

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

Meetings are held on the third **Wednesday** of the month at .St. Andrew's Anglican Church Hall 20955 Old Yale Rd., Langley

* 8:15 p.m.

F.S.R.S.

Officers & Committee Chair Persons for 1999

President: David Sellars 535 0763

Vice President: Trev. Badminton
856 0046

Past President: Les Clay

Directors: 1 yr. Michael Neyedli
2 yr. Colleen Forster
3 yr. Mike Bale

Secretary: Janet Warner 857 0788

Treasurer: John Warner 857 0788

Membership : Wendy Sellars
phone & fax 535 0763

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Newsletter: Mike Trembath
phone & fax 856 7261

email VE7HV@planeteeer.com

*** NB - We have access to the hall at 8:00 - it seems that we are too eager and are making our presence known too soon, and seriously upsetting the Beavers who precede us in the Hall. Sooo softly softly, and stay out of the hall until at least 8:00 !!**

November 17, 1999

F.S.R.S. Regular Meeting Bill Herbst

City Parks Foreman and City Arborist for the City of Port Coquitlam

Bill has spent working time in the Grieg Rhododendron Collection in Vancouver, and has had two years experience working in the large species collection in Windsor Great Park. He will speak to us about woodland gardens and gardening.

☼ Saturday April 1, 2000
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
F.S.R.S. Annual Plant Sale
at Clay's Nursery, 224th St.

☼ Saturday April 22, 2000
Annual Plant Sale and
Display of Trusses
to be held this year at St.
Andrew's parking lot

☼ May 13, 2000
projected date for the
Great Garden Tour

☼ May 20-21, 2000
projected date for Van. Is. trip

☼ ARS Annual Convention
Burlington Massachusetts
May 24-28, 2000

☼ ARS Regional Conference
Cowichan Bay
Sept. 14 - 17, 2000



☼ **December 15, 1999**

F.S.R.S. Christmas Party

Les and Bev have again offered their home as our dinner site. Note the date - our regular meeting night. Details next month's *Yak*

☼ **January 19, 2000**

AGM and election of officers (we'll make it snappy and hope to still have time for a programme)

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October Meeting

It was good to see and hear Norman Todd again. He and Jean must have had a fascinating visit to Thailand - certainly not what the ordinary tourist would experience. We were privileged to see 'behind' the scenes from his excellent photographs - beautiful scenery, fabulously impeccable gardens maintained by innumerable gardeners.



Sites

1. ARS Home Page:
<http://www.rhododendron.org>
2. RandA Newsletter:
<http://members.aol.com/RandANews/news.html>
3. Home Pages ARS District One (this includes Fraser South)
www.hedgerows.com/Canada/clubbrochures

Some other sites you might like to try:

- www.users.fast.net/~shening
- www.rhs.org.uk/rhsgroups/memb.asp
- a vireya site - includes stunning pictures:
<http://website.lineone.net/~cjcallard>

There was a young lady named Bright
Who traveled much faster than light.
She started one day,
In a relative way,
And returned on the previous night.

TOURS

NOW THIS IS EXCITING NEWS !!
I HAVE THREE THINGS TO TELL YOU ABOUT.

1. OUR SISTER CHAPTERS ENJOYED BEING INVITED TO TOUR OUR GARDENS LAST YEAR, AND FRASER VALLEY CHAPTER AND PEACE ARCH CHAPTER (AND OURSELVES) AGREED TO CONTINUE THIS - EACH CHAPTER HOSTING FOR A YEAR. THIS YEAR FRASER VALLEY IS IN CHARGE AND WE EXPECT TO BE INVITED TO VISIT SOME OF THEIR GARDENS IN THE SPRING. NEXT YEAR IT WILL BE PARS AND THEN IN 2002 OUR TURN COMES AROUND AGAIN. GOOD IDEA DON'T YOU AGREE ?

2. A TRIP TO VANCOUVER ISLAND IS BEING ORGANIZED FOR MAY 20, 21ST. PRESENT PLANS - TO SEE SOME OF THE SIGHTS AROUND THE MARS LOCATIONS, AND THEN ON TO TOFINO TO THE GIBSON'S " MOUNT RHODO". SINCE THIS IS A HOLIDAY WEEKEND, WE NEED TO TRY AND FIX RESERVATIONS SOON, SO IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE HAVE SOME IDEA HOW MANY OF YOU MIGHT BE COMING. PLEASE GIVE YOUR NAME TO MIKE BALE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.

3. WE ARE GOING TO TRY A "GARDEN TOUR " AS A FUND RAISING EVENT (MARS DOES THIS YEARLY WITH EXCELLENT RESULTS) THE PLAN IS TO HAVE AT LEAST 10 GARDENS OPEN FROM 10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM. SAT. MAY 13TH TICKETS WILL BE SOLD TO THE PUBLIC ADMITTING THEM TO EACH GARDEN AND THEY MAY VISIT AS MANY AS THEY WISH (OR CAN) DURING THAT TIME PERIOD. THIS IS A BIG UNDERTAKING, AND WILL REQUIRE HELP FROM EVERYONE OF US - TO SELL TICKETS; TO HELP GARDEN OWNERS WITH TRAFFIC; TO ACT AS INFORMATION CENTRES; TO ACT AS AMBASSADORS FOR FSRs IN THE HOPE OF INCREASING OUR MEMBERSHIP

From the President

It is that time of year when we should all be thinking about which job we would like on the Executive for the next millennium. Starting in January it would be nice to see new faces helping out with running the club. It is a good way for those who have recently joined to become involved and get to know people. As Past President, Les Clay will be compiling the list of nominations. If you are interested, please talk to Les at the next meeting. Even if you are only mildly interested, Les will be able to persuade you to see the advantages of participating.

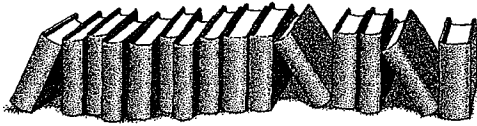
Two of the longest serving members of the Executive will be retiring this year. John and Janet Warner have done a fantastic job of Treasurer and Secretary for the past five years no less and they surely deserve a rest.

Thank you John and Janet for a job well done.

DUES NEWS

Our very efficient Membership Secretary assures me that "Members who have not paid their renewal dues as of the November meeting will no longer receive their ARS Journal, nor will they receive *The Yak*" (the latter a fate to be avoided at all cost!) If, due to circumstances totally beyond your control, you will NOT be at the meeting in Nov. - your fees may be mailed to:

Wendy Sellars
16877 30 A Ave.
South Surrey, BC
V4P 2V7



Our library has the most interesting collection of books, as I discovered this summer, but it is not used as much as I would have supposed.

While I was checking the inventory I browsed through several books I had never seen before, and was delighted that I finally was able to trace a plant that Francisca Darts had taken to "Show and Tell" at PARS. None of the books in my own fairly extensive library had listed the plant in question, but there it was in The Year in Trees, Superb Woody Plants for Four-Season Gardens, by Kim E. Tripp and J. C. Raulston.

The Year in Trees lists 150 plants selected by North Carolina State University Arboretum from trials of over 9,000 new and unusual woody plants from all over the world. Although NCSU primarily tests for plant hardiness for their own area, (zone 7 with warm wet summers), almost all of the plants tested are very adaptable to other environments. The book is laid out in seasons, Spring, Summer, Fall & Winter, and all the plants are listed alphabetically each season under the Latin name, followed by the common name. There is a good deal of information about each plant, including size and soil requirements. There are 206 colour plates of very high quality - so you can readily see details of many of the plants. Many of the plants are hard to find, but if we start asking for them at our local garden centres we can create a demand for them. The wholesale nursery Piroche in Maple Ridge carries a lot of unusual plants, most of which are shipped south. We should have a lot of them on our gardens, too. (The plant that Francisca showed was *Heptacodium jasminoides*, now renamed *H. miconioides* or Seven-son flower; look it up!)

This is only one of many excellent books in our library, and although it has been on the shelf for two years, it has only been out once. There are many more that have been borrowed only once or twice, and some are actually virgins!

For the benefit of new members - Library books may be borrowed by entering your name,

phone number, and the date borrowed, in the record book. When you return the book(s) - one month later, please enter the return date in the record. That is all there is to it.

There are several books that are long overdue - listed below. I will spare you the embarrassment of finding your names listed in this issue of the Yak. If you are unable to attend the next meeting, please give me a call at 596 8740, and I will be happy to pick up the books. The missing books leave quite a knowledge gap in our otherwise excellent library.

Guide to Choosing Rhododendrons, Cox
Encyclopedia of Rhododendron Species, Cox
Creative Propagation, Peter Thompson
Perennials for your Garden, Alan Bloom

Please check your bookshelves to make sure you have not forgotten them.

Please feel free to make suggestions for the library, or to ask me to order books for you.

Joan Bengough
Librarian

Rhodomorphism

There is Anthropomorphism, there is Phytomorphism, so why not Rhodomorphism? After all the culture of rhododendrons reflects the mainstream of humanity - local, national and international. Here are a few examples - from the pen of Norman Todd:

MARTHA STEWART.

Rhododendron "Unique"

A perfectly manicured hybrid with too perfect pink and cream flowers regurgitatively evocative of icing on a six-year-old's birthday cake. Trusses may be used to decorate wedding vehicles, or floated on the dog's water dish. Foliage is thick and stiff and makes a good besom. Does not get mildew in Martha's garden.

KIM CAMPBELL

Rhododendron "Canadian Sunset"

This is a BC hybrid which reportedly is doing well in California. It was so named because the flowers have a different colour every day. Greer describes it as being 'quite different'. It was once thought to be the best yak hybrid ever, but now has been largely replaced by those with more liberal flowering habits.

A Rhododendron Primer



is for *xanthocodon*

Section Rhododendron, Subsection Cinnibarinum

Subspecies *xanthocodon*

Rhododendron *xanthocodon* is really a subspecies of *R. cinnibarinum*, but however it is classified it is a nice addition to the garden. *R. cinnibarinum* ssp. *xanthocodon* is native to high altitudes in Bhutan through south east Tibet. It has good aromatic foliage with leaves 5 to 7 cms long, that have a slight bluish cast to them. The plant grows to about 1.2 m., and has a well behaved upright growth pattern.

Flowers of *R. c.* ssp. *xanthocodon* are tubular shaped, and come in a range of yellow hues. Flowers may be spotted or clear, and appear in May. My own plant has not produced very many flowers, but I have read that it takes time before they bloom profusely. Anyway, I am so happy to have any cinnibarinum subspecies survive my heavy garden soil that even if it is a shy bloomer, it is a welcome plant.

According to P. Cox in his book The Larger Species of Rhododendron, *R. c.* ssp. *xanthocodon* can suffer winter injury, particularly bark splitting in severe winters; so you may want to plant this in an area that receives some protection from our eastern killing winds of winter.

Norma Senn



There are 7 hybrids listed in the second edition of Salley & Greer Rhododendron Hybrids whose names begin with "X". Unfortunately, no one I am aware of knows anything about them, save the description in the book, or grows them.....So we are stumped! If you know any of these - let us know OK? : X-actly Great, Xanroy, Xenarb, Xenia, Xenophile, Xenosporum (this was an old name for *dentosum*- once considered a species, now said to be a hybrid of *adenogynum*), Xerox.

Rhododendron Chart - in explanation of the following chart (see pages 5& 6) produced and prepared by John Bodenham, and published in the August 1998 Bulletin of the RHS's Rhododendron, Camellia and Magnolia Group. Mr. Bodenham writes :

"I have read through the recently published Rhododendron Handbook 1998 and feel that an additional chart could be found to be of use to the enthusiast in the understanding of the latest reclassification of the Genus Rhododendron by Dr. Chamberlain.

In the 1980 Handbook the Balfourian System was adhered to within the general text and any reclassification left to the deciphering of two separate columns (1.—"Cullen and Chamberlain Revision", and 2.—RHS Horticultural Revision"). It was obviously easier for the membership at large to ignore these proposals. In the new Handbook only the revised Classification is used, so a much fuller appreciation of it is now imperative. Gone are the words 'Series and Sub-Series' of old. The 'new' is to think of 'Section and Sub-Section, and as , for example, new words such as 'Pentanthera' appear both as Section and Sub-Section, I felt that a 'family history' type chart could be found to be useful. In addition, where a new name has been assigned to it and other names as members of that particular division, and, due to the unfamiliarity of that name, its membership is not obvious; (unlike for example 'Grandia' which must contain the well known '*grande*') what of , for example 'Rhodora' which is the Section in which to find plants such as the much more familiar name '*vaseyi*'. The 'family tree' chart thus affords a quick explanation for the unfamiliar. On the reverse of the chart is a comprehensive list of those major species still having specific status which in the Handbook have been given a full description and are thus considered to be in cultivation. Each is assigned a Reference Number in the Chart. Thus, for example, '*4 arboreum*', if you look on the other side, refers to 'Arborea (4)', the number '4' being the clue in this case. There would appear to be, at first glance, major omissions. Where, for example, is '*yakushmanum*'? The answer to that is that it is now a Sub-Species of '*degronianum*' and is described under that heading. Space limitations prevented the inclusion of the Sub-Species names in this list. The continuing evolvement of taxonomy as a scientific subject means that the new Classification is not yet a hard and fast fact. It will doubtless change continually well into the future, each further revision, hopefully, coming closer to 'perfection'"

CHART

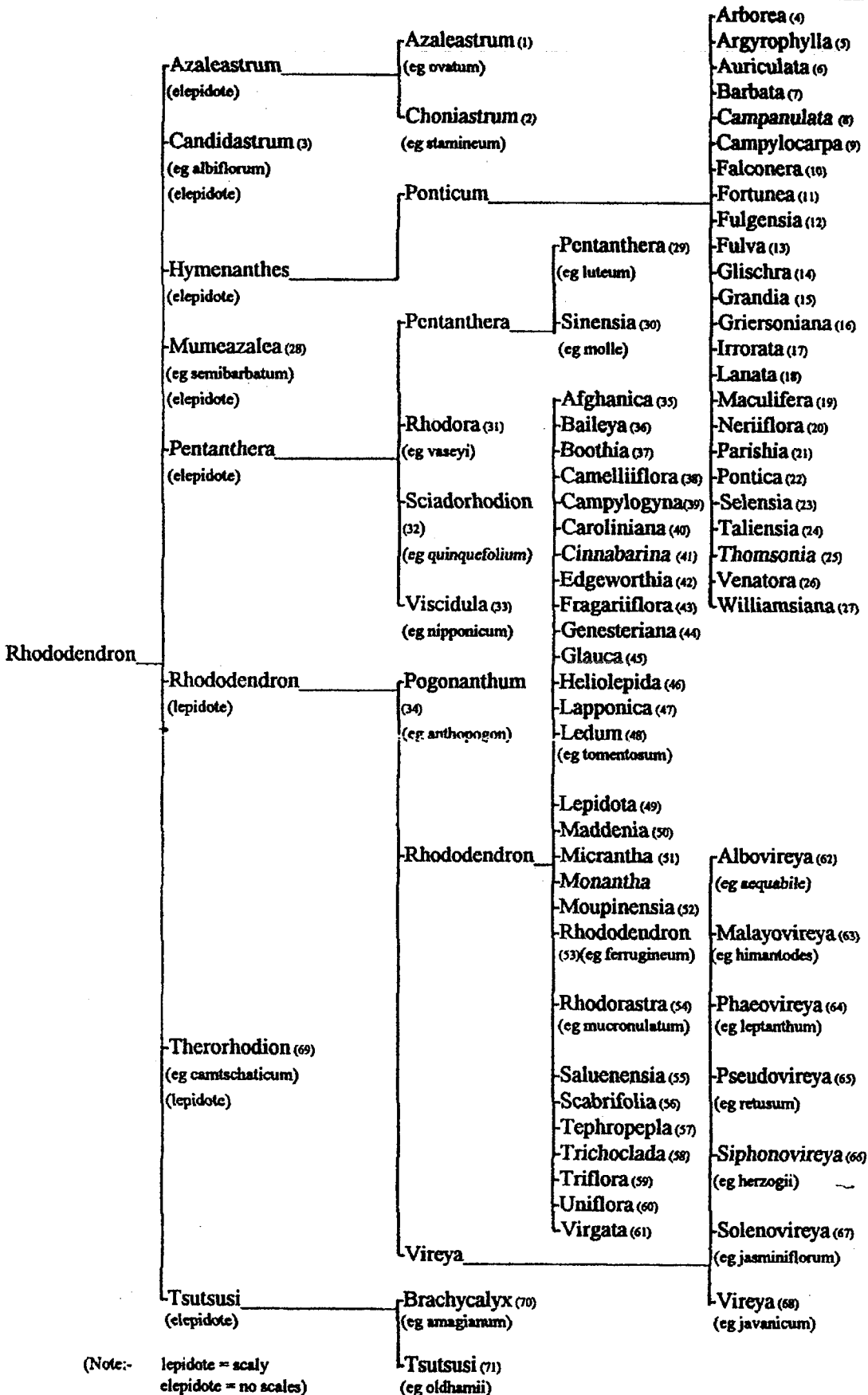
(Showing Mutual Relationships of Genus to Sub-Genera, Sections and Sub-Sections)

GENUS

SUB-GENUS

SECTION

SUB-SECTION



(Note:- lepidote = scaly
 elepidote = no scales)

(No., above, is a Ref. No. See over for Ref.No./species name (in cultivation) assigned to that particular sequence)
 (This Chart and list overleaf is to help to explain the Revised Classification, basis of the new Rhododendron Handbook, 1998.)

REFNo/NAME

17 aberoomwayi
24 adenogynum
5 adenopodium
14 adenosum
35 albanicum
24 aganiphum
4/11 x agatum
29 alabernae
20 albertianum
3 albiflorum
32 albroctii
24 albuticum
70 amagianum
59 ambiguum
59 amesiae
17 anuae
34 anthropogon
34 anthropogonoides
17 anthropoactum
19 anwhaeanae
20 aperantum
17 asiophyllum
29 arbotescens
4 arboretum
7 argipephum
5 argyrophyllum
10 arizelani
29 atlanticum
71 atrovirens
59 augustini
22 aureum
6 auriculatum
57 aurtum
29 austrinum
36 baileyi
23 bainbridgeanum
15 balangense
24 balfourianum
7 barbatum
10 basilicum
20 beazianum
24 beesianum
24 bhutanense
37 boothii
45 brachyanthum
22 brachycarpum
46 bractatum
24 bureavii
24 bureavioide
50 burmanicum
53 viciu
29 calendulaeum
9 callimorphum
11 calophyllum
55 calostrotum
23 calvescens
38 carnelliflorum
8 camparulatum
9 campylocarpum
39 campylogyrum
69 camtschaticum
31 canadense
29 canescens
47 capitatum
50 carneum
20 catescomum
22 catabiense
22 caucasicum
34 cephalanthum
25 cerasium
20 chamaethomsonii
2 championae
45 charitopes
20 chionanthum
37 chrysodoron
50 ciliatum
50 cilicalyx
41 cinabarinum
20 citriflorum
24 clementinae
20 coelicum
24 coeloneuron
34 colletianum
47 complexum
59 concinnum
10 coriaceum
5 coryanum
49 cowaninum
50 coxianum
14 crinigerum
50 cufferum
29 cumberlandense
47 cuneatum
25 cyanocarpum
50 dalhouseiae
47 dasypetalum
54 dauricum
59 davidsonianum
70 decandrum
11 decorum

22 degranium
50 dendroica
52 dendrocharis
5 damodatum
20 dichroanthum
24 dipabile
70 dilatatum
14 diphracalyx
25 dielectum
42 edgeworthii
24 elegantulum
21 ellipti
71 eriocarpum
7 erosum
9/23 x erythrocalyx
23 eschlosum
20 eudocum
25 euryxipho
7 exasperatum
50 excolens
24 fabri
21 faetum
10 falconeri
70 farne
47 fastigiatum
25 faucium
53 ferrugineum
29 flammicum
47 flavicum
50 fletcherianum
18 flinckii
20 floecigerum
5 floribundum
71 flumineum
5 formosum
50 formosum
20 forestii
11 fortunei
43 fragariflorum
12 fulgens
13 fulvum
10 galactinum
44 gasterianum
11 x genaldii
11 glanduliferum
45 glaucophyllum
14 gliscroides
14 glischrum
50 gorea
15 grande
16 grierorianum
11 griffithianum
48 groenlandicum
50 grothausii
14 habrotrichum
20 haematodes
57 hanceanum
5 haofui
46 heliopsis
56 hemitrichotum
11 hemsleyanum
70 hidalanum
47 hippophaeoides
53 hirsutum
23 hirtipes
10 hodgsonii
1 hongkongense
25 hookeri
50 hortickianum
11 huiatum
5 huminewellianum
25 hyalium
22 hypothyrium
48 hypoleucum
47 impositum
71 indicum
5 insigne
47 intricatum
17 ironatum
50 johnstonianum
71 kaempferi
71 kanethiae
59 keiskei
17 kendrickii
15 kesangiae
41 keyai
71 kiusianum
70 kiyosumense
34 kongboense
21 kyawii
24 lacteum
70 lagopus
18 laralioides
18 lanatum
4 lanigerum
47 lapponicum
2 latouchiae
34 laudandum
58 lepidostyrum
49 lepidotum
37 leptocarpum
1 leptothrium

37 leucaspis
50 levinei
52 lindleyi
19 longesquamatum
5 longipes
57 longistylum
49 lowndesii
18 luciferum
60 ludlowii
50 ludwigianum
17 lukiangense
45 luteiflorum
59 lutescens
29 luteum
50 luyi
15 macabearum
22 macrophyllum
19 maculiferum
50 maddeni
15 magniflorum
22 makinoi
20 malloatum
10 malmeri
23 martinianum
22 maximam
70 maybrae
25 meddianum
29 megacalyx
37 megeratum
58 mekongense
51 micranthum
20 microgyrum
71 microphyton
24 minetes
40 minus
30 moile
56 mollicomum
15 montrosceanum
19 morii
2 moulairensis
52 moupinense
54 mucronulatum
53 mytilifolium
71 nakaharae
24 nakotilum
48 neoglanduloseum
20 neriflorum
24 nigroglanuloseum
33 nipponicum
47 nitidulum
47 nivale
4 niveum
71 notakianum
70 nudipes
50 nuttallii
29 occidentale
19 ochraceum
71 oldhamii
11 oculolare
11 oreodora
59 oreotrepes
47 orthocladum
1 ovatum
50 pachypodium
19 pachysanthum
19 pachytrichum
17 papillatum
20 parvulatum
50 parryae
60 penakoense
42 pendulum
32 pentaphyllum
29 peticymenoides
24 phaeochrysum
20 pieroci
5 pingianum
59 pleistanthum
20 poeophorum
47 polycladum
59 polylepis
22 ponticum
15 prostrans
11 praeteritum
11 praevernum
24 pratii
10 prephum
34 prinuliflorum
24 principis
29 prinophyllum
24 prunum
24 proteoides
15 protistum
45 pruniflorum
29 prunifolium
24 przewalskii
19
pseudochrysanthum
56 pubescens
15 pudorosum
60 punilum
32 quinquefolium
56 noemosum

17 ramsdenianum
14 recurvoidea
70 reticulatum
10 rex
59 rigidum
71 ripense
5 ritai
50 roseatum
10 rothschidii
24 rosianum
46 rubiginosum
71 rubripilosum
24 rufum
47 rupicola
47 russicum
55 sahenense
70 sanchan
20 sanguineum
34 sargentianum
71 saxicolum
56 scabrifolium
71 scabrum
32 schlippenbachii
50 scopulorum
59 searsiae
42 seingikewense
23 selense
28 serrubaratum
10 sermoides
11 serotinum
71 serpyllifolium
47 setosum
25 sherriffii
45 shweliense
15 siderium
59 siderophyllum
19 silongense
5 simurum
71 simsi
10 sino-falconeri
15 sinogrande
22 sinowii
71 sirsi
10 sino-falconeri
20 sperabile
20 sperabiloides
24 sphaeroblastum
147 apotum
56 spinuliferum
2 stamineum
71 stenopetatum
25 stewartianum
19 strigilorum
25 subansienae
71 subesiale
37 sulfureum
11 sutchuanense
50 taggianum
24 taliense
17 tanastylum
47 tapetiforme
71 tashiroi
59 tatsienense
47 telmateium
20 temerum
57 tepropephum
5 thayerianum
25 thomsonii
47 thymifolium
48 tomschevii
42 pendulum
71 tosenae
24 trallianum
59 trichanthum
58 trichocladum
34 trichostomum
59 triflorum
18 tariense
71 tchonoskyi
71 tsusiophyllum
22 ungami
60 uriflorum
13 urarifolium
50 valentianum
31 vaseyi
50 veitchianum
26 venator
24 venicosum
11 venicosum
14 vesiculiflorum
1 vialii
61 virgatum
58 viridescens
25 viscidifolium
29 viscosum
70 wadatum
8 wallichii
50 walongense
9 wards
24 wasonii
15 watsonii
47 websterianum
70 weyrichii

24 wrightii
27 williamianum
24 wilsonii
57 xanthostepharum
71 yedoense
47 yungingense
59 yunnanense
59 zaleucum

(112 Names)

VIREYAS:-

REFNo/NAME

63 acuminatum
62 aequabile
62 alburn
68 albicolum
68 anagaliflorum
68 arfakianum
67 amittii
68 atropurpureum
68 atrigenatum
68 baenitzianum
68 bagobornum
64 beyerinchianum
68 blackii
68 brookianum
64 bryophyllum
68 burthii
65 buxifolium
64 caligin
67 carzii
67 caringtoniae
68 christi
68 christianiae
68 commorae
68 crassiflorum
67 cruttwellii
68 culmicolum
64 dianthosum
64 dielsianum
65 enicoides
63 fallacium
24 garderia
62 giulienetii
67 goodenoughii
68 gracilentum
64 halwigi
66 herzogii
63 himalaica
64 hooglandii
64 hycinthosum
68 inconspicuum
68 intranervatum
67 jazminiflorum
68 javanicum
65 kawakamii
64 konori
68 laetum
68 lanceolatum
64 leptanthum
68 leucogigas
65 lindauanum
68 lochia
68 longiflorum
67 loranthiflorum
68 lowii
68 lurahense
68 macrogoriae
67 maui
63 malayanum
63 micromalayanum
68 multicolor
67 multivervum
68 nervosum
68 notiale
67 orbiculatum
68 pauciflorum
65 perukense
64 phaeochitum
68 x planecostatum
67 pleianthum
68 polyanthemum
68 pratervium
68 purpureiflorum
65 quadratum
68 rarepidotum
64 raxum
68 retivenum
65 retusum
67 rhodococum
68 robinsonii
68 rubricellum
68 rugosum
65 sartapani
68 saxifragoides
68 sayei
68 scabridactylum
64 schoddei
67 searicanum

68 sesselifolium
68 x shobae
64 solitarium
65 scorarium
67 stapiflorum
68 stenophyllum
68 stevensianum
67 suaveolens
68 sumatranum
64 superbum
67 tuba
65 vaccinioides
62 vestigi
68 vitis-idea
68 williamii
68 wrightianum
62 yelliottii
68 yongii
68 zoelleri

(108 Names)

Note:- The reference Numbers used above enable the reader to determine in which Sub Genus, Section or Sub Section (see overleaf) the species has now been included. The basic information has been derived from The Rhododendron Handbook 1998, and the above names denote those species which have been afforded a full description therein, is considered to be in cultivation.

J.B. 3/98.

From the RHS Rhodo Group Bulletin 71 - Aug., 1999

Thoughts whilst chopping wood...

A few months ago I sent out with the Bulletin my representation of the latest "Rhododendron Family Tree" in chart form, as derived from the RHS Publication The Rhododendron Handbook, 1998. (See Pages 5 & 6 for the chart.. Ed) Apart from one or two members who did not receive a copy there has been subsequently a deafening silence. The technical content seems to have been accepted without question. Are you, the membership, therefore willing to accept this as your current "bible"? Surely somebody out there has something to say? For example -, where did the word "Azalea" go? In the 1980 Handbook we were informed that Azalea Series had not yet been revised. Are you happy that it has now been revised out of existence? I, for one, am not.

I think of "genus rhododendron" principally in terms of elepidotes and lepidotes, but then in more general terms of "non-scaly rhododendrons", "azaleas", "lepidotes", and "vireyas", all of which subdivisions are more or less difficult to inter-cross, and must therefore be significantly genetically dissimilar. The idea of *lutea* being a "Pentanthera", *molle* being a "Sinensia", *vaseyi* being a "Rhododra", etc. hardly bears thinking about, unless they can overall be classified as "Azaleas" Surely they should, and if not, then some erudite explanation should be forthcoming, and in these pages where the membership can see?

My personal logic would expect the genus Rhododendron to more closely follow my above thoughts, i.e. that the Sub-Genera names should perhaps be "Rhododendra" (for elepidotes now classified Sub-Genus "Hymenanthes") "Azalea", "Rhododendron", and "Vireya":

Under Sub-Genus "Rhododendra" the major Section name would logically then be "Hymenanthes"

Under Sub-Genus "Azalea" the Section names would, I suppose, be "Pentanthera",

"Rhododra", "Sciadorhodion", "Sinensia", "Viscidula", "Brachycalyx" and "Tsutsusi".

Under Sub-Genus "Rhododendron" the Sections names would be "Pogonanthum" and "Rhododendron" and

Under Sub-Genus "Vireya" would be Section "Vireya" alone, (if any specific Section was actually necessary).

The more unusual candidates would, as usual, be argued about by the knowledgeable and eventually found homes, but the major part of the tree would thus be, horticulturally at least, more acceptable/ logical. Is this idea too radical? At least the names of the major Sub-Genera would more easily stick in the mind.

I suspect that the definitive answer will lie in DNA testing, and I hope such research happens soon and is published in my lifetime. Will we then discover whether the ordered Sleumer classifications of Genus, Sub-Genus, Section, Sub-Section, Species, Sub-Species and Variety are eventually sufficiently versatile to cover all the genetic connections found? Will we learn whether the scales on vireyas are truly related to other lepidote scales or might they turn out to be modified hairs from a distant elepidote ancestry? Only time will tell.

Might I lastly suggest that none of the new sub-genus/section names has any pzazz. They simply will not catch on in the trade. (Come on, Membership, what do you think?)

One crumb of comfort remains in all this; when faced with the knotty problem of rhododendron identification, any prize *sinogrande*, *fortuntei*, *rex*, *s.sp. fictolacteum* or *falconeri* could be called by its authentic Section name, "Ponticum", but keep it to yourself. You just might get lynched.

J. Bodenham

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ROOTSTALK

BY INDUMENTUM

Real men don't go shopping. But they do like to browse in hardware stores. Those who have been gardening for a number of years always gravitate to the garden section in the faint hope of finding some interesting new tool. The problem is they already have their pneumatic tyred wheelbarrow and their heavy duty long handled shovel plus their stainless steel fork for digging potatoes. All that's left of momentary interest are things like rotating plastic "claws" that are about as useful as an alder tree in a rhododendron garden. Grown-up men like their toys but only if they are effective. The other depressing thing is that the stores all have the same stuff so there is little point in trying somewhere else.

Unless of course you have a brother-in-law who likes to browse in that other retail culture across the border. On my last birthday he triumphantly produced the ultimate man's tool which he found in a Farmers' Coop near Bellingham. It is a giant steel crow bar over six feet long with a chisel end and a round end. With the sharp end you can pry up enormous boulders as the leverage is immense. It is also ideal for digging post holes in dense gravel and clay as the weight of the bar drives it into the ground. Then when you want to compact the fill around the post, you turn it around and tamp with the rounded end. I also found a use for it for aerating the compost heap. It makes holes from the top or side like a hot needle in butter. Certainly a big improvement on those frustrating "wing-dingers" that take such a huge effort to pull out. For environmentally friendly lawn maintenance, you could drive it into the ground and tether a goat to it. If you still need more reasons to have one, you could always fly a flag from it on Canada Day.

For lady readers of this column, don't be discouraged by the massiveness of this thing. Go out and buy the gardening man in your life one of these and he will love you for ever more. When it comes to this type of tool, size matters.

