



THE YAK

Volume 35, Number 8

November 2021



R. kesangiae var *album*

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. kesangiae var *album*

Rhododendron subsection: *Grandia*

This subsection includes some of the giants of the genus with amongst the largest leaves and trusses. They require shelter and only grow to perfection in a moist mild climate with moderate temperature fluctuations.

Height: 8-12m, a large-headed, upright shrub or small tree. Branchlets often closely covered with tufts of soft hair; bark mid-brown, not peeling. Terminal buds usually rounded, green, reddish to nearly black.

Leaves: 20-30 x 10-16cm, broadly elliptic to nearly obovate, apex and base usually rounded, retained c. 2 years; upper surface glabrous with prominent lateral veins, lower surface with a variable indumentum, woolly to almost plastered, fawn to silvery white on young leaves,

Inflorescence: 15-20 flowered, usually compact

Corolla: campanulate, with nectar pouches, 3-4.7 cm long rose to pink, fading to pale pink or white; calyx small; ovary densely glandular, sometimes thinly tomentose.

Distribution: Bhutan only, 2,900-3,500m (9,500-11,500ft.), fir or hemlock forest, often with other rhododendrons or bamboo.

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

This Month

Date: Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 7:30 pm.

Place: Zoom meeting from the comfort of your own home

TITLE: Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden Society located in Sechelt, BC. – Mary Blockberger

“My presentation will cover the history of the SCBGS, from its establishment in 2002 to the present day, as well as some plans for future development. I’ll offer information on our events and programs, as well as our various collections, with particular attention to our Rhododendron collection and Native Plant Gardens. I’d be pleased to answer any questions your members may have.”

Mary is the Manager of the Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden Society located in Sechelt, BC. Mary worked in her family’s printing business for many years before leaving to pursue her love of gardening. After a few years in a retail garden centre, Mary started her own small landscaping company in the Lower Mainland. She re-located to the Sunshine Coast in 2005 after spending summers in Secret Cove since the mid-1960s. In 2006, she joined the Board of the SCBGS and was involved in the Society’s search for suitable land. In 2010, she was Board President overseeing the Groundworks project, which included the construction of the Garden Pavilion as well as significant land improvements. In 2012, when the Society realized the time for paid staff had arrived, Mary was honoured to become the first full time employee. Although most of her time is now spent in an office managing the day to day operation of the Garden, she still has her passion for and desire to have her hands in the dirt.

Next Month

The YAK will be published in December; however no meeting is currently scheduled.

2021 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:	Gerry Nemanishen	604-826-0166
	Robert Talbot	604-720-0134
	Nancy Moore	604-859-3690
Programme:	Jim Worden	604-541-4754
Membership:	Evelyn Jensen	604-857-5663
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	

Reminders - !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

WE ARE ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR MEETING SPEAKERS. PLEASE SEND YOUR SUGGESTIONS TO THE YAK EDITOR.

Submit articles, photos, or suggestions for the newsletter or else you will be stuck with the editors choices.

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

From the President



Let us all remember and honor our veterans this Remembrance Day (my late father and 2 uncles included). As we weather this pandemic, it pales in comparison to the restrictions, shortages and deaths of wartime. All things considered, we've got it pretty good!

This fall has been a bit of a trial – both Covid-wise and weather-wise. The warmth and lack of frost has been nice, but OH that rain! Despite that, at work we've been busier than a set of jumper cables at a hillbilly funeral. (Sorry – heard that a few days back and laughed). I refuse to muck about in my garden beds in the few times it's not pouring on my day off for fear of turning the soil to concrete by standing in it, but I've got all the summer pots tidied away. Dennis has cleaned out our small greenhouse, installed a new drop sheet and all is ready to jam-pack in all the half-hardies. The hellebores are budding up fine, cyclamen are up but no sign of blooms yet, and the big mahonias are fixing to open soon. The rain certainly rescued a lot of the stressed out shrubs, some even flushed out with new growth, and the bud count on the rhodos looks very promising, even though the leaf shed seemed heavier than usual.

This winter will again be quite short of family and friend interaction, as our bubble is still very small, and our club will again waive our usual wonderful Christmas supper and festivity. I am, however, finishing up another Brain Teaser for December (actually have 2 on the go – not sure yet which one will prevail). I tend to crash earlier in the evenings these dull days – once I dry out and warm up from work; my brain power seems to vanish.

Continued

From the President continued:

One year soon I would dearly appreciate someone else to come up with the entertainment – Rosemary and Art did a great job the times they stepped up, and YOU can!

We all hope to look forward to spring activities – the flower shows, plant sales and the like. I'm sure we'll be ready to get right back into the swing of things quickly when we are able. So let's put all of our efforts together to have our club survive, volunteer to help out with the positions that open up – none of which are a difficult endeavor (with exception of treasurer, I imagine) –even team up if necessary to share duties. Send ideas to the executive for presenters (Jim could use some support), send Maureen photos of things of interest or wonder in your garden, or write an article about your garden experience share, share share!

Respectfully, *Colleen B.*

ARS Fall Conference

The recorded sessions from the 2021 Fall Into Gardening conference are now available!

The poor-quality video that some people experienced during the conference was unfortunately caused by problems with the Zoom servers (beyond our control), but our own recordings are crisp and clear even at full-screen.

PLEASE NOTE If you switch to full-screen while watching a video, it may take up to 30 seconds for the HD video to load. During that time the video will look blurry, but please be patient – the HD is loading in the background, and the quality will clear up before the speaker introduction is complete.

The conference videos will be available for viewing until January 1, 2022; and we encourage you to share the link with your friends and fellow gardeners. They may wish to watch all of the presentations or you can recommend your favourites. :-)

All the sessions from both days are available at <https://marsrhodos.ca/2021-fall-into-gardening-conference/>. The password is fall2021.

Membership Renewal



Thanks to all who have already renewed their memberships for 2022!

If you have yet to renew the form is attached and should be mailed with your check to Evelyn Jensen, 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 today!

From the Editor

This year the full range of fall foliage colors came on suddenly and disappeared just as quickly with the wind and rains we've been having. I missed the glorious sunny cool days that seemed to prolong the fall colors; and of course allowed for a gradual collection of leaves. Our weather prognosticators seem to have arrived at some new terminology for the weather this fall. Or is it actually that we've never experienced these weather phenomena before? Anyway, while I'm used to hearing about the pineapple express, I've never heard of atmospheric rivers or cyclone bombs before this fall.



Rhododendron reblooms this year have not been plentiful. A few have put out one or two flowers, except for Medusa (left) which seems to be on its way to a somewhat significant rebloom. While the coleus in the planters has died, the geraniums, lobelia, and other perennials in the patio planters continue to bloom. The lantana in one patio planter, while still showing the occasion bloom, will soon have to be binned to allow for the planting of some spring bulbs. A friend of mine gave me some "Maureen"



tulip bulbs which are described as having "beautiful creamy white cup-shaped flowers at the ends of the stems in late spring". Something to look forward to!

The hummingbird feeders have been reduced to the usual numbers for the winter



months and I no longer have to fill them multiple times a day. The hardy fuchsias and the "Teddy Bear" fuchsia (left) continue to supplement their "feeder" diets. The Douglas squirrels remain daily visitors, either chasing each other through the woods, putting the run on the black or grey squirrels if they get too close, eating their fill or running off to stashes.

Lots of fall color in this month's "In The Garden", along with wonderful colors from Barb Mathias' garden. Thanks Barb!

This month we welcome Mary Blockberger, the Manager of the Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden Society located in Sechelt, BC. While I've periodically heard the garden

mentioned, I don't know that much about it. You may recall the remembrance article on Alleyne Cook of North Vancouver in the November 2019 YAK. He and his wife Barbara donated over 50 rhododendrons, some of them rare, to the Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden. Be sure to join us and learn more about the garden Future day trip anyone??? Remember to sign in prior to the 7:30 meeting start to "see" and visit with other club members.

The FSRS Executive will be meeting later this month and one topic for discussion will be how and when to start group activities in the New Year within the parameters of any Provincial Health orders that are in place. If you have any suggestions on this, please send them to the Executive, or alternatively to me and I will pass them along.

Remember, we've made it this far so please remember to renew your membership and continue to support the FSRS group until we can meet again.

Maureen Worden

From the Archives



The following articles originally appeared in the Fraser South Newsletter, November 2013 by Sue Klapwijk

Finley's Rhododendron Nursery a Brief History by Sue Klapwijk

The Finley Rhododendron Nursery grew out of a passion for rhododendrons and azaleas. My parents, Vernon and Gordon (aka 'Fin') Finley, loved to spend their summers touring the B. C. coast by boat, so mum wanted a garden that was colourful in spring and could withstand summer drought.

They had many friends who shared the same passion for the genus *Rhododendron*. They would continually trade cuttings, share seeds of new crosses, hybridize their own plants and purchase new varieties of plants. A dear family friend once gave Mom a tablespoon full of seeds, which were all planted. That fine dust turned into thousands of seedlings. It did not take Dad long to figure out that one might need a place to plant them out and that was the beginning of the nursery in Langley.



Above
R. 'F.B.C. 3'
(R. 'Fabia' x R. *bureavii*) x R. 'Crest' #3

Continued on page 9

The land was cleared, a huge lathe house was constructed to protect the seedlings and two large greenhouses were erected. This left a large open field as well as a long narrow strip by the driveway open for planting out the larger of their hybrids. They produced a number of hybrids, which they felt were good plants to propagate. None of these have been registered so far with the exception of *R.* 'Burnaby Centennial'. They always believed that a plant should not be registered until it had bloomed for about ten years to prove its worthiness and to be assured of the stability of the bloom.



Some of the tablespoon
(R. 'C.I.S.' x R. 'Lem's Goal' x R. 'Jalisco' x R. 'Yellow Creek')
x (R. 'Seattle Gold' x R. 'Lemon Custard')

Over the years, Dad produced many cuttings. He turned his hobby into a full time occupation after his retirement from medicine. He had always said to colleagues, "If you do not have a hobby, do not retire". This "hobby" also kept Mum very busy weeding, transplanting, and selling plants. All of my siblings and their children would pitch in and help with transplanting. The "Potting Parties" were a lot of fun, and thousands of plants were moved into the greenhouses in very short order. We all loved to go to plants sales. We

would set up the displays and truss shows, while the younger boys would always help people to their cars with their newly acquired plants.

Mum and Dad continued for 20 years longer and at that point Mum preferred to go golfing and Dad was no longer able to work due to failing health.

At this time the nursery was going to be closed. I always felt that they had a lot of plants that were worthy of propagation and therefore I continued with their legacy.

Sue Klapwijk

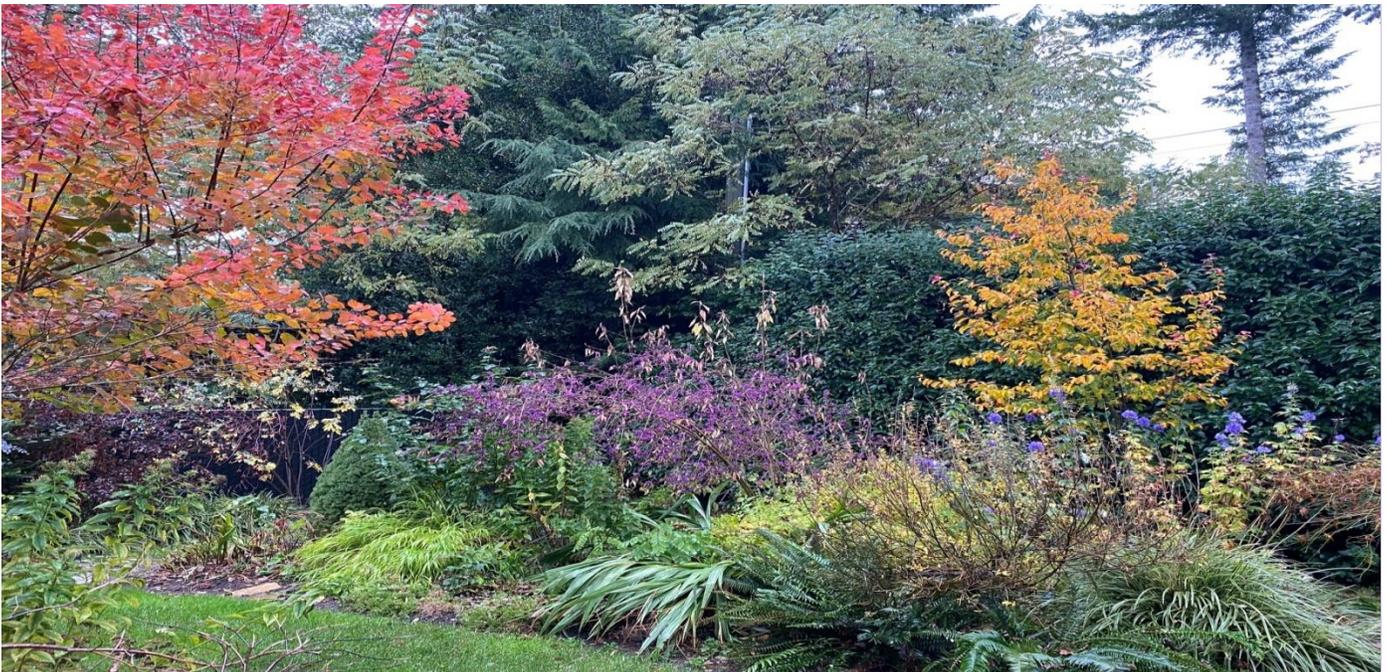


Sue & Vern in front of *R. rubiginosum*, *R. 'Carita'*, and *R. 'Calstocker'*

From the Garden



More Fall Color courtesy of Barbara Mathias



Jim Barlup Hybrids

Picture credit : Jim Barlup



Kera (Maverick x Tia)



Ladybug (Terra x Bergs Yellow x r. proteoides)



Laramie (r. yakushimanum x r. macabeanum)



Lavender Moonlight (Purple Amethyst x Plum Passion)



Lavender Satin (Jonathan Shaw x Plum High)



Legend (Point Defiance x Lems Monarch)



Lemon Charm (Horizon Lakeside x Recital)



Lemon Embers (Percy wiseman x Recital)



Lemon Passion (Tia x Bergs Yellow x r.proteoides)



Lemon Prelude (Recital x Buds Yellow)



*Lemon Sun (Recital x Fortune x Bergs Yellow
X r.proteoides)*



Light Years (Nancy Evans x Mrs. Furnival)



Fraser South Rhododendron Society

frasersouthernrhodos.ca

2022 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: Evelyn Jensen, 4614 Saddlehorn Cres. Langley, B.C. V2Z 2L7
Membership questions may be addressed to the FSRs Membership Chair,
Evelyn Jensen at 604-857-5663, or to any other FSRs officer.

Treasurer _____; FSRs database _____; YAK Editor _____ or Snail Mail _____; ARS _____.