



# THE YAK

Volume 33, Number 9

November 2019



**R. Sir Nigel**

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

<http://frasersoutherhododendron.ca>

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

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> Ave.  
Langley, B.C.

## This Month

**Cover :** R. Sir Nigel *cinnabarinum* subsp. Xanthocodon Concatenens Group (s) X Lady Chamberlain Group)

Elepidote rhododendren.

Hybridised by: Alleyne Cook (1970)

Grown to first flower by: Alleyne Cook (c1975)

Named by: Alleyne Cook

Introduced by: Alleyne Cook (1980)

Registered by: Alleyne Cook (1995)

Flowers 6-9/lax truss, tubular-campanulate with 5 smooth-edged lobes, vivid yellow in throat; outside vivid yellow shading to light orange-yellow on margins; stamens 10, straight, Leaves narrowly elliptic, flat, broadly acute at apex, cuneate at base, bluish green and hairless above, with brown scales below and on petioles. Shrub 1.8 x 1.8 m ~ 12 years. Mid April – mid May bloom.

Source: The International Rhododendron Register and Checklist Second Edition 2004



Photo: Eleanor Philp

*cinnabarinum* subsp. Xanthocodon Concatenens Group



Photo: Herb Spady

Lady Chamberlain Group



**Speaker:** Gwen Odermatt

Gwen Odermatt of Petals and Butterflies Nursery is presenting 'Treasures of the Shade and Pond'

"This is a look at my own shade garden (perennials) & its development over many years – what I've learned, what my garden has taught me, the joy of learning about plants... I include a bit about our pond because it highlights that gardens are not only about plants but about other forms of life as well. It is always special to find a newt hiding in leaf duff or hearing the song of a Townsend's garden solitaire & others that bring life to the garden."

**Date:** Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 7:30pm

**Kitchen Duties:** Carol Atkinson & Evelyn Jensen

## Next Month

**Fraser South Rhododendron Society  
Christmas Potluck Dinner**

(Please note date & time change)

**Date:** Wednesday, Dec 11, 2019. 6:30 p.m.

Mark your calendar for this annual **DELICIOUS** event!

## 2018 OFFICERS

President:	Colleen Bojczuk	604-826-4221
Past Pres:	Evelyn Jensen	604-857-5663
Vice Pres:	Jim Worden	604-541-4754
Secretary:	Barbara Mathias	778-580-6404
Treasurer:	Harold Fearing	604-857-4136
Directors:	Caroline Feldinger	250-614-6626
	Gerry Nemanishen	604-826-0166
	Shawn O'Neill	604-583-1817
Programme:	Jim Worden	604-541-4754
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		

## Reminders

**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 or else you will be stuck with the editors  
choices.

\*\*\*\*\*

Speaker reviews are always welcome!

\*\*\*\*\*

Members are welcome to send their own "In the  
Garden" photos to the editor for inclusion in the YAK.

## From the President

I imagine that it's probably not politically correct to rave about this 'Indian Summer' we've been revelling in for these past couple of weeks, but I don't know what else to call it. Sooo.... I'll just enjoy and move on. There is a policy at our house that I cannot start my Christmas decorating until all the autumn leaves are fallen and raked away, but this season is pushing it – some trees are still green, for crying out loud !! Admittedly, I have already purchased a few choice items to add to my ever-increasing collection of seasonal décor, but nothing is on display yet, YET!

I'd like to thank all the members that found things to bring for the container exchange at the October meeting. The executive has discussed this concept, and we will continue this type of thing, especially in the off- season when we don't have plant sales. This month we encourage people to bring any good items of a Christmas-y or at least winter theme that you no longer need or have room for - could be crafts you have made, or store bought things. Gwen may also be bringing some plants along with her presentation, so we should have a full evening. Please pipe up at the meeting if you have any other ideas that we can add to the list.

Let's first enjoy the rest of this fabulous weather and get all our fall chores done in the sunshine – the rain will come soon enough.

... And a reminder to anyone who wishes to offer a short digital presentation at the AGM in January – time to get ready now.

Thank you, *Colleen B.*

## Upcoming events

Fraser South Rhododendron Society Wednesday November 20, 2019 7:30 pm	Gwen Odermatt of Petals and Butterflies Nursery
Vancouver Rhododendron Society Thursday, November 21, 2019 7:30 pm VanDusen Gardens	Gordon McKay on Dwarf Conifers
Fraser South Rhododendron Society Wednesday December 11, 2019 Time: TBA	Annual Christmas Potluck Supper
Vancouver Rhododendron Society	No December meeting scheduled
Fraser South Rhododendron Society Wednesday January 15, 2020 7:30 pm	The Annual General meeting and "Just Deserts Extravaganza".

## Upcoming Conferences

### ARS 2020 Spring Conference

- ARS 75th Anniversary Convention, Apr. 29 - May 3, 2020, Portland, Oregon.

### ARS 2021 Spring Conference

- ARS Annual Convention, June 3 - 6, 2021, Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia, Canada.

## Speaker Review - October

Margaret Cadwaladr gave us a fascinating inside look at the vision that Francisca Darts had to collect that vast array of plants and create such a wonderful garden over so many years. It is evident that she had a close relationship and great appreciation of the woman, and the history of Darts Hill, and her research and presentation make the book a very engaging read. Thank you Margaret, for keeping the dream alive.

Respectfully, Colleen B.



### **Alleyne Cook 1924 - 2019**

Alleyne Cook, well known and admired international rhododendron expert, slipped peacefully away at his home on Sunday, October 20, 2019. He will be sadly missed by his wife Barbara of 58 years; children Briar and Nigel; grandchildren Jack, Merlyn, Crystal and Alleyne. A celebration of his life will be held on Saturday, November 16 at 1 p.m. at North Lonsdale United Church. In lieu of flowers

donations to the Dr. Sugar Foundation would be greatly appreciated.

John Mackie, Oct. 23, 2019: <https://vancouver.sun.com/news/local-news/the-guru-of-rhododendrons-alleyne-cook-dies-at-age-94>

## *From the Editor*

The hardy fuschias are still blooming much to the delight of the resident hummingbirds and we still have one “unknown” magnolia outside the kitchen that still has most of its leaves AND is still producing some flowers. I wish I knew what variety of magnolia it was because it starts flowering in late May and typically continues to flower well into August and on a hot summer night the perfume from the flowers is intoxicating. We had one of the rose towers come down during the last wind storm but at least half of the roses continue to bloom. - Just a brief stroll down summertime memory lane.

Now to reality: Leaves, leaves and more leaves ...when will they ever end! For the past three weeks the “four legged” cleanup crew and I have been raking leaves for composting and yet they still come. Of course it takes twice as long to do anything as balls needs to be tossed for retrieval and then dug out of leaf piles on return to be tossed again. If you take too long to toss the ball, one of the crew members gets bored and starts to prune anything nearby – this includes the rhododendrons! Like Colleen, we still have a number of trees that still have green leaves. At this point the preferred compostable leaves are pretty much done and the remainder, when they eventually fall, will go into the green waste bins for pickup. The only thing remaining in the vegetable garden at this stage is my brussel sprouts and kale. I usually wait until the first hard frost to harvest them but it appears that either the neighbourhood bunnies or one of the “four legged” crew members has been in the garden sampling the wares. It’s not looking good for home grown Christmas sprouts at this time.

As you’ve probably gathered from previous YAKs, I am a backyard bird enthusiast. For the past month the chickadees have been up to their usual antics of hiding the black oil sunflower seeds. You see them everywhere from the trees, to patio pots, to the roof with a seed in their mouth trying to find the perfect hiding spot. After all, I guess there may be a shortage this winter and they have to be prepared. One has to wonder how many of these “hidden” gems are actually retrieved and consumed and how many sunflowers will populate the patio pots next spring. The Douglas squirrel has returned to fill-up on the seeds that the chickadees drop onto the feeder tray. Fortunately for him/her the black and grey squirrels are too big to get through the feeder cage. “In the Garden” this month was captured one day while I was on leaf raking duties. While taking a ball tossing break, the sun shining through the leaves was spectacular so I had to take a further break and snap a few pics, hope you enjoy.

This month’s cover rhododendron honors Alleyne Cook who recently passed. “Sir Nigel” was named after his son and I thought it would be a nice tribute to showcase it in the YAK. I met Alleyne and his wife Barbara at a rhododendron convention in Nanaimo a few years ago. His wife was seated with us for dinner and just as dinner was winding up, Alleyne sheepishly joined us and admitted he had over slept his “nap” following the garden tours that we’d been on that day.

Preparations for the Christmas Potluck dinner are ramping up and the executive are looking for a volunteer to cook the turkey and a volunteer to cook a ham. I will be routing through some Christmas “stuff” this weekend. (No I’m not an early decorator, usually waiting until at least the 1<sup>st</sup> of December before bringing the boxes out of storage) but will be looking for a few Christmas items for the exchange at this month’s meeting. Last month I put three pots/vases in the exchange and ended up with only one new (to me) pot. Now that’s what I call downsizing! We’ll see how I make out with the Christmas / Winter theme exchange.

This month’s speaker, Gwen Odermatt of Petals and Butterflies Nursery is known to put on an excellent presentation. As always, plan to attend and bring a friend to check out our group. Next month’s YAK will be out in only 3 weeks due to the earlier Christmas potluck get together on Dec 11th. I hope to see every one there for good food and whatever else Colleen has in store for us!

*Maureen*

## From the Archives

The following article originally appeared in the Fraser South Newsletter, February 2002 by Mike ?



### IF's AND's or BUT's

**IF** - in this case stands for the **I**ntimidation **F**actor. Never heard of it, you say ? Good, that's the way it should be. However, it might exist for a few new members. I can well remember my own early days in the Vancouver Chapter - listening in awe to the gurus of the chapter discussing relative merits of species vs. hybrids ( What the heck were species??); tossing names -parent names, latin names, hybridizers names and names of famous gardens around like verbal confetti, and being as snowed under as if the 'confetti' were an actual blizzard. Is it possible that some of our new members feel this way about US ?!! They just don't US know yet - to realize how little of the huge reservoir of rhododendron knowledge we do know.

**IF** - this one stands for **I**n**F**ormation overload. After years of looking, listening and reading ( and now even www'ing), rhodo lore becomes comfortable, and we forget that we might sound elitist to beginners. We don't mean to condescend; we are not trying to impress; and truly, as with most information, the more we have, the more we realize we don't have and want.

Don't be afraid to track our own experts down, and ask your questions. You are afraid of asking a stupid question ?? - one of our 'experts' reminds me that the only really stupid question is the one that isn't asked.

**AND** - I suspect this most commonly refers to the *cri de coeur* from your partner-  
"A Nother Damned rhododendron ?????!!!!!! You haven't planted all those potted ones under the tree, and you get MORE ?" You say -" but it is a 'growing' hobby" ( snigger, wink, wink) So it is. - the more you have, the more you want - people have even been known to move into larger acreages to accomodate their collection. Mind you - the 'true gardener' is more interested in his garden's 'Architecture 'N Design - he never gets caught in the excitement felt by the avid collector and rhodoholic.

**BUT** - This might stand for **B**ea**U**Tiful species ? or a description of your garden - **B**ecoming a **U**niform Theme garden ? or is the garden exciting **B**ecause

of its **U**nusual Topography ?( think I'm pressing a little !) **BUT** you get the idea !

We are a 'specialist' club and not all of us are expert gardeners, or founts of knowledge re plants in general but we are all enthusiasts, and really are happy to share our love for the genus rhododendron

Mike

\* \* \* \* \*

*From the Garden*







## *Rhododendrons of Sikkim-Himalaya*

Rhododendrons of Sikkim-Himalaya based on the explorations by Joseph Dalton Hooker and his findings published in 1849.



## RHODODENDRON CINNABARINUM, Hook. fl.

*Cinnabar-leaved Rhododendron.*

## TAB. VIII.

Frutex, ramis gracilibus teretibus, foliis ovato-lanceolatis acutis marginebus serrulatis basi in petiolum tuberculatum attenuatis glabris, supra copiose reticulatis nervis sedibus pallidis nervis squamulosis-punctatis, floribus parvis capsulatis cinnabarinis, lobis calycinis linearibus inaequalibus pediculisque grosse glandulosis-squamosis, corollae infundibuliformis lobis sessilibus rotundatis acutis, staminibus 10, filamentis basi pilosis, ovario 5-loculari furfuraceo.

HAB. Sub-Himalaya montanae, interior of Sikkim. Fl. April and May.

A small shrub. Leaves two to three inches long, an inch wide, slightly tapering at both extremities, glabrous, beautifully and closely reticulated above, beneath often reddish, punctate-squamulose: the veins terminating in a short peduncled point. Petioles glabrous, wrinkled. Pedicels short, clothed, as is the calyx, with large, yellow, glandular scales. Calyx cut to the base into five very unequal linear lobes or segments, of which the upper one is much the longest, and almost subulate. Corolla small, infundibuliform, cinnabar-coloured, five-lobed, the lobes spreading, rounded, acute. Ovary oblong-ovate, glanduloso-squamose, five-celled. Stamens ten, included; filaments stout, hairy at the base. Style longer than the stamens, hairy below. Stigma capitate, five-lobed.

One of the most distinct of all the Indian Rhododendrons yet known, remarkable for its reticulated leaves and the singular colour and acute lobes of the corolla.

TAB. VIII. *Rhododendron cinnabarinum*. Fig. 1. Corolla. 2. Stamens. 3. Petal and calyx. 4. Section of ovary, showing the five cells—magnified.

## *From the Library*

This month I will highlight a book that was donated years ago by the Peace Arch Rhododendron Society. The late Christopher Lloyd of Great Dixter in East Sussex writes it. He was a prolific author and wrote some ten books and numerous articles on gardening for magazines and newspapers.

The book in our library is: The Adventurous Gardener and was published in 1983 by Allan Lane of Penguin Books of London. The chapters are collected in four groups titled: Taking Care and Making More, Mainly Woody, Seasons and Situations and People, Plans and Plants. The book is 231 pages with an extensive index. There are six pages of colour photographs from Greater Dixter.

Christopher is known as being adventuresome in his plantings and as he says, "some of the best gardening is experimental and ephemeral.... Gardening is endlessly fascinating and diverse. Those of us who are irretrievably committed are immensely lucky. "

If you enjoy reading British gardening authors as I do, I highly recommend his book. He gives very practical advice and is a pleasure to read.

*Gerald Nemanishen* , Librarian FSRS

---



### **Membership Renewal**

Thanks to all who have already renewed their memberships for 2020.

If you have yet to renew, please see Ginny Fearing at the November meeting, or send your renewal to Ginny by mail.

Thank you!



# Fraser South Rhododendron Society

frasersouthernrhodos.ca

## 2020 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: Ginny Fearing, 5376 Ross Road, Abbotsford, BC V4X 1Z2  
Membership questions may be addressed to the FSRS Membership Chair,  
Ginny Fearing at 604-857-4136, or to any other FSRS officer.

Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_; FSRS database \_\_\_\_\_; YAK Editor \_\_\_\_\_ or Snail Mail \_\_\_\_\_; ARS \_\_\_\_\_.