



Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society Newsletter

A Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society
PO Box 904 Duncan BC, V9L 3Y2

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month, 7:30 pm @ the Mckinnon building Providence Farm 1843 Tzouhalem Rd.

2005 Directors

President:	Alan Campbell stonefold@shaw.ca	743 3597
Vice Pres:	Ingeborg Woodsworth mayocreekgardens@shaw.ca	749 6291
Secretary:	Lesley Drew sahtlamrise@shaw.ca	748 6152
Treasurer:	Siggi Kemmler siggi-k@shaw.ca	746 8751
Members at Large	Roger & Anne Slaby cprhodos@islandnet.net Sandy Campbell stonefold@shaw.ca Judy Gloster jg10@telus.net	2yrs. 748 4623 1yr 743 3597 1yr. 746 5643

Ex. Officio:	Ian Anderson gilda@shaw.ca	746 8678
Program Chair:	Sandy Campbell stonefold@shaw.ca	743 3597
Membership:	Jackie Walker jacquelinewalker@shaw.ca	743 3650
Librarian:	Ingeborg Woodsworth mayocreekgardens@shaw.ca	749 6291
Bargain table/ Raffle:	Joyce Gammie jgammie@shaw.ca	246 2484
Garden Tours:	Wilson Grahame wilson&jane@shaw.ca	715 1313
Propagation	Ingeborg Woodsworth mayocreekgardens@shaw.ca	749 6291
Sunshine Club:	Ann Springford	746 7303
Refreshments:	Etta Cook craigends@seaside.net	748 8293
Newsletter:	Judy Gloster e-mail jg10@telus.net	746 5643

The Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society nominating committee's proposed slate of officers for 2006 has been brought in and is as follows :

Ingeborg Woodsworth	President
Judy Gloster	Vice President
Leslie Drew	Secretary
Siggi Kemmler	Treasurer

and for directors **Ian Efford** } first year term
Jackie Walker }

Anne & Roger Slaby second year term

The board of directors consist of the officers and four elected directors serving as members-at-large for two years, two being elected at each annual general meeting. Additional nominations will be called for from the floor at the annual meeting and election on November 2nd 2005. No one can be nominated for president and vice president until having been a member of the society for at least one year and having served a minimum of one year on the board of directors.

Speaker for October meeting:
Glen Patterson of the Vancouver Chapter

Coming Events:
Election of new ecutive officers and directors for 2006
Christmas Party Dec 7th. (pot luck dinner) to be held in
Toad Hall at Pine Lodge Farm 3191 Mutter Rd. Mill Bay

Tea & Goodies: **Cindy/Jim little,** Liz/allan Murray and**
Bev Mountain

October Directors' Meeting:

Will be held - Oct. 19th 7:30 pm at the home of Leslie
Drew 4491 Creighton Rd. tele. #748 6152

CVR&S Membership forms2006

New Membership

Renewal membership

Date _____

Name _____

Partner/Spouse's name _____

Address _____

City _____

Postal Code _____

Telephone # _____

e mail address _____

Please indicate the type of membership in the box below and return this form to Jackie walker
or mail form with your cheque to _____

Jackie Walker
1780 Baldy Mountain Rd
R2R1 Shawnigan lake V0R 2W0

All cheques must be made out to: Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society . Thank you

Full membership \$35:00

Associate membership \$12:00

Please indicate name of primary membership Chapter/Chapters _____

Any personal information members submit to the Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society is for the Society
use only. All members who would like their name and address to be printed in the CVR&S members list and
given out to our members only - and who would like a copy of the CVR&S Newsletter, please indicate your
consent by marking this box

Rhododendron 'Loderi' - How distinct are the different clones?

Everard Daniel

September 2002

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It is now 100 years since Sir Edmund Loder made that most famous of crosses between *Rh. fortunei* and *Rh. griffithianum*, and this centenary is being celebrated at Leonardslee. Of course, the cross had been made before and called *Rh. x kewense*, but it is always said that the results were definitely inferior and it is good that the taxonomists have allowed the later name to be used, when the earlier would normally take precedence.

To produce this world-famous cross, Leonardslee teamed up with Col. Godman at South Lodge, on the other side of the road, as he had a particularly fine form of *Rh. griffithianum* growing under glass. This plant is alas long-since lost, though there are other plants of this species still growing there, in the gardens of what is now a hotel. I often wonder whether these are from the same batch of seed as that famous parent. They seem perfectly hardy there, despite the tender reputation that this species has. It is recorded that the cross was made 3 times, with pollen being carried across the road in both directions but that the best results came from *R. griffithianum* pollen onto *R. fortunei*, which was done twice. The reverse cross produced flowers that were much like *R. fortunei*; was this chance or could there be a genetic reason?

Apparently, the cross was first done in 1901, and the first flowers were seen in 1907, probably on 'Diamond', now known as 'White Diamond'. Robin Loder is certain that the best clones come from this first batch. 'Diamond' and 'Pink Diamond' were first to be shown and both were awarded the FCC, in 1914. 'King George' had to wait for the FCC until 1970.

Quite a number of different clones have been registered and although it is the name of 'King George' that everyone knows, I have long felt that, as they are all closely related and indeed many are 'sisters', it would be a braver man than me that would walk up to a plant and identify which clone it is! The differences are very slight, and you could easily think two trusses are from different clones when in fact they came from opposite sides of the same plant. I certainly feel that the descriptions one generally reads are inadequate for positive identification. As they are so similar and so popular, and therefore widely propagated and planted all over the world, it is inevitable that they have become confused and so many plants are grown under the wrong name.

It has been a privilege to have spent several idyllic evenings in 2001 & 2002 looking at as many of the original plants as I could, and also looked at younger plants, especially in the Coronation Garden at Leonardslee, where a collection was planted in 1953, and in the gardens at Wisley and Windsor. One hopes that we can rely on the original plants to be correctly labelled, but probably not on any other, even in their home garden. I looked for a truss in which the last flower was nearly fully expanded and then examined the oldest flower in that truss, noting:-

1. the size,
2. the colour of the petals,
3. whether there was any colour in the veins
4. the presence of any markings in the throat.

The general pattern is that they nearly all open from pink buds but rapidly fade to white and I was surprised that even the ones that I had thought of as pinker were in fact nearly pure white by this stage. The colour lasts longest in the veins, particularly towards the outer edges of the petals, and this does seem to be a useful diagnostic character, as do the throat markings. None of them show more than two or three thin lines of small spots and speckles, which are confined to the throat and lead upwards for perhaps one-third of the length of the petal. They do not show the pronounced markings that one sees in some of their offspring, such as 'Avalanche' and 'Albatross'. I measured the width, from the tip of one lobe to the tip of the opposite; I did not stretch or flatten it. The range was 12.0cm to 14.5cm; most are between 13cm and 14cm. The clones seem all equally scented.

So, can one be definite in identification? I feel that I still cannot, but that certain patterns have emerged which can be used to group the clones, which I have shown in Table 1. At this point, a word of caution in that these observations were made in one place and in two seasons and that in different conditions, especially temperature, each clone might appear quite differently. Warmer conditions would quite possibly make the flowers open faster and so be smaller and fade faster. Also 2001 was an exceptionally late season, with the Loderis opening between 2 and 3 weeks later than usual.

So is 'King George' the one that everyone should have, or is it just that that is the name everyone can remember? I incline to the latter view, although the 'King George' were particularly floriferous in 2001. At 14 cm, it is of average size and is certainly not the largest, that honour going to 'Sir Edmund' at 15cm. It is the purest white, having virtually no throat markings. The scent is outstanding – just like all the others!

I have become particularly taken with 'Sir Edmund', as it was heavily laden with large (14 - 15cm) flowers, and is very much the pinkest of the originals, with definite pink veins, and is the only one to really retain the colour and appear pink in the landscape. But it is still only a pale pink. 'Pink Diamond' rivals it, though smaller and Sir Giles Loder thought it the darkest. The others that are reputedly pink, such as 'Pink Coral', 'Pink Topaz', 'Venus' and 'Princess Marina', are really only pink for a short period as they open. However, there are real pinks in the subsequent generations:- 'Georgette' is a rich pink that fades only slowly in the semi-shade and 'Irene Stead' from New Zealand is very similar.

'Sir Edmund', 'Patience' and 'Venus' are also slightly different in that they open a few days later, and 'Gamechick' seems to be regularly about a week later than most, so is of value.

Controversially, Bean tells us that the original plant of 'Venus' was at Exbury, suggesting it is not one of the 1901 crossing. Neither is 'Princess Marina', which is 'King George' x 'Sir Edmund'; this clone is a distinctive shell pink with PALER edges. Another distinctive form is 'Dairymaid', (as seen at Wisley) - the palest in bud, showing little or no pink colouring, and opening to milky white (Sir Giles thought it greenish)

There are several clones that are relatively little known but which are just as valuable. 'Spearmint' has recently been re-discovered in the Coronation Garden, growing near 'Fairy Queen'. Millais mentions a clone called 'Queen Mary', who was of course the wife of 'King George', but this clone is long-since lost and forgotten at Leonardslee. 'Pretty Polly' may well have also died out. Anyone ever seen either? 'Stag's Head' grows elsewhere and should soon return. 'Titan' was raised by Reuth's Nursery at Sevenoaks in England and 'Olga' ('Pink Diamond' x 'King George') by Brandt in the USA. 'Julie' is well-known as the cream form, and is very different from the rest, but her origin remains rather a mystery, though Bean says she was raised at Lord Swathling's Townhill Park, Hants from 2 Loderi parents. There are only two quite young plants that are probably of this clone at Leonardslee. As 'Julie' lacks the characteristic purple leaf stalk (petiole) that Loderi inherits from Rh fortunei and the flowers are smaller and more tubular, one must question the given parentage. South Lodge has forms which seem slightly different, so are likely to be other, unnamed seedlings of this most distinguished of hybrids, and there seem to be such seedlings in many Sussex gardens, no doubt distributed from Leonardslee. Several were named from The High Beeches, (at that time owned by others of the Loder family) and these tend to be named after racehorses.

Sources

Loder, Sir Giles - Rhododendron Year Book, 1951

Reprinted in current Loder Plants catalogue and online at www.rhododendrons.com

Bean, W.J. - Trees and shrubs hardy in the British Isles

Millais, J.G. - Rhododendron species and hybrids (1918)

Salley H. & Greer H. - Rhododendron hybrids

Table 1

Colour	Throat markings R = red dots, G = green dots	Slight throat marking	Throat markings absent or only very faint
White	White Diamond (R) Gamechick (G)	Sir Joseph Hooker (R+G) *# Helen(R)	King George **Dairymaid
Blush, i.e. very nearly white	Venus(R) Pink Coral (R+G) *Patience(R+G) Pink Diamond(R+G)	Loderi South Lodge (- not registered, but propagated by Alan Clark) **Fairyland (R) *Fairy Queen(R) *Spearmint(R) **White Pearl(G)	Princess Marina
Pale Pink	**Pink Topaz (G)	Sir Edmund(G)	Another South Lodge form,
Pink	Georgette (R)		

* = From plant in the Coronation Garden

Table 2

A list of all the Loderi clones known to me.

Results not recorded for clones where I have not yet been able to examine flowers at the correct age.

Clonal name	Width-cm-max.	Pink	Pale pink	Blush	White	Pink Veining	Red throat spots - marked	Red throat spots - faint	Green throat spots - marked	Green throat spots - faint	No Throat spots	Comments
Dairy Maid **					Y					Y		Pale buds and petioles
Fairyland**				Y		Y		Y				
Fairy Queen*				Y						Y		Smaller and poorer
Gamechick					Y				Y			Latest to flower
Georgette		Y				Y		Y				Proper pink
Hammerkop												At High Beeches, 1935
Helen **				Y				Y				Small fl. , paler petiole
Irene Stead *#		Y										Proper pink
Julie												Yellowish cream
King George	14.0				Y					Y	Y	Most floriferous
Olga												
Patience*	13.0			Y			Y		Y			Poorer, later.
Pearly Queen												
Pink Coral	13.0			Y			Y					Most heavily marked
Pink Diamond	13.0			Y			Y	Y	Y	Y		Marks very variable.
Pink Topaz**			Y		Y				Y			
Pretty Polly												
Princess Marina				Y							Y	Shell pink, paler edge
Queen Mary												
Sir Edmund	15.0		Y			Y				Y	Y	Later
Sir Joseph Hooker	14.0				Y			Y		Y		Red marks persist Later and floriferous
South Lodge	14.1			Y		Y				Y	Y	Poss. = Sir Edmund
Spearmint				Y				Y				
Superlative												
Stag's Head												
Titan												
Venus	15.0			Y			Y					2 or 3 spot rows
White Diamond	13.5				Y		Y			Y		
White Pearl **				Y						Y		Name questionable

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Aloha,

The Hawaii Chapter-ARS invites you to attend our 3rd Vireya Seminar scheduled for Feb. 2006. We are pleased to once again have international Vireya representation to stimulate your senses, as well as fun and fellowship for your spirit. For more information please contact Veryl Ann Grace at P.O. Box 1330, Keaau, HI 96749 or peleshair@verizon.net

Here's a brief summary of scheduled events:

Friday- Feb. 17th: Private garden tours on your own.

Welcome gathering barbecue dinner

Saturday - Feb. 18th Speakers at Hilo Hawaiian Hotel

- 1. Neil Puddey, commercial vireya grower from Australia.**
- 2. Kay Hagan, private vireya grower from Tasmania.**
- 3. Fred Rennick, private vireya grower from Southern California**
- 4. Graham Smith Director of Pukeiti Gardens, New Zealand.**
- 5. George Argent, retired taxonomist from the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh Scotland**

Also planned is a demonstration on root pruning of vireya and a round table discussion.

Sunday Feb.19th, Paid garden tour and closing fellowship gathering.

E Komo Mai. (Come on Over)

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**E White Smith & Lucie Soren- Smith
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