



# THE YAK

Volume 31, Number 9

November 2017

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

<http://frasersouthernrhodos.ca>

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 40<sup>th</sup> Street  
Langley, B.C.

Map : <https://goo.gl/maps/ZB1m1jnF9DP2>



S. Lightburn

**Rhododendron 'Maureen'**  
(*R. williamsianum* X *Lem's Goal*)

## *This Month*

**Date:** Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at  
7:30pm

**Speaker:** Ted Goshaluk

**Topic:** Pond Life at Trinity Western  
University

Ted has been the Librarian at Trinity  
Western University for 30 years. He is an  
avid birdwatcher and a lover of nature in  
general.

The talk will begin with a short background  
of the TWU campus property....who was  
there before us. In my almost thirty years at  
TWU I have spent my lunch hours walking  
around the pond and trails on our campus.  
The presentation is an accumulation of  
photographs, taken primarily over the past  
ten years during my walks. Despite being a  
man altered environment, the campus still  
has a surprising biodiversity of plants and  
animals. Questions welcomed.

**Plant Sales:** Sue Klapwijk

**Kitchen duties:** Judy Wellington and Ron  
Talbot

## 2017 OFFICERS

President: Evelyn Jensen 604-857-5663  
 Past Pres: Chris Hodgson 604-541-2382  
 Vice Pres: Colleen Bojczuk 604-826-4221  
 Secretary: Nancy Moore 604-859-3690  
 Treasurer: Harold Fearing 604-857-4136  
 Directors: Terry McLellan 604-888-5098  
               Sandra Short 604-859-8591  
               Jim Worden 604-541-4754  
 Programme: Vacant  
 Membership: Ginny Fearing 604-857-4136  
 Newsletter: Maureen Worden 604-541-4754  
 Librarian: Gerald Nemanishen 604-826-0166  
 Website: Maureen Worden 604-541-4754  
 Hospitality: Gail Floyd 604-541-2884  
               Lois Williams 604-535-0543  
 BCCGC Liaison: Vacant

## From The President

REMINDER: Have you remembered to pay your dues? November 30<sup>th</sup> is the ARS deadline. Thanks.

I'm looking forward to the presentation by Ted Goshaluk on the Pond Life at TWU. Its amazing the biodiversity a small pond can produce.

I would to hear from members who would like to volunteer for positions on the board this coming year. We need President, Vice President, Secretary and a Director. Please come forward to help FSRS out. THERE ARE ONLY FOUR MEETINGS A YEAR.

Planning for the Christmas party on Wed. Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> is well in hand. Two wonderful cooks have come forward to help. Ginny Fearing will cook the ham and Colleen Bojczuk will cook the turkey. If you have any suggestions for the party, please let me know.

*Evelyn*

## The Calendar

Wednesday, November 15, 2017 7:30 pm Langley Mennonite Church	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Ted Goshaluk – Pond Life at Trinity Western University
Thursday, November 16, 2017 7:30 pm VanDusen Gardens	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Douglas Justice – A botanical excursion to Tibet
Wednesday, December 13, 2017 6:00 pm Langley Mennonite Church	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Christmas Potluck Dinner (note date & time change)
Wednesday, January 17, 2018 7:30 pm Langley Mennonite Church	Fraser South Rhododendron Society Desert Extravaganza and Annual General Meeting
Thursday, January 18, 2018 7:30 pm VanDusen Gardens	AGM & member slides

# Membership Renewals

Thanks to all who have already renewed their memberships for 2018.

If you have yet to renew, please bring the attached renewal form, plus dues, to the November meeting, or mail it to Ginny Fearing by the end of November.



*Ginny Fearing*



## Reminders

Mark your calendars for the Christmas Potluck dinner December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our raffles help finance chapter activities. Please bring your contributions, extra plants, garden items, etc.

\*\*\*\*\*

Feel free to suggest program topics and/or speakers to any member of the executive.

\*\*\*\*\*

Submit articles, photos, or suggestions for the newsletter

## From the Editor

I was originally volunteered (thanks Jim) to be the editor of the November edition of The YAK. After years of putting together business documents, proposals and presentations in my former life as an IT Consultant, I like to think that I have lots of experience in the copy, cut, paste, format etc. functions of Word. So, as no one has indicated an interest in becoming the editor, I will be your editor for the foreseeable future.

I am not particularly knowledgeable about the genus Rhododendron. What I know about Rhododendrons has been acquired from hanging out in the garden, attending Rhododendron conferences, and garden tours. One extremely knowledgeable Rhododendron person in the household is okay with me.

I am by no means a wordsmith, these days being more comfortable working on my loom, or being in the garden with the dogs on weeding and cleanup duties. So for all those budding writers in the group that are longing to be published, please feel free to send me your Rhododendron articles for the newsletter. Pictures are always welcome as I am at best a very unskilled photographer.

When I started putting together this edition, the weather was lovely and warm with the trees showing their fall colors. How quickly things change, a couple of big wind storms, some heavy rain, SNOW and cold weather and the annuals have died, perennials have started to hibernate and the leaves are falling. Winter is on the way.

*Maureen Worden*

## From the Archives



The following article "Up The Garden Path" by Norma Senn originally appeared in the Fraser South Newsletter, November 1992.

The ideal weather condition for fall colour are warm sunny days and cool nights. This allows the manufacture and accumulation of sugars in leaves which in turn are the basis for development of pigments associated with red coloration. In B.C. we do not have a lot of native plants material like the beautiful sugar maple and, in many years our foggy, overcast weather limits the development of local fall colour. That does not mean we have to live without the beautiful colour of this season.

There are many cultivated trees, shrubs and vines that can be grown locally that will provide fall colour and add other features of seasonal interest to our gardens.

If you want to add new plant material to a garden for fall colour, you should be visiting local garden centres now. Within any group of plants you will find a range of colours, and some plants may have more colour than others. Also, when planting for fall colour, remember that sunlight is key to manufacture of pigments in plants, so for best fall colour, put plants in areas where they receive full sunlight. Some years you may find that colour development is better than other years because of weather conditions. A sunny fall with gradually cooling temperatures will provide for conditions for best leaf colour displays.

The following are some of my favorite trees for providing fall colour. These plants are all hardy in our area. Your local nursery can advise on planting procedures. I have tried to include some plants that are readily available, but all of the trees listed can be found locally with a bit of hunting.

We may not have sugar maples for fall colour, but many of the small species of maple trees provide wonderful shades of yellows and scarlet. The *AMUR RIVER MAPLE* (*Acer ginnala*) is a small maple that develops brilliant red leaves. Some of the *JAPANESE MAPLES* (*Acer palmatum* and *A. japonicum*) also offer fall colour, although there can be great variability in colour development from one tree to another with these two species.

The *SOURWOOD TREE* (*oxydendron arboretum*) has two desirable features. It is a late summer bloomer, bearing delicate sprays of small white flowers in August. Then in late September, the leaves change to a deep mahogany red. Sourwood is in the same plant family as *RHODODENDRONS* and *PIERIS*, and has the same kind of growing requirements. This plant needs good drainage and acid soils. Again, for best fall colour it should be planted in full sun.

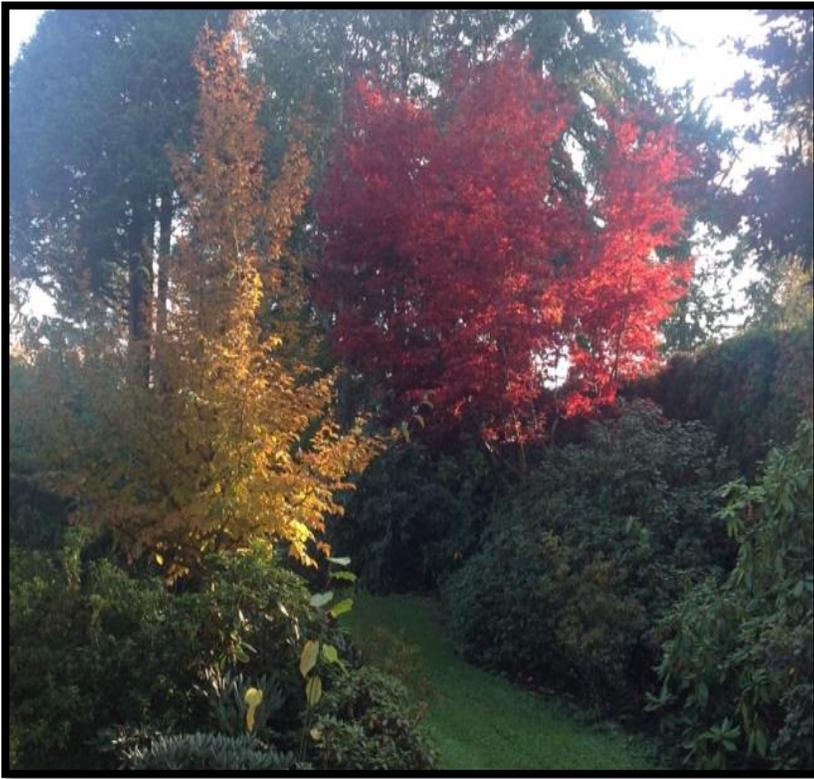
Another small tree that has gorgeous fall colour is the *PERSIAN PARROTIA TREE* (*Parrotia persica*). This plant can be grown as a single small tree or a multi-stemmed large shrub. It is related to witchhazel and, like some of our witchhazels, *PARROTIA* blooms in the winter. The winter flower aspect is a nice bonus in the garden, although it does not start to produce many flowers until about 15 years old. Another feature of winter interest is *PARROTIA*'s flaking bark, which produces mottles of white to gray. While adding to the winter landscape, *PARROTIA* is best known for fall colour. The leaves change from dark green to yellow, deep orange and red. Again full sun is absolutely necessary for good foliage displays.

For lovely golden yellow foliage two of my favorite trees are the *GINKGO TREE* (*Ginkgo biloba*) and the *KATSURA TREE* (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*). In some years, the Katsura tree may develop leaf colours into the orange and red tones, although the yellow leaf is usual. Both trees have interesting leaf shapes throughout the summer. The *GINKGO TREE* has a fan-shaped leaf, and the *KATSURA TREE* has a delicate, heart-shaped leaf. Both of these plants may be slow to establish, but they are definitely worth troubling over.

Our local *PACIFIC DOGWOOD* (*Cornus nuttalli*) can have vivid orange-yellow fall colour in seasons where we have good autumn sunshine. The leaves often change colour intermittently, so we can have rich green leaves, mixed with orange and yellow all at once. In addition there is also sporadic fall flower production with our native dogwood, which adds further interest to landscape. *EDDY'S WHITE WONDER*, the hybrid between our Pacific dogwood and the eastern dogwood, does not flower in the fall, but it does have spectacular fall colour.

Some of the oaks can have scarlet to deep mahogany red leaves in the autumn. *PIN OAK* (*Quercus palustris*) and *SCARLET OAK* (*Q. coccinea*) are two commonly available oak species that are valued for their fall colour. Oaks are magnificent trees, but ultimately they are large, so only plant these if you have the room to let them grow.

Both the *SWEET-GUM TREE* (*liquidambar*) and the *TUPELO* or *BLACK-GUM TREE* (*Nyssa sylvatica*) are also recommended for their scarlet leaf colours in autumn.



As a follow on to Norma Senn's article, some fall colour in October.

Pictured are:

Left: *Stewartia pseudocamellia*, also known as Korean stewartia, Japanese stewartia, or deciduous camellia, is a plant species in the genus *Stewartia* in the family Theaceae, native to Japan and Korea.

Right: *Acer palmatum* 'Shojo', leaves are red in the spring, reddish-bronze during the summer, and red in the fall.



With all the development occurring in the Lower Mainland, every so often a seller or occasionally a buyer will put out the word that rhododendrons are available for the hale, hearty and determined rhododendron lover.

I've witnessed three of these plant hunting expeditions and have been amazed at the array of plants available to those willing to spend the time and muscle to rescue some rhododendrons that would be lost to re-development. Of course, some of the beauties are just too large to remove without a back hoe.

Under all those lovely rhododendrons to the left there really is a Dodge pickup truck!

## *From the Garden*

Medusa, a mid-season bloomer is currently out in bloom for the second time this year.



*M. Worden, October 2017*

**Hybridiser:** Aberconway, Lord Bodnant, Tal-y-Cafn, Wales, 1928

**Height (10 years):** 100 cm (3 feet)

**Bloom Time:** mid-season

**Flower:** Funnel shape

**Type:** elepidote

**Leaves:** elliptic to oblanceolate

**Seed Parent:** *R. dichroanthum* ssp *scyphocalyx*

**Pollen Parent:** *R. griersonianum*

## Top Rhododendrons

A list of the top 100 rhododendrons was compiled from a survey of over 250 worldwide submissions from members of the RHS Rhododendron, Magnolia & Camelia Group.

This month we highlight the top “10”:



1. Yakushimanum Koichiro Wada



2. macbeanum



3. 'Loderi' King George



4. augustinii



5. falconeri



6. *R. cinnabarinum* ssp. *cinnabarinum*



7. bureavii



8. Arboreum



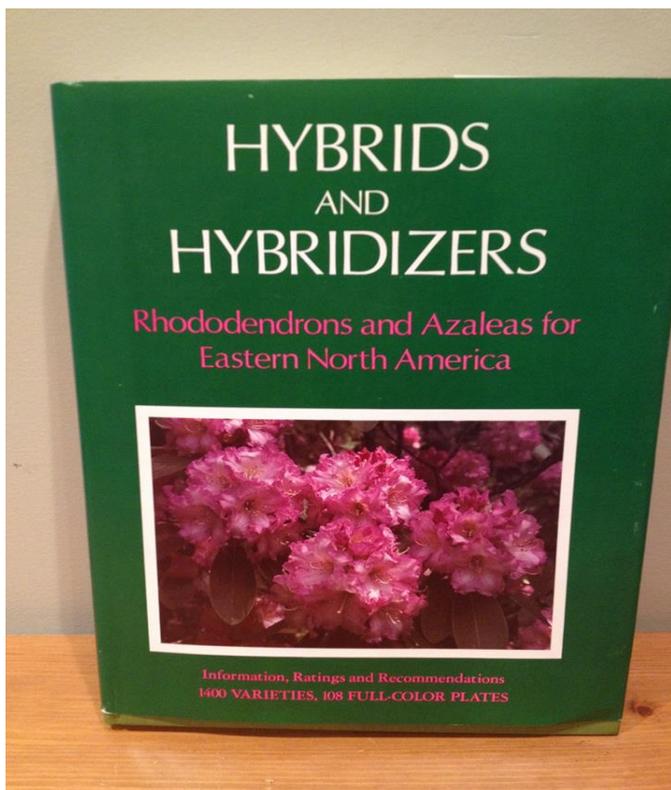
9. pachysanthum



10. sinogrande

Credits: All pictures are from <http://hirsutum.info>

1. Staffan Boden, Sjobo, Sweden
2. Garth Wedemire, 2008, RSBG, WA, USA
3. Herman Van Ree, 2010, Royal Windsor Great Park, Berkshire, UK
4. Hank Helm, 2014, Bainbridge Island, Wa, USA
5. Dr. Stephan, 2013, Hamburg, Germany
6. Garth Wedemire, 2006, RSBG, WA, USA
7. Coen Zonneveld, Diepenveen, Netherlands
8. Dick Cavender, Sherwood, Oregon, USA
9. Jens Birck, 2004, Kastrup, Denmark
10. Ken Gison, Tofino, BC



## *From the Library*

### Hybrids and Hybridizers, Rhododendrons and Azaleas for Eastern North America,

Edited by Philip A Livingston and Franklin H. West, Introduction by David Goheen Leach.

Harrowood Books, Newtown Square, Pennsylvania.

Sponsored by the American Rhododendron Society

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“This book constitutes a unique record of hybridizing rhododendrons in the eastern United States. Its like is not to be found for this or any other genus, at any other time in another place, in the history of horticulture.

In the scope of its concept and the comprehensiveness of its execution, it stands alone, It is an enduring account to an American Revolution in garden rhododendrons designed to replace the mid-nineteenth century hybrids of the British, and of the evolution of hybrid azaleas which more fully reflect the best qualities of their wild forebears.” from introduction by David G Leach, past present of the American Horticultural Society

Seven chapters highlighting American hybridizers: (Charles Owen Dexter, Joseph Benson Gable, Benjamin Yeo Morrison, G. Guy Nearing and Anthony M. Shammarello), noting contemporary hybridizers and summarizing ratings and recommendations.

*Gerald Nemanishen,*  
Librarian FSRS