

THE VICTORIA RHODODENDRON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

4821 TOWNSEND DRIVE VICTORIA, B. C. V8Z 5P2



Hello March...

VICTORIA RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Our purpose is to promote
and educate the public about
the genus RHODODENDRON

Meetings are held in the
Couvelier Center on the
grounds of the HCP Gardens
505 Quayle Road
Victoria B. C.

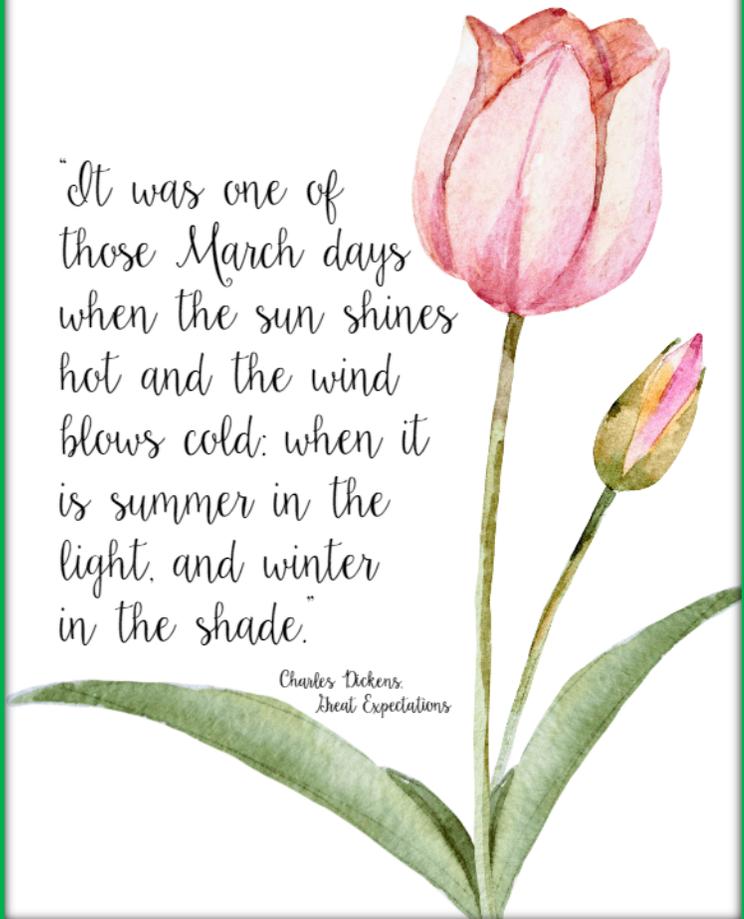
Meetings begin at 7:30 with a
social gathering afterwards

www.victoriarhodo.ca

COVID RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE

"It was one of
those March days
when the sun shines
hot and the wind
blows cold: when it
is summer in the
light, and winter
in the shade."

Charles Dickens,
A Christmas Carol



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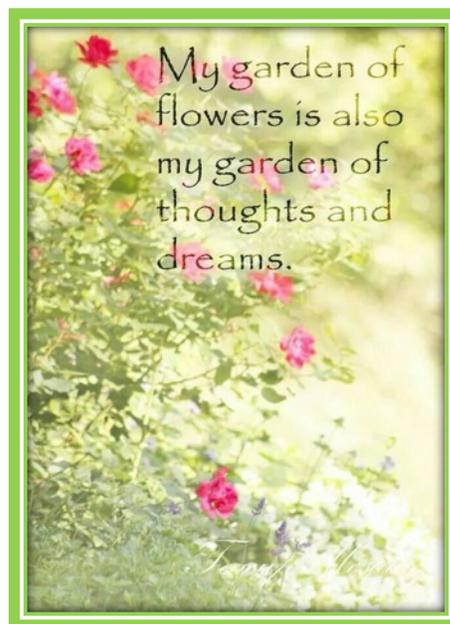
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Presidents Remarks, March 2021

The snow and the cold were a bit of a surprise, but otherwise the garden is coming along. The irises that make me so happy (*Iris reticulata*) are doing their job. They always look like a patch of blue sky when all we see is grey. I keep meaning to pick up some more *Chionodoxa* bulbs for the same reason. They are a lovely sky-blue with white centers, come up when everything else is grey and brown, and then promptly disappear so that you are not looking at a whole bunch of yellowing leaves for months.

I have included photos (on a sunny windy day – not the best for photography) of the *Iris reticulata*, as well as *R. dauricum* (a lovely early white species), *R. mucronulatum* (early, pink, and the parent of many fine hybrids), and the hybrids ‘Coral Glow’ and ‘Seta’.

I do hope that you have been participating in, and enjoying, the many Zoom presentations made available to us from other chapters of the ARS as well as other garden clubs. I have tried my best to get all the information out to you. Sometimes we are lucky enough to receive information that allows us to connect to a recording of the presentation if you missed it, but unfortunately not all clubs have the technical ability/desire to post their videos.

As for club business, I need to remind you that the Annual General Meeting will take place on Monday, March 1, 2021, at 7:30 pm via Zoom. I have already sent out the documents that will be reviewed: AGM 2020 Minutes, 2020 Financial Report. These both must be presented and approved at the AGM. In addition, we will be electing a new slate of officers for the 2021-2022 year. I have sent out a mass email with that information. I have also included this information in my President’s Remarks.



'Coral Glow' is a wonderful harbinger of spring. Tall and rangy, it pokes its clear warm-pink flowers up above the larger leathery leaves of the other rhododendrons just when we need it most. It is a hybrid of *R. mucronulatum* 'Cornell Pink' (hence the ranginess and small funnel-shaped flowers in groups of two or three) and *R. lutescens* (hence the small but warming yellow blotch with its few orangish dots). This cross was done in 1967 by the prolific American hybridizer Gus Melquist of Connecticut. The reverse cross (*R. lutescens* x *R. mucronulatum* 'Cornell Pink'), was done by a Mrs. F. Maloney of Seattle, Washington, in 1968, and named *R.* 'Airy Fairy'. It also is lovely, looking almost the same but with a clearer pink – less *lutescens* influence I assume. You have to love the name. Still, I am happy with the warmer pink of 'Coral Glow' that shows well against a grey sky, whereas the clear pink of 'Airy Fairy' shows best against a blue sky.



R. 'Coral Glow'

'Seta' is another early bloomer that gladdens one's heart. An interesting cross between *R. spinuliferum* (not especially early and having flowers that look like nothing quite so much as a cluster of upright firecrackers with protruding wicks) and the very-early *R. moupinense* (white, tinged pink, openly campanulate, beloved parent of 'Cilpinense' and some 47 or so other hybrids). The result is an early-blooming delight with light pink, somewhat-tubular flowers that have a deeper candy pink on their backs. Sometimes the open blossoms get caught by an unexpected frost (such as happened this past week) but the buds and the plant itself are usually unscathed.



R. dauricum



**Proposed Slate of Officers for the Victoria Rhododendron Society,
March 2021 to February 2022**

President –	Lloyd Gilmore
Vice-President –	Kathie Thompson
Secretary –	Sharon Joseph
Treasurer –	Bill Gordon
Member at Large –	Lois Blackmore
Member at Large –	Frank Buffam
Member at Large –	Ian Duncan
Member at Large –	Carrie George
Member at Large –	Theresa McMillan
Member at Large –	Calvin Parsons

In order to facilitate the gathering of votes for the Executive/Board elections I will be sending out a Survey Monkey for votes prior to the actual AGM.

And finally, I want to tell you all what a privilege it has been to serve as your president for these past 2 ½ years. I believe we are a warm and welcoming club, and It has been rewarding to see everyone muck in when needed. Even during this past stressful and somewhat chaotic year we have managed to stay in touch. You were all very patient with me as I stumbled through those early days, when I was not only a tyro club member but the new president as well.

With their greater combined experience, I am confident the new club officers will serve you well, and we will continue to prosper and enjoy ourselves as members of this society.

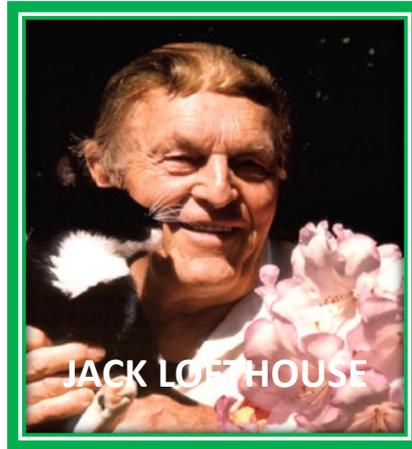
Stay healthy, stay safe, and stay strong, and do try to support the club by attending the AGM.

Brenda Macdonald

HYBRIDIZING RHODODENDRONS

LLOYD GILMORE

As a child I was always interested in flowering plants. This continued into adulthood, with my initial hybridizing efforts starting with orchids. My rhododendron hybridizing started after I read a newspaper article by Jack Lofthouse. Contact was made and this led to me visiting this home where many conversations were held about rhododendron hybridizing.



My hybridizing goal has always been to develop a fragrant, hose in hose flower, on a small-size plant with indumentum leaves. Hose in hose is a genetic whim where one corolla appears to be within another flower. Primulas are an example of hose in hose flowers. This odd name arrived from when gentlemen wore two pairs of stockings, with the outer pair folded down.

I began hybridizing with the Lofthouse cross called Jeda. It is a small plant with an indumentum ancestry. Jeda was crossed with *R. pachysanthum*, producing approximately 160 seedlings. The cross resulted in plants either with double flowers or plants with single flowers, but with leaf indumentum. One seedling from this cross showed promise as it showed lovely yellow coloration. Using this particular plant, I was able to produce one exceptional plant with beautiful leaf indumentum with a calyx as large as the flower. Unfortunately, I lost this plant the same year it flowered.



One of my first crosses to bloom was Parksville Sunset (Paprika Spiced x Jeda). Unfortunately, the plant's stem growth was too short to root. I investigated micropropagation as a means of keeping the plant. However, having 5000 clones did not seem to be a reasonable choice. Unfortunately, this plant was also lost while I was on vacation. I do have some of the same genetic material in seedlings and will use these in further exploration .



When hybridizing, one must have a goal in sight, whether immediate or as a step along the way. Much will depend on the pollen one chooses to use. Pollen carries the male genetic code. Pollen can be gathered in several ways. One way is to pick pollen from the plant with tweezers to be placed on the stamen of the female plant one has chosen to use as the mother plant, or the anthers from the chosen plant can be cut and dried on a paper towel for use at another time. Once the cross has been made, the pistil of the mother plant is protected from bees and other insects, often by a foil shield.



I have learned that pollinating happens best in the warmest part of the day. Once pollinated, the truss is labeled with the cross listed and remaining parts of the flowers on the truss are removed. Sometimes a plastic bag will be used to cover the pollinated truss from the effects of rain. The truss is left over the summer to see whether the pollen has taken. Pollen takes are shown by the swelling of the seed pod. The seed pods that show promise are removed from the plant and taken into the house to dry. Once dried, the seed is removed and labelled for further use.



I plant my seeds in December. My potting mix consists of 20% concrete sand, 20% coarse perlite, 40% landscape soil and 20% peat moss. My goal is to have a well-draining mix that still contains moisture. My seeds are planted one cross at a time in a plastic pot that I have lined with maple leaves to prevent leakage. Using boiling water, I sterilize each pot before the seeds are spread on top of the soil mix. Rhododendron seeds need light to germinate. Saran Wrap is tightly placed over the seedlings and cool fluorescent lights run 15 hours per day.

Success in growing seedlings to mature plants varies. My cross of (Jeda x R. neriiflorum) yielded only two plants out of 60 seedlings. I watched that plant develop over a period of 5 years. In some years, the plant produced leaves that had alternating red and green bands on the underside of the leaves. In the fifth year, the plant was discarded as the leaves were just green and the plant was discarded. Hybridizing is a waiting game.



**You'll MISS the
best THINGS if you
keep YOUR eyes SHUT!
-Dr. Seuss**

- . Selfing refers to crossing a plant to itself
- . Selfing usually has reduced seed vigor
- . A genetically different pollinator plant is favoured for biodiversity
- . In protandrous plants, the pollen is finished before the stigma is ready to receive
- . Many insects see in the ultraviolet region; what they see appears different to what humans see
- . Scent in plants is solely to attract a pollinator
- . One looks in subsection R.fortunea for scent
- . Over 400 different esters make up scent
- . Lighter colored flowers are often more scented
- . Warmer weather, circadian rhythms and stigmatic surface reception may influence production
- . Scent may be produced in petal structures or discrete organs
- . Women have a better sense of smell than men
- . Meristemic cells are found in all buds, root tips and cambium and differentiate into plant organs and cause mutations, both positive and negative
- . Viruses in certain plants can affect leaf color
- . All variegated plants appear to have a random reversion to green leaves and stems

RHODODENDRON INFORMATION

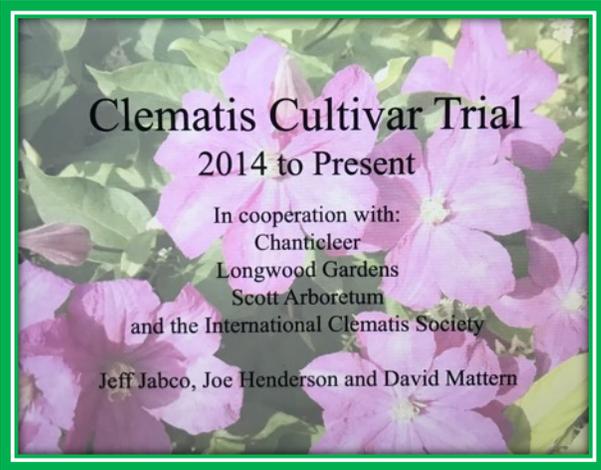
THANK YOU ... LLOYD

- . Textbooks say there is less than 1% chance of inheriting the variegated trait
- . Nancy Evans has virtually sterile pollen
- . Rhododendron Maude Corning does not carry pollen
- . Cool temperatures tend to produce better flower color
- . Plants in pots bloom faster than plants in the ground
- . Tissue culture allows plants to enter the market more readily, but they may not be identical to the parent plant
- . In China, they have mapped the rice genome, and can tell by looking at specific genes as to whether it will produce a lot of rice when mature

**The more that you read,
the more things you will know.
The more that you learn,
the more places you'll go.
Dr. Seuss**

NOTES FROM A ZOOM MEETING ON CLEMATIS

Thanks to Nadine Minkler

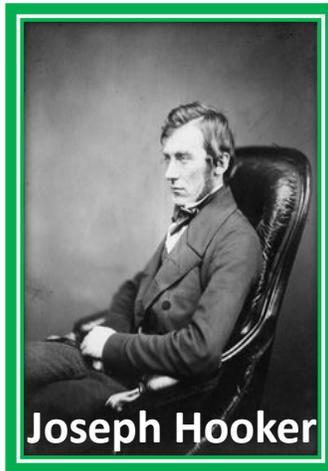


- . clematisontheweb is a great source of information
- . soil with a PH of 5-7 and with good drainage works best
- . clematis are heavy feeders
- . fertilize with low nitrogen and high phosphorus
- . seaweed is a good source for feeding
- . ideally 4-6 hours of sunlight is best
- . somewhat deer resistant



THE INTRODUCTION OF RHODODENDRONS INTO CULTIVATION

While rhododendrons were cultivated in Japan and China for many centuries, it was not until Joseph Hooker explored the Himalayas in 1849-1851 that the first great cultivation movement began in England. At the beginning of the 19th century there were only 15 species in cultivation.

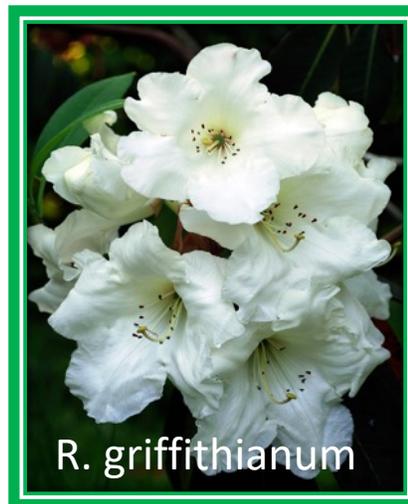


Joseph Hooker

Hooker's plants brought a fresh conception of rhododendrons to the populus. The huge leaves of *R. falconeri* and *R. grande*, and the huge flowers of *R. griffithianum*, plus the scent of *R. dalhousiae* led to interest in botanical and horticultural circles in England. Soon Hooker's collections were in Kew as well as in the gardens of his friends and acquaintances.



R. falconeri



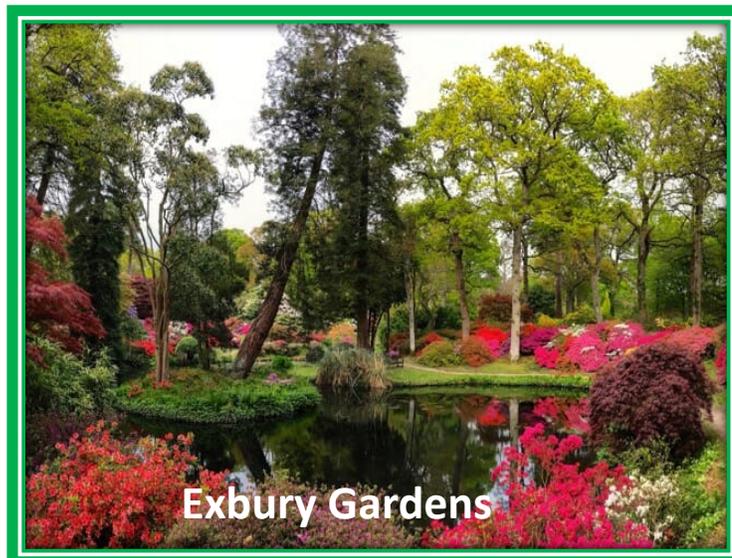
R. griffithianum



R. dalhousiae

The 19th century was the beginning of the knowledge that there was a great wealth of rhododendrons in China. The growing prospects of the hunt for Chinese rhododendrons led many amateur and rich rhododendron growers to pour money into further Chinese expeditions. Kingdon-Ward, Rock and Farrer preferred to see the plants in their native habitat, while Forrest preferred setting up a base and training local inhabitants to do the actual collecting.

Adapted from ARS QB volume 23



Exbury Gardens

In order to accommodate so many new arrivals, provisions were made to plant these new seedlings in the surrounding woodlands. Soon it was discovered that the plants thrived under such conditions. The informality of the ensuing layouts gave rise to the now familiar woodland garden.

TWELVE MONTHS OF RHODODENDRONS CONTINUED

JUNE is the month that summer begins in the Pacific Northwest. However, it is often cool and wet. Most June blooms need light shade to be at their best.



Height

1. Tall
2. Medium

TWELVE MONTHS OF RHODODENDRONS CONTINUED

JUNE is the month that seems to mean rhododendron season is over. With careful planting, these plants can add to your rhododendron display.



Height

1. Tall
2. Medium
3. Low

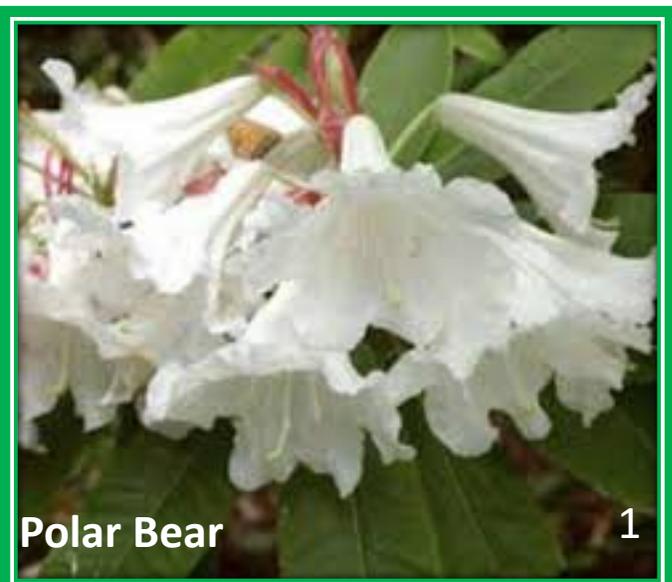
TWELVE MONTHS OF RHODODENDRONS CONTINUED

JULY may be the middle of the summer, but there are still some rhododendrons that will bloom. They need to be protected by the shade of trees. Some of the best are hardy and fragrant plants.



Aladdin

1



Polar Bear

1



Independence Day

1



Romani Chai

1



Good News

2

Height

1. Tall
2. Medium

TWELVE MONTHS OF RHODODENDRONS CONTINUED

JULY may be warm and dry. However, there are specific rhododendrons that will bloom during this month. Some shade is almost always needed. Some of the best plants are hardy and fragrant.



R. auriculatum

1



R. facetum

1



R. viscosum

1



R. gargantua

1



Good News

2

Height

Species July blooms

1. Tall

2. Medium

TWELVE MONTHS OF RHODODENDRONS CONTINUED

AUGUST is the time when many take vacations. Most of the rhododendrons have bloomed and are busy setting buds for the following year. These may be difficult to find but are worth the effort.



TWELVE MONTHS OF RHODODENDRONS CONTINUED

In **September** and **October** our weather begins to cool. Many rhododendrons have a habit of second blooming. As well, stressful conditions may cause flowering in the fall.



Height

1. Tall
2. Medium
3. Low



TWELVE MONTHS OF RHODODENDRONS CONTINUED

It is *November* and *December*. A plant or two are in bloom again. It may be just one or two flowers opening, or perhaps the entire shrub is in bloom. Why is the plant confused? It is suggested that there are three reasons why some shrubs flower at this time of the year.

1. The hours of daylight and darkness are similar to what they are in the spring.
2. A dry summer and a very wet fall are similar to the moisture conditions usually associated with spring.
3. The days are warm and the nights are cool - very much like *April*.



The bottom line is that the light, moisture and temperatures are all saying..
"IT'S SPRING"

RHODODENDRONS GONE WILD

Wild rhododendrons (*Rhododendron ponticum*) have become a scourge in British countryside. It is a non-indigenous, large evergreen shrub that grows particularly well in the climate and the soils within the UK.

It is threatening a variety of natural and semi-natural habitats, and the associated flora and fauna. It was introduced via Gibraltar in 1763 and by 1893 was being sold in London markets as a flowering pot plant.

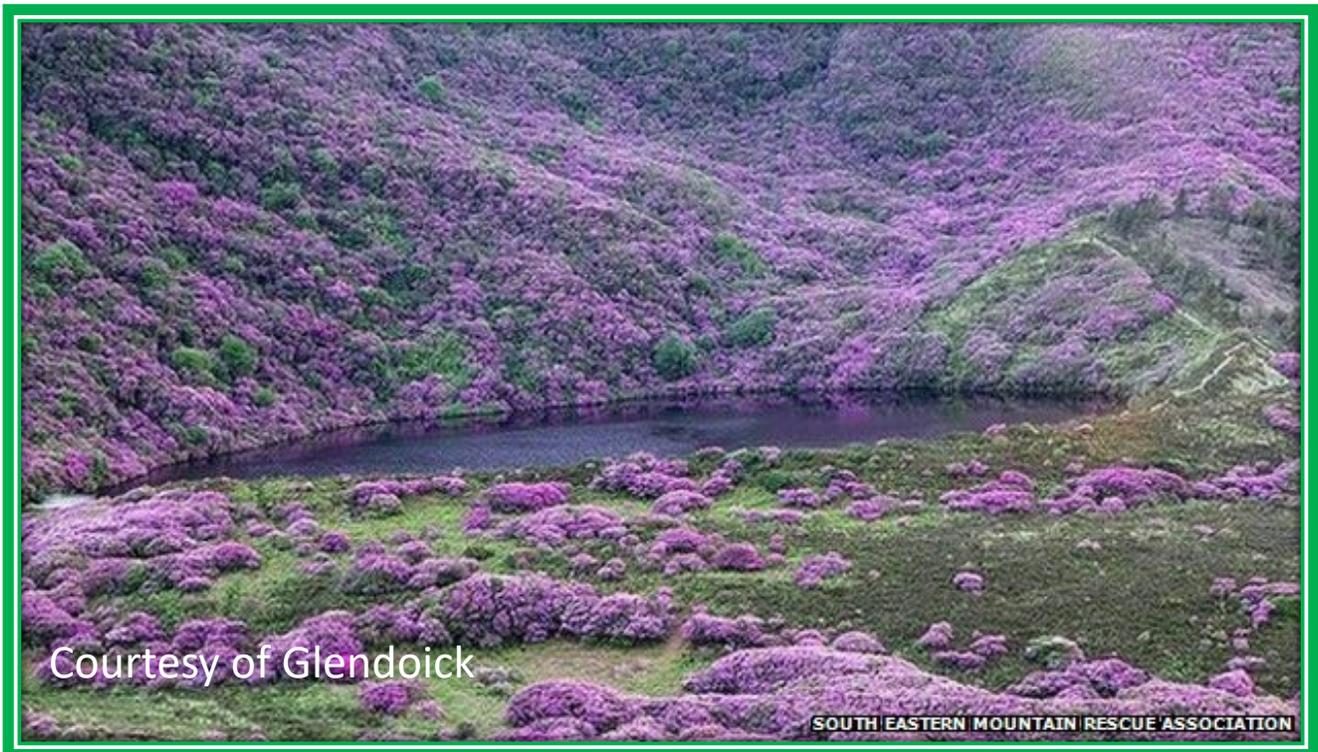
If left untreated, this aggressive weed can rapidly occupy the entire understory of a range of woodland types, open spaces within woodlands and in heathland habitats. With this growth habit, it can spread to fill a space, outcompeting and displacing all other vegetation.

In 1981, legislation was enacted to make it an offence to plant or otherwise cause the species to grow in the wild. The costs of clearing this weed in Snowdonia National Park in Wales, in 1998 was estimated to be 30 million £.



Adapted from [insideecology.com](https://www.insideecology.com) /2017/09/06

Currently several methods to eradicate this scourge are being tried. Chemical sprays are being used, roots and branches are gathered and buried in landfills and biological methods, including the proposed use of a rust fungus.



RHODODENDRONS ON VANCOUVER ISLAND

D.E. DOUGAN

This article is adapted from the ARS Quarterly Bulletin April, 1960

Because of the influence of cold winds which occasionally sweep down the mainland inlets, carrying with them outbursts of arctic air, the east coast of Vancouver Island can be difficult country in which to grow rhododendrons. Our winter lows frequently reach minus zero C and we read with envy, accounts of rhododendron gardens in areas with more gentle winters.

Those who can't resist them grow the tender aristocrats such as *R. bullatum*, (now known as *R. edgeworthii*), *lindleyi*, *kyawii*, and *maddenii* under glass in the winter, with just enough heat to keep out the frost. We also grow the early flowering species such as *R. moupinense*, *ciliatum* and *leucaspis* as well as their hybrids, because in this area they flower too early to be reliable outdoors.



Lady Chamberlain



Fuselier



Earl of Athlone



Kluis Sensation



R. bullatum



R. lindleyi



R. ciliatum



R. kyawii

However, such lovely plants as Lady Chamberlain, Fuselier and others in this hardiness category bloom with reasonable frequency. Plants such as Discolor, Albatross, Sunrise and the Naomi's are seldom damaged. We grow several Dutch plants, Jean Marie De Montgue, Britannia, Earl of Athlone, Kluis Sensation and others and would not want to be without them. However, the bulk of the hybrids in our gardens are the lovely plants originated in Exbury, Bodnant and Caerhays.



Jean Marie de Montague



Albatross Townhill

Perhaps it is because these plants are mostly primary crosses and more nearly approach the character and purity of the species that we love them as we do. A well-flowered plant of Jean Marie De Montague is undoubtedly an arresting sight but is certainly not more lovely than the brilliantly colored Naomi or the exquisite trusses of Albatross.



Naomi

However, if our only goal is to have larger trusses and brighter colors, we have lost sight of the delicate beauty and character of the species.

What gardener having seen *R. cinnabarinum*, *thomsoniis*, *bullatum* (now known as *R. edgeworthii*) and *maddenii* in bloom could ever want to be without them.

Reflecting on our own evolution as gardeners, bold splashes of color were our first objective. Color we still love but we look now for color accents rather than solid banks of brilliant color.



R. cinnabarinum



R. edgeworthii



R. maddenii



R. thompsonii



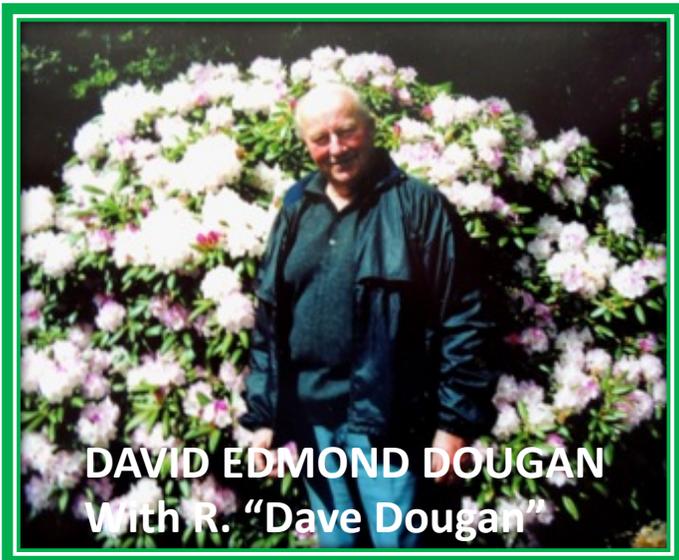
R. cinnabarinum

DAVE DOUGAN 1921-2017

By Liz Murray

In the fall of 1988 Alan and I decided we would join the Cowichan Rhododendron Society as it was just being formed. The meeting was in a small room in the First Memorial Funeral Society. Sitting on a coffin were two men. Others were sitting in the pews. The men greeted us with "Come on in, we're dying to see you". This was our introduction to Peter Stone and Dave Dougan.

We learned that evening that the Victoria Rhododendron Society was hosting The ARS Spring Convention and that Dave was the President and Chairman of the planning committee. It is to be noted that the 1989 ARS Spring Convention proved to be the largest ARS Convention ever held.



DAVID EDMOND DOUGAN
With R. "Dave Dougan"

Dave was born October 14, 1921 in a farmhouse at Dougan's Lake into a family of 9 members. These were difficult years and they were living in tents on the beach. Dave and his brothers liked to explore the woods and the beaches and had a hobby of collecting bird's eggs. When they finally did have a home, Dave made his mother a garden. The family lived on the small income received from small logging projects the brothers worked on.

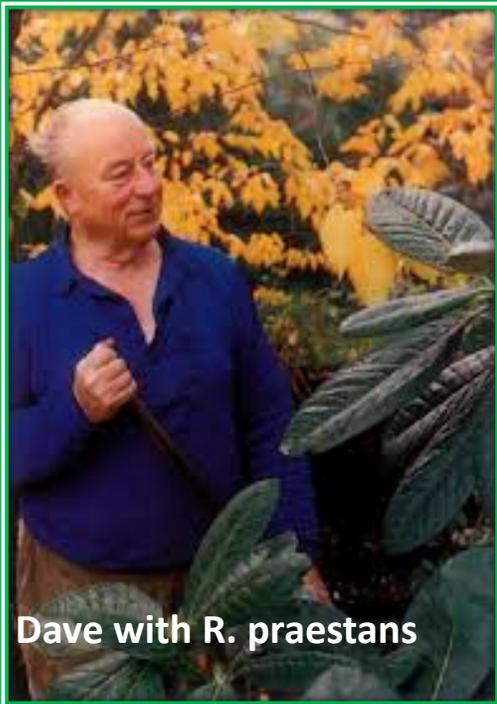
In 1940, Dave's father was able to secure a logging job on Texada Island. They built a logging camp and were able to establish a family home. Their other children were able to join them in their logging industry. Many stories were told of the adventures the family had during that time. Eventually some moved away from the Island for their children's schooling. Dave and Lurana purchased a home in Cowichan Bay, and Dave and other family members commuted to work. Lurana maintained the home and garden during these times. In December of 1968, one of their daughters was killed on the Malahat. This devastated the family and caused them to move from that family home as part of the healing process.

In 1976, Dave retired for a more peaceful life. More time was spent socializing and travelling on their newly purchased sailboat. Dave also had a motorcycle and would spend some time on that exploring Vancouver Island. In 1981, the Dougans purchased a 132-acre Malahat property, with the idea of creating several large ten-acre properties. They struggled to get roads and water to such an isolated site, blasting their way trying to find water to service the properties. Money was becoming an issue and they had to sell the boat and mortgage their other property just to keep moving forward. They were able to just gather just enough money to build a home on their chosen lot, high up on the property with a view of the Saanich Inlet.

Now it was time to start the beautiful MOONRIDGE garden. Rhododendrons were placed in the rock outcroppings and where the land was level a lush green grass came into being. Trees were planted encompassing the site and a greenhouse was built for storing his more tender rhododendrons. Dave and Lurana welcomed many guests to view their spectacular garden. After showing the garden Dave would invite guests onto the patio where they were treated to a "cuppa" and always a taste of Lurana's fabulous baking.

Dave received the Bronze medal from the Cowichan group in 1992 and received the ARS Silver Medal in 2000. MOONRIDGE was well known throughout the community that when Queen Elizabeth came for an official visit, Dave and Lurana were invited to Government House as guests.

In 2006, the Dougans moved to a patio home in Campbell River to be closer to their son Mike. They remained there until further care was needed. Both were able to be accommodated in the same Care Facility until their passing. Lurana passed first and Dave followed on October 17, 2017.



Dave with *R. praestans*



Crest



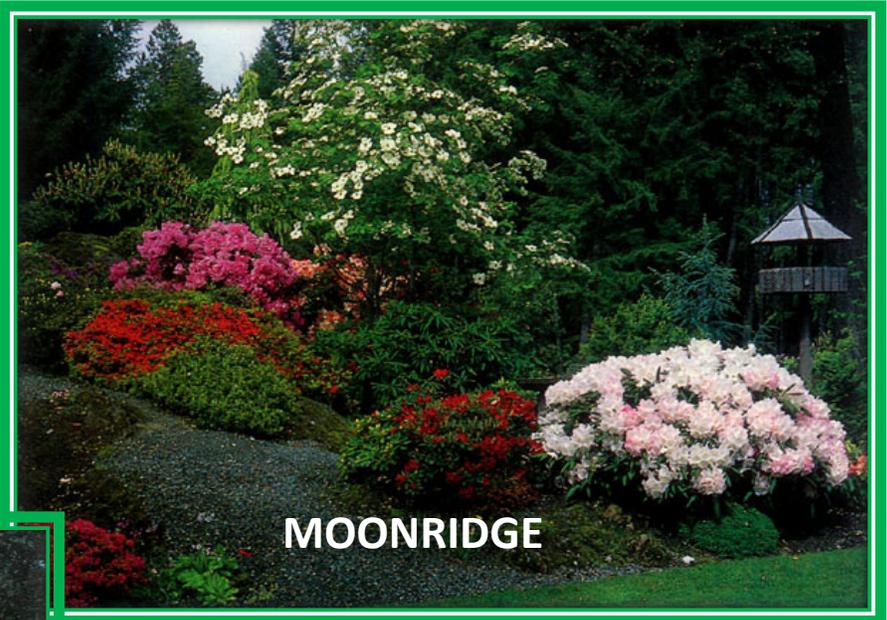
R. edgeworthii



Rose Elf
R. racemosum x *R. pemakoense*

Dave was known for his very colorful language, as well as his love of rhododendrons. His wife Lurana, would always interrupt his “colorful” language to caution him about such language. Only minutes later, Dave would continue telling his stories “his way” to the delight of many.

You were “in” if he invited you into his home for “a cuppa”.... that cuppa being three fingers of his very best scotch, served in a teacup with saucer included.



MOONRIDGE



R. metternichii



RHODODENDRONS IN FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Principles of Design

Balance..giving a sense of repose or balance

Dominance..keeping rhododendrons as dominate

Contrast..variation of size or color

Rhythm..use of graduation in size and form

Scale..relative size of truss to container



Form is the composition of the arrangement. These consist of a triangle, rectangle or a sphere.

Texture is quality of the surface of the leaf or flower. Like textures combine well. Using an azalea leaf in an arrangement provides a similar texture.

Color is a visual sensation. Good color combinations develop harmony in an arrangement. Monochromatic color harmony, using a variety of shades is very appealing.





RHODODENDRON ROSAMUNDI

Rhododendron “Rosa Mundi” is a living example of the need of added ratings being given to rhododendrons. One suggestion is to add time and length of blooming to the rating of such plants. There are so many beauties blooming in midseason that our eyes become overwhelmed with so many colors.

Rosa Mundi announces her presence any time from Christmas through to March, depending on location. She blooms profusely year after year, never taking a vacation like so many others. Her trusses are not grand, nor are they thought to be valued as much as other later blooming varieties. Flower arrangers consider this plant a “must have” and landscapers use this plant to advantage as well. To add to these virtues, Rosa Mundi needs only minimum soil conditions. If one wants to see color in very early spring, rhododendron “Rosa Mundi” is a must. (Ideas from Ruth Jacobson)

RHODODENDRON POWDER SNOW

Are you looking for a hybrid that looks very much like a species? One does not need to look further than Jim Barlup’s “Powder Snow”. It grows to about 6 feet in ten years, has dark green leaves with beautiful white indumentum underneath that ages to brownish orange. This dense plant hold its leaves for two years. The white flowers, with a deep purplish flare at the corolla, number at 20 for each truss. It is hardy to minus 18. The cross is between R. yakushmanum “Exbury” and R. macabeaenum. It requires similar growing conditions to the loderi group.



RHODODENDRON GOLFER



Are you wanting a rhododendron that is beautiful all year round? Whether in bloom or not, golfer is a plant that has beautiful foliage in the winter to enjoy and clear, soft pink trusses that glow against a silver background in spring. This is a gift of the hybridizing talents of Warren Berg.

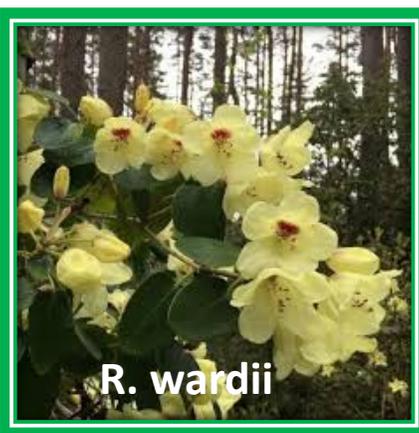
“Golfer” is a cross of R. yakushmanum x R. pseudochrysanthum. It is a small plant that grows wider, rather than taller. It makes a lovely contrast to the surrounding shades of green foliages of other rhododendrons in the garden. It has a soft, thick white indumentum under the leaf. This hardy specimen is an asset in one’s rhododendron garden.

FRANK KINGDON-WARD 1885 -1958 ...adapted from PlantExplorers.com

Frank Kingdon-Ward was born in Manchester where his father was Professor of Botany at Owen college. He studied at Cambridge; at the death of his father, he had to cut this education short.

In 1911, he set off on his first solo expedition and collected hundreds of plant species, many previously unknown. From Burma, he went into the Hengduan Mountains in north-western Yunnan province, exploring along the Mekong, Yangtze and Salween rivers in the region between eastern Tibet and western Sichuan.

Over his lifetime, he went on about 25 expeditions over a period of nearly 50 years, exploring Tibet, North Western China, Myanmar and Assam (now part of north Eastern India). In Myanmar, he conducted research into forestry and plants in the country with native botanist Chit Ko Ko.



R. wardii

In 1885, the industrial revolution was in full swing, Queen Victoria was on the throne and the British Empire included Canada, Western and Southern Africa, Egypt, India, Australia, New Zealand and parts of the far East.

It is said that his passion was exploration for its own sake. He made very little money from his 25 published books and innumerable magazine articles. He attempted to establish a horticultural business in England that failed due to poor business management. It was only with the funding of wealthy businessmen, societies, and patrons that he was able to continue his explorations. It was their desire to have “the latest and the greatest” in their gardens that allowed him to continue with his explorations.

As well as the exploration of botanic studies, he wrote about the people, religions and the societies he visited. It is known that his view of religion was mockingly disdainful, dismissing both eastern and western religions equally.



Primula Florindae



Mecanopsis



R. imperator



Lilium wardii

Plants introduced by
Frank Kingdon-Ward



IN MEMORIAM PAUL WURZ

We are saddened to announce the death of Paul Wurz. He passed away suddenly in his sleep earlier this month. Paul was a great plantsman, collector and propagator of rhododendrons. He was the owner and operator of Hidden Acres Nursery, with his wife Lynn. Their hobby farm, garden and nursery reflected their love of rhododendrons and visitors were always welcomed. Paul was a well-known speaker at many garden clubs and served as president of the North Island Rhododendron Society. He will be missed.

PAUL WURZ ... A DEDICATION BY RON SUTTON

What can be said about a man whose passion for rhododendrons can only be matched but not exceeded? Or is so likeable that his effect on others is everlasting. I never had the pleasure of knowing Paul for a long time. I first met him in 2014 when I travelled to his nursery while visiting the island. He gave my wife and me a personal tour of the garden and sold me some plants to take home. He encouraged me to move to Vancouver Island and build my own rhododendron garden. We did that in 2017. Not long after arriving here, our mutual interest in rhododendrons created a great friendship. Many of the rhododendrons in our garden came from Paul.

On our next visit to his nursery in 2017, we were invited into his home for tea and fresh-baked muffins. I remember asking him if he treated all his customers this way, and he laughed and said "Yeah...for most".

We joined the North Island Rhododendron Society to become members of the same club as he was. What we will remember most and miss, is his great sense of humour. He always made us laugh.

Paul was respected by fellow rhododendron growers for his knowledge and generosity in sharing. He gave numerous talks at garden clubs and was president or vice-president of the North Island Rhododendron Society numerous times over the years. In 2004, Paul was awarded the ARS Bronze Medal for his contribution to the society. As an honour to his daughter, he named two rhododendrons. ...Tara Lynn and Tara Too.



Advice from a
HONEY BEE™

Create a buzz
Sip life's sweet moments
Work together
Always find your way home
Bee yourself!

Bee
your
very
best
self

“THE HUM
OF BEES IS
THE VOICE OF
THE GARDEN.”

— ELIZABETH LAWRENCE

EVEN
BUSY BEES
STOP &
SMELL
THE
ROSES

Advice from a
HONEY BEE

CREATE A
BUZZ

Sip life's sweet moments
WORK TOGETHER

Stick close to your
honey

BEE YOURSELF!

Aerodynamically, the bumble bee shouldn't be able to fly,
but the bumble bee doesn't know it
so it goes on flying anyway.

— Mary Kay Ash

Kind words
are like
honey—
SWEET TO THE SOUL
&
HEALTHY FOR THE BODY.

