



THE YAK

Volume 34, Number 9

November 2020



R. Blueshine Girl

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).

In person meetings are not being held at this
time.

Cover: R. Blueshine Girl (Soulkew Group X wardii)



Elepidote rhododendron.
Hybridised by: f.g. Hobbie (1965-1970)
Named by: W. Wustemeyer
Introduced by: W. Wustemeyer (1980)

Medium: 4.5 – 6 ft.
Hardiness: Hardy in all but the coldest parts of the Pacific Northwest
Flowering: May - June

Flowers open from deep-pink buds to cream, with a yellow centre and red basal-blotch, in loose trusses.

Leaves, petioles and flower buds a fine glaucous green. Not all that free flowering. The summer foliage is striking.



Source: The International Rhododendron Register and Checklist Second Edition 2004

Source: *The Encyclopedia of Rhododendron Species* by Peter A. Cox and Kenneth N.E. Cox

This Month

Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 7:30 pm.

Place: Zoom meeting from the comfort of your own home

Danielle Dagenais, MSc, PAg, from the South Coast Bat Conservation Society. (Rescheduled from April)

The importance of bats is often overlooked. These creatures are very important wildlife and face many threats, including habitat loss. Danielle Dagenais with the Community Bat Programs of BC will give a presentation on bats, the relationship between vegetation and bats, and bat boxes. Come learn about bats in your neighborhood and how you can help them.

BIO: Danielle Dagenais has been working and volunteering on bat projects since 2011. She has many hats when it comes to bats. She is a Regional Coordinator for the Community Bat Programs of BC (bcbats.ca), the Outreach Coordinator for the South Coast Bat Conservation Society (scbats.org), and has her own consulting company (EcoEd).

Danielle organizes and leads bat presentations; bat walks, and bat house building workshops in the area, as well as provides bat education to youth groups and schools, and conducts bat box assessments in the region. Danielle completed a Master of Science assessing bat foraging activity over vineyards in the Okanagan Valley using an array of unique bat microphones and radar.

Next Month

No meeting is scheduled for December.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2021, where our speaker will be Dr. Glen Jamieson, President of the Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society, ARS 2020 Gold Medal recipient, and Editor of the ARS journal.

2020 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
	Vacant	
Programme:	Jim Worden	604-541-4754
Membership:	Vacant	
Newsletter:	Maureen Worden	604-541-4754
Librarian:	Gerald Nemanishen	604-826-0166
Website:	Maureen Worden	604-541-4754
Hospitality:	Jim & Margaret	
	Cadwaladr	604-427-1685
BCCGC Liaison:	Vacant	

Membership Renewal



If you haven't submitted your Membership for the upcoming 2021 year, please remember to do so.

The form is attached and should be mailed with your cheque to Harold Fearing, address on the form. Dues are the same as last year.

By renewing your membership you are expressing your continuing support of Fraser South and your interest in our activities in what are far from normal times.

You will continue to get the YAK and notifications of events and activities as we gradually are able to restart.

Please renew!

From the President

First off, I must apologize for missing a note in the last newsletter. Time is flying by so very fast, and we're still so busy at work – everyone is still gardening and landscaping (and coming in just to talk because they're bored or lonely or something). We try to entertain them as best we can, but we have plenty of work to do – winter is coming and Christmas too, whatever it will be this year. I'm so glad we are having the right weather for fall colors – today in the bright sunshine there were some glorious sights all around town – the blueberries, maples, smoke trees, liquidambar, parrotias, and so many more. Too bad all the wind is spoiling some of it too soon. And Rhodos are blooming – I pass by either a Christmas Cheer or Rosamundi (can't tell from a distance) in full bloom as if it's spring, and the other day a lady brought in a lovely branch of *Azalea luteum* in bloom and wondered what on earth was wrong with it! An *Acer griseum* in the park across the street from us here is in full blazing color, and when the sun comes in low in the afternoon under the chestnuts the bark lights up like a perfect column of copper – Fantastic!

Now on another note – our October zoom meeting was quite a success with a short presentation by Barb on her trip to Nova Scotia, and even though not many joined in, the system worked very well. I encourage everyone who is capable to join in for the November meeting – it was so good to see everyone's face, and hear their voices and laughter. It's not really complicated once you get the hang of it – just click on to Harold's invite, follow the prompts and make sure your camera and mic are on so we can all see and hear you. I still really miss the raffles, plant sales and of course the coffee and goodies, but this way does beat driving to Langley in the dark and rain! And I'm still hoping someone, or a pair of someones, will step up for our vacant positions – it's not a lot to do, and you don't need to know much about Rhodos, just have good ideas. Please think about it, help keep our club alive, stay safe under the new restrictions, and we all hope spring will be more positive.

Respectfully, Colleen

From the Editor

Well it took a while but the fall colour that usually appears in October finally made an appearance. Unfortunately due to the strange weather we've been having, some of the colour was short lived as the wind hastened the removal of the leaves from the trees. Contrary to the colour that reminds us it's fall, a number of rhododendrons think it's spring. Last month's cover rhododendron *R. edgeworthii* was blooming in October. This month's cover Blueshine Girl is blooming now along with "In The Garden" pictures of Pintail (a May-June bloomer) and *R. praevevnum* (February-March bloomer) which are moving towards a "full bloom" as opposed to a "re-bloom". Not being an expert of this terminology, I think of a re-bloom as a few flowers blooming as opposed to a full bloom where most of the buds on the rhododendron are flowering. Sadly the weather conditions that are confusing the plants will result in less spring blooms.

The composting of leaves for the leaf mulch is underway and only the trees and the weather will determine when this task is complete. After a few cold evenings the coleus have packed it in for the year but the hardy fuchsia as well as a couple of other salvia type perennials continue to bloom much to the delight of the hummingbirds. Hanging baskets situated undercover at the entrance to the house are usually empty by now waiting for their "winter greens" but they are still going strong. This has definitely been a year of what will happen next in more ways than one.

The "four legged" work crew diligently roams the back yard multiple times a day ensuring there are no intruders and on occasion will partake in some pruning and bark mulching activities or the rearrangement of garden ornaments. The Douglas Squirrels are still coming on a daily basis to the feeders; however now they have switched from a strictly eating agenda to a storage then eat agenda. They carefully check out each peanut and if it meets their criteria, they whip out of the feeder, down the tree trunk, across the ground of the wooded area to some hidden stash. They are usually back at the feeders within a minute or two so they can't be going too far. This "storage" will happen for a while and then they settle down to eating what remains. I've checked around and have yet to find the cache!



This month we are in for a very interesting presentation on bats. Harold Fearing and I zoomed with Danielle Dagenais last week to ensure all was ready for the meeting. In addition to the presentation, Danielle will be including all the "props" (e.g. bat houses) that she would normally use in her in person presentations. We usually see bats in our backyard in the late summer evenings so I'm looking forward to learning more about them.

Unfortunately there will be no meeting in December, guess it wouldn't be much of a meeting watching everyone eat an early Christmas dinner via Zoom. I will definitely miss the variety of dishes we always have and the fun of watching everyone diligently attacking Colleen's Christmas Quiz. Wait a minute ... I think she mentioned that a Christmas quiz was still on the books so stay tuned! Anyway, there will be a December YAK. It may be short depending on whether contributions are forthcoming. Have I mentioned recently that



I'm looking for member contributions to the YAK? Anyway, my thanks to those members that have contributed and while I may not use the contributions immediately they will be used. Thanks again.

Whew, another deadline met so it's back to my Christmas weaving.

Take care all, and remember to join us for the meeting this month!

Maureen Worden



The following article originally appeared in the Fraser South Newsletter, February 1994 by Mike Trembath

SPECIES OVERVIEW

"Though I know I am speaking to the already committed, or should I say infected, rhododendron enthusiasts bear with me a bit and let's start at the beginning.

If you came to this area from say the prairies or the eastern provinces where rhododendrons do not really feature in gardens, perhaps you were first impressed by a plant in a park or in a neighbour's garden. "What's *THAT*—the bush with the big bunches of pink flowers—some kind of lilac?" you ask. "Oh, that's a rhododendrum" says your knowledgeable companion. So when gardening fever is rising in the spring, you go to your local nursery and say, "I want a rhododendrum", the salesperson asks, "What kind?" and you say, "A pink one", and you go home with anything from 'Bow Bells' to 'Anna Rose Whitney', in anything from a 6-inch pot to a 5-gallon pot—and there you are... Perhaps you see the sign for the Rhodo Show, or see some of the truss displays put on by the outlying chapters of the Society, and the truth begins to dawn—that there are more than colour differences, and varietal names. Perhaps you ask an innocent question of one of the circling helpers—and their knowledge and enthusiasm overwhelms you.

Many of us came to be rhodie fans in some such way—first as admirers of the many and varied hybrids, and only later appreciating their origins. And why, you may ask, concern yourself with species? There is a purity, and clarity of characteristics in the species that is—perforce—blurred in hybrids. Not infrequently you see comments on hybrids—"no better than the species"—in other words, many of the species are worthy garden plants in their own right. As rhodie enthusiasts it is of interest to know the origins and backgrounds of our loves.

The collection of plants classed as rhododendrons species is very large and very varied—almost a plant for all seasons, all gardens and all tastes. From little fuzzy "huggies" to majestic towering trees, from the shy and finicky to the bold and muscular, from the haughty and aristocratic to the brassy and riotous—indeed something for everyone. With all these to choose from, why bother with hybrids? I like to think that hybridists were (and are) aiming for specific results, and not just trying to impress their will upon nature: aiming to extend the blooming time, and colour range; to increase cold hardiness, or heat tolerance; to tailor habit to small city gardens; to improve flower texture and size; to build a race of plants with attractive foliage—pleasant garden inhabitants even when not in bloom; and to produce plants whose cultural requirements are less demanding than their parents. Doubtless there are other aims—but that's enough to be going on with.

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The classification of rhododendrons—at least the classification with which we are most familiar—was done largely on the examination of dried herbaceous material (I don't want to get into involved history here—I don't know enough) but it was an effort to organize the wealth of material coming in to Britain from the great plant collectors. It is my understanding that it was

meant to be a temporary one—to bring some kind of useable order to the material. Because the field is *SO* large, efforts to revise it have tended to be piecemeal and patchy. Recently several major revisions of classification have been undertaken and the result—to many of us non-experts who merely *grow* the darn things—has been confusion rather than clarification. So if I speak of Series as in the Balfourian system—it's because that's the way I know them.

This is a long preamble to what I started out do do—which was to list the major series, and note the characteristics for which they are known, and how these show in the plants we commonly grow. It was a good idea—and I started full of enthusiasm—but it didn't take long for me to see that I was being far too ambitious. So, walk around the garden with me and let's see what we have. The littlies—thanks mainly to the *lapponicum*s; plants with marvelously aromatic foliage—*anthopogons* and *saluenense* and *campylogynum* crosses: *wardii* crosses with clean foliage which, at certain times, may be quite remarkably blue—most of our best yellows owe much to *wardii*; *thomsonii* crosses, also with lovely clean foliage and heavy almost waxy texture to the campanulate blooms. Hybrids sporting *williamsianum* or *fortunei* blood may show coloured new growth almost as exciting as flowers. The many *yakushmanum* hybrids—neat and tidy in habit are often indumented. The big bristly reds of the *barbatum* series hybrids are showy in and out of bloom. How grateful we are for *griersonianum* producing so many good bright reds, untainted with blue ('though some people carp at the somewhat lax inflorescence and an unfortunate habit to straggle a bit, you can't beat the colour!). The hybrids that you

can safely put in full exposure—perhaps to act as shade and shelter for their less rugged siblings may owe much of the toughness to *ponticum* or *catawbiense*. There are early blooming *moupinense* or *dauricum* hybrids, and vigorous *calophytum* crosses. late blooming *discolor* crosses or even later big *auriculatum* crosses. We owe many of our orange-shaded hybrids to varying amounts of *dichrouanthum* blood (and with it the tendency to sunburned foliage, and the nasty habit of fall blooming). Hybrids with the darkest red blooms seem to carry *meddianum* in their parentage. Scented blooms seem to come mainly from *decorum* or *fortunei* or even *discolor*. *Smirnowii*, used mainly to impart hardiness, adds frills to the florets and sometimes indumentum to the foliage. We must not forget the 'blues'—so many owing their colour to the *triflorum*s—*augustinii* and *oreotrepes*, or the smaller blues to *russatum*, *intricatum* or *impeditum*. What fills your heart with greater pride than those patrician hybrids of the *cinnabarinum* series—gorgeous foliage, heavy textured blooms of superb colours.

The list can go on and on and you soon learn to recognize certain traits coming from certain species.

Mike Trembath



Need help with Zoom to attend our upcoming speaker presentation?

If you have yet to join us on a Zoom meeting because you've run into problems or just haven't tried the technology, help is available.

Harold Frearing has graciously offered to help any member who is a newbie to Zoom or has been experiencing problems joining the monthly meetings so you can connect with the other members. Just contact Harold and he will work with you to get you up and Zooming!

Don't be shy asking for help if you need it, we want to see you at our meetings!

Bat House on top of the chicken coop at Barb Mathias' home.

From the Garden - Blooms and Fall Colour



Weston's Aglo





Pintail



R. schlippenbachii



R. praeevernum

Snaps from Barb Mathias







Fraser South Rhododendron Society

frasersouthernrhodos.ca

2021 Membership Form

Date _____

Membership: *[An individual or two people residing at the same address]*

_____ Full Member: (Includes ARS membership & quarterly ARS Journal)	\$55	_____
_____ ARS 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**

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