

Indumentum

Newsletter of the Vancouver Rhododendron Society

Volume 34, Number 9, June 2003



The
Vancouver Rhododendron Society
is a chapter of the
American Rhododendron Society

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This Month's Meeting: **Pot Luck Picnic**, Sunday, June 22nd,
4:00 pm at Gord and Vern Finley's. See page 5 for details.



photo: UBC Botanical Garden

Plants in Bloom – *Rhododendron macrophyllum*

Although one of British Columbia's showiest native shrubs, *Rhododendron macrophyllum* (Pacific rhododendron) is seldom described as anything more than merely charming or "understated," especially when compared with the multitude of hybrids and Asian species so common in our gardens. Its flowers are typically lavender pink to pale purple, often with yellowish freckling in the throat. Trusses are composed of between 10 and 20 broadly campanulate (bell-shaped) flowers, each 3 to 5 cm across. White-flowered individuals have been reported, but are seldom seen in gardens.

Plants can grow upwards of 4m tall in heavy shade; however, such specimens are exceptionally spindly and hardly a flattering advertisement for the species. Under optimal conditions—i.e., light, dappled shade and humousy, extremely well-drained soil—plants are more compact and dome-shaped. The leaves are an attractive dark grey-green and despite the specific epithet, rather moderate in size. They are a handsome foil for the flowers, nonetheless. Pacific rhododendron is amenable to garden culture, tolerating winter wet/summer dry conditions in the Vancouver area better than most exotics. Some plants in the BC Native Garden at

continued on page 3

President's Message

Although the rainy weather over the past month hasn't encouraged me to work in the garden as much as usual, my rhododendrons seemed to have loved it. Many have bloomed for the first time, such as 'Tortoiseshell', whose photo is shown at right.

Thank you to **Lothar Mischke**, who organized our Open Gardens event and to the following people who opened their gardens this spring: **Bill and Suzanne Spohn, Mike and Pattie Bale, Joanne and Joe Ronsley, Lothar and Cindy Mischke, Gordon and Vern Finley, Francisca Darts, Richard and Heather Mossakowski, Lies Ganske, Penny Pearse, Larry Wick, Judy Williams, Gerard Pury, Rachel Mackenzie, Alan Turner, and Mark Lammont and Glenda Powroznik**. Visitors were very enthusiastic about the gardens. At the June executive meeting, we will be discussing ideas for increasing attendance next spring. We'll consider different publicity initiatives, opening the event to all District 1 rhododendron societies, and making the visitation times more flexible. Please call me at 604 929 5670 if you have suggestions.



Enkianthus campanulatus
photo: UBC Botanical Garden



R. 'Tortoiseshell' (see note below)
photo: Ron Knight

I have very much appreciated all the feedback, both positive and negative, that I've received about our Sale and Show at Park and Tilford Gardens. Generally, people seem to be extremely pleased with the results. The gross income was approximately \$15000, up about 25% from last year. This figure is quite amazing, considering the torrential rains that hit us on the Sunday morning. One grower told me that sales more than doubled over last year. The trusses were magnificent and the Rose Room provided a very elegant setting for their display. **Roger Low's** bonsai were viewed in a perfect setting within the tea house of the Japanese Garden. Set-up and clean-up times were reduced by at least 50% over previous years. Special thanks go to **Todd Major** for handling the advertising and making us feel so welcome at Park and Tilford Gardens. The executive will be doing a thorough evaluation of the Sale and Show at our June meeting and I will give you a complete report in September's *Indumentum*.

I hope you have wonderful summer, and look forward to seeing you at our next VRS meeting on September 18th. At this time, we will be honouring all the Sale and Show volunteers and presenting trophies.

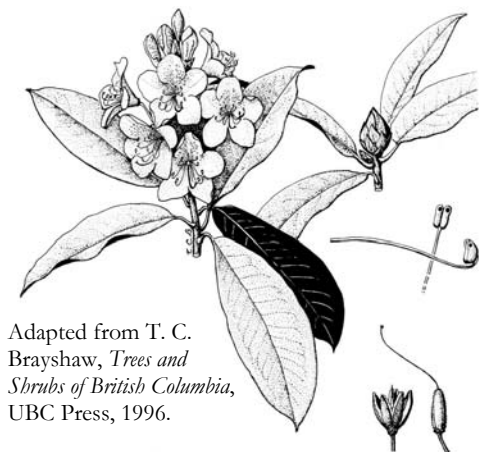
Ron Knight

Editor's Note: 'Tortoiseshell' is synonymous with 'Champagne' and 'Tortoiseshell Champagne'. The confusion arises because 'Tortoiseshell' is a **grex** name. Sister seedlings of the cross *R. 'Goldsworth Orange' × R. griersonianum* are known collectively under the name 'Tortoiseshell' (originally bred by Slocock, ca. 1945); cultivars in this grex include: 'Tortoiseshell Champagne', 'Tortoiseshell Orange', 'Tortoiseshell Salome' and 'Tortoiseshell Wonder'. Is this 'Champagne'? If not, does anyone know which Tortoiseshell it is?

... *Plants in Bloom*, continued from page 1

UBC Botanical Garden have been growing and flowering well for more than thirty years.

The species is placed in Subsection Pontica, and is closely related to the eastern North American *R. maximum* (rosebay), which it resembles. *Rhododendron macrophyllum* is native to coastal western North America from California to southern BC. Some of the best viewing is arguably on the Kitsap Peninsula in Washington State at the end of May and in Manning Park and adjacent Upper Skagit Valley in late June.

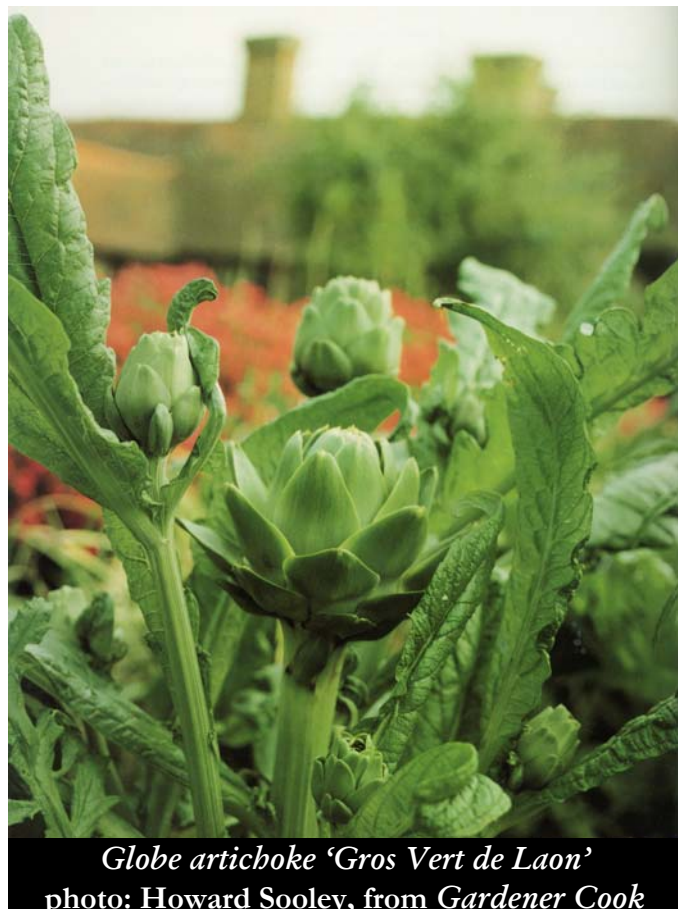


Adapted from T. C. Brayshaw, *Trees and Shrubs of British Columbia*, UBC Press, 1996.

Douglas
Justice

Artichoke Salad

From *Gardener Cook*, by Christopher Lloyd, Francis Lincoln, London, 1997.



Globe artichoke 'Gros Vert de Laon'
photo: Howard Sooley, from *Gardener Cook*

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Take a dozen small, young artichokes. A few inches of the stem can be left but any tough parts of the scales must be removed with a sharp knife. Cut into quarters and drop into a bowl of water to prevent discoloration (a few drops of vinegar will assist). Then put them into a large skillet with 6 tablespoons of good olive oil and enough boiling water barely to cover. Add salt and a dozen roughly crushed peppercorns.

Boil till all the water has evaporated and add the juice of a lemon. Serve cold (or hot, if you prefer) with a coating of chopped parsley.

Christopher Lloyd writes regular weekly columns for the *Guardian* and *Country Life* and is the author of more than a dozen books on gardening. He recently spoke in Vancouver.

Please patronize our advertisers; they support the VRS and make the newsletter possible

Subscription Rates

VRS + ARS Membership (US & Overseas)	\$50.00 \$US 28.00
VRS Membership (no ARS Quarterly Journal)	\$25.00
Associate Membership (member of another ARS Chapter in Canada)	\$10.00
Associate Membership (member of another ARS Chapter outside of Canada)	\$US 10.00

Advertising Rates

	1 month	3 months	8 months
Business card	\$10.00	\$25.00	\$50.00
$\frac{1}{4}$ page	\$25.00	\$67.50	\$160.00
$\frac{1}{2}$ page	\$40.00	\$108.00	\$256.00
full page	\$70.00	\$189.00	\$448.00

To advertise in *Indumentum*, contact **Tony Clayton** Tel: 604 921 7947 tclayton@telus.net

Discount Nurseries and Garden Centres

The following nurseries and garden centres offer VRS members a discount:

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The following VRS member-nurseries, specializing in rhododendrons, offer VRS members preferred prices.

Les Clay & Son

3666 - 224th Street, Langley

Gordon Finley

10476 - 125B Street, Surrey

David Shantz

32224 Dewdney Trunk Road, Mission



There are also other VRS member-growers who sell rhododendrons at preferred prices at our monthly meetings, and who would be pleased to respond to inquiries by telephone.

Trevor Badminton

Harold Fearing

Lilli Anne Hemminger

Diane Kehoe

Gifford Robb

Margaret Charlton



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News and Notes

VRS Secretary **Bill Spohn** reports: On the Saturday of the Show and Sale, a lady (her name may have been Joanne - she had a club name tag) came up to some of us with a large white truss with a dark red blotch from her garden, asking that it be identified. I referred her to Doug(?) and maybe some others, but I checked when I went home and have identified the plant and wanted to follow up with her - does anyone remember her and can you give me her name? The plant in question was R. 'Babylon', a *R. praevenum* × *R. calophytum* cross, and I wasn't sure when I talked to her, as Greer describes the blotch as chocolate and hers was dark red (as was mine when I checked it).

Bill is also running a trivia quiz called **"NAME THAT PLANT"**

Here are two rhodos with a shared unusual appearance—one looks like a rose and the other a gardenia! Guess the names of the plants and send them to the webmaster at wspohn4@aol.com to get your name in the next *Indumentum* as the summer trivia champ. No clues except that both pictures were taken on the same day (May 22).



Don't forget...



The June meeting is the annual VRS pot luck picnic on the 22nd at 4:00 pm at Gordon and Vern Finley's, 10476 – 125B Street, Surrey.

Contact Vern (604 581 5100) to coordinate food.



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Membership

I am pleased to announce that we received seven new memberships at the annual Show & Sale held the first weekend in May. Please join me in welcoming the following new members to the VRS Chapter when you see them at our June pot luck and the meetings in the fall: **Caroline Buckley; Ann Davey; Sue Fraser & Steve Petch; Darrell & Singlei Mussatto; Susan McCamon; Kenneth & Peggy McMillan and Lynda Taylor.**

I am still receiving email and telephone enquiries concerning membership and I encourage you to invite your gardening friends to join the VRS Chapter. Our show & sale special membership rates (the rest of 2003 and all of 2004 for the price of one year) and the other benefits of membership may be attractive to them. Details are in this edition of the *Indumentum* and at our website:

<http://www.rhodo.citymax.com>

Please check your wallets and contact me if you need a replacement membership card for 2003 (for discount benefits, etc.) or a Membership Directory.

Thank you for encouraging membership. We grow, share and enrich our knowledge because you do!

Carole Conlin, VRS Membership Chair, 604 921 7260
conlin@sfu.ca

Raffle Winners at the May 2003 Sale and Show

Gerry Gibbens - ceramic piece donated by R. Feicht

Diane Kehoe - *R. yakushimanum* donated by D. Shantz, Silver Creek

Sue Liem - R. 'Dexter's Spice' donated by T. & D. Badminton, Rhodo Ranch

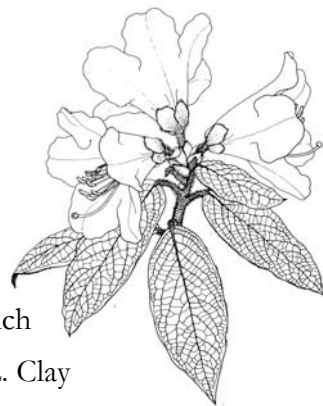
Marilyn Hooper - R. 'Yaku Sunrise' in a blue ceramic pot donated by L. Clay

Sue McCamon - R. 'Royal Pink' donated by L. Hemminger

K. Savory - *R. quinquefolium* ARS 1999 donated by D. Kehoe

Heather Edgar - potted lily donated by Andy Chan

Graham Mills - R. 'Helen Curtis' donated by V., G. & S. Finley



Have a great summer! See you in September.