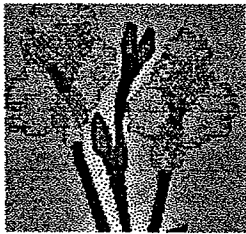


A Chapter of the ARS



Wednesday, October 15, 1997  
8.00 p.m.  
St. Andrews Anglican Hall  
20955 Old Yale Rd., Langley

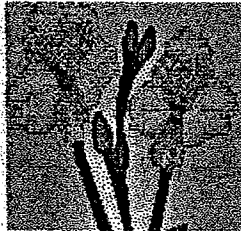


Guest Speaker

**Pam Erikson**

of

**Erikson's Daylily Gardens**  
24642 51st Ave.  
Langley, BC



## Yakalendar



- Oct. 18-19 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
F O G Apple Festival  
UBC Botanical Garden  
info: 822 - 9666
- Oct. 29 1-3 p.m.  
Riverview Public Tree Tour  
for info phone 290 - 9910
- Oct. 22 (Wed) 8.00 p.m.  
Public Lecture  
**Douglas Justice**  
"Native Plants in the Lanscape"  
Langley Campus Auditorium  
Kwantlen University College
- Nov. 19 ( Wed.) 8.00 p.m.  
Public Lecture ( above address)  
**Ruth Olde**  
" Great Garden Rooms"
- Nov. 19 8.00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting FSRS

Pam plans to tell us about the use of daylillies as companion plants in a rhododendron garden.

We are hoping that she will bring some of her lovely plants. After being enlightened about their uses, and great beauty, we will be certain to want to add them to our gardens

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### September Meeting

We came, we saw, and we were routed. !! We milled about in confusion, until one of our brave members sought enlightenment - the hall was to be used for a church reception; but room was found for us in the library. Our resourceful members found: chairs (adults for the use of ), electric outlets (for the coffee maker - absolutely vital) and for the projector for our speaker's slides ( almost as vital). It was all very cozy, and perhaps even more informal than usual, but a very enjoyable evening.. Many went home with new plant material - some old favourites, and some new, brought over from Harry's Haida Gold Nursery. Thank you sir !

### Propagation Clinic

A few of us met at Clay's Nursery Sat.(Sept. 27) morning for a demonstration and some hands-on practice in the art of dealing with cuttings, and doing grafts. Les was his usual helpful, patient, self - answering questions re methods, materials, propagation media and 'home care' requirements.

We spoke of rooting hormones and aids, nurse grafts, grafting on rooted stock, and Les demonstrated side grafts, cleft and saddle grafts

Viki and Mike Neyedli willingly tried their hand at grafting, and went home with some Yellow Pippin on Cunningham's White. We'll be awaiting the results come spring!

How fortunate we are to have a 'resident expert' willing to share his wisdom and experience! Thank you Les.

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### DUES

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Yes it is getting to be that time again, and Viki will be prepared to accept your membership fees at the October meeting. Membership renewals have to be processed to the USA, and .if late, one could miss a Journal issue - lets get them in early

Note :

- 1. The ARS has increased fees by \$3 (US)
- 2. District 1 (ours) is assessing each chapter \$3 (Can) per member to help defray the expenses incurred by our district director, who is required to attend executive meetings of the ARS hither and yon on the North American continent.

In spite of these increases, your executive, in its benign wisdom , has decreed that they will NOT raise our dues this year. The club will absorb the extra costs, and hope that we may make up the difference by some fund raising if necessary. Our fee structure remains as last year:

Full member      \$35.00

Associate        \$10.00

(for those holding full mmbshp in another club)

FOFS              \$20.00

(Friends of Fraser South - who regularly attend our functions and receive **The Yak**)

editor

M. L Trembath

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Aldergrove, BC, V4W 1J1

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e-mail ve7hv@planeteeer.com



### The Rhododendron Species Foundation

Fraser South is an associate member of the RSF and plans to renew membership for 1998. The Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden 2525 S. 336th St., Federal Way WA, is operated by the RSF.

Membership in the RSF confers the following benefits:

- ❖ 2 copies of the newsletter sent to group
- ❖ One-time garden pass for free admission for each member
- ❖ Discounted garden admissions
- ❖ Pollen offerings
- ❖ Open List offerings in plant distribution catalogues

The garden lists fall (Sept.) and Spring plant distributions, and copies of these lists of plants are in the library. Plants may be ordered - with the customary requirements of Dept. of Agriculture import license and inspection. Some clubs have imported a number of these special hard-to-come-by species for their members - the cost seems high, with exchange etc. and the plants rather small - but choice varieties are available. Keep in mind a visit to the garden if you are traveling that way - well worth it.

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### I didn't know that;

From the MARS newsletter for Oct.: The common practice of referring to the furry covering of the undersurface of leaves as "indumentum" while the felty coverings on the upper surface of leaves is called "tomentum" is a misconception. It seems that the term "indumentum" refers to the dense woolly or hairy covering found on (some) leaves - while the term "tomentum" refers to the pubescence (soft, short hairs) on stems, petioles or ovaries.

This led me to check out a couple of glossaries and found the following not too specific information:

**Davidian** - indumentum - A hairy covering, particularly of the lower surface of the leaves.  
tomentum - Dense hair covering.

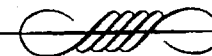
**Greer** - indumentum - a woolly or hairy covering on leaves or stems.  
tomentose - Covered with short dense hairs.

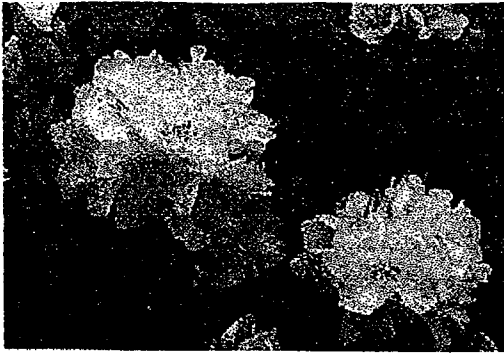


Edward Everett Hale

1822 - 1909

In New England History in Ballads, he prefaces a ballad, Rose Island, with the suggestion that Rhode Island was thus named because of the glory of the rhododendron, blooming in profusion when Adrian Block landed and gave the island a name.





## Unique to me

It was on impulse. So little time - just buy something in the hope she likes it. My attention was captured by the clerk. "Colour? You mean I have a choice? Rhododendron bloom? A variety of colours, names, and time of flowering?" My ignorance was so all-encompassing that those at the nursery must have thought they had found a Neanderthal caught up in some time warp. This scenario was unfolding as I purchased my first rhododendron.

Not only was I confused about colour, size, and growth habit, I thought hardiness might relate to iron in the soil - a sort of geritol for plants. The surprise is that I actually did buy a plant, a rhododendron called "Unique". Partly because of the above memories "Unique" is one of my favourite rhododendrons. Whether beginners luck or the work of Providence, "Unique" has never failed to reward our garden with beautiful blossoms and to bless us with exquisite foliage.

At the nursery I had been pragmatic. The plant was small but compact. While the \$10 price tag seemed extravagant at the time it was attractive. "Unique" looked at me begging for a chance to bloom in a loving environment. Back then I could neither spell nor correctly pronounce "rhododendron".

I reflected on the philology of rhododendron in its classic Greek origins. But this tree (dendron) was allegedly yellow or cream rather than red (rhod). I have since learned that "Unique" is more a shrub than a tree.

Each leaf of "Unique" appears to have been sculpted with a precise uniformity, an almost perfect ellipse punctuated by a tiny red dot at the apex opposite the stem. The leaves

cling densely on the rounded plant so that it becomes a thick mound of clover green.

The beauty of the growth habit is comparable to that of the foliage and flower. I can verify from careful scrutiny over the years, that the plant is as uniform as the foliage, becoming a neatly symmetrical shrub. In our garden "Unique" is 6 ft. tall and 8ft. wide after 25 years. It should be noted that at the time of purchase the plant was 3 years old. She thrives in her location of full sun (if such a phenomenon is possible here in the land of continual monsoons).

"Unique" is a campylocarpum hybrid, registered by W.C.Sloccock. It won an Award of Merit as long ago as 1934, and a First Class Certificate in 1935. Perhaps the awarders considered the plant's progressive colour show. The promised blossoms lurk in lush pink buds which open to a rich, buttery cream flower. Over the ensuing weeks "Unique" fades to white accented by dark brown anthers until the flowers fall reluctantly from the plant. "Unique" never fails to bloom. Every year in mid-April (Judy's birthday is the 13th, the occasion for the purchase from the nursery) we are rewarded by her beauty. Older plants become so covered with flowers that every leaf is hidden.

A further asset of this unique rhododendron is its ease of propagation. She roots readily from cuttings, and is not reluctant to hybridize. "Unique" tends to pass on her attractive characteristics in crosses.

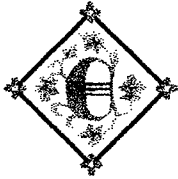
Plants, especially rhododendrons, stimulate memories. "Unique" brings me unique memories. It is the first rhododendron I purchased. The first of a galloping addiction, and education. It is the first rhododendron I gave as a gift. Judy liked it 25 years ago and still appreciates its blossoms each year on her birthday. And she didn't need to return it for re-sizing. It is the first plant I exhibited, winning an honourable mention in a 1979 show - my first ribbon.

Rhododendrons are like friendships. The time taken to cultivate them brings rewarding memories. And each one is unique.

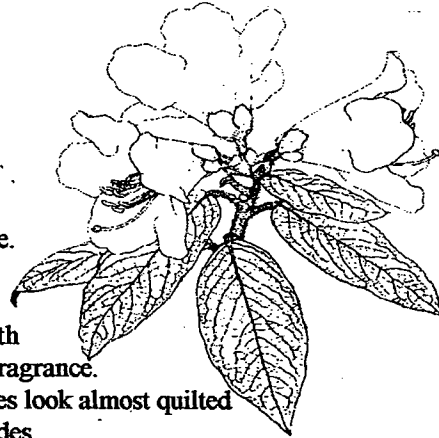
Bobby Ogdon



## A Rhododendron Primer



is for *edgeworthii*



I know, I know...*Rhododendron edgeworthii* is not hardy here. But if you are able to provide the right over-wintering conditions then this species is a wonderful addition to a collection.

*R. edgeworthii* has lovely white flowers that may be tinged with pink, but what makes these flowers so wonderful is their exquisite fragrance. The foliage is dark green and the deep veination pattern makes leaves look almost quilted when seen from the top, while white indumentum coats the undersides.

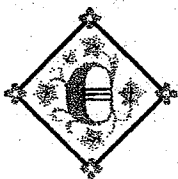
The species is native to Sikkim, Bhutan, parts of Tibet and Burma and is found growing at elevations from 6,000 to 13,000 feet. According to Peter Cox in The Smaller Rhododendrons, this plant must have superb drainage. He reports having seen it in the wild growing on trees as an epiphyte, much the way we think of orchids growing on tree limbs in the tropical jungles.

I have a small potted plant of *R. edgeworthii*. I put it outside for the summer after all danger of frost. It receives morning and late afternoon sun, but has overhead protection at noon. By Thanksgiving, I bring it inside and move it to a cool window ledge for the winter. I have managed to get this plant, along with a few other tender species, through the last couple of winters, although they essentially just sit there because the light is so low. Anyone with a cool sunporch or greenhouse should be able to over-winter *R. edgeworthii* easily.

Drainage is important for this plant and I am careful to see that, while I water it regularly, I make sure the container never sits in water. I use a fairly porous potting mix with peat moss, some perlite and some orchid bark in it. Since I tend to forget fertilizing my indoor plants, I top dress my tender rhodies with tiny amounts of Osmocote every couple of months.

While *R. edgeworthii* is around, it is not locally as readily available as hardy species.. To obtain my own plant, I ordered a rooted cutting from the Rhododendron Species Foundation. It hasn't flowered yet (it's still very small), but hope springs eternal, and it's well-worth the wait.

Norma Senn



is for *Elizabeth*

One of the famous 'Bloody Reds' of Bodnant, this hybrid was registered by Lord Aberconway in 1929. The cross is *R. forrestii* (Repens Group) x *R. griersonianum*. (The reverse cross produced Creeping Jenny - very similar in flower but having more decumbent branches). *R. Elizabeth* received the Award of Merit (RHS) in 1939, and a First-Class Certificate (RHS) in 1949

One of my favourite old hybrids, this fast growing, compact, easy-to-root plant grows about 3 ft. in ten years, and is wider than tall. As an edging for large planting areas, or in the front of beds, it is reliable and showy. Leaves are dark green, narrowly oblong and held for three years. The flowers are relatively large, funnel-campanulate in shape and bright red in colour. The lax trusses carry 6-8 florets and the bloom is long-lasting (perhaps because it's an early season bloomer) and fades pleasantly to a rosier hue. It tends to sport the occasional bloom in the fall - which may or may not please you - but altogether it is a very satisfactory, bright addition to the garden.

Vern Finley

# DOGSITALL

BY INDUMENTUM

We often recognise familiar things in the natural world more by behaviour and habits rather than the details of appearance. For example, if a shy Rufous-sided Towhee scurries through the shrubbery, we know what it is, even though we may have barely glimpsed it.

As rhododendrons are not in flower for most of the year, we gradually learn to recognise them by their foliage and growth habits. In their new book, "The Encyclopedia of Rhododendron Species", Peter and Kenneth Cox call this the 'gestalt' approach to rhododendron identification. The essence of a species is not just a sum of its botanical description but more a subconscious recognition of a host of visual characteristics which allow an identification to be made. This is why it is so important for botanical gardens to have consistent plant labelling as it is so much more rewarding and efficient to study actual species than to try and figure them out from a book.

Many species are so distinctive that often the foliage and growth habit is more useful than the flower for identification. *R. pachysanthum* with its silvery indumentum rather like my own, springs immediately to mind. Last Spring we went several times to gaze fondly on a beautiful specimen of *R. clementinae* in the Valley Gardens in England. The combination of leaf shape, texture and overall growth habit is extraordinary.

Happily, many hybrids are also easily recognisable, sometimes from afar. Sir Charles Lemon, Anna Rose Whitney and Molly Ann are good examples. Unique can often be spotted from a moving car while driving in the rush hour past downtown office landscaping.

Last month I noted that Polar Bear won the 1997 longest new growth competition so its laurel bush habit is quite distinctive. I forgot to mention that Polar Bear was originally developed by J. B Stevenson of Tower Court, Ascot to form a wind break along one side of his property to protect his beloved species. This cross of *R. diaprepes* and *R. auriculatum* was a very astute piece of hybridizing. The late, fragrant and beautiful white flower was just a bonus!