

THE ULTIMATE RHODODENDRON CONFERENCE

For all gardeners who would like
to learn more about rhododendrons



April 9 – 11, 2010

At Canada's premier rhododendron garden:
The University of British Columbia Botanical Garden
and Centre for Plant Research
Vancouver, BC

TEACHERS:

Douglas Justice is the Associate Director and Curator of Collections at UBC Botanical Garden (www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org) and is an instructor at UBC, teaching horticulture and plant identification courses. Prior to joining the Botanical Garden, Douglas taught plant identification, integrated pest management, and nursery production courses at Kwantlen University College in Langley. He is a member of the Vancouver Rhododendron Society and, with his wife Karen, edited the VRS newsletter "Indumentum" for a number of years. Douglas holds a Bachelors Degree in Horticulture and a Masters in Botany, both from UBC. Douglas will be teaching all Level 2 conference sessions which will include lecture/slide presentations, laboratory experiences, and field studies in the garden. (Limited to 70 students)

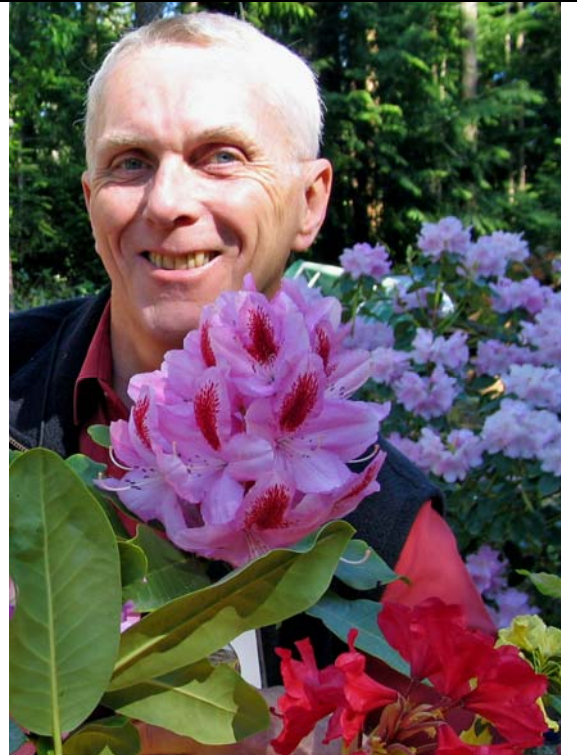
Ron Knight is a past president of the Vancouver Rhododendron Society and the current Director for the American Rhododendron Society's BC Division. He and his wife Carla have created Caron Gardens, at Pender Harbour, where they display 400 different hybrid rhododendrons and 100 species (www3.telus.net/rcknight). Caron Gardens welcomes hundreds of visitors each year and has been featured in Gardens West magazine and on television. Prior to retirement, Ron was a biology teacher and secondary school administrator. He holds a Bachelors Degree in Science from Concordia University in Montreal and a Masters Degree in Education from UBC. Ron will be teaching all Level 1 conference sessions which will include lecture/slide presentations, hands-on activities, and field studies in the garden.

CHOOSE FROM 2 LEARNING LEVELS:

Level 1 is aimed at newer rhododendron collectors and at general perennial gardeners who want to learn to grow the most spectacular rhododendrons on their block.

Topics will include current best-practice information and practical advice about:

- * Rhododendron environmental needs and how to duplicate them in your garden
- * Rhododendron and perennial pruning
- * Rhododendron culture and care, irrigation, and pest and disease management
- * Garden design to incorporate rhododendrons and prevent future problems
- * How to choose superior rhododendrons for your area
- * The best dwarf rhododendrons for rock gardens, containers, and small garden spaces
- * A yearly rhododendron maintenance calendar
- * Websites with excellent information on rhododendron gardening



Level 2 is designed for confirmed rhodoholics and veteran rhododendron collectors.

Topics will include research-based information and practical advice about:

- * The best species rhododendrons for Pacific Northwest gardens and how to grow them
- * Rhododendron anatomy as seen with a projected dissection microscope
- * Using keys to distinguish between closely-related and often-confused species
- * Low tech ways to propagate rhododendrons from seed or cuttings
- * The importance of salts, pH and micronutrients; pH and soil nutrient testing
- * How to solve the 10 worst problems of rhododendron culture and care
- * Highly recommended reference books on hybrid and species rhododendrons



REGISTRATION AND COSTS:

The conference registration fee is \$155 (in both Canadian and US dollars) and includes:

- * 6 ninety-minute learning sessions at either Level 1 or Level 2
- * A folder of notes from all 6 sessions
- * Saturday and Sunday lunches and coffee breaks
- * Free admission to UBC Botanical Garden (not including the tree-top canopy walk)
- * Complimentary parking at UBC Botanical Garden
- * Rhododendron experts leading the Friday garden tours

Registration is on a first-come-first-served basis and is limited to 100 gardeners. It's easy: Simply print a registration form at www.rhodos.ca and mail it with your Canadian or US cheque (**made out to Ron Knight**) to: Ultimate Rhododendron Conference, 2710 Walpole Crescent, North Vancouver, B.C., V7H 1K8, Canada. (The United States registration fee is for the same dollar amount as the Canadian fee to allow us to recover banking costs associated with foreign currency and checks.)

You will receive confirmation by email that your cheque has arrived and a space is reserved for you. For further information, email Ron at: rcknight@telus.net (NB. All conference communication will occur via email. If you do not own a computer, your local librarian will help you set up a free gmail account.)

WHAT THIS CONFERENCE DOES NOT OFFER:

There are no banquets, raffles, keynote speeches, contests, truss shows, bus tours, business meetings, or entertainment events. The Ultimate Rhododendron Conference is ultimately concerned with relevant learning about rhododendrons and rhododendron gardening. You will be very busy all day long but will have evenings free to relax and enjoy Vancouver and the UBC campus. Your registration package will contain maps and brochures about optional tourist attractions and entertainment events on Friday and Saturday evenings.

ACCOMMODATION, MAPS, AND MEALS:

We recommend three hotels, all within 15 minutes' driving time of UBC Botanical Garden:

- 1) West Coast Suites - located on campus 2 km from the garden. (www.ubcconferences.com). (Separate bedroom; kitchen; shuttle bus to garden; your best bet if you don't have a car.)
- 2) Coast Vancouver Airport Hotel - located in Vancouver, half-way between the airport and UBC. (www.coasthotels.com/hotels/canada/bc/vancouver/coast_vanairport/overview) (Bed and breakfast special available; our best-value recommendation.)
- 3) Granville Island Hotel - on Vancouver's waterfront. (www.granvilleislandhotel.com) (Luxury rooms and suites, recently renovated; approximately same price as #1 above; excellent restaurant, boutiques and public market nearby. Ask for the UBC conference/corporate rate.)

No blocks of rooms have been pre-booked at any hotel by the conference organizers. Please make your room reservations early, by contacting the hotel directly.

There are other fine hotels within 15 minutes' driving time from UBC. Visit: www.bestlodging.worldres.com and sort by "Hotels near University of British Columbia". Breakfasts, dinners, and Friday lunch are your own responsibility and there are several reasonably priced restaurants within walking distance of each hotel. VanDusen Botanical Garden has its own restaurant. For a good map to UBC, visit www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org, and click on "Directions".

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE:

Friday, April 9:

- 8:30 – 12:00 Registration and plant sales (no phytos available)
9:00 – 12:00 Guided tours of UBC Botanical Garden -- featuring species rhododendrons;
Tours at 9:00 or 10:30 (www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org)
2:00 – 5:00 Guided tours of the world-class VanDusen Botanical Garden's Rhododendron Walk
and Sino-Himalayan Garden -- admission fee; Tours at 2:00 or 3:30
(www.vancouver.ca/Parks/parks/vandusen/website/index.htm).

Saturday, April 10:

- 8:30 – 9:30 Registration, coffee, purchase plants (no phytos available)
10:00 – 11:30 Session A
11:30 – 1:00 Lunch, then time to purchase plants or stroll through the garden
1:00 – 2:30 Session B
2:45 – 4:15 Session C

Sunday, April 11:

- 8:30 – 9:00 Coffee time; purchase plants (no phytos available)
9:00 – 10:30 Session D
10:45 – 12:15 Session E
12:15 – 1:15 Lunch
1:15 – 2:45 Session F
2:45 – 5:00 Head home or
Optional visit to Nitobe Memorial Japanese Garden at UBC, (www.nitobe.org)
or the UBC Museum of Anthropology (www.moa.ubc.ca); admission fees.

(NB: This schedule allows Vancouver Island residents who cannot come to UBC on Friday, to arrive in time for Session A on Saturday by catching the first ferry sailing and to return home on a supper-time ferry on Sunday. Seattle area residents should plan on a three-hour drive to UBC.)

REGISTER NOW

www.rhodos.ca

