



THE YAK

Volume 36, Number 1

January 2022



R. morii

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. morii

Rhododendron subsection: Maculifera

This subsection includes several good garden plants including some with excellent foliage. All are fairly easy to grow but the Taiwanese species are prone to Leaf-tip burn. R. morii, R. pachysanthum, R. pseudochrysanthum and R. strigillosum are probably the most widely cultivated.

Height: Up to 10m, usually less, a fairly erect or spreading shrub or small tree.

Leaves: 6.5-15 x 2-3.5cm, oblong-lanceolate, retained 1-3 years; upper surface glabrous, lower surface glabrous, midrib with +/- indumentum and/or glands; petiole floccose-tomentose and glandular.

Inflorescence: 5-15 flowered, loose to compact

Corolla: widely campanulate, 3-5cm long, white to white flushed rose, with +/- crimson spots and blotch; calyx small; ovary glandular and hairy; style tomentose near base but otherwise glabrous.

Distribution: Taiwan, 1,650-3,500m (5,500-11,500ft), abundant in central mountain ranges in conifer forests.

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

This Month

Date: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 7:30 pm.

Place: Zoom meeting from the comfort of your own home

TITLE: Rhododendron occidentale: "The Outlaw Species" – Dick "Red" Cavender (Portland ARS Chapter).

From Dick: "Like many Westerners, R. occidentale is fiercely independent. It takes great delight in confounding the taxonomists because it simply does not obey the rules! Taxonomists expect species to be fairly uniform but occidentale is extremely variable. These variations include leaf texture, flower color, size, shape and an ability to thrive throughout a very large range of habitats. The one consistent thing is occidentale's great fragrance."

Dick will show us some of the variability of the plants throughout its range and will show and tell you why you really need to have a number of these fine plants in your garden.

Dick & Karen are the owners of Red's Rhodies in Sherwood, Oregon, specializing in Rhododendron occidentale. Dick has been an avid collector, hybridizer and grower of Rhododendron occidentale for about 55 years. He has named and registered a number of wild collected clones and his hybrids.

Next Month

Date: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 7:30 pm.

Place: Zoom meeting from the comfort of your own home

Title: TBD

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
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	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

Happy New Year everyone, and I hope you're all safe and healthy. Guess what I got for Christmas - FAT – that's what I got!

Now put down the pick and shovel and the bag of salt and take a break ! The rain will soften it up a lot. We came away pretty good here – only LOTS of dry fluffy snow to shovel, but heavy drifts in the wind. We luckily swerved the nasty ice storm that hit the Chilliwack area and broke off so many trees (the town looks like a bomb went off), so I got a number of 'snow days' off work. Luckily we'd done enough inventory roughs to keep me busy a while, but now we're a bit behind, and the bedding seedlings are already arriving. I do hope you've all survived everything the last 2 weeks have dumped on us, but it'll be a while before anything looks like spring yet.

I've seen a few Hamamelis outside cracking open outside – apparently the ground under the snow isn't frozen at all. We have plenty of blooms in the cold houses – Lonicera fragrantissima and Sarcococca confusa are really smelling the place up nicely. The hummers are very busy there, and I noticed they're especially enamored of the Fatsia blooms and Camellia 'Yuletide'. My home Rhodos look a lot happier now that they've unscrewed their leaves from the tight spirals they were in for so long, and I think they'll be fine. Nothing much else to see until the snow goes – piles in several places are still 5 feet high. Hopefully spring will come soon – I'm done with cleaning and sorting and eating sweets already!

Take care of yourselves, beware the Omicron, et al, and we'll surely enjoy this month's presentation on Rhodo. occidentale by Dick Cavender. See you all then.

Respectfully, *Colleen B.*

ARS District 1 – Zoom Presentation - Saturday, January 15th at 11:00 a.m. PST.

Seamus O'Brien on "In the Shadow of Mighty Kangchenjung: A Botanical Expedition to the Bhutan and Sikkim Himalaya. Seamus is Manager of the National Botanic Garden at Kilmacurragh, Ireland

Seamus O'Brien is a veteran of many plant expeditions, author of *In the Footsteps of Augustine Henry* and *In the Footsteps of Joseph Dalton Hooker*. In 2014 Seamus led an expedition of Irish horticulturists and tree enthusiasts to the mountains of Bhutan and Sikkim following the routes of early botanical explorers such as William Griffith, Joseph Hooker, Frank Ludlow and George Sheriff. His travels took him from tropical valleys to icy glaciers, to woodlands and mountain tops. Seamus will entertain us with his recollections of these adventures in this talk.

Contact Harold Fearing if you have not received an invite to this zoom presentation.

ARS 75th Anniversary Convention

Attend the belated ARS 75th Annual Convention to be held May 4 - 8, 2022 in the founding city of Portland, Oregon. Featuring outstanding talks by renowned plant hunters, Jens Nielson and Ken Cox, Exbury Gardens Lionel de Rothschild and Tom Clarke, RSBG's Steve Hootman, and Rhododendron scientists Valerie Soza and Juliana Medeiros.

Tour beautiful Portland-area gardens and signup for the pre- and post-tours. Participate in the plant sale, photo contest, plant clinics and informative poster talks. ARS membership is not required to attend.

More convention and registration information can be found at www.ars2020.org

ARS Next Generation Program



A new program of the ARS with the goal of attracting and preparing the Next Generation (Next Gen) of rhododendron experts.

Part of the program is a series of audio podcasts. In the podcasts we learn about the life experiences of ARS members, how random twists and turns in their lives led them to discover their love of Rhododendron. Our podcasts can inspire and support others embarking on their own journey into the vast, uncharted territory that is plant genus Rhododendron.

Listen to "For the Love of Rhododendron" audio podcasts at www.rhododendron.org/next_gen_podcasts.htm

From the Editor

Happy New Year to everyone! I hope everyone enjoyed their holiday season regardless of whether plans had to be altered at the last minute.

The cold that arrived following Christmas was one for the record books. I had a few days when all I seemed to accomplish was keeping my hummingbird feeders from freezing. Unfortunately without a power outlet nearby for use by some sort of warming device, I was rotating feeders (two out, two in) every couple of hours in order to keep them usable. Thankfully as the arctic wind died down it took longer for the feeders to freeze even though temperatures remained in the minus range. More time was spent keeping the bird feeders stocked as flocks of birds arrived on mass to feed. Unfortunately the larger birds that are primarily ground feeders can't fit through the cages around the feeders to get food. My solution was to use the frozen bird bath piled up with snow to hold a pie plate full of a variety of different seeds. This quickly caught the attention of the towhees, varied thrushes, wrens and along with help from the juncos (who couldn't get near the actual hanging feeders due to the number of birds) went through copious amounts of seed. This was supplemented by a "Christmas wreath" of bird seed (hot pepper of course to keep the squirrels away) that was popular with all the various feathered species.

I always find it interesting to see what nocturnal visitors are around. The recent snow has provided a great opportunity to see what lurks around at night ... coyotes, racoons, and of course the rabbits that always seem to be around in the yard. Our newest garden crew member spends a lot of time following the scent of these furry nugget dropping residents.

A recent trend in photography seems to be the use of monochromatic tones. In this months "In The Garden" you'll see pictures where Mother Nature's monochromatic tones are in full display with no "help" by the photographer and then ends with a burst of colour in the landscape provided by the emerging Witch-Hazel *Hamamelis x intermedia 'Jelena'*. A reliable January bloomer regardless of the weather or the temperatures it reminds us the days are gradually getting longer and that spring is on the way.

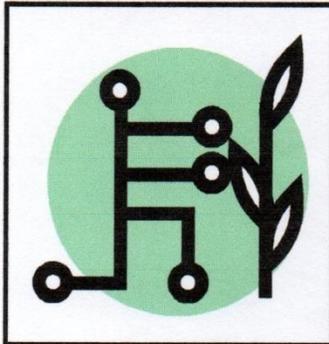
Please join us this month for *Rhododendron occidentale*: "The Outlaw Species" by Dick "Red" Cavender of the Portland ARS Chapter AND remember to contact your executive members with ideas for future speakers and any thoughts you have on resuming in person activities in the spring, the AGM, garden tours and a spring plant sale etc.

Maureen Worden

January Long Range Weather Forecast for Southern British Columbia (Source: Farmer's Almanac 2022)

Dates	Weather Conditions
Jan 1-6	Periods of rain and snow coast, snow showers inland; cold
Jan 7-12	Snow showers north, rainy periods south; mild
Jan 13-23	Sunny; mild north, cold south
Jan 24-31	Showers, mild coast; sunny, cold inland

The following articles originally appeared in the Fraser South Newsletter, January 2008 by Dalen Bayes



From the President

Notes from the Chair

There is about three inches of snow on the ground as I write this, and the garden is fully in the grasp of old man winter. It has been a rather benign winter here thus far with the lowest temperature of only 20 degrees F and no trees blown over. I say this with crossed fingers realizing that winter is not quite half over.

With the cool weather in December and several light snowfalls, spring seems a long way off. However, given a couple weeks of slightly warmer weather the Hellebores will be in bloom with *R. dauricum* soon to follow. Then the flood of early blooming species begins with the occasional halts caused by freezing temperatures. I will then be wondering where winter has gone as I haven't got any of my winter projects done, such as extensive pruning on a number of large cedars, mulching and the putting in a of new trail.



Thirty years ago Epimediums were rarely seen in North American gardens. Since then, their popularity has increased greatly. In a large part, this is due to the introduction of many new species and cultivars from China. There are now over eighty species identified, with ninety percent of them identified in the last thirty years. Undoubtedly many more species will be found in the mountains and valleys of China. Further hybridizing will also result in many new cultivars. The actual number of cultivars now exceeds one thousand.

Although, they were originally thought of as shade plants that could tolerate dryness, they are now considered very adaptable, and will grow in most areas in the garden as long as the location is not both dry and exposed to full sun. Epimediums will do their best in dappled or light shade with a rich, moist, well-drained soil. They are tough, long-lived perennials that require little maintenance. Almost all of them are hardy in the Northwest. They can be given a balanced fertilizer in the spring, and a few species will also benefit from an application of lime at the same time. Epimediums should be cut back to the ground in early spring before the tender flowering stems arise.

The flowers of Epimediums consist of two sets of four sepals and one set of four petals. The outer set of sepals are much like bud scales and drop as the flowers emerge. The main floral interest in the flower can be from the sepals or the petals, depending on the particular species or hybrid. In some plants the sepals are greatly expanded, with relatively insignificant petals, and in others the sepals are much reduced and the petals are significantly larger and often spurred. The sepals and petals are usually of different colors - this differentiation and the inherently wide range of colors result in almost endless combinations. Individual flowers are half an inch to two inches in diameter. They are carried on racemes rising several inches or more above the foliage.



E. davidii

The foliage on Epimediums can be either evergreen or deciduous and is round, heart, or lance shaped and carried on tough wiry stems. The leaves can be rimmed with red, brown or purple margins, or mottled in yellow, bronze, red, or brown colors, resulting in the most interesting foliage.

Epimedium davidii is one of our favorites, with its large yellow petals, which are spurred, and smaller red sepals. The foliage is evergreen, with mottled new foliage. This is one species



E. davidii



E. x rubrum

that will benefit from an application of lime in the spring. Another favorite is *E. x rubrum*, whose new foliage, rimmed in red, emphasizes the red flowers dancing above. *E. grandiflorum* varies from six inches in height to almost three feet. The flower colors vary from



E. x rubrum

white, yellow, rose red, purple-red to purple. There are more than fifty named cultivars for this species. Our cultivar is *E. grandiflorum* 'White Queen', which has large white petals backed by small red sepals. Another favorite, and new



E. grandiflorum 'White Queen'.

introduction is *E. acuminatum*. The clone we have has lance-shaped leaves up to 6 inches long, mottled in a striking red-brown color that changes to pink and then to green. It blooms throughout the summer, with large flowers of white inner sepals and purple petals.

Epimediums have a number of common names. One is Fairy Wings, named for the dainty flowers dancing in the breeze above the foliage. They are also called Barrenwort for their supposed ability to reduce fertility in women. But the most intriguing common name is Horny Goat Weed. Legend has it that long ago

in China, a goat herder noticed greatly increased sexual activity in his goat flock after they consumed the plant. Today it is one of the important herbal products consumed in China. Maybe this



E. acuminatum

is why their population is one and a half billion, although it seems tricky to reconcile the two seemingly opposing functions captured by the common names Barrenwort and Horny Goat Weed. It is also supposed benefit the liver, kidneys and counter the effects of old age. Like most herbal medicines, no scientific tests have been done on it, so



E. acuminatum

I wouldn't throw out your Viagra yet. In China it is harvested in the wild, resulting in the endangerment of several species. I will have some liquid concentrations and leaves for you at the next meeting, if I can get them across the border. Actually all I am going to do is change some name tags - it is a rather striking name.



From the Garden







Jim Barlup Hybrids

Picture credit : Jim Barlup



Mary Abair (Golden Mist x Macs Orange Crush)



Maverick (Hachmanns Charmant x Recital)



Mella (Amber Touch x Recital)



Melinda Hiatt (Glenna x Dexters Champagne)



Mellow sun (Maverick x Tia)



Mesquite (Hills Low Red x Marie Starks)



Midnight Sing (Purple Twilight x Black Widow)



Mike Peterson (Evening Embers x Hollis Hope)



Mindys Love (Nancy Evans x Lionels Triumph)



*Moes Journey (Mrs Furnivall x Coronation Day x
Elegant Touch)*



Morning Dew (Mrs JC Williams x Plum High)



Morries song (Violet Mist x Black Adder)