



SEPTEMBER 2004



Volume 13

Issue 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome back after another beautiful summer. Your executive has been busy planning an interesting and educational year for you.

Meanwhile, take some extra time to water your rhodos. After two years of dry weather, many trees and shrubs are stressed out. Extra watering now and until the November rains come, will help them get through the winter — “a Brian Minter hint“.

The ARS convention in Victoria, April 27 – May, 1 will be a highlight of the year and hopefully, many of our members will be able to participate in the event.

Les Clay of Clay's Nursery in Ladner will be our speaker in September. He has been a pioneer in rhododendron tissue culture in BC and a big supporter of the ARS for many years. He will be speaking on plant propagation through tissue culture, cuttings and grafting. He will also be bringing some special rhodos for sale, so bring your cash.

In October Ingabor Woodsworth from Lake Cowichan will be the speaker. Her topic will be growing rhodos and companion plants. November will bring in Steve Hootman from the Species Foundation in Tacoma, Washington. He will speak with about his trip to Thailand..

Hope to see you all on September 9th for our first meeting of the new Rhodo year.

Allen

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NEXT MEETING

September 9, 2004

Beban Park – 7:30 p.m.

A presentation by

LES CLAY

(See page 6)

"Rhododendron Propagation, the Art of Tissue Culture, Cuttings and Grafting".

Les will bring a few choice plants for sale.



SEPT. VOLUNTEERS
 SNACKS
 MEMBERS OF THE
 THE EXECUTIVE
 RAFFLE
 JOHN & JUNE
 \$ TABLE
 YVONNE



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 Campbell River,
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Growers of Specialty Rhododendrons

Our **November regular meeting** would normally be on the 11th, but being a stat Holiday, we have to move date. We have booked Beban Park rooms 7 & 8 for **November 2nd (Tuesday)**.
 It has been confirmed that Steve Hootman from the RSBG will be our guest speaker



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Tips for Beginners

Twelve Months of Flowering Rhododendrons in the Pacific Northwest

This list is a publication of the Seattle Chapter, 1997. It has been slightly modified for publication, with updates to nomenclature and unregistered names marked with an asterisk. Although the list is intended for Seattle gardeners, it is generally applicable for the Pacific Northwest.

Many in the Northwest have rhododendrons in bloom in April and May. One big splash of color is great, but what if your garden were to show some color for all twelve months? With some planning, some plant hunting and a little extra money you can have the joy of these wonderful flowers all year long. [Color refers to the flowers; size refers to the plant size.]

JANUARY

January is the month for the earliest bloomers. (A very cold winter will delay bloom.)

- 'Abegail' - pink, tall
- 'Harry Carter'* - pink, tall
- 'Lee's Scarlet' - red, medium
- Nobleanum Album Group - white, tall
- 'Nobleanum Coccineum' - red, tall
- 'Nobleanum Venustum'-rose-pink, tall
- R. dauricum - rosy purple or white, medium
- R. mucronulatum - bright rosy pink, medium

FEBRUARY

February brings a little warmth or a little more snow. But these rhododendrons will bloom through it all. (In colder years or locales, some of these will bloom in March.)

- 'Babylon' - white/chocolate, tall
- 'Bodega Crystal Pink' - pink, medium
- 'Bo-peep' - lemon-yellow, medium
- 'Bric-a-brac' - pink/white, low
- 'Christmas Cheer' - pink, medium
- 'Conemaugh' - lavender-pink, tall
- 'Etta Burrows' - bright red, tall

- 'Goosander' - light yellow, low
- 'Helen Scott Richey' - pink, low
- 'Olive'- orchid-pink, medium
- 'Peter Faulk' - red, medium
- 'Pink Prelude'-pink, tall
- 'Pink Snowflakes' - pink/white, low
- 'Praecox' - rosy lilac, medium
- 'Promise of Spring' - rose, tall
- 'Red Majesty'- red, tall
- 'Quaver' - yellow, low
- 'Seta' - light/deep pink, tall
- 'Sausalito' - pink/red, tall
- 'Tessa' (and 'Tessa Bianco') - pink (white), medium
- 'Vernum' - pale pink, tall
- 'Wisp' - pink, medium
- R. barbatum - red, medium
- R. irroratum - cream or pink/spotted, tall
- R. lanigerum - rosy purple, medium
- R. moupinense - white/pink, low
- R. pemakoense - pink, low
- R. praeevernum - white/rose, tall
- R. strigillosum - blood red, tall

MARCH

March brings us the first hints of spring. These plants get a jump on the crowd of rhododendrons in the next two months. This is but a sample of the many dozens of March-blooming varieties.

- 'Cilpinense' -white/pink, low
- 'Elya' - rose, medium
- 'Ginny Gee' - pink, low
- 'Lucy Lou' - white, low
- PJM Group-lavender-pink, medium
- 'Rosa Mundi' - light pink, medium
- 'Shamrock' - yellow-green, low
- 'Small Gem'* - white/pink, low
- 'Small Wonder' - red, low
- 'Snow Lady' - white, low
- 'Unknown Warrior' - red, tall
- R. calophytum - white with pink blotch, tall
- R. ciliatum - white/pink, medium
- R. leucaspis - white/pink, low
- R. oreodoxa - soft pink, tall
- R. racemosum - pink, medium

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- R. recurvoides - white/rose, low
- R. rubiginosum - rose, tall
- R. russatum - purple, medium
- R. schlippenbachii - pink, medium
- R. sutchuenense - lilac or rose, tall
- R. principis - white or rose, tall
- R. hodgsonii - rosy purple, tall

APRIL

April brings hundreds more rhododendrons to bloom. Yellows and purples predominate but white, pinks and some reds can be found. A visit to your local nursery is in order. The Species Study Group of the Seattle Rhododendron Society has a show in late March or early April. There you will find many of these wonderful plants to view and to buy.

MAY

May is the peak of the blooming season. Hundreds of varieties are in bloom. The Seattle Rhododendron Society has its large annual show in May. This is the best place to view the common and the most unusual rhododendrons. View the show with care and some discrimination. Remember you don't have the room to plant them all. Take lots of notes and write down the names of your favorites. Visit the plant sale and members will help you find the ones you just have to have!

JUNE

June is the start of summer, but in Seattle it's often cool and wet! Most of the June bloomers need light shade to be at their best.

- 'Autumn Gold' - salmon-apricot, tall
- 'Betty Arrington' - rosy pink, tall, fragrant
- 'Blanc-mange' - white, tall
- 'Daphnoides' - purple, medium
- 'Edward Dunn' - apricot-pink, tall
- 'Goldsworth Orange' - salmon, tall
- 'Corner Waterer' - white/mauve-pink, tall
- 'Kilimanjaro' - red, tall
- 'Lemon Marmalade'* - yellow, medium
- 'Leo' - red, tall Lodauric Group-white/yellow,

- tall, fragrant
- 'Purple Lace' - purple, tall
- 'Trilby'-red, tall
- 'Whitney's Late Orange'* - orange,
- R. cumberlandense
- R. brachycarpum - creamy white, medium
- R. decorum ssp. diaprepes - white/ rose, tall, fragrant
- R. fortune'! ssp. discolor - white or pink, tall, fragrant
- R. ferrugineum - rose or pink, low
- R. hemsleyanum - white, tall
- R. hirsutum — white or pink, low
- R. maximum - white to rose, tall
- R. occidentale - white to pink/ yellow, tall
- R. ungerii - pink-white, medium

JULY

July may be the middle of summer, but there are still some rhododendrons that will bloom protected by the shade of your trees. Some are the best, hardy fragrant rhododendrons.

- 'Aladdin' - pink, tall, fragrant
- Europa Group - rosy lilac, tall
- 'Good News' - crimson, medium
- 'Independence Day' - red, tall
- 'Pearce's American Beauty'-red, tall
- 'Polar Bear' - white, tall, fragrant
- 'Romany Chal' - red, tall
- R. auriculatum - white, tall, fragrant
- R. cumberlandense 'Camps Red' -red, medium
- R. decorum ssp. Diaprepes
- 'Gargantua' - white, tall, fragrant
- R. facetum - crimson-red, tall
- R. maximum 'Mount Mitchell' - red, tall
- R. thayerianum - pink or white/pink, medium
- R. viscosum - white or pink, tall, fragrant

AUGUST

August is the time for most of us to go on vacation, lie around and sip iced tea. Most of the rho-

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dodendrons in your garden are growing and setting buds for next year. These few plants may be hard to find but well worth the effort. Try the Rhododendron Species Foundation for most of the species in this list, and many other early and late bloomers not included.

- 'Midsummer' - rosy pink, tall
- R. arborescens - white, tall, fragrant
- R. nakaharae - brick red, low
- R. prunifolium - red or orange, medium
- R. serotinum - white/rose, tall
- R. viscosum - white, tall

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

September and October and our weather begins to cool. Many rhododendrons have the habit of "second blooming" in these months. Stressful conditions may cause flowering in the fall. This is a partial list. 'Elizabeth' is one of the best and most floriferous "second bloomers."

- 'Bob's Blue' - electric blue, medium
- 'Bluebird' - blue, low-medium
- 'Cornubia' - red, tall
- 'Elizabeth' - red, low
- 'Ernie Dee' - purple, low

Yellow Hammer Group - yellow, medium

- R. impeditum - purple, low
- R. fastigiatum - blue-purple, low
 - R. prunifolium - red or orange, medium
 - R. degronianum ssp. yakusbimanum hybrids (many)

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

During mild November and December months, especially for those who live near Puget Sound, several rhododendrons will bloom regularly every

year. Most may only have a few flowers. These plants may bloom into the month of January depending on the weather. This makes every year just a little bit different from the last.

- 'Lee's Scarlet' - red, medium
- 'Nobleanum Coccineum' - red, tall
- 'Nobleanum Venustum' - soft pink, tall
- R. dauricum - rose-purple, medium

Notes: Flowering times may vary by three or more weeks depending on microclimate, planting location, locale and "unseasonable" temperatures. Many rhododendrons have beautiful foliage and make outstanding garden plants year-round, in bloom or not. Heights: low = 2' or less, medium = 3-4'; tall = 5' or more, at 10 years age. *Name is not registered.

MORE LISTS FROM THE SEATTLE CHAPTER EASY SPECIES RHODODENDRONS

FOR THE SMALL GARDEN

RR. calostrotum, campylogynum, dauricum, fastigiatum, ferrugineum, fletcheranum, hippophaeoides, impeditum, calostrotum ssp. keleticum, kiusianum, microgynum, mucronulatum, pemakoense, polycladum, pseudochrysanthum, schlippenbachii, williamsianum, degronianum ssp. yakushmanum and many others

FOR THE LARGER GARDEN

RR. arboreum, augustinii, auriculatum, brachycarpum, bureavii, calophytum, catawbiense, decorum, rex ssp. fictolacteum, insigne, oreodoxa, rubiginosum, wardii, wiltonii, yunnanense and many others.

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LES CLAY

RHODODENDRONS W/FRAGRANCE

RR. auriculatum, decorum, edgeworthii, fortune!, decorum ssp. diaprepes, luteum, occidentale; Loderi Group, Naomi Group, 'Polar Bear', 'Lavender Girl', Lodauric Group, 'Aladdin' and many deciduous azaleas.

Rhododendrons w/ Attractive leaves

INDUMENTUM (the leaf covering composed of hairy or scaly elements): RR. argyrophyllum, bureavii, elegantulum, insigne, pachysanthum, principis, recurvoides, roxieanum, tsariense, degronianum ssp. yakushmanum; 'Ken Janeck' and other hybrids of R. degronianum ssp. yakushmanum, 'Sir Charles Lemon' and dozens more. BLUISH GREEN LEAVES: RR. campanulatum ssp. aeruginosum, fastigiatum, impeditum, lepidostylum, mekongense, oreotrepes, thomsonii, viridescens and Intrifast Group.

ROUNDED LEAVES

RR. campylocarpum, orbiculare, souliei, thomsonii, wardii, williamsianum; 'Bow Bells', 'Linda' and Moonstone Group.

RHODODENDRONS FOR MORE SEVERE CLIMATES

RR. brachycarpum, catawbiense, dauricum, hyperythrum; 'Bashful', 'Fastuosum Flore Pleno', 'Corner Waterer', 'Nova Zembla', PJM Group, 'Ramapo', 'Roseum Elegans', 'Scarlet Wonder' and 'Scintillation'.

RHODOS FOR SALE

I have 3 large leaf Species Rhodos for sale. They are Macabeanum, Rex, and Falconerii. Currently 7 ft across and 7ft tall. The asking price is \$400 each or all 3 for \$1100. Phone number is 758-1762 from 5 - 8 pm. Thanks, Donna Porter

I graduated from U.B.C. in 1955. Started up business with Dad following graduation, in the field of landscaping and landscape maintenance and also growing a little nursery stock. The largest job we undertook was construction of the Kelowna Golf Club where we constructed nine new holes then rebuilt the existing nine to make it a 18 hole course.

In 1958, we purchased 40 acres in Langley for our nursery. As the nursery grew, we phased out the landscape operations. In the fall of 1979, we opened a new phase of the business, a Tissue Culture Laboratory, the first in Canada. We specialized in Rhododendrons but also cloned Evergreen and Deciduous Azaleas, Kalmia, Birch, Enkianthus, Leucothoe, Photinia, Pieris, Spiraea, Syringa, and various ground covers. We also worked with Canadian Forest Products on the cloning of Forest Trees. We successfully established a method of clonally producing Yellow Cedar.

I joined the Rotary Club of Langley in 1968 becoming President and am still a Director. Shortly after, I joined the International Plant Propagators Society later becoming the first Canadian to hold the office of President of the Western Region in 1975. I spent 14 years on the Langley Parks Commission, the last four as Chairman. Also nine years on the Board of the Vancouver Botanical Gardens Assn. (Van Dusen Gardens). I am a Past President of the Vancouver Rhodo. Soc. and a three time President of Fraser South also Treasurer and presently Director. And a past Director of Peace Arch Rhodo. Soc. On the District level, three years as Alternate Director and six years as Director of District 1. Presently I am semi-retired on one acre doing propagating and hybridizing when I feel motivated.

Fourth annual George Fraser Day and Heritage Fair, Ucluelet May 29, 2004.

This year marked the 150th anniversary of George Fraser's birth. The Fourth Annual George Fraser Day on May 29th celebrated the occasion with a ceremony at the George Fraser Park, followed by a luncheon which was attended by the Honourable Iona Campagnolo, Lieutenant Governor (see pictures on her web page: http://www.ltgov.bc.ca/whatsnew/sp/sp_may29_2004.htm and by Mike Stewart, President of the American Rhododendron Society.. After lunch, Bill Dale gave a lecture on the life and work of George Fraser. A plant sale was conducted to raise funds for the George Fraser Committee. The Nanaimo Rhododendron Society donated two rhododendrons for the sale.

Highlights listed of George Fraser's life in Ucluelet include the following:

- 1897 *Rhododendron canadense* arrived by way of shipment of cranberry plants from Nova Scotia.
- 1912 First bloom which Fraser crossed with *Rhododendron japonicum* producing a hybrid which was later named R 'Fraseri' by Mr. William Watson, curator of the Royal Botanical Garden at Kew, England.
- 1915 Catalogue published entitled: "List price of shrubs, etc. propagated and grown by G. Fraser."
- 1918 Crossed native white species of rubus with purple flowering rubus of New York state. It was named Rubus 'Fraseri' by A. Rehder of Arnold Arboretum, Boston.
- 1924 Planted rhododendrons beside St. Columbia Church in Tofino (still growing).
- 1930 Prepared a paper noting crosses of many plants.
- 1944 Died on May 3 at the age of 90. Two days before he said, "I don't know where I'm going to end up, but it doesn't matter. I have had my heaven here on earth."
- 1990 Posthumously awarded the ARS Pioneer Award.

Thanks to Bill Dale for all of the work he has done to document George Fraser's legacy and thanks to Wanda McAvoy and her committee for organizing the George Fraser Day celebration.



THIS WASTED SPACE WOULD HAVE BEEN A GREAT AREA FOR YOU TO HAVE ADVERTISED ITEMS FOR SALE, TO GIVE AWAY OR WANTED.

CONTROLLING RABBITS & CATS IN YOUR GARDEN

(Source unknown)

RABBITS

Beautiful little animals you see wandering they are “cute & cuddly”. But they can wrack the spring and love to munch on the low up and pot 3 of our favourite Azaleas so as to bits” The following are some suggestions



around your garden – everyone loves them because havoc in your garden. They love the new shoots in growing Azalea’s new growth. We have had to dig keep them out of the reach of those “wascally wab-bits” that may help you:

- ◆ Tree guards – in the fall wrap the lower portions of the trunks with commercial tree wrap, burlap, foil or metal window screen. The wrapping should be 2’ above the height of the deepest snow expected as Rabbits can walk on top of the snow. Remove wrappings in the Spring.
- ◆ Sprinkle or hang cheesecloth bags of blood meal around plants. If it rains it must be redone.
- ◆ Vinegar – soak corn cobs (cut in half) in vinegar for 5 minutes, then scatter throughout the flower or vegetable garden. Two weeks later re-soak them in the same vinegar. Vinegar can be re-used.
- ◆ Spray a tea made from cow manure and water as a repellent.
- ◆ Soybean plants will repel rabbits as will onions and bone meal.
- ◆ Try sprinkling pepper (red, black, cayenne). Rabbits are always sniffing and snorting peppers usually send them packing.
- ◆ Plant Mexican Marigolds and/or garlic.

CATS

The domestic cat, that cuddly pet, is a big problem in our area. People fence in their dogs and let the cats have the run of the neighbourhood. Flower beds and newly planted annuals are dug up, cat feces can be found throughout the flower and vegetable beds and worst of all are the birds killed (for fun?) by these well fed domestic pests. The following may be of some help in controlling them:

- ◆ Grind up grapefruit or lemon rind. Spread over the soil.
- ◆ Make a tea from Rue and spray the boundary. Cats hate rue.
- ◆ Sprinkle red pepper as a barrier to deter cats, rabbits and squirrels. Also try spraying the perimeter of the area with hot pepper spray. Must be repeated after a rainfall.
- ◆ Spraying full strength lemon juice where they get into the garden.
- ◆ Plant calendula (pot marigold) which repels dogs.

Let us know how any of the above work out for you.

