

Indumentum

The Monthly Newsletter of the Vancouver Rhododendron Society

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<http://botany.cz/cs/rhododendron-aureum/>

This newsletter is brought to you by the Vancouver Rhododendron Society, purveyors of fine rhododendrons and florid news.

Presented for your delectation, an assortment of current and historical items gleaned from divers sources, scientific to leisurely, all with a smattering of Ericaceae.



www.rhodovanbc.org

The next meeting of the Vancouver Rhododendron Society is Thursday, March 15, 2018 at VanDusen Gardens - Floral Hall, 5251 Oak Street (37th and Oak) Vancouver, BC. The doors are open by 7:00 pm and the meeting starts at 7:30.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

A foot of snow in aptly-named White Rock? Skiing around the Colosseum? Above freezing temperatures at the North Pole? What's going on? March has come in like a lion, and God willing will convert to a lamb before we're all frost-bitten. Meanwhile, our hellebores, crocus and primulas are all making a valiant stand against the brutal elements, and our *R. moupinense* is looking for just a bit less chill to break into full bloom.



We've had a change in this month's speaker, as slated guest George Woodard of New York's 100 acre Phipps Estate was sadly unable to attend. But our always popular and very knowledgeable **Philip McDougall** will more than fill the gap, speaking on "Green Patience" his secret formula for successful

growing of Epimediums, Polygonatums and their relatives.



R. moupinense

In woodland shade, with restricted light, water and nutrients, perennials grow at a glacial pace compared to that of our sunny border plants. Woodland perennials add the cyclic flow of birth, growth, death and regeneration to the more static canopy of evergreen rhododendrons. Familiar from long use in our gardens, the few, tough old standbys cultivated for eons in our gardens have left the group with a dowdy reputation. But new breeding and collections from Asia have recently added heaps of surprisingly good plants. Painfully winnowed to his very favorites, Philip will provide an overview to these groups, some history, some new plants he's excited about and what the future might behold.

For our upcoming **Show and Sale** on May 5, your executive is making a few changes to increase public excitement and buying lust. We've decided to replace the truss show in the Rose Room at Park and Tilford with a truss display at the entrance to the plant sale area. Everyone in the lineup gets a ticket to vote on the best truss, and the winner (one of the VRS'ers who donated trusses) gets a prize.

We're going to replace the marginally profitable plant auction with a raffle based on tickets allotted to plant purchasers. We also plan to have a plant information booth headed up by VRS master gardeners. For all this we'll need capable volunteers. More details at a later date.

Finally, a note about our **monthly raffle and cookie table**. At the February meeting, both tables were very shy on quantity. We had just two plants on the raffle table before Erica Nurseries very kindly offered some unpurchased plants to the offerings. But it's our members' raffle and it's up to us members to donate a plant or two, a small but essential request if we are to continue with the raffle. And the same for the cookie jar. If you eat cookies, please bring some to augment the supply of our always enjoyable post-meeting munchies.

Chris Hodgson

A Bit about Philip MacDougall

Philip uses the metaphor of “Two men and a Cat” to describe gardeners. Do couples garden together or use separate themes: landscaping versus plant growing? Philip surmises getting a second cat may not quite bridge the gap. He and his partner garden on a long neglected 0.7 acre property, the surface area of which is increased thanks to sloping ground. They are primarily woodlanders, always hoping their plants will be ignored by the encroaching and ravenous deer. Epimediums delight them, and they have been hard at work breeding things that are definitely not your “grannies’ fairy wings”. They are both hopeless collectors. At a conference last year Philip almost spit out his teeth. One of the speakers was a landscaper and, like most of his ilk, he loved monoclonal drifts, pooh poohing what he called one-itis. In a nutshell there it is, the difference between loving a scene and loving the growing of plants.

Philip has gardened all his life. One of his earliest memories was of walking up the drive of his neighbor, an elderly doyen, who was evocative about the whisperings of the poplars she had planted.

Philip’s partner is late to the game, but Philip knew the tide had turned the day he texted him about a tree limb that had fallen on his car and had to be chain-sawed. His partner’s response, “Were any plants hurt?”

Their garden business is named Chlorophyllia, and the website is Chlorophyllia.com. Definitely worth checking out for some fine photos and ideas.

LOCAL UPCOMING EVENTS & NOTICES

The Rhododendron Species Foundation & Botanical Garden

Spring Catalogue available online.

<https://rhodygarden.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/2018-Spring-Catalog.pdf>

24th - 25th March

The Vancouver Orchid Society Show & Sale, VanDusen Gardens

www.aos.org/news-and-events/event.../vancouver-orchid-society-show-sale.aspx

7th April, Saturday, 12 - 4 pm

Alpine Garden Club of BC

2018 Spring Plant Show and Plant Sale Free Admission

The Juried Show features exhibits in dozens of categories – many alpine, woodland and other rare species, as well as unique trough presentations and Bonsai.

The Sale includes not only alpiners and woodland plants, but many more from our members' gardens and from some small BC nurseries – rhodos, trees, ground covers, perennials, and of course a great collection of seeds from our members around the world. (Cash and cheques only please)

10th to 18th April

The Rhododendron, Camellia & Magnolia Group (UK)

Tour of Northern Ireland gardens: <http://www.rhodogroup-rhs.org/>

19th April

VRS General meeting. Judy Walker, author of "*A Garden for Life: Mary Greig & the Royston Rhododendrons*" will speak on the Royston garden, its many sources and contributors and its connection with Alleyne Cook, Clive Justice and the Stanley Park rhododendron collection.

22nd to 29th April

Scottish Rhododendron Society

Spring tour of Welsh gardens

<http://ars2018.org/wales/index.html>.

4th - 5th May (Friday, Saturday) VRS Setup and sale of our annual "Show and Sale" at Park and Tilford Gardens, North Vancouver. All hands on board, please, for this event. Bring plants and willing hands.

5th - 6th May

The 41st Annual John Druecker Memorial Rhododendron Show

California's largest rhododendron event, to be held at the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens

<https://www.gardenbythesea.org/calendar/rhododendron-show-2018/>

6th May

Giant Annual Plant Sale 10 am - 1 pm.

Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden, 5941 Mason Rd., West Sechelt.

12th May (Saturday), 10 am – 1 pm

Lynn Valley Garden Club – Plant Sale

St. Clements Anglican Church, 3400 Institute Road, North Vancouver

Wide variety of perennials, shrubs, trees, vines and groundcovers.

Hundreds of veggie plants grown by our members.

17th May (Thursday)

Evening visit to the Royston collection at Stanley Park.

June 9th - 10th (Saturday-Sunday)

West Coast Bonsai Society Show & Sale

10 – 4 pm - Free Admission

Harry Jerome Rec. Centre, 123 – 23rd Street, North Vancouver

One of the finest collections of Bonsai in the Pacific Northwest cultivated by our Bonsai Artists, many of whom have studied under Bonsai Masters in California and Japan.

Hands on demonstrations of training/pruning trees. Plants, pots, books and soil for sale.

16th June (Saturday)

VRS Spring picnic, destination to be decided.

Submissions, be they articles, images or events, are most welcome, as are comments and suggestions.

For those who missed the last talk, Atsuko Gibson's presentation was an excellent introduction to Japanese rhododendrons. We are more often exposed to central Asian species so this was doubly welcome.

I found a few images from the web as a sampler. Despite the high density population, the Japanese interior remains very much a wooded landscape: *R. quinquefolium* images are from: <https://travel.tochigiji.or.jp/en/things-to-do/32/>

The park lies within the Nasu Mountains, Tochigiji Prefecture.



With Spring almost upon us, I'm eagerly anticipating some early blooms, typically yellows, from *aureum* to *lutescens*. As for my *changii*, well, it was wishful thinking. A beautiful teaser of what we may expect is Windsong from the garden of Carla and Bill Bischoff:



A healthy plant, indeed. The buds remind me of red artichokes and rhubarb and custard. Windsong is a Jim Barlup hybrid from 'Nancy Evans' and 'Mrs. Betty Robertson x Fred Rose', with *wardii*, *souleii* and *lacteam* origins. Framed images as a triptych would make rather pleasing additions to the home.

DIFFICULTIES ARE JUST THINGS TO OVERCOME, AFTER ALL

And Shackleton did. Scientists of many persuasions were often intimately associated with discoveries and the development of our gardens, and for a select few, were honoured for their efforts, evidence Mark Catesby in North America. Outside of this sphere, there were many who toiled, were rewarded with a modest stipend, then simply forgotten, or worse, fatally struck down during their travels; instance Georg Wilhelm Steller, (Stöhler) born on the 10th March, 1709.



www.pinterest.ca/pin/424182858622824136/

A Bavarian, educated in botany, zoology, theology and medicine, he found work as a physician tending injured Russian troops laying siege to Danzig, (Gdansk), Poland, and subsequently assisting them on their return by ship to St. Petersburg. Whilst studying botany in the city, he caught wind

of a major expedition to the East, and was offered a position on the second expedition by Vitus Bering.

Peter the Great was behind these enormous undertakings, though he died two days before the second was implemented. An eight year planning process was required that would see the Russian Far East developed, coupled with another attempt to locate a land link between Russia and North America. On his first voyage, Bering discovered what would later be the eponymous Strait, named by Captain Cook, separating the two continents even though he saw neither due to dense fog. Nonetheless, he was promoted, and on his recommendations for a larger expedition, new ships were built, houses constructed and an extensive logistical and supply chain created.

Three main academics were engaged for the venture, Louis de l'Isle de la Croyere, Professor of Astronomy, Gerhard Friedrich Müller, Professor of Latin and History, and Johann Georg Gmelin, Professor of Chemistry and Natural History. They were charged with exploring as much of Siberia as possible before investigating Kamchatka and attempting to locate a land connection between Asia and America. The magnitude of the task soon wore on all three, and on reaching Irkutsk, two refused to travel on to the peninsula. Unfortunately lessons from the first expedition were not learnt; there were enormous delays in all aspects of the work, instance Steller's journey to meet up with the scientists, taking two years to reach Okhotsk on the Pacific coast due to lack of provisions, and over three, arguably four years for the Naval section to travel by sled and river from the Baltic before they could start ship construction.

Highly educated, ambitious, driven, yet to his superiors and companions an argumentative troubled soul, misfortune was an early companion: his wife initially agreed to accompany him, only to refuse on reaching Moscow. She was the widow of another physician, Daniel Gottlieb Messerschmidt, who, by decree from Peter the Great, had previously undertaken geographical, medical and natural history expeditions to Siberia as far as Argun, East of Lake Baikal. His work and the immense journal covering seven years of work would be the death of him and he died in poverty, his text published posthumously.

Messerschmidt met up with Gmelin before Steller arrived and passed on invaluable information. As a portent of later events, whilst visiting Steller, Gmelin's works were destroyed at his headquarters in Yakutsk. The original triumvirate of academics had enough of the poor planning not to mention the physicality and breadth of the project, with Steller replacing Gmelin on the latter's recommendation. Co-incidentally, the two were born in the same year, ninety miles apart.

A fifth scientist of note, then a student, was Stepan Krasheninnikov, who would travel ahead of the main expedition, recording and collecting. He would become the leading authority on Kamchatka, and head up the botanical garden, and ultimately, professor of natural history and rector at St. Petersburg university. The academics were ill-suited to actual exploration, and feared what lay ahead of them. Whilst Krasheninnikov and Steller would adapt readily to the harsh environment, living, eating and working much as the local inhabitants would, for the brass, powdered wigs, wine, brandy and imported savouries were the order of the day.

Steller had his faults and more than a few enemies. Studious, highly intelligent with keen powers of observation, attention to detail, and physically fit, all this was somewhat countered by his poor social skills. Some authors have remarked on his lack of tact, impatience and condescension, arguing often with good reason, with his superiors and crew, including Bering who he publicly belittled, the military, and even fellow scientists, who he accused of not affording him sufficient respect, his advice often ignored. Based on reading Bering's seamanship, he had a point.

Gmelin returned to St. Petersburg, and Steller continued East to Irkutsk where he waited a year for supplies to be replenished, which afforded him time to explore the region, travelling on and around Lake Baikal, where he recorded the seal population, and South and East into the Barguzin mountains, where it's likely he saw *R. adamsii*, (below, an unresolved sp. lapponicum), *R. parvifolium* and their natural hybrid, *R. burjaticum*. He noted alpine regions with Gentian, Geum, Androsace, Cartophyllata, Arenaria and my favourite, Pedicularis.



R. adamsii. Images from: <http://www.facebook.com/boris.bolshakov55>



From Bolshakov's blog description of the 'species':

R. adamsii "... is listed in the "Flora of Central Siberia" by MG Popov (1959).

Variouly named in:

Russian: Belogorsky tea

Buryat.: "Sagan-dali" or "saxhandalya"

Mong: "Adamsyn Terelzh", "tsagan-dal"

Tibetan "Dal-garbo", "yes-li"

Tofalar: "Ak-kaskara"

Yakut: "Khaskar".

Synonyms. *Azalea fragrans* Adams;

Rhododendron fragrans (Adams)

Maxim. 1870, non Paxt. 1840;

Rhododendron anthopogon Don.; *Azalea pallida* Turcz." Summarily, his

description (Google translation with edits):

Short description. *Rhododendron adamsii* Rehd. - low evergreen shrub 30-60 cm high, with light grey branches.

Distribution. Typically in continental climate regions, Mongolia, the Russian Far East, including Okhotsk region and Sakhalin Island, within sub-alpine belts, and in upper montane forest. In alpine regions, it grows on stony to

gravel terrane with modest scree and slope. Coastal locations are sub-alpine in nature.

Biology and ecology. Evergreen, strongly fragrant and branched shrub, or stalk, forming dense thickets up to 60 cm high. Young twigs are hairy, densely scaly-rusty; leaves oblong-oval, on top. The gray bark of the old branches is capable of peeling, exposing light brown 'strata'. Leaves are 1-2 cm long, elliptic-ovate, thick-skinned, slightly sharpened, with a strong pleasant aroma; on the upper surface are bluish-dark green, smooth, slightly shiny, with a white coating, on the bottom - entirely covered with scales, which are greyish-yellow or brownish, strongly wrinkled, with curved edges, and underneath, are densely covered with aromatic glands.

Flowers small, sessile, collected (7-15) at the ends of branches into dense corymbose brushes, surrounded by renal scales. The corolla is creamy or pale pink, sometimes bright pink, with a long tube and a bend about 1 cm in diameter. Shade-tolerant, mesophytic. It grows mainly on lime containing rocks (surprising – ed). Blooms in June - July. Seeds in capsules ripen in August-September. Secondary flowering is often observed. Described from the lower reaches of the river Lena.”

The rhodo' is used as a tea for various disorders as is *R. aureum* (old syn. was *R. chrysanthum*), which Steller described on several occasions. He tried it out on some ?-Musk deer that subsequently fell into a convulsive stupor for several hours.



R. aureum with Siberian tea, *Bergenia crassifolia*, Baikal Reserve, Russia
www.plantarium.ru/page/image/id/422140.html. Сергей Черенков © 2016

An excellent alternative to a back yard swimming pool or hot tub. Warning, contents may include mosquitoes and black flies.



R. aureum has an extensive range, (300-2,500 metres asl), from north-east China, northern Mongolia, Yakutia, Irkutsk and Kamchatka to North Korea, Hokkaido and Honshu. It can be found in humid, upper forest regions, to snowy mountain meadows and rocky slopes with modest scree, to more arid regions of flat or mountain tundra, and may be accompanied by tree species such as pinus, picea, ulnus and betula, and smaller flora including *R. camtschaticum*, *R. adamsii*, empetrum, ledum, spiraea, salix dryas and diapensia.

<http://botany.cz/cs/rhododendron-aureum/>

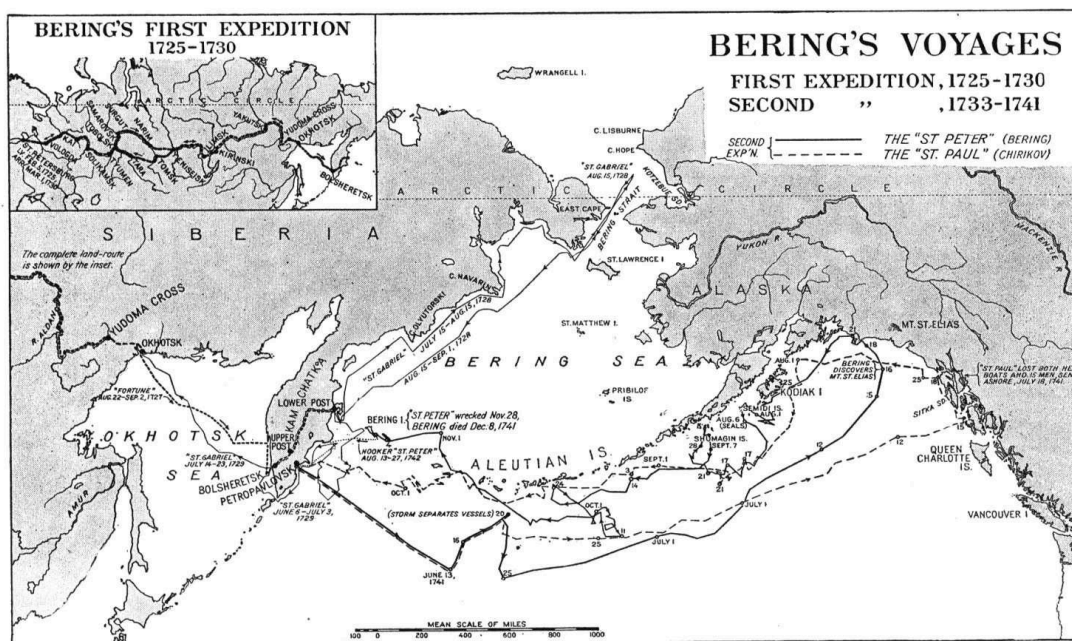
Resuming his journey, Steller reached the port of Okhotsk in September, 1740, where he finally met Bering and Krasheninnikov, over two and a half years after departing St. Petersburg. Despite his agreement with Gmelin, Steller had contacted a ship captain heading for Japan on a subordinate expedition, but whilst waiting for senate approval, instead chose to travel with Bering. Two ships were built, the St. Peter and the St. Paul, which set sail on the 4th June, 1741. Soon after departure from Okhotsk, the two ships lost contact in a storm.

Steller accompanied Bering, sailing East, reaching Kayak Island, Alaska. Given a mere ten hours to explore, much to his anger (bear in mind it took two years to arrive), he recorded the local flora and fauna, including sea lions, and ‘stupid, sluggish surly, sleepy...’ sea otters that were considered to be an American species, based on the habits of the Russian otter which lived close to the shore. He also noted ravens, magpies and a jay that bore strong resemblances to depictions by none other than Mark Catesby. Thus he concluded they had reached North America. The high quality pelts he collected in the region (some 800 on Bering Island alone), spurred the Russian colonisation of Alaska.

On their return in November 1741, unknowingly, they passed close to Kodiak Island (shrouded in fog), then just South of the Aleutian Islands, before becoming shipwrecked on what would later be named Bering Island, part of the Commander Group. Bering opposed landing to obtain fresh water, but

overruled, they dropped anchor and soon high waves broke the cable and they foundered on a reef. Bering and half the crew died from injuries or scurvy, which was a significant cause of death in those days (though an autopsy conducted many years later suggested he died of a heart attack). Drinking of brackish water obtained from a previous landing in the Aleutians was likely responsible, with Steller previously warning the crew of the consequences. The remainder survived with Steller's help, his knowledge having assisted in providing a reasonably healthy diet whilst they endured a harsh winter. The following spring, a small ship was constructed from the wreckage, and they sailed to what is present day Petropavlovsk.

<http://www.explorenorth.com/library/maps/n-beringmap1.htm>



On the St. Paul, Aleksey Chirikov sailed East, ultimately reaching Prince of Wales Island, then anchoring off Cape Addington, Noyes Island, where apparently, he waited for Bering, with routes having been planned. Two reconnaissance crews in smaller boats were lost, near Takanis Bay, Yakobi Island, and he returned to Avatcha Bay in Kamchatka, failing to locate Bering despite sailing within a few miles of their stranded location shortly after his death. Before he set out again in search for Bering, the survivors arrived in port.

Undeterred, Steller spent the winter writing up his notes, sent them to St. Petersburg, and for the next two years explored southern Kamchatka and the Kuril Islands, followed by travel to the north-east, including Karaga Island. He encountered several indigenous groups including the Itelmen, spending a winter with them. Like other indigenous groups in the region, the vast majority were either killed by royal decree during several pogroms or from disease.

In 1744, news reached him of the termination of the expedition and he departed for Okhotsk, then Yakutsk, where he spent almost a year studying natural history and the indigenous people. After reaching Irkutsk, he travelled as far West as Perm, then was ordered to return to Irkutsk and face charges levelled against him by an officer during his stay in Okhotsk. He travelled over 600 km back to Tobolsk before learning of his acquittal by the Russian government. Severely weakened by his travels, and after his return to Kamchatka, deeply devoted to the bottle, he headed West again, but fell ill at Tyumen, and passed away in March 1746. A Lutheran, he was buried outside of the walls of the city, but his grave, close to the Tura River was eventually swept away.

Many species are named after him, the Steller Jay, *Cyanocitta stelleri*, sea lion, *Eumetopias jubatus*, otter, *Enhydra lutris*, eider, *Polysticta stelleri*, and arguably, most famously, the extinct sea cow, *Hydrodamalis gigas*, discovered by him in 1741 on Bering Island and wiped out around 1768, or according to some reports, in the early 1800's.

A tasty treat it was, apparently similar to corned beef - salty, dark red, tough - but with prolonged cooking, most palatable, yielding considerable subcutaneous fat and when rendered, oil. It was easily harpooned then bayoneted and clubbed to death, providing a food source for maritime fur traders who would stop off to stock up on edibles and combustibles. An estimated 1,600 animals were thought to exist around the time of his discovery, with fossil evidence indicating a larger, more widespread population from the Russian and Alaskan Aleutians to Honshu, Japan and Monterey Bay, California. Various factors contributed to its demise, from aboriginal hunters, to loss of kelp, their main food supply due possibly to the Holocene maximum warming (7,000 to 5,000 years BP), and the Mediaeval Warm Period. No accurate drawings exist.



The spectacled cormorant or Pallas's cormorant, last seen just North on Bering Is. suffered the same fate, as did elsewhere, the northern Atlantic Great Auk, and almost the Giant Galápagos Tortoise which was hunted into near

extinction. Naturalists including Darwin received scant information on the tortoise's nature despite frequent interaction with whalers, and requests for specimens mysteriously went unfulfilled. The reason? Stacked in ships' holds

and destined for zoos or museums, they were too tasty to resist. And their specialized bladder could hold up to five gallons of fresh water. Over several decades, some 100,000 were slaughtered. On the voyage to Alaska, during the shipwreck, he had lost all his collection, retaining only the palatal plates of a sea cow. Above: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Maharishi_yogicommons.wikipedia.org.

Steller's major work was *Beschreibung von dem Lande Kamtschatka*, ('Description of the land Kamchatka'), published posthumously in 1774. He was the author of a treatise on folk medicine, "A list of common folk remedies collected from 1737 to 1738, both ordinary and sophisticated, taken by mouth or applied externally by Russians, Tatars, Ostyaks, and Chulim Tatars as cures for various diseases, as well as many treatments."

His 'De Bestiis Marinis' or *The Beasts of the Sea*, pub. 1751 contains the only scientific observations of the sea cow, plus descriptions of the fur seal, the sea otter and the Steller's sea lion.

Testament to his efforts, he is one of the few explorers of any stripe to have a genus named after him – *Stellera*, represented by a single species, *S. chamaejasme* of the family *Thymelaeaceae*. Native to mountainous regions in Asia, the perennial comes in three colours, white, pink or yellow, (from eflora.org):

In traditional Chinese medicine, it's used to treat tumours, tuberculosis and psoriasis. Recent tests using an extract indicate the plant 'possesses anti-inflammatory, analgesic and wound healing activities...' (<https://www.nature.com/articles/srep42490>), with older studies indicating it



contains minor antitumour constituents.

(Note: Another plant, *S. passerina* was subsequently re-classified as *Thymelaea passerina*.)

Several other species including ferns were named in his honour, typically by J.G. Gmelin. I daresay he knew he dodged a bullet, passing up on the trip, and 'rewarded' Steller.

His journals were published by Peter Simon Pallas, Prussian zoologist, botanist and Professor of Surgery, and were used by various explorers of the North Pacific, including Captain James Cook.

The Bering II expedition cost was estimated at 1.5 million rubles, or equivalent to one sixth of the income of Russia. Now that's a Grand Tour.

Herewith from previous explorations into the hinterland:

A Selection of Nurseries stocking rhododendrons and azaleas

Aarts Nursery, Langley	7200 216 St.
Alouette Nursery Wholesale Some Species Rhodos	22673 132nd Ave, Maple Ridge
Ambleside Nursery, Roberts Creek	3485 Stellar Place
Amsterdam Greenhouses & Nursery - Pitt Meadows	19100 Old Dewdney Trunk Rd
Art Knapp Port Coquitlam	1300 Dominion Avenue
Art's Nursery - Surrey	8940 192nd Street
Cedar Rim Nursery - Langley	7024 Glover Road
Hunters Garden Centre - Surrey & Vancouver	15175 72nd Ave, Surrey
Dykhof Nurseries & Florist - North Vancouver	460 Mountain Highway
Erica Enterprises Wholesale	14021 Rippington Road, Pitt Meadows
Fearing's Farm - Species Rhododendrons	5376 Ross Road, Abbotsford
Garden Grove Nursery, Aldergrove	1654-264th Street
Garden in Gardens, Richmond	7600 No. 5 Road
GardenWorks - Burnaby/Coquitlam	6250 Lougheed Hwy, Burnaby/Coquitlam
GardenWorks - Mandeville	4746 Marine Drive
GardenWorks - North Vancouver	705 West 3rd Street, Capilano
GardenWorks - Saanich	4290 Blenkinsop Road
Green Acres Tree Farm, Langley	22828 Fraser Hwy.
Homestead Nurseryland & Florist, Abbotsford	31888 Marshall Road
KJM Country Gardens - Vancouver	7226 Blenheim Street
Maple Leaf Garden Centres - West Vancouver	2558 Haywood Avenue
Maple Leaf Garden Centres - North Vancouver	1343 Lynn Valley Road
Phoenix Perennials, Richmond	3380 No 6 Road
Port Kells Nurseries, Surrey	18730 88th Ave West, Surrey
Potter's Farm & Nursery - North Surrey	12530 72nd Ave Surrey
Potter's Farm & Nursery - Surrey/White Rock	3231 152nd Street, Surrey
Potter's Farm & Nursery - Surrey/Langley	19158 48th Ave Surrey
Potter's Farm & Nursery - Surrey/White Rock	2124 128th Street Surrey
Rainbow Rhododendrons - Rosedale	11060 McGrath Rd, Rosedale, (Chilliwack)
Russell Nursery - North Saanich	1370 Wain Road
Southlands Nursery - Vancouver	6550 Balaclava Street
Sue Klapwijk Species Rhododendrons	suek@flounder.ca

Sunnyside Nurseries - Delta	2300 - 56th Street
Sunrise Garden Centre, Abbotsford	28563 Fraser Hwy.
Sunshine Coast Nursery, Gibsons	1826 Sunshine Coast Hwy.
Colourful Seasons Nursery, Richmond	13480 Westminster Hwy. <i>Website might be unsecure.</i>
Grow & Gather - Maple Ridge	24565 Dewdney Trunk Road
Triple Tree Nurseryland - Maple Ridge	Lougheed Highway between 203rd and 207th streets
Vancouver and Gulf islands	
Dinter Nursery, Duncan	5 km South of Duncan on Hwy 1
Green Thumb Garden Centre, Nanaimo	6261 Hammond Bay Rd.
Hidden Acres Rhododendrons, Campbell River - Species Rhodos	4367 Gordon Rd
Ken-Dor Garden Centre, Qualicum	845 Qualicum Rd.
Perennial Ridge Farms Duncan	5605 Jordans Lane
The Plant Farm, Saltspring Island	177 Vesuvius Bay Road, Salt Spring Island. Website down

Companion Plants	
Far Reaches Farm, Port Townsend, WA	Rare Speciality plants
Fraser's Thimble Farms, Saltspring Is.	Large selection of plants. Has mail order
Free Spirit Nursery, Langley	20405 32nd. Ave. Perennials, plus
Peels Nurseries, Mission	35920 Pattison Road. Native Plants
Shikoku Bonsai, Roberts Creek	2530 Miles Rd.

Other nurseries were visited, though Ericaceae stocks were few or non-existent. If you know of any others that sell rhododendrons, drop me a line and I can update the list.