



# THE YAK

Volume 37, Number 10

December 2023



**Mary Fleming**

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

<http://frasersoutherhododendron.ca>

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

In person 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.

## Cover:



**Mary Fleming**

Lepidote rhododendron

Height: two feet in 10 years

Leaves: small leaves about 2" long, dull, dark green. Leaves are bronze when new and in the winter. Sun and heat tolerant. Bronze young growth.

Flower/Truss Description: Flower campanulate, wavy edges, about 1" across, cream flushed strong to light purplish pink, darker blotch in throat. Each bud has 2 or 3 flowers. Multiple buds grouped together.

Cold Hardiness Temp: -15°F ( -26°C)

Parentage: (Seed Parent x Pollen Parent):  
(racemosum x keiskei) x keiskei

Hybridized or Selected by: Nearing

Sources:  
*Rhododendrons & Azaleas A Colour Guide*, Kenneth N.E. Cox  
ARS: [www.rhododendron.org](http://www.rhododendron.org)

## Next Meeting

**Date:** Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm.

**Place:** Zoom meeting (in the comfort of your own home)

**Topic:** Gardens for the Ages: Cowichan Valley, Garth Wedemire

In May 2018, the North Island Society members organized a Bus Tour of six locations in the Cowichan Valley. It was a one-day tour that offered an opportunity to visit some of the "Gardens For The Ages" in the Duncan, Genoa Bay and Cobble Hill areas of Vancouver Island.

This presentation by Garth Wedemire will focus on three of the gardens visited with special attention to some of the best rhododendrons and azaleas growing in those gardens. Mistyview Farm Garden (Alan and Liz Murray) in Cobble Hill will be our first stop. Camelot Ridge (Don Loewen) located on Genoa Bay will be our second garden. The final garden will be a visit to a historic garden (Maple Bay Manor) on Maple Bay near Duncan.



**BIO:** As a 6-year-old, Garth was caught picking roses from the rectory garden in his hometown of Seaford Town, Jamaica. Explaining to the priest that the little bouquet was meant as a gift for the priest, Garth demonstrated early on that he was not only fascinated with plants and flowers, but quick-witted and keen to share his love of plants with others.

Garth was a member of the Vancouver Rhododendron Society for 40 years and was one of the founding members of the Fraser Valley Rhododendron Chapter. Latterly, he has memberships and associate memberships in the Nanaimo, North Island, Fraser South Victoria, and Atlantic Rhododendron chapters. Garth is the recipient of three American Rhododendron Society Bronze medals – one from the Vancouver chapter, one from the Fraser Valley chapter and one from the North Island chapter. He received a Silver Medal from the ARS District 1 in 2013.

*Cont'd*

## 2023 ELECTED OFFICERS

President:	Gerry Nemanishen	604-826-4660
Past Pres:	Colleen Bojczuk	604-826-4221
Vice Pres:	Jim Worden	604-541-4754
Secretary:	Vacant	
Treasurer(s):	Gerry Nemansihen	604-826-4660
	Colleen Bojczuk	604-826-4221
Directors:	Robert Talbot	604-720-0134
	Colleen Bojczuk	604-826-4221
	Cheryl Harvey	604-556-2441
	Aird Flavelle	604-870-4221

## VOLUNTEERS

Programs:	Vacant	
Membership:	Vacant	
Newsletter:	Maureen Worden	604-541-4754
Librarian:	Gerald Nemanishen	604-826-4660
Website:	Maureen Worden	604-541-4754
Hospitality:	Vacant	

## Reminders - !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**Vacancies** - Please consider contributing to the group by volunteering for the executive or very important volunteer positions. Contact a member of the executive for further information.

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

Relying on the knowledge he gained as a math and computer studies teacher, Garth was instrumental in developing and maintaining many of the websites of District 1. He is on the board of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington and a member of the Rhododendron, Magnolia and Camellia Group of the Royal Horticultural Society.

His love of the genus Rhododendron is manifested in his prolific photography as well as plant-hunting travels to Nepal and China and his visits to many gardens throughout Canada, the U.S., New Zealand, and Great Britain. He currently lives with his wife Sue in Langley.

## From the President



Happy holidays to you all.

We tried something new for our Christmas get together this year. We met at Newlands Golf Course for a brunch. A majority of our membership were there. For the rest of you, you missed a bit of comradery.

No snow yet but that may change later this month. Hopefully you got your garden bedded down before our atmospheric river. Here in Mission, we had the second highest rainfall in the province with some 98 mm. I have not heard of any damage or flooding.

Finally, it is renewal time for your membership. Renewals have been trickling in and we are up to double digits. We are at about half of last years' membership. Maureen will include a renewal form in this issue of the Yak. The membership fees remain the same. My address will be on the form to mail me your renewal and cheque.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald Nemanishen, President



## *From the Editor*

Holiday greetings to everyone. We've been extremely busy here the last few weeks with gardening activities, appointments, errands, the club luncheon and getting decorated and organized for the festive season. The head gardener and the garden crew requested extra help for the upcoming season as the senior garden crew member retired from active duty last summer. After many discussions and an agreement that the head gardener would take on all night time duties, a new crew member joined us a month ago from Red Deer. Both he and the junior gardener share the same father (we'll see how the relative connection works out). Needless to say with the crew now ranging from 3 months to 14 years everyone has been busy adjusting and making sure that existing routines (like walks) are still happening. He's already showing signs that he will be taking over pruning activities from the junior gardener come spring.

"In the Garden this month shows two fairly full reblooms that we had in November with the mild weather. Other rhodos in the garden are still showing the odd bloom. Even the witch hazel had some flowers out last month. It will be interesting to see when / if the rhododendrons that had a major bloom in October / November will bloom again next season.

Sorry more of you were unable to join us at the Christmas luncheon due to work, vacations, etc. We were pleased to finally have an opportunity to meet FSRs member Colette Savarie who drove in from Deroche for the lunch. We have an excellent Zoom lined up for our January meeting, so until then, whatever your plans are for the holiday season, we wish you the Merriest Christmas and all good wished for 2024.

*Maureen Worden*

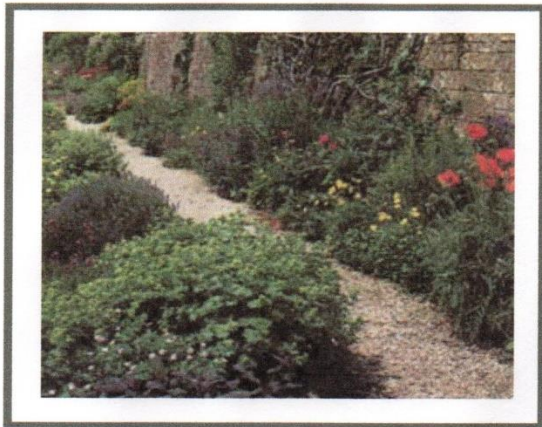
*Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas*



*Norwegian Gonks, turned by Jim Worden*



The following article originally appeared in the Fraser South Newsletter, December 2007 by Norma Senn



Those of you who were at last year's Christmas party will remember that Colleen came up with a new party game where we had to supply hybrid Rhody names to complete her story. The following is a direct steal of Colleen's idea, so – blame her. Merry Christmas!

Having attended many FSRS December parties (and June picnics), I can say with confidence, that most of us enjoy our **Christmas Cheer** – and, whether it's in the form of **Apple Brandy**, **Brandywine** or **Sparkling Burgundy**, we all leave with a nice **Warm Glow**. I've noticed we like our snacks too, so good menu additions include **Peppermint Twists** and **Sugar and Spice Cookies**.

One of the things I like best at this time of the year is that the season is full of **Glad Tidings**, like those first heralded with the appearance of the **Royal Star** when the **Yaku Angels** sang **Hallelujah**, be of good **Cheer**, with **Peace** on Earth.

Most of us spend time thinking about finding perfect family gifts. I don't know if they really like it very much, but lots of Dads are destined to receive some **Old Spice**. Mothers, of course, get **Perfume**, and for children, a **Teddy Bear** is always a popular gift.

Family activities are important too, and many of us like to watch the classic movie, 'A Christmas Carol' by **Charles Dickens**. In addition to the usual shows, you can also watch **Olive, The Other Reindeer**, a "new" children's classic. And, did you know that when he was just a fawn and before his nose turned red, **Rudolph's Orange** nose still glowed? Perhaps your family likes to gather together to read stories like

## Up the Garden Path It's That Time of Year Again

**Hansel and Gretsel** to your children and grandchildren.

While we're out shopping, the **Salvation Army Bell Ringers** will be using lots of **Jingle Bells** to collect money for those in need. However, such activities are weather dependent and a **Snowstorm** may keep us all at home.

At the North Pole, it's a busy time for **Santa** and his helpers, but if there's lots of **Arctic Snow**, **Rose Elf** and her friends will take some time to play, making lots of **Boule de Neige** for a friendly snowball fight. Here on the Coast, we usually have a green Christmas, so for us, **Falling Snow** at Christmas makes for a very magical **Evening Glow**.

**Christmas Cheer**: early, pink flowered *caucasicum* hybrid.



**Apple Brandy**: compact Yak hybrid with silver tomentum and silvery pink flowers.

**Brandywine**: mall, cream coloured flowers edged in pink, to 3 feet (*pubescens* x *keiskei*).



**Sparkling Burgundy**: a May blooming hybrid of 'Purple Splendour' x *macrophyllum*.



**Warm Glow:** the pale orange flowers with darker throat are held in a lax truss; a cross between *dichroanthum* and 'Vida'.

**Peppermint Stick:** as you might guess, it has white flowers edged with red

**Sugar and Spice:** Greer describes this as a fantastic hybrid! Bright creamy white flowers with a golden brown blotch; dark, slender leaves (Greer really likes this hybrid, just read his comments!)

**Cookie:** fragrant, large flowers of rose spotted maroon.

**Glad Tidings:** large flowers of blended cream and pink; also has large leaves ('China' x *williamsianum*).

**Royal Star:** 'Moser's Maroon' x unknown; deep purple flowers with dark blotch; plant is compact in habit.

**Yaku Angel:** lovely plant with narrow, recurved leaves; tan indumentum; flowers are pink in bud and open to clear white.



**Hallelujah:** another one that Greer really likes; good foliage and handsome plant; bright rose red flowers.



**Cheer:** a vigorous grower with glossy green leaves; flowers are pink.



**Peace:** (*rigidum* x *concatenans*); small plant with flowers held in a lax truss.

**Old Spice:** large, scented pink flowers shading to apricot (*decorum* x 'Azor').

**Perfume:** another fragrant hybrid, this time a *fortunei* cross. Best grown with overhead shade.

**Teddy Bear:** a *bureavii* x *yak* cross; lovely cinnamon-red indumentum; soft pink flowers on a compact plant.



**Charles Dickens:** a *catawbiense* hybrid; slow growing and hardy. Flowers are dark red and spotted.



**Olive:** one of our very early hybrids; pink flowers, a *moupinense* x *dauricum* hybrid.



**Rudolph's Orange:** flowers are light orange with pink shading.

**Hansel and Gretsel:** Sister seedlings, a Lem cross between *bureavii* and 'Fabia'. Both have good foliage with nice indumentum, and flowers are orange with pastel shading.



**Bellringer:** soft, creamy white flowers on an attractive plant.



**Jingle Bells:** flowers open reddish orange then change to yellow; a fairly low-growing plant.



**Snowstorm:** another yak hybrid; the flowers are fragrant, white with rose spotting.

**Arctic Snow:** late May for bloom; flowers are white with yellow markings; fragrant.

**Rose Elf:** a sweet, small plant; flowers are orchid pink; a *racemosum* x *pemakoense* hybrid



**Boule de Neige:** a tough plant, cold hardy and also able to tolerate heat; flower trusses look like snowballs.



**Falling Snow:** a yak hybrid with white flowers, many flowers/truss; plant habit is good.

**Evening Glow:** compact growth, late blooming time, and resistance to heat stress make this a good yellow.

*Norma Senn*





*From The Garden - November Reblooms*



*R. ambiguum*



*Glendoick Gold (according to the tag)*



## *Rhododendrons of the Year Plant Awards*

NW USA / Canada Region (2016)



### **Elepidote Rhododendron: 'Seaview Sunset'**

Flower inside light yellow edged with broad band of red-orange, outside deep yellowish pink, openly campanulate, wavy edges, 2" across. Dome-shaped trusses hold 16 flowers. Blooms early. Leaves elliptic, flat, down curved edges, broadly acute apex, cuneate base, 4" long, semi-glossy, dark green, retained 3-4 years. Grows to a typical height of about 3 ft. in 10 yrs. Cold hardy to 10°F (-12°C). Hybridized by Fujioka.



### **Lepidote Rhododendron: 'Too Bee'**

Flower pink with lighter throat and strong red spots, reverse darker pink, openly funnel-shaped, wavy to frilly lobes, 1½" across. Held in clusters of 3-5 lax flowers. Blooms early midseason. Leaves elliptic, acute apex, cuneate base, 1⅞" long, convex, dull, retained 2 years. Grows twice as broad as high, rounded and well-branched habit. Grows to a height of about 1 ft. in 10 yrs. Plant is cold hardy to -10°F (-23°C). Hybridized by Berg.



### **Evergreen Azalea: 'Glacier'**

Flower white with faint greenish tone, single, funnel-shaped, 2½" to 3" across. Inflorescence 2-3 flowered. A midseason bloomer. Leaves glossy, dark green. Erect to spreading habit. Vigorous grower. Grows to a height of about 5 ft. in 10 yrs. Cold hardy to -5°F (-21°C). Hybridized by Morrison.



### **Deciduous Azalea: 'Molalla Red'**

Flower red, unmarked, widely funnel-shaped, frilly edges, 3" across. Ball-shaped trusses have 8 flowers. Blooms late midseason to late. Leaves elliptic, apiculate apex, cuneate base, 2½" - 3½" long, slightly wrinkled above, deciduous. Upright, spreading plant habit. Grows to a typical height of 5 ft. in 10 yrs. Cold hardy to -15°F (-26°C). Hybridized by Arneson.

Photos (top to bottom) by Frank Fujioka, Odo Tschetsch, courtesy of U.S. National Arboretum, by Diane Weissman.



**Elepidote Rhododendron: 'True Blue'**

Flower inside light purple, with dark purple dorsal lobe spotting and white stamens; outside vivid purple, funnel-campanulate, wavy-edged, 2¼" across. Conical-shaped truss holds 21-25 flowers. Blooms early midseason to midseason. Leaves ovate, broadly acute apex, rounded base, 6" long, glossy, moderate olive green. Dense plant habit. Grows to a typical height of about 5 ft. in 10 yrs. Cold hardy to 10°F (-12°C). Hybridized by Bones.



**Lepidote Rhododendron: 'Razorbill'**

Flower near pale purplish-pink, with variable darker pink overtones, tubular-shaped, about ½" across. Held in conical-shaped trusses with 6-12 flowers. Blooms early midseason. Leaves ovate, ¾" to 2" long, ciliate, dull, dark green. Grows wider than tall. Typical height of about 2 ft. in 10 yrs. Plant is cold hardy to 0°F (-18°C). Hybridized by Cox. Received the Award of Merit and the First Class Certificate from the Royal Horticultural Society.



**Evergreen Azalea: 'Schneeperle' (syn. 'Snow Pearl')**

Flower white with strong/light yellow-green spotting on dorsal lobe, funnel-shaped, double, slightly wavy edged, 1⅜"-1¾" across. Two buds at shoot tips. A midseason bloomer. Leaves ovate, rounded to acute apex, cuneate base, about 1" long, glossy, dark green. Dense, semi-prostrate plant habit. Grows to a height of about 2 ft. in 10 yrs. Cold hardy to -10°F (-23°C). Hybridized by Hachmann.



**Deciduous Azalea: 'Totally Awesome'**

Flower brilliant and light yellow with vivid reddish-orange edges and vivid yellow dorsal blotch, reverse deep yellowish-pink, openly funnel-shaped, wavy lobes, 4" across. Some flowers with petal-like stamens. Dome-shaped truss with 7 flowers. A midseason bloomer. Leaves narrower than narrowly elliptic, acute apex, narrowly cuneate base, 2¾" to 3¼" long, concave, glossy, dark yellowish-green. Upright, well-branched plant. Grows to a height of about 4 ft. in 10 yrs. Cold hardy to -5°F (-21°C). Hybridized by Bunnell.

Photos (top to bottom) by Harold Greer, Kenneth Cox, Tijs Huisman, Don Wallace.



## The Life & Death of Hirsutum Now its Resurrection as Rhododendra

Many of us couldn't believe the wealth of information and photos that became available on Hirsutum. It was too good to be true. It required a continuing web presence and constant maintenance. In 2021, it lost its web presence and had lost maintenance in 2015. It was just announced that Canadian web-guru John Verwolf has created [Rhododendra](http://www.rhododendra.com/) which is a functional replacement for Hirsutum. The new website is at <http://www.rhododendra.com/>



John Verwolf

On June 4, 2009, a website, Hirsutum.info, was created by Herman van Ree in the Netherlands. The goal of the Hirsutum project was to collect as much information and as many photos as possible concerning rhododendrons. This included species, hybrids, azaleas, vireyas and azaleodendrons. It was amazing how quickly this website grew. The actual ambitious goal of posting photos and information was being carried out by one person, Marjo Schletter, Herman's wife.

It eventually grew to over 20,000 entries. I was skeptical at first that such a site would last for very long. However, it grew and grew and became the go-to site for rhododendron information. Finally, on July 19, 2012, after seeing Hirsutum grow, I made available to Herman and Marjo, 2,000 of my photos at <http://rhodyman.net/hirsutum.html>. Hirsutum listed over a 1,200 hybridizers and had over 10,000 photos contributed by over 150 photographers from around the world. The major contributors were Garth Wedemire from Canada, Everard Daniel from England, Herman van Ree, and Tijs Huisman from Holland. Valley Forge Chapter's Jim Willhite was also contributing photos and was the major contributor from the US.

Then in 2015, Herman van Ree announced he was discontinuing his involvement with the Hirsutum website. The website continued to be available, but with no new information. Then, in 2021, the website stopped working altogether. There were some archives of the Hirsutum site that saved some pages, but since Hirsutum was database driven, only a portion of the information was available in the archives.

Recently, on November 13, 2023, Ken Webb announced "they have a guy on Vancouver Island who is working on rebuilding the Hirsutum Website." His name is John Verwolf. Rhododendra is the name of his new website, <http://www.rhododendra.com/>. He still has to add information about hybridizers and botanists from the old Hirsutum website and he is going to build a public input system so that users can add information as they collect it. However, for all intents and purposes, Rhododendra is up and running and has most of the functionalities that Hirsutum had.

Thank you John Verwolf!

Steve Henning  
ARS Dist. 8 Dir.



**SAVE THE DATE !**  
**ARS 2024 Spring Convention**  
**Bellingham, Washington**  
**May 2-5, 2024**

**Four Points by Sheraton, Bellingham**  
**Hotel and Conference Center**  
**714 Lakeway Drive, Bellingham, WA, USA, 98229**  
**Phone: +1 360-671-1011**

***Highlights:***

**Pre-Tour: May 1: Private Gardens around Seattle**

**Convention: Tours \* Seminars \* Workshops \* Banquets**

**Post-Tour: May 5: Gardens around Vancouver, Canada**

***Time to check your Passport!***

***Plus:***

**Plant Sales \* Auctions \* Raffles \* Photo Booth \* Poster Session**

***Help get the message out!***

**Please forward to friends and gardeners in your  
community and around the globe.**

**Visit [ARS2024.org](https://ARS2024.org) for more information and to register.**





# Fraser South Rhododendron Society

frasersouthernrhodos.ca

## 2024 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: Gerald Nemanishen 31930 Viewcrest Ave. Mission, B.C. V4S 1E7  
Membership questions may be addressed to the FSRS Membership Chair,  
Gerald Nemanishen at 604-826-4660 or to any other FSRS officer.

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