wheelchair accessible. Donation suggested. 16th Ave. at 170th St., Surrey. Parking off 170th

Members' Garden Tours



We are trying to organise garden tours this Spring. In the past, a structured approach was taken, garden owners went to considerable trouble preparing for an onslaught of visitors, only to have no one show up. We thought that a more informal approach might be worth trying, in which members indicate, through the newsletter, when they will be home, working in the garden, and willing to receive visitors. This way, if no one shows up, no one is particularly inconvenienced. If the host wants to arrange refreshments, that is up to them. We will include a contact phone number with each listing, so that people can phone ahead, 'just in case' .. If you are interested in having visitors, please send us your names, with dates when you will be available, or if you prefer, the number at which you can be reached, to arrange visits in the next month or two.

Judy Williams and Rob Stevenson have offered to open their garden in May. They are located in Kerrisdale, near the Point Grey golf course ... no dates or times specified ... please phone (604) 443-1214, or contact jwilliams@maclaw.bc.ca

The June meeting is a potluck, to be held at the home of Richard and Heather Mossakowski in Lions Bay. We will try to arrange for some of the other Lions Bay gardens to be open earlier in the day (not during the potluck).

Rhododendron of the Year Awards



Seaview Sunset



Too Bee

A new feature on the ARS District 1 website: www.rhodos.ca is a page which summarizes the "Rhodo-dendron of the Year Awards" for the Pacific Northwest and Southwestern British Columbia (ARS District 1) for the years 2002 to 2010.

Rhododendron of the Year Awards are made in four categories for each of eight geographical regions of the United States and Canada. These include elepidote rhododendrons, lepidote rhododendrons, deciduous azaleas and evergreen azaleas.

Twenty-nine plants have been selected for the year 2010. See the following webpage for more information:

<http://www.rhododendron.org/royawardsintro6.htm>

Plants selected for the 2010 Rhododendron of the Year Awards were drawn from the American Rhododendron Society's "Proven Performers" lists. These lists are developed and updated each year by the local ARS chapters and are made up of plants that do very well in members' own gardens over many years. The purpose of the ROY awards is to educate the public about the wide range of rhododendrons that can be grown successfully in people's gardens. To be selected for a ROY award a plant must:

- have excellent foliage and flowers
- have an attractive growth habit
- prove itself hardy for the specific region
- be pest and disease resistant



Gibraltar



Rosebud

Plants selected for the “Northwest Region” (our region) for 2010 are:

- **‘Seaview Sunset’** (elepidote) - a Frank Fujioka cross of ‘Nancy Evans’ and ‘Canadian Sunset’
- **‘Too Bee’** (lepidote) – a Warren Berg cross of ‘Patricia’ and R. keiskei ‘Yaku Fairy’
- **‘Gibraltar’** (deciduous azalea) – a selection by Edmund de Rothschild
- **‘Rosebud’** (evergreen azalea) – a Joe Gable cross of ‘Louise Gable’ and ‘Caroline Gable’

See the webpage: <http://rhodos.ca/ROTY/roty.html> for Rhododendron of the Year Awards for the Pacific Northwest and Southwestern British Columbia (ARS District 1) for the years 2002 to 2010.

This note was provided by Garth Wedemire, a VRS member and also webmaster for www.rhodos.ca. This website is an invaluable resource for all Chapters of ARS District 1 (British Columbia) and their members

For those of you planning to exhibit at the Plant Sale and Truss Show next month, we include the following articles, the first by Karen Shuster, who is in charge of the Truss Show, and the second by Lillian Hodgson, a former member of the VRS, who, among her many accomplishments, edited the newsletter for many years ...

The Vancouver Rhododendron Society 2010 Show Rules

by Karen Shuster

The VRS Spring Show and Plant Sale will be held May 1 & 2 in the Park and Tilford Gardens, 333 Brooksbank Avenue (at Main Street), North Vancouver. The show and sale will be open to the public from 10 am to 3pm on Saturday and on Sunday.

General information for exhibitors:

The hall will be open to exhibitors at 4pm on the Friday previous. All exhibits must be in place Friday evening by 9pm. If this presents a problem for you, please contact the Show Chair, Karen Shuster (604-732-9565 kshuster@telus.net), to make special arrangements.

We are using the classification system introduced in 2005 with the additional breakdown of hybrid azaleas into deciduous & evergreen classes and the addition of Azaleodendron and Novice classes. Exhibitors are urged to read through the introduction to this scheme and the classifications before the weekend of the show. Exhibitors are responsible for doing their own entry cards. In case of doubt about classifications **check** with the placement committee. (Misclassified entries may be disqualified or placed in the proper class at the discretion of the judges.) Exhibitors unable to attend may have their entries (with completed cards) brought in by another person.

Show Rules:

1. Exhibits will be accepted from members, non-members, hobbyists or commercial growers.
2. Exhibits must not be removed from the show between the time of judging and the end of the show, but must be removed at the end of that time.
3. During the hours of judging all members and exhibitors not on official duty are required to leave the hall. Only judges, clerks and assistants designated by the Show Chairman, and the Show Chairman may be present during judging.
4. An exhibitor may enter as many specimens in a given class as are appropriate, but each must be a *separate clone*. Also a given clone may not be entered in more than one class. (There is one class appropriate for each clone. A *clone* is a plant grown from a single seed, or propagation thereof.) In the event of this rule being broken, one or both (or more) of the entries may be disqualified at the judges' discretion.
5. Judges will be encouraged to award no more than one ribbon for each place per class. First, second and third place ribbons, as well as honourable mention, may be awarded for each class. Points for ribbons are awarded as follows: 5 points for first place; 3 points for second place; 2 points for third place; 1 point for honourable mention. Award ribbons may be awarded for outstanding displays or exhibits.
6. The judges will give awards as they deem worthy, and no ribbons will be awarded if, in the opinion of the judges, no exhibit is of sufficient merit.

Suggested guidelines for judging and selection of entries:

- i) Size according to variety - 25%
 - ii) Peak condition and grooming with regard to color, foliage and substance - 55%
 - iii) Form typical of variety - 20%
7. All entries shall have been grown in the exhibitor's garden for at least six months prior to the show.
 8. The Society will take every care for the protection of all entries but cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage.
 9. Exhibitors are expected to claim entries and ribbons at the close of the show. Any blooms left after the close of the show will be disposed of by the Show Committee.
 10. All entries must be a single truss - that is, the flowers arising from a single bud, - except where the class allows a spray.
 11. Additional classes or subdivisions may be created as needed at or before the time of judging.
 12. The Show Chairman is responsible for certifying the final results of the judging, for correcting in the way that seems most reasonable errors caused by clerical errors, and for resolving any disputes regarding placement or other matters connected with the show.

Trophies

Trophies will no longer be awarded – they have been replaced by **Awards** represented by award ribbons (formerly known as “trophy ribbons”).

Novice (First Time Entry)

- * Award for highest aggregate points in Novice Class
- * Award for best novice truss or spray



R 'Blue Ensign' .. Van Dusen

Species Trusses/Sprays

- * Award for highest aggregate points for species trusses/sprays
- * Award for best species truss/spray (excluding triflora species)
- * Award for best triflora species truss/spray

Hybrids Trusses/Sprays

- * Award for highest aggregate points for hybrid trusses/sprays
- * Award for best hybrid rhododendron truss/spray
- * Award for best evergreen hybrid azalea truss/spray
- * Award for best deciduous hybrid azalea truss/spray
- * Award for best azaleodendron truss
- * Award for best previously unexhibited new hybrid truss/spray

VRS Truss Show Classification: Rhododendron Species

A. Azalea and miscellaneous (various subgenera)

- A.A. Subgenus *Azaleastrum*
 - A.A.1. Section *Azaleastrum*
 - A.A.2. Section *Chionastrum*
- A.B. Subgenus *Candidastrum*
- A.C. Subgenus *Mumeazalea*
- A.D. Subgenus *Pentanthera*
 - A.D.1. Section *Pentanthera*
 - A.D.1.1. Subsection *Pentanthera*
 - A.D.1.2. Subsection *Sinensia*
 - A.D.2. Section *Rhodora*
 - A.D.3. Section *Sciadorhodion*
 - A.D.4. Section *Viscidula*
- A.E. Subgenus *Therorhodion*
- A.F. Subgenus *Tsutsusi*
 - A.F.1. Section *Brachycalyx*
 - A.F.2. Section *Tsutsusi*

B. Elepidote (Subgenus *Hymenanthus* Section *Ponticum*)

- B.1. Subsection *Arborea*
- B.2. Subsection *Argyrophylla*
- B.3. Subsection *Auriculata*
- B.4. Subsection *Barbata*
- B.5. Subsection *Campanulata*
- B.6. Subsection *Campylocarpa*
- B.7. Subsection *Falconera*
- B.8. Subsection *Fortunea*
- B.9. Subsection *Fulgensia*
- B.10. Subsection *Fulva*
- B.11. Subsection *Glischra*

- B.12. Subsection *Grandia*
- B.13. Subsection *Griersoniana*
- B.14. Subsection *Irrorata*
- B.15. Subsection *Lanata*
- B.16. Subsection *Maculifera*
- B.17. Subsection *Neriiflora*
- B.18. Subsection *Parishia*
- B.19. Subsection *Pontica*
- B.20. Subsection *Selensia*
- B.21. Subsection *Taliensia*
- B.22. Subsection *Thomsonia*
- B.23. Subsection *Venatora*
- B.24. Subsection *Williamsiana*

C. Lepidote (Subgenus *Rhododendron*)

- C.1. Section *Pogonanthum*
- C.2. Section *Rhododendron*
 - C.2.1. Subsection *Afghanica*
 - C.2.2. Subsection *Bailey*
 - C.2.3. Subsection *Boothia*
 - C.2.4. Subsection *Camelliiflora*
 - C.2.5. Subsection *Campylogyna*
 - C.2.6. Subsection *Caroliniana*
 - C.2.7. Subsection *Cinnabarina*
 - C.2.8. Subsection *Edgeworthia*
 - C.2.9. Subsection *Fragariiflora*
 - C.2.10. Subsection *Genesteriana*
 - C.2.11. Subsection *Glauc*
 - C.2.12. Subsection *Heliolepid*
 - C.2.13. Subsection *Lapponica*
 - C.2.14. Subsection *Ledum*

C.2.15. Subsection *Lepidota*
 C.2.16. Subsection *Maddenia*
 C.2.17. Subsection *Micrantha*
 C.2.18. Subsection *Monantha*
 C.2.19. Subsection *Moupinensia*
 C.2.20. Subsection *Rhododendron*
 C.2.21. Subsection *Rhodorastra*
 C.2.22. Subsection *Saluenensia*
 C.2.23. Subsection *Scabrifolia*
 C.2.24. Subsection *Tephropepla*
 C.2.25. Subsection *Trichoclada*
 C.2.26. Subsection *Triflora*

C.2.27. Subsection *Uniflora*
 C.2.28. Subsection *Virgata*
 C.3. Section *Vireya*
 C.3.1. Subsection *Malayovireya* Sleumer
 C.3.2. Subsection *Phaeovireya* Sleumer
 C.3.3. Subsection *Pseudovireya* (Clarke) Sleumer
 C.3.4. Subsection *Siphonovireya* Sleumer
 C.3.5. Subsection *Solenovireya* H.F. Copel.
 C.3.6. Subsection *Vireya* H.F. Copel.
 C.3.2. Subsection *Phaeovireya* Sleumer

VRS Truss Show Classification: Rhododendron Hybrids

Evergreen Azalea H.A.E.

1. red
2. pink
3. white
4. purple
5. yellow
6. orange

Elepidote H.B.

1. red
2. pink
3. white
4. purple
5. yellow
6. orange

Blotch H.D.

1. red
2. pink
3. white
4. purple
5. yellow
6. orange

Deciduous Azalea H.A.D.

1. red
2. pink
3. white
4. purple
5. yellow
6. orange

Lepidote H.C.

1. red
2. pink
3. white
4. purple
5. yellow
6. orange

I. Azaleodendron

J. Novice

How To Please Show Judges With Your Entries

by Lillian Hodgson

When you love flowers and plants as much as I do, you will face the difficult task of mutilating a young plant in order to put a truss in the show, DON'T! I waited 15 years to see my first, solitary bloom on *R. thomsonii*. Wait until you can really spare that bloom.

When trusses can be spared, exhibit them regardless of their perfection. Tables are usually provided for non-competitive displays. Every flower contributes to the overall success of the show and the prime concern of the Rhododendron Society is to educate and introduce to the public an easy-to-grow plant for gardens in this rhododendron paradise.

Don't be discouraged by having to compete with members who have large collections. Plants given tender loving care have a better chance of producing show-quality plants. People with large



R. huianum ... UBC

collections cannot spare the time to give much attention to individual plants.

So you have decided to enter some exhibits. What will the show judges be looking for? (I am presuming the show committee “has done its job” and has selected judges who are knowledgeable and are reasonably familiar with most of the plants and flowers on display. They must be completely unbiased and without prejudice).

How Plants Are Judged

Outdoor plants must be grown outdoors and not in greenhouses, and must have been in the exhibitor's possession at least 6 months; you are on the honour system. Tender greenhouse plants have their own category.

The first thing the judge will look for is a well-grown plant, clean and well groomed with nothing added. If needed, leaves should be washed: with a hose in the case of a plant, or with a water-moistened paper towel or cloth in the case of a truss. Where possible, remove old damaged corollas (flowers), old seed pods or other debris. If leaves have damage from frost, weevils, bees or slugs, or are distorted, they should be removed but not trimmed. This is known as “dressing”. The motto is “You can take away but you cannot add.” Leaf Shine, wax or other polish will disqualify an otherwise perfect exhibit. Plants should not be forced and should be “in character”.



R 'Sappho' ... Van Dusen

Some judges will give additional consideration to plants or flowers that are difficult to grow or are rare in cultivation. Good form is important. If you dig up a plant just prior to the show and exhibit it in a container or balled root, it will suffer a certain amount of shock and could take at least a couple of years to recover. It is preferable to dig up a plant when it is dormant and grow it in a container for future show purposes.

Judges will look for perfection in flowers and leaves. Rain spots on corollas, insect marks, bird droppings, last year's seed pods or other debris, and soil on the leaves will often eliminate an otherwise excellent truss. All trusses must be on a single stem.

Several years ago at the Vancouver show, the judges awarded “Best in Show” to a huge truss. If they had known the plant as they should have, they would have recognized that it was very much out of character. As soon as I saw it I was suspicious, so I turned it over and it was a double-headed truss. However, the judging was over and the decision had been made.

A truss of *R 'Mrs AT de la Mare'* averages 12 flowers per truss but I have photographed an example with over 30 flowers. A closer look revealed five different stems so short that only a careful examination would expose it.

Incorrect names do not eliminate a truss from competition. At the turn of the [20th] century, Layritz Nurseries were the big growers and suppliers for the Lower Mainland and the Pacific Northwest, with nurseries in Vancouver and Victoria. Rhododendrons were imported from Britain and redistributed. Somehow, the tags on *R 'Mrs. Lionel de Rothschild'* and *R 'Lady de Rothschild'* were mixed up, so for many years these two ladies exchanged identities. Had the Rhododendron Register been consulted, the error would have been apparent. As a favour to the exhibitor, a judge will ask the show clerk to correct it on the entry card. Judge's remarks are for the purpose of

educating the exhibitor and must be accurate. When there is any doubt, the judges should abstain from commenting.

When a truss could be improved by cleaning (dressing) or removing damaged leaves, a judge's comment on the card helps the exhibitor know only why his/her truss was turned down for an award. Several years ago, I was judging a rhododendron show in Eugene, Oregon. In the center of one of the tables was a beautiful white truss at eye level. Exhibits on either side had been gently pushed aside so it would receive the full attention of the judge. "Aho", I said to myself, "a Trophy Hunter." But it was a beautiful, perfect truss -- except that the leaves had been polished with LeafShine. I felt sorry, but I had to eliminate it. That is when I started adding judge's remarks, in fairness to someone so enthusiastic. Some new growth leaves are naturally shiny, but you won't find a truss on new growth.

Don't be discouraged if you bring in a tiny perfect flower of *R cinnabarinum* and think it won't stand a chance against a monster 'Walloper' in the final choice for Best in Show. The public won't understand, but a good judge will still look for perfection. Most trusses open from the bottom and finish at the top. Three to five unopened flowers on a large truss are a reasonable compromise. Of course, where a similar truss is fully-open and in perfect condition, it will take precedence over the unopened. When I was judging a show in Eugene, Harold Greer was my clerk. When it came to the final judgment, I picked a *R cinnabarinum* 'Roylei Magnificum' for Best in Show. It was perfect, but I still had to fight with the other judges for it over some less-than-perfect larger trusses. I prevailed, and Harold Greer stood beside me with a huge Cheshire grin on his face. Obviously he approved, it was his truss!

How Sprays are Judged

Sprays are usually up to 18 inches in width, and because of the number of flowers involved, they will range from past-their-prime to unopened buds. This is nature's way of ensuring fertilization over a longer period of time.

Removal of old flowers is recommended but a spray should not be faulted for unopened flowers, within reason. Personally, I like to see some unopened buds. They are usually darker and sometimes, sometimes, different in color and certainly contribute to the overall beauty of the flower.



R cinnabarinum xanthocodon ... UBC

As the Show Date Nears

So, how do you prepare for the show? First see that your plants are well-watered for several days prior to the show. If the weather is hot and sunny, avoid overhead watering and concentrate on the root system. It never rains when the sun is out! Rain spots on a corolla act like a magnifying glass when the sun is shining and will burn the flower.

Cutting, Preparing and Transporting Trusses

You will have decided on the truss or trusses that you wish to cut. Friday is usually setup day for the show so it is best to cut the stem early on Friday morning. Cut at an angle or crush with a hammer to increase intake of water, it is amazing how much water will be required by a single truss.

The stem should be long and straight if possible, and this type of truss is usually found at the top of the bush, especially in such plants a *R* 'Beauty of Littleworth', *R* 'Loderi King George' and other

large-flowered trusses. Crooked stems will fall over in vases. There is also less weevil damage at the top of the bush. Clean as much as you can without damaging the truss. Weevil bites on the edge of leaves cannot be trimmed. If you cannot remove the whole leaf without spoiling the overall shape of the truss, leave it. Remember that your truss may be the only one of its kind in the show, and that is more important than a damaged leaf. Besides, it shows that you are environmentally friendly and do not use pesticides.

Keep your trusses cool until you transport them. I have kept trusses for several days in a cool place - longer than that in the fridge when I am making paintings of them. Pack them in coffee, beer, or pop bottles or other containers with crushed newspaper between to keep the trusses upright and from touching. Flowers bruise easily if unprotected; cardboard boxes will keep them upright in the car. Pray that you don't have to brake suddenly!

Entering Your Exhibits

You will be given a list of categories and entry cards. This can be intimidating, even to the experts. Don't hesitate to ask for help. There are many willing, able people to help you. However, the more that you do yourself, the more you learn, and pressure will be reduced on a very busy show committee. □

Rhododendron lovers in ARS District 1 and members of Vancouver Rhododendron Society lost one of our pioneers with the passing in mid-July 2003 of Lillian (Lill) Hodgson. Lill was a charter member of the Vancouver Chapter of the ARS. There were no other ARS chapters in BC for many years after 1955, so Lill knew everybody connected with rhodos in the province. Lill served as Chapter Secretary, was a Director and founded, typed, edited and mailed out the chapter's two-page, Gestetner-produced newsletter for some 10 years. Lill had a talent for flower and nature photography. As an artist and water colourist, her knowledge of rhododendrons - particularly the English hybrids - equipped her to excel as a show judge. Lill's service to the chapter and her dedication to the genus earned her the Society's Bronze Medal; she was Vancouver's second recipient.

Lill wrote for the ARS Journal and previously for the Quarterly Bulletin. Her own photograph of her garden in the University Endowment Lands, ablaze with rhododendrons, with Vancouver's outer harbour, and West Vancouver's forested slopes and shoreline (with the Tantalus Range behind) appears on the cover of the Spring 1979 Quarterly Bulletin. It announced the ARS National Convention at the Bayshore, for which Lill served as Registrar.

There is a hybrid named for Lill created by Dr Bob Rhodes, then of Maple Ridge, 'Solent Queen' x 'Old Copper'. I never asked her whether she liked it or not; however, I do. Rhododendron 'Lillian Hodgson' is sweet and pink on the outside, fire inside; with a heritage to fit the grande dame of the Vancouver Rhododendron Society.

... Clive Justice

Hirsutum.info ... A great new website with rhododendron pictures

by Garth Wedemire, Fraser Valley Chapter, ARS

On Saturday, February 20th of this year, I received an email from David Godfrey of the North Island Chapter. Some of the contents of the email are reproduced below:

I have been communicating with Herman Van Ree in Holland, the webmaster of the rhodo database website www.hirsutum.info and sent photos on behalf of Harry (Wright). I am now just completing sending all of Ken's (Ken Gibson's) photos (480 total) They are big files (2 to 3 MB each) so have been limiting them to 3 per email. It is taking 163 emails to get them all to him (Herman van Ree)

We have also exchanged information about each other, and I have Herman's permission to share this information with you (I have actually pieced together information from several emails.). He and Marjo plan to revisit Vancouver Island in spring 2011, as they were here last August (2009) but missed the beauty of the rhodos. The links to view his house and property are....

website home page: www.huize-zandbergen.nl

house: www.huize-zandbergen.nl/tuin/index.html

property: www.huize-zandbergen.nl/huis/index.html

Hirsutum.info: About Rhododendrons, Azaleas and Vireyas; a virtual arboretum

Why www.hirsutum.info?
Rhododendron *hirsutum* was the first rhododendron to be classified and named. It was discovered in the 16th century by a Flemish botanist, Charles l'Ecluse, who later became called Clusius.


The purpose of this website is to give an overview (photos and information) of as many rhododendron species and cultivars (hybrids) as possible.
A virtual botanical garden. A virtual arboretum.
An online database with information and pictures.

Everyone can help to build this database. Just send pictures of your rhododendrons.
See the list of [contributors](#) to the Hirsutum-project.
Absolutely non-commercial, no banners or advertising here!

Photo Gallery
Rhododendron species (1246)
Rhododendron hybrids (8823)
Azaleas (3893)
Azaleodendrons (89)
Vireyas (912)

Rhododendron community
Plant Identification (1)
For hybridisers
Your garden
Rhododendrons worldwide
Various overviews

General information
Basic information
Taxonomy
Bloomtime
Useful links
Contact



Rhododendron hirsutum

Rhodo-finder by name:

enter at least 3 characters
Rhodo-finder by color:
purple

Well, thanks to David, I had a look at both the “Hirsutum Project” website and Herman’s website which is in Dutch but because it is mostly pictures, it was easy to get around and enjoyable. The “Hirsutum Project” was started on June 3, 2009. As stated on the website, the goal of the project is to collect as much information and as many photos as possible concerning rhododendrons. This includes species, hybrids, azaleas, vireyas and azaleodendrons.

I am amazed how quickly this website has grown. Eight of the twenty-six contributors of photographs are from Canada. There are over 2,850 photos of hybrids and 1,850 photos of species already in this large database. As an example, there are eight photos of ‘Hotel’ from four contributors.

With this website and database, we get an overview of the spread of rhododendrons worldwide. This website, and the data that it contains, may help to ‘find’ cultivars previously thought to be extinct. Participate in this 10 year project of the Members of the Nederlandse Rhododendron Vereniging (Dutch chapter of the ARS).

Don’t miss out on this exciting new website www.hirsutum.info ... you can set up your own virtual garden in the “Your garden” section. After adding your plants, you will be able to see pictures of your virtual garden.

... March 29, 2010

The Bouquet ... by Douglas Justice

... notes by Don Haslam

1. *Magnolia sprengeri* of two types:

(a) var. *sprengeri* from western Hubei at 1310 -1800 m which is the pink-flowered form and can reach 50 feet tall in cultivation; and

(b) var. *elongata* also from western Hubei at 910-1200 m. which is the white-flowered form and suitable for areas in which space is limited.

2. ***Camellia cuspidata*** (more description to follow later).

3. ***Rhododendron sutchuenense*** (Fortunea subsection) ... UBC has 10 to 15 forms ... Corolla widely campanulate, pale pink, pale pinkish lilac to mauve pink with red spotting but without blotch. *R. praeevernum* is smaller growing, has a glabrous midrib on the leaf underside and the flower always has a blotch. This is one of the toughest larger-growing species with trusses of long-lasting flowers, but it grows best with shelter from the wind.



R sutchuenense ... UBC

4. ***Rhododendron argipeplum*** (Barbata subsection) a fine early-flowering species differing little in garden value or appearance from *R. barbatum* apart from the presence of indumentum (thin continuous, loose indumentum, white at first turning to buff to rufous or greyish-white. Bristly stems and petioles.

5. ***Skimmia*** ... In Spring bears terminal panicles of white star-shaped flowers, strongly scented in some species. Followed on female or hermaphrodite plants by fleshy, spherical, red or black fruits. *Skimmias* tolerate shade and neglect. Douglas showed *Skimmia japonica* "Rubella" which he described as "exuberant" and reaching 8 feet at UBC after 25 years with flowers showing for 6 weeks.

MEMBERS' FORUM

We would like to install a wrought iron fence ... have any members recommendations for a reliable fencing company? ... *Carolyn Steinberg*

Thanks to the following, for contributing to the Membership News, thereby making our job easier : Garth Wedemire, Don Haslam, Karen Shuster, Joe Ronsley, Sean Rafferty, Alan Cheung, and Carolyn Steinberg ... Noni and Dave Godfrey, of the North Island Rhododendron Society, in Comox ... Marcia Begg, of the Australian Rhododendron Society, Victoria, Australia ... and a special thanks to Ed Metcalfe, of PARS, for (unknowingly) contributing items from his newsletter.

Please send your contributions to: rj_wright@telus.net

or by mail to Box 266, Lions Bay, BC V0N 2E0 ...

or by phone to (604) 921-9370

Attribution will be given for all contributions, unless anonymity is specifically requested ... contributions may be edited for spelling, grammar, and length.

Bob & Jo Wright



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