JOURNAL

Vol. 65 Number 3 Summer 2011

American Rhododendron Society

American Rhododendron Society
A GUIDE TO THE SOCIETY

President: Don Smart
Past President: Ted Stecki
Eastern Vice President: Bruce Feller
Western Vice President: Robert MacIntyre
Treasurer: Bill Mangels
Secretary: Kath Collier

Executive Director: Laura Grant
Journal Editor: Glen Jamieson Ph.D.
Webmaster: Bob Weissman
Journal Technical Reviewers: Kenneth N. E. Cox, Harold E. Greer, Steve Hootman, Stephen Krebs Ph.D., G. David Lewis Ph.D., Erik T. Nilsen Ph.D., Registrar Jay W. Murray, Kathy Van Veen, Donald H. Voss, Mark Widrlechner Ph.D.

ARS Districts & Chapters

District Director Terms
2012: Bob MacIntyre, Tim Walsh, Karel Bernady, Ann Mangels
2013: Mary Parker, Shirley Rock, Marvin Fisher, Ken Gohring
2014: Don Powell, Sally Perkins, Larry Coleman, Nicholas Yarmoshuk

Districts, District Directors, Chapter Chairpersons
DISTRICT 1
District Director: Mary Parker
Alternate: Kenneth Webb
COWICHAN VALLEY CHAPTER - David Annis
FRASER SOUTH CHAPTER - Bill Bischoff
FRASER VALLEY CHAPTER - Rose Prufer
MT. ARROWSMITH CHAPTER - Tony Ansdell
NANAIMO CHAPTER - John Deniseger
NORTH ISLAND CHAPTER - Diana Scott
PEACE ARCH CHAPTER - Chuck Floyd
VANCOUVER CHAPTER - Tony Clayton
VICTORIA CHAPTER - Calvin Parsons
DISTRICT 2
District Director: Shirley Rock
Alternate: Carol Torset
CASCADE CHAPTER - Doug Crane
KOMO KULSHAN CHAPTER - Lynn Torset
PILCHUCK CHAPTER - Barbara Blankenship
SEATTLE CHAPTER - Jeff Bell
WHIDBEY ISLAND CHAPTER - Felicia Marshall
DISTRICT 3
District Director: Don Powell
Alternate: Dan Meier
JUAN DE FUCA CHAPTER - Sonja Rotter
KITSAP CHAPTER - John Bullivant
LEWIS COUNTY CHAPTER - Joanne Campbell
OLYMPIA CHAPTER - Jack Horn
OLYMPIC PENINSULA CHAPTER - Paul C. Anderson
PENINSULA CHAPTER - Steve Johnson
SHELTON CHAPTER - Tom Noreen
TACOMA CHAPTER - Bill Hicks
DISTRICT 4
District Director: Bob MacIntyre
Alternate: Dave Collier
EUGENE CHAPTER - Ted Hewitt
PORTLAND CHAPTER - Mike Domaschofsky
SIUSLAW CHAPTER - Bill Hennig
SOUTHWESTERN OREGON CHAPTER - Ray Lee
TUALATIN VALLEY CHAPTER - Ed Ackerman
WILLAMETTE CHAPTER - Wallace Reed
DISTRICT 5
District Director: Tim Walsh
Alternate: Richard Jones
CALIFORNIA CHAPTER - Elaine Sedlack
DE ANZA CHAPTER - Bee Brown
EUREKA CHAPTER - Betty Bottemiller
HAWAII CHAPTER - Joyce M. Gay
MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER - Shirley Coleman
NOYO CHAPTER - Frank Celeri
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER - John Morris
DISTRICT 6
District Director: Sally Perkins
Alternate: Barbara Gingras
CAPE COD CHAPTER - Wynn Palmisano
CONNECTICUT CHAPTER - Frans Krot
MAINE CHAPTER - Marilyn Brinnick
MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER - Susan & Douglas Harding
DISTRICT 7
District Director: Marvin Fisher
Alternate: James Fry
NEW YORK CHAPTER - James Fry
PRINCETON CHAPTER - Peg Van Patton
TAPPAN ZEE CHAPTER - Gus Cerini
DISTRICT 8
District Director: Karel Bernady
Alternate: Harold Sweetman, Ph.D.
GREATER PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER - Linda Hartnett
LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER - Linda Young-Bandala
PINE BARRENS CHAPTER - Ted Stecki
SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY CHAPTER - Tom Schuetz
VALLEY FORGE CHAPTER - Stephen Henning
DISTRICT 9
District Director: Ann Mangels
Alternate: Don Hyatt
MASON DIXON CHAPTER - Ray Smith
MIDDLE ATLANTIC CHAPTER - Lloyd Willis
POTOMAC VALLEY CHAPTER - Richard Mohr
DISTRICT 10
District Director: Ken Gohring
Alternate: Jim Brown
AZALEA CHAPTER - Hugh Denny
PIEDMONT CHAPTER - Rick Ellis
SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER - Doley Bell
TENNESSEE VALLEY CHAPTER - Hale Booth
WILLIAM BARTRAM CHAPTER - Glenn O'Sheal
DISTRICT 11
District Director: Larry Coleman
Alternate: Marty Anderson
ANN ARBOR CHAPTER - Bonnie Ion
GREAT LAKES CHAPTER - Dr. Jim Browning
MIDWEST CHAPTER - Edwin Nyquist
OZARK CHAPTER - Gerald Klingaman
DISTRICT 12
THE RHODODENDRON SOCIETY OF CANADA
District Director: Nicholas Yarmoshuk
Alternate: Sondra Meis
RSC ATLANTIC REGION CHAPTER - Ruth Jackson
RSC NIAGARA REGION CHAPTER - Sondra Meis
RSC TORONTO REGION CHAPTER - Kristine Vikmanis
CHAPTERS AT LARGE
Director: Paul Anderson, M.D.
Alternate: Carl Adam Lehmann
DANISH CHAPTER - Ole Flindt
DUTCH CHAPTER - Wilbert Hetterscheid
J. D. HOOKER CHAPTER - Sri Keshab C. Pradhan
SCOTTISH CHAPTER - John Hammond
SWEDISH CHAPTER - Stefan Salomonson
NON CHAPTER MEMBERS - Contact Executive Director

ARS Committees and Chairpersons

Archives: Sandra McDonald, Ph.D.
Azalea: James Fry
Budget & Finance: Ted Stecki
Bylaws & Policies: Fred Whitney
Digital Publications: Bob Weissman
Editorial: Sandra McDonald, Ph.D.
Electronic Media: Bob Weissman
Electronic Newsletter: Marty Anderson
Endowment: Bill Mangels & Jeff Cheyne
Honors: Dee Daneri
Long-range Planning: Paul Anderson, M.D.
Membership: Shirley Rock
Nominations: Bud Gehnrich
Plant Awards: Ray Smith
Program Library: Don Hyatt & Walter Przypek
Public Education: Harold Greer
Publicity & Public Relations: vacant
Registrar of Plant Names: Jay W. Murray
Research Committee: Harold Sweetman, Ph.D.
Research Foundation: Karel Bernady
Resource Development: vacant
Rhododendron Database: Dr. Forrest Bump
Seed Exchange: Norman Beaudry
Flower Show & Judging Advisory Resource: Bruce & Marianne Feller
Speakers Bureau: Bill Stipe
Test & Display Gardens: Nicholas Yarmoshuk

Society Contacts

ARS Home Page: http://www.rhododendron.org
ARS Office:http://www.arsoffice.org
ARS On-line Journals: http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JARS/
ARS Archives: http://www.lib.virginia.edu/small/

Society's Purpose

To encourage interest in and to disseminate knowledge about rhododendrons and azaleas. To provide a medium through which all persons interested in rhododendrons and azaleas may communicate and cooperate with others through education, meetings, publications, scientific studies, research, conservation and other similar activities.

Membership Benefits

- Chapter affiliation with scheduled meetings
- *Journal American Rhododendron Society* published quarterly
- Annual convention and regional conferences
- Seed exchange
- Listing of registration of names and descriptions of new rhododendron hybrids published in the Journal

To Join the Society

Membership categories:
(January 1 – December 31)

Regular	$40.00
Commercial	$90.00
Sustaining	$75.00
Sponsoring	$150.00
Life single	$1,000.00
Life family	$1,500.00

You can join the ARS through your local ARS chapter (check the website www.rhododendron.org for chapter contact info) or by sending a check or money order directly to the Executive Director of the American Rhododendron Society at the above address. Checks must be in US funds. Make checks payable to the "American Rhododendron Society." Membership includes one year (4 issues) of the *Journal American Rhododendron Society* and affiliation with the chapter of your choice.**To receive the winter issue of the Journal, renewals must be postmarked no later than Dec. 1.**

From the President

Don Smart
Carnation, Washington

Well, here we go. As I start my term as your ARS President, I want to thank you for your support as Western VP and for the honor of this new opportunity. I should probably introduce myself to those that don't know me—and that's probably most of you. I am a relative "newcomer" to the ARS, having only joined in 1995. I started looking at rhododendrons when we moved from Eastern Washington—a semi-arid part of the state—and built a house in the woods near Carnation, WA, in the Cascade foothills. After a couple of years, my father-in-law introduced me to Joe Davis, a rhody grower and hybridizer. When I saw the variety of rhododendrons that I had never seen at local nurseries, I was "hooked." I went on to meet Duane and Bonnie Johnson at Hazelwood Gardens Nursery, and Jim Barlup and Frank Fujioka. They all encouraged me to join the Society and I'm so glad I did. The second spring I was told I should enter some of my flowers in the spring show; yeah, right, how could I compete with all these experts? So, I searched my yard and finally came up with three trusses to take in; one won 1st place, one 2nd place, and one 3rd place! So, I really got involved. The following year I was asked if I would serve on the Cascade Chapter Board, then be VP, and then President. Then I took on the newsletter, but more about that later. When I was asked to be District 2 Director, I thought it was a great honor. When I was asked at the end of that term to be Western VP, I really had to think about whether I wanted to be THAT involved, but I accepted and the rest is history.

In my 16 years in the Society, I have been going to ARS Board meetings for seven years. I have seen a lot of changes and I have seen the population of the Society drop from 4673 to 3132, or 33%. We have discussed how to get and retain members endlessly at Board meetings. We have a very active Membership Committee chair—Shirley Rock—who has worked with chapters across the US and Canada to come up with ideas that work and don't work. She had made this information available to anyone that is interested. But membership continues to decline and I think there is a direct correlation to the increasing age of our membership. I feel like one of the younger members of the Society at 65. I also think the information overload on the internet has affected membership in societies such as ours. People used to join the ARS to learn more about rhododendrons, but now all that information is available with the click of a mouse. This makes me think that maybe we need to change our focus in attracting members.

My new catch phrase is "People Attract People." I really want to encourage chapters to get more of their members involved in activities— not just at meetings, but at plant shows, sales, information booths at local nurseries, visiting other garden clubs, and talking to the media or civic groups. I mentioned earlier that I am our chapter's newsletter editor. I am always amazed at all of the newsletters I send to members that I have never met. I'm going to have to "put my money where my mouth is" and work on that in my chapter, but all of you need to do the same. People, not organizations, attract other people, so we need to get out there and have the public see ARS members having a good time at their activities. That will cause a desire to join in the fun.

I've rambled enough for my first President's column and I hope our editor—Glen Jamieson—can fit it in. Join with me and have some fun. By-the-way, the Vancouver, WA, ARS convention was GREAT and many thanks to the Stewarts and Greers and all of the many other people involved.

From the Executive Director

Laura Grant
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Our annual Board meeting took place at the beautiful Heathman Lodge in Vancouver, Washington. We welcomed the new president, Don Smart, and the new Western Vice President, Robert MacIntyre. Both gentlemen are highly committed to the goals and mission of our Society. We are fortunate to have them working on your behalf.

A number of changes to the Policies of the Board have been voted on and passed. The Policies of the Board Committee will have the changes posted to the web in the very near future. Glen Jamieson and Kath Collier demonstrated a preliminary digital version of the Journal ARS. We are moving towards offering full digital version of the Journal to any member wishing to have it.

The American Rhododendron Society has awarded Gold Medals to two ladies, both legends in our Society—June Sinclair and Kathy Van Veen. Congratulations to both of them!

I cannot end my short message without congratulating the Convention organizing team, headed by Mike and Maria Stewart and Harold and Nancy Greer. Nearly 500 members who attended the Convention will agree that it was very educational, informative and lots of fun. Wishing you great gardening summer.

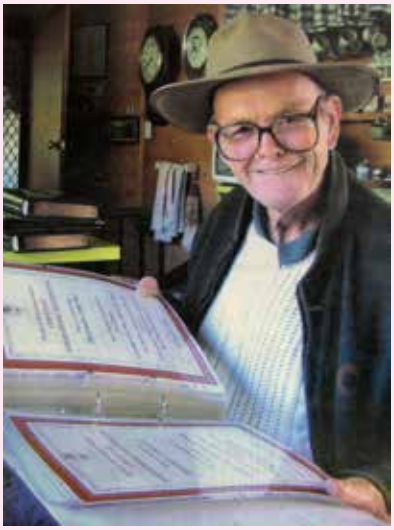
SUMMER 2011 VOLUME 65, NUMBER 3
Journal American Rhododendron Society (ISSN 0745-7839). Published quarterly (Jan. 15, April 15, July 15, Oct. 15) by the American Rhododendron Society, P.O. Box 525, Niagara Falls, NY 14304-0525 USA. Membership in the Society includes a subscription to the *Journal American Rhododendron Society*. Annual membership dues are $40.00 per year. International Standard Serial Number of Journal ARS 0745-7839. Periodicals postage paid at Niagara Falls, NY and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: send address changes to the *Journal American Rhododendron Society,* P.O. Box 525, Niagara Falls, NY 14304-0525 USA.

In this issue…

Eastern Regional Conference
October 21–23, 2011
Sandstone, VA
Registration form on page 149

Alan Campbell continues the story of hybridizers on Vancouver Island. Page 133.

Hybridizer George Woodard tells of his "little epiphanies." Page 138.



Frances Burns recounts the life of the remarkable Don Dosser of Tasmania. Page159.

Table of Contents

Features

Society News

Publications

Cover Photos

Clockwise from top left: Emu Valley, Australia, by Kenneth Cox; 'Belle of Lockington' by Frances Burns; *R.* ('Apricot Fantasy' × 'Phipps Yellow') × ('Phipps No. 51'* × 'Snow's Red'*) by George Woodard; Hellebore by Kath Collier.

Emu Valley. View from balcony.

R. ellipticum, Emu Valley.

Rhododendrons in Australia 2010

Kenneth Cox
Glencarse
Perth, Scotland

Photos by the Author

Maurice Kopsch and *R. morii.* Emu Valley.

'Florence Mann'. Emu Valley.

In October 2010, I was fortunate to be invited to give a series of lectures to the Australian Rhododendron Society's 50th Anniversary conference in Olinda, Victoria. This, my first visit to the country, happily coincided with the end of a ten-year drought in southern and eastern Australia which meant the best rhododendron flowering season for many years. My tour took me from Sydney and Coffs Harbour in New South Wales to Adelaide in South Australia, the Dandenong hills of Melbourne and finally to northern Tasmania. The recent Australian drought has had several consequences, all of which have dented the popularity of rhododendrons. Lack of water and the resulting hosepipe bans have resulted in many dead plants, and the media have been advocating gardening with native plants which can withstand low water and thus moving away from exotics. Most dramatically, bushfires have destroyed significant rhododendron gardens. Some rhododendron nurseries have closed down and the range of varieties offered to the public has been reduced. There is some hope that vireyas may prove to have more potential in the long term for Australian gardens in many parts of the country but in any case, much of Australia is too hot and dry for any rhododendron culture. The suitable rhododendron growing areas are a thin band along the coastal ranges of the east and south coasts from Queensland south to Melbourne and Adelaide, and most of Tasmania is excellent. Azaleas and vireyas also grow around Perth in Western Australia. Australia boasts its own endemic rhododendron species, *R. lochiae,* which is a remnant population of the range of species that occur across the Torres Strait in New Guinea. Several years ago botanists decided to split *R. lochiae* into two species, but this degenerated into farce with the type specimen of one being described as the other and two new names, *R. notiale* and *R. viriosum,* being used. If you want to read more about this saga, you'll find the article on the internet—"Playing with names: *Rhododendrons lochiae* and *viriosum* and the dark side of taxonomy" by Lyn Craven (2003). When it comes to taxonomy, I'm a lumper at heart and believe that there are far fewer "species" than are described. The Australian vireya species could just as well be considered local variations of a single red species and would probably have been more sensibly described as two subspecies.

Sydney and the Campbell Rhododendron Garden, Blackheath, Blue Mountains, NSW

I spent my first week in Australia in New South Wales with journalist and author Claire Scobie and her husband Aden Ridgeway, a former Australian senator and now consultant on land reform and human rights. Claire and I explored Tibet in 1997, hunting for the red lily *Lilium paradoxum* and the story of our adventures is told in my edition (Ward and Cox 2001) of Frank Kingdon Ward's *Riddle of the Tsangpo Gorges* and in Claire's (2006) award winning book *Last Seen in Lhasa* which also documents her friendship and travels with a Tibetan nun. We did a lecture together for the first time at the New South Wales Library next to the Sydney Botanic Garden, which was probably a one-off and fun for both of us. The Sydney Botanic Garden, which leads down to the iconic landmark of the Opera House and Bridge, has some interesting rhododendrons collected by Peter Valder—Maddenia species such as *R. veitchianum,* and the rarely seen species *R. moulmainense,* for example. Claire took me up into the Blue Mountains 1.5 hours west of Sydney where the moist and cool climate at 1000 m (3281 ft) above sea level is ideal for rhododendron and azalea culture. The town of Blackheath has an annual rhododendron festival; the signs on entering the town proclaim its rhododendron credentials. Like several other gardens in Australia, the Campbell Rhododendron Gardens is run by a local rhododendron group, which is apparently not affiliated to the Australian Rhododendron Society. Constructed on the slopes on either side of a valley, there are fine views overlooking the plantings down across a large pond to the tall *Eucalyptus* which surround the garden, giving the garden a distinctively Australian context, a good thing in my book. The plantings are also colour co-ordinated to some extent, and I admired a section of predominantly red and white shades. Rhododendrons were well spread out in much of the woodland, so were not dominating the scene in the way they often can and it somehow made them seem more appropriate in this environment. I find big blocks of garish hardy hybrids in the bright sunlight of Australia somewhat harder to appreciate. Australia was suffering a cold snap when I arrived and the garden was wet and windy, which was not good news for the costumed and masked wedding party shivering in the squally weather, wishing they'd chosen a church! The Blue Mountains are *Eucalyptus* clad hills riven by spectacular steep sided gorges, so named due to the haze of blue vapour that the trees can give off in summer. It was in one of these almost inaccessible valleys that a bushwalker stumbled across a small population of the Wollemi pine (*Wollemia nobilis*) in 1994, a tree previously thought to be extinct and now well distributed to all parts of the world.

Adelaide, South Australia: Mount Lofty Botanic Gardens

In the hills east of the city of Adelaide, this extensive park on a steep hillside is recognised as South Australia's major rhododendron garden. The rhododendrons are planted in a steep gully under thick *Eucalyptus* forest and are not generally looking very healthy. The ten-year drought has affected the Murray Darling drainage basin more than any other part of Australia and the use of water in South Australia has become a major political issue. Cotton growing is apparently the most water-greedy activity and may be banned from the region. In addition to drought stress, the exotic Azalea Lace Bug (*Stephanitis pyrioides*),

introduced from Japan, is causing serious deterioration in rhododendron foliage quality and leaf retention. I observed that varieties with indumentum seem to be somewhat resistant to lacebug damage, probably because the hairs prevent the insects from getting close enough to the underside surface of the leaf to suck out the sap. The future of rhododendron growing in South Australia is looking extremely precarious due to the combination of water restrictions and insect pest issues. Horticultural supervisor Rob Hatcher took me round the vast site as we hopped on and off his pickup truck. He pointed out the deliberate burning of the undergrowth in the *Eucalyptus* forest in order to reduce to risk of another huge forest fire which many years back had more or less burned the previous plant collection to a cinder.

The collection of species here is a somewhat motley crew of open-pollinated, seedling-raised plants, many from the usual sources of such material, John Basford, former head gardener at Brodick, Arran, Scotland, and botanist H.H. Davidian. They probably had good intentions but should have known better, and their legacy is a large number of poor and worthless, so called "species" raised in the 1960s and 1970s in North America, Australia and New Zealand. If only they had hand pollinated the species properly as my father and grandfather encouraged them to do! At Mount Lofty, the lower part of the valley has a thinner canopy of trees and is planted with Kurume azaleas. The effect is very pleasing and with a bit of tidying of weed trees and undergrowth and extended planting, would make a really impressive show. Maddenia, Triflora and evergreen azaleas do well here as do many tough old hybrids. Most other species struggle. Other parts of Mount Lofty are outstanding, with the fern garden one of the highlights of my trip to Australia. This collection of tree ferns from Australia, New Guinea and the surrounding islands, under planted with terrestrial ferns and with an over story of tall gums, was such an exhilarating sight and something that any keen plantsman would enjoy. I wondered whether aesthetically the fern forest would be a suitable place to plant a few rhododendrons, perhaps species only and in a limited colour palette; white alone would be most effective. I have always liked the Irish and Cornish tree-fern rhododendron combinations and the two do occur together in the wild to some extent, in Arunachal Pradesh, India, for example.

Dandenongs, Melbourne

The Dandenong Range of hills rising to 700 m (2297 ft) above Melbourne are the State of Victoria's temperate garden and Australia's largest concentration of gardens and nurseries. Few places in the world can boast such a wide range of plant material grown outdoors, from high Himalayan alpine rhododendrons to lemons, vireyas and other tropical plants. Local nurseries grow trees, native plants, rhododendrons, camellias, cut flowers and bulbs. You could easily spend up to a week in the spring visiting gardens and nurseries and enjoying the trails though the spectacular bush dominated by the world's tallest flowering trees, *Eucalyptus regnans,* which can reach 100 m (328 ft).

The National Rhododendron Garden in Olinda is a 40.5 ha (100 acres) garden which was founded in 1960 by the Australian Rhododendron Society, which ran it until it was taken over by Parks Victoria in 1995. Volunteers from the society still put in significant work in the garden. As well as extensive collections of rhododendrons, there is a collection of Japanese flowering cherries and a fine range of trees and shrubs. The upper garden boasts a showy Kurume azalea bowl and pond with a spectacular backdrop of giant vertical *Eucalyptus* trunks. Lower down are further ponds and large collections of Australian hybrid rhododendrons. Recent plantings of vireya hybrids are not looking all that happy, as perhaps it is a little on the cold side up there. The National Rhododendron Garden has reached a crossroads in its history and it needs significant investment or it will decline irrevocably. Three staff struggle to look after 100 acres, and rhododendron society volunteers are getting older and fewer. Local rhododendron society president Michael Hammer explained that they were considering applying for botanical garden status to allow access to funding sources. One of the biggest problems with the Olinda garden is the lack of labels and record keeping. Much of the information on what is in the garden currently lies in the heads of local rhododendron society experts and unless this knowledge is recorded very soon, it will be lost. Former director of the gardens Peter Damman, now in his 80s, gave me a tour of the Olinda gardens, drawing my attention to the fine collection of species that he had assembled from many sources. He seems to be the only person who knows the source and origin of the plants and he has excellent recall of all of this. This was the only place in Australia that I saw *R. recurvoides* and *R. crinigerum,* for example. Peter is clearly angry that the garden is not as well maintained as it used to be and the current staff bear his criticisms, not all of which are justified, with stoicism and good humour.

There are many fine nurseries and gardens in the Dandenongs area and I did not have time to visit them all due to my tight timetable. However, three gardens in particular stood out. **Beechmont** is the 3.2 ha (8 acre) garden of conference organiser Marcia Begg and her vireya-collecting husband Simon. This reminds me of a North American woodland garden, here carved out of the *Eucalyptus* forest with curved beds and large expanses of grass, maintaining an open effect with lots of excellent vistas. Formal elements include a perennial garden created from an old tennis court and a winding rill running down to a pond. Plants here had plenty of space and the not-over-shaded vireyas seemed much happier than those a short distance up the hill at the Olinda rhododendron garden. Nearby is **Cloudehill**, designed by Jeremy Frances, which consists of a series

Conifer and rhododendron hedge. Begg garden.

The vireya ‘Simbu Sunset’. Begg garden.

Olinda National Rhododendron Garden, Kurume Bowl and *Eucalyptus regnans.*

Peter Damman. Olinda National Rhododendron Garden.

Lacebug damage. Emu Valley.

R. moulmainense. Sydney Botanic Gardens.

of garden rooms in the Hidcote model, well-designed for year round interest from spring to autumn. Very photogenic and "designerly," it would appeal to lifestyle magazine editors. It also has an informal woodland (a separate garden "Rangeview") at the bottom, a small garden centre and a café with stunning views down over the garden. In complete contrast is the native plant garden of **Shirley Carn** in Monbulk. Shirley seems to be able to grow almost any Australian native plant with skill and style. I was fortunate to visit Shirley's garden with Dr. Ben Wallace, former director of the Sydney Botanic Gardens, and he was astounded by the quality of horticultural skills and range of plants Shirley grew. Most of them were new to me and I was particularly taken by the range of *Darwinia, Epacris* and *Grevillia* from ground cover to large trees. Like rhododendrons, Australian natives are mostly spring flowering, with the unusual flower forms of the Proteacae and other southern hemisphere families giving a distinctive flavour to the plantings. One of the most flamboyant and commonly planted Australian natives are waratahs (*Telopea*), mostly in red, but new forms in white and pink are now being widely planted. I'd love to grow these in eastern Scotland, but sadly it is just too cold.

Emu Valley Gardens, Near Burnie, Tasmania

Many Australian rhododendron fans sang the praises of Emu Valley when I was in the Melbourne area and I was really looking forward to visiting it. Curator Maurice Kupsch and his wife Pam met me at the airport and we headed off for the 40 minute drive to the garden. Maurie is a modest man but it was clear to me that he has made an enormous contribution to the extraordinary Emu Valley garden project over its 30-year existence. The more time I spent with him, the more his talents were revealed. He is not only a knowledgeable plantsman but he also designed much of the garden, including its impressive range of wooden buildings, built by some of the garden's members who are joiners and builders in their day jobs. This garden, like the gardens in Olinda and the Campbell Garden, was created and run by the members of the local rhododendron society. Landowner Hilary O'Rourke teamed up with local rhododendron experts Noel Sullivan and Bob Malone to found the gardens in the early 1980s. It is amazing what all three rhododendron society-run gardens in Australia have achieved, but now all have the challenge of maintaining a maturing garden with an elderly or declining society membership.

Emu Valley garden is built in a steeply sided bowl or amphitheatre, not unlike the site of the Eden Project in Cornwall, England. The advantages of the site are immediately apparent with wonderful views over the garden from the entrance and the visitor centre balcony which looks down over the lake below, crossed at one end by an attractive curved red bridge. Here a platypus was swimming early in the morning on my second day. Maurie took me first up the path running around the rim of the garden, through a collection of Australian hybrids such as the very popular mid-sized, purple-blue *Rhododendron* 'Florence Mann', certainly the best hybrid of this type I saw in Australia. Along the top of the garden the rhododendron map of the world begins with species planted in geographical order with China and the Himalayas followed by India, Japan, Taiwan, Europe and North America. The Chinese species are in the most exposed area of the garden in full sun on a steep slope mulched with bark. The newly planted species up here were suffering from a combination of sun and the mulch had caused nitrogen deficiency. The attrition rate was quite high and I think that many of the more tricky species planned for this area, Lanata subsection, *R. sherriffi,* etc., will require better growing conditions with more shelter and moisture.

What became apparent as I toured this garden was just how favourable the conditions of this part of Tasmania are for growing rhododendrons. I can't think of anywhere else in the world where so many species from every type of rhododendron habitat can be successfully grown outdoors. I would hazard that this garden could in theory grow almost all of the 900 or so rhododendron species outdoors and I can't think of anywhere else that could boast this. The key to this is the almost frost-free conditions and low summer temperatures, normally below 25° C (77° F). High alpine species such as *R. primuliflorum. R. hippophaeoides* and *R. baileyi* seemed quite happy, as did the tenderest Maddenia such as *R. nuttallii* and a huge range of vireya species and hybrids. Here too were a good range of Chionastrum and Azaleastrum section species such as *R. ellipticum*, *R. moulmainense*, and *R. ovatum.* There's room here to plant lots of the same thing and there are hundreds of *R. simsii*, and large groups of *R. rufopilosum, R. oldhamii* and other rarely seen evergreen azalea species. The Maddenia are superb here but as in most of Australia, the naming of them is pretty hit and miss, but whatever they are, they grow superbly well. I really admired a scented pink compact plant grown as *R. ciliicalyx* that should have a clonal name. And several other compact Maddenia with pale butterscotch flowers, perhaps hybrids of *R. burmanicum,* and an excellent pink *R. edgeworthii,* were equally impressive.

The planning and design of this garden is consistently good. Every path reveals a new view over water, framing an unusual bridge or attractively designed structure. It is all so photogenic and full of drama. You'd recognise it immediately once you've seen it, as there is nothing else like it. The exceptional range of plant material grown here was no better illustrated than with the vireyas underplanted with bluebells, not a combination I ever expected to see.

The problem with shade in woodland gardens is something I have noted in all parts of the rhododendron world and I have often written about it. I've often said that "the problem with woodland gardens is the trees." This may sound

contradictory but it is undoubtedly true that most woodland gardens, world wide, are over-shaded, and the problem gets worse year on year as the trees get bigger the and the flowering becomes poorer. In contrast, Emu Valley is a woodland garden with very few mature trees. A few old *Eucalyptus* remain in the bottom of the bowl where the big leaved species and tree ferns are planted, but most of the rest of the plants are out in the open. Admittedly, the Antarctic winds keep the temperature down below 25^{O} C (77° F) most of the time, but this is a garden at latitude 41^{0} S, which is equivalent to Northern California, Central Spain and Turkey in the Northern hemisphere. The plants at Emu valley are compact, well clothed and flowering superbly and seem to suffer little sign of sunburn once established. In summary, Emu Valley is one of the most exciting rhododendron gardens I have seen and is certainly one of the most ambitious planted in the last 20-30 years. I only hope that it continues to be run as well as it has been so far. However, this garden, like the one in Olinda, needs to sort out its labelling and record keeping as a matter of urgency. I would say that this should take priority over any further planting. Without labels and records, a collection becomes little more than a pretty park and loses the value of a properly recorded plant collection.

Australia's Role in the Conservation of Rhododendrons

Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), based in the UK, are currently in the process of drawing up a "red list" of rhododendron species whose survival in the wild is threatened, either by habitat loss or climate change. I have spent many hours corresponding with experts through the world in evaluating the conservation priorities for rhododendron species. What is clear is that many of the most threatened rhododendron species in wild are from low altitude habitats where forest cover is disappearing and population growth threatens them. This is happening in Laos, Vietnam, parts of Yunnan and Sichuan, Nepal, and in forests in Malaysia, New Guinea and Indonesia which are home to vireyas. Australia is ideally suited to provide ex situ conservation for species from low altitudes: *R. arboreum* and its forms, Sections Chionastrum and Azaleastrum, and low altitude-occurring subsections such as Boothia, Maddenia and Irrorata, as well as section Vireya. As yet, I think this conservation role is little recognised in Australia and their focussing on this potential role could be a good way to secure funding for some of the gardens I have described. However, getting material into Australia will have to be by seed only as all imports of live material are now banned.

Australian Rhododendron Hybrids

Over the years several Australian rhododendron hybridisers have named and registered several hundred cultivars. The major commercial hybridisers of hardy rhododendrons historically are the nursery firms of Boulters and Karel Van der Ven. Their hybrids are quite widely planted in Australia as are many old English hybrids, including many which are virtually unknown in the U.K such as 'Sir Robert Peel' and 'White Pearl' for example. A few Australian hybrids are well known abroad; 'Midnight' from Karel Van der Ven is perhaps the best known. Some of these were bred to flower early to escape the early summer heat. More recently, Don Dosser in Tasmania has named a large range of hybrids. I saw a good number of these at Emu Valley and some of them looked quite impressive. I noted that many Australian hybrids have good flowers but poor foliage, which in the long term means that they will only appeal to hobbyists. Overall too many rather similar hybrids have been named and I'm not convinced that good use of species material has been made to breed plants that are ideal for Australia. Many of the best Australian hybrids are from species in subsections Maddenia and Boothia and there is much more potential here. Three good examples are 'Wedding Gown', 'Bronze Wing' and 'Denise'. Many so called "species" amongst the Maddenia are hybrids which would be better given clonal names. For example, most I saw labelled *R. johnstoneanum* were hybrids.

The one area that Australian hybridisers have excelled is with the vireyas. I was particularly impressed with some of those bred recently by Andrew Rouse in Melbourne. Andrew's father John Rouse was another well-known figure in the Australian rhododendron world, and the compact white vireya species *R. rousiae* was named in his honour. Andrew Rouse has been breeding with some of the more compact, smaller flowered vireya species to raise neat plants with masses of small flowers which look great in a container and have a long flowering period. I saw some of the compact vireya hybrids planted out at Emu Valley in Tasmania, and they looked excellent. Other important Australian vireya hybrids have been raised by Brian Clancey, Graham Snell and many others.

Apart from vireyas, overall I was disappointed with Australian hybridising, which did not seem to have exploited the conditions that Australia offers. Breeders would achieve more by concentrating on heat and drought tolerant varieties, for example, and those resistant to lacebug. As far as I could gather, there is not much contemporary rhododendron hybridizing taking place. I was unable to find labels on most Australian hybrids in most of the gardens I visited, so it is almost impossible to assess which of them were best. I heard many rhododendron enthusiasts bemoaning the lack of public interest in interesting-looking rhododendrons. Clearly to inspire people, they need to see well-labelled collections. If the public can't find the names, then they can't ask nurserymen for them. The major display gardens have virtually no visible labels on them. I gave up looking in frustration.

Challenges for Australian Rhododendron Growers

1. **Drought**. The last ten years have

seen the most prolonged drought in recent history through much of South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. Tasmania seems largely to have escaped. Water restrictions have been in force and the media and government have been promoting plants that need little water. Clearly rhododendrons in the main are not perceived to be in this category. Evergreen azaleas, Maddenia, Triflora and one or two other groups can get by in drier conditions than most rhododendrons, but there is no doubt that many Australian gardeners have turned away from rhododendrons and have embraced their native flora instead. It was interesting to see how the rains which fell in winter 2010 seemed to boost rhododendron sales once more, but it seems clear that low rainfall is becoming the norm in many areas.

2. Rhododendron and Specialist Society Membership. In common with most specialist societies in most of the world, Australian Rhododendron Society member numbers are dropping. The small number of members under 50 years of age at any of the meetings and lectures I attended reflects a world-wide problem. I spoke to the chair of the Dandenong Camellia Society and he confirmed the trend also exists in that society (though the local branch are doing well, others are fading). There seems to be various explanations for the world-wide decline in specialist society memberships. Climate change plays a part with drought, and the increase in pest and disease problems such as lacebug and petal blight is putting people off. Gardening goes through fashions: shrubs are less popular than perennials these days. The average age of parenthood is ten years later than a generation ago, which means that children fly the nest later and later, so the serious "gardening bug" may not strike so early. High house prices mean that gardens become smaller and smaller and rhododendrons are considered by many to take up too much space. Some places such as Seattle are gridlocked due to the terrain and/or lack of public transport, and I gather that people just don't want to drive to meetings through the early evening traffic jams. But perhaps it is simpler than all this. Perhaps these days gardeners want to know about and share information about gardening in general. Much as I enjoy rhododendron conferences in places I have not been before, I don't always look forward to endless days of rhododendron lectures and rhododendron garden visiting. I don't think I'm alone in being increasingly interested in a range of plants and gardening styles, and I'd rather discuss and share knowledge of gardening in a wider sense. There does seem to be a difference between the "plant collector" and the "keen gardener." Many specialist society members are plant collectors first and gardeners second. In Britain, we nickname hobby-obsessives "anoraks" because train spotters (people who list railway engine numbers) wear anoraks! Single genus collector-anoraks tend to have overcrowded plots crammed with whatever it is that they collect, to the exclusion of anything else, whether daylilies, rhododendrons or hostas. I saw several of these in Australia and I have seen many in the USA and Europe. When the owner gives you a tour though the jungle of rhododendron trunks with a few leaves somewhere up in the sky, they simply shout out the plant names as if listing a stamp collection. We pass by flats, trays and pots of sad, starved seedlings that have no hope of survival, as there clearly is not a spare inch to put them in. You all know gardens like this. You may wryly admit that you have one! Invest in a chainsaw, as it is the gardener's most important tool.

I'd rather visit gardens than plant collections. The keen gardener tends to have a more balanced collection, usually better designed and landscaped and more aesthetically pleasing. They may also have great collections of rare and interesting plants, but this is not the be all and end all of their hobby. I wonder whether younger gardeners would rather join a society that discusses all sorts of plants: fruit and vegetables, organics, perennials, trees, garden design, and garden history, as well as the occasional rhododendron lecture and garden visit. For more generalist gardeners, the obsessions of the plant collector are not of great attraction. Nor perhaps are the single genus societies conferences or the magazines and newsletters inspiring to potential new members or outsiders. Young people who dip their toe in the water and attend a first specialist society meeting can be put off by slide after slide of species or hybrids and the endless parade of Latin names. The children of people who collect plants seldom follow their parent's obsessions while the children of gardeners are often inspired by their parents to become life-long plant fans. Like many others, I'd like to arrest the declining memberships and I despair at the lack of young people who attend my lectures. There seems to be an almost wilful stubbornness or narrow mindedness in many parts of the world to see the potential of plant societies working together to runs shows, tours, conferences, etc. Changing this attitude would invigorate all the societies involved and introduce people to plants they had not previously been interested in.

Problems For Australian Rhododendron Growers

1. Internal Strife and Splintering in Rhododendron/Azalea Groups. As I toured round Australia, people recounted depressing tales of rhododendron society strife. Committee members resigning, vireya growers threatening to go off on their own, rhododendron and camellia societies run separately and some Australian rhododendron groups declining to join the national rhododendron society. And this is not the first place I have encountered such tales. In Sweden, rival groups were threatening legal action against one another, in Britain instead of one unified national group, we have three separate rhododendron societies: Scotland, affiliated to the American Rhododendron Society; the Lake District (on its own) and the English and Wales RHS group. In the USA there

are two societies, one for rhododendrons and one for azaleas, having split years ago, both with declining memberships. Divide and rule seems to be the norm, when we can least afford it. Almost everyone knows that this situation is foolish and farcical but often the personalities and egos of the office bearers cannot bring themselves to find a truce and work together. In these days of dropping memberships, surely it makes sense to have unity and larger societies who can put on impressive, well attended activities and events and fund cost effective journals full of articles from lots of active members. It seems clear that many rhododendron societies and chapters will be forced to close or merge due to falling membership numbers. Surely would it not be better to take steps now, before the inevitable? This is a plea to the whole rhododendron world to work together to celebrate rhododendrons and azaleas together. There simply are not enough of us to do anything else.

2. Pests and Diseases. Every part of the rhododendron world has its pests and diseases to contend with. Australia is no exception with the combination of marsupial damage from possums and other animals and the twin pronged insect attack of lacebug (originally from Japan) and thrips (from New Zealand), as well as petal blight in some areas. These problems and the prolonged drought have combined to cause rhododendron growing to drop in popularity. The two insect pests both suck the sap out of the leaves, lacewings turning them yellowish and coating the underside with brown muck, and thrips turning the leaves silver. While both are unsightly, they also cause premature leafdrop and therefore weaken the plant. You can control them both with insecticides and oils but it is an ongoing battle. Rhododendrons with indumentum are less affected by lacewings as they find it hard to reach the leaf underside, so that points to a breeding goal for Australian hybridisers.

3. Forest Fires. Almost every woodland garden in Australia is built in or around *Eucalyptus* forest, usually with wattle and other shrubby material beneath. And these forests naturally combust from time to time in periods of drought or very hot weather, prompting germination of long dormant seeds. Few rhododendrons and other exotics can withstand the bush fires and most mainland woodland gardens such as those in Olinda and around Adelaide have suffered massive destruction at some time in their history. And everyone expects it to happen again. It is a sobering thought to be confronted by an inferno from time to time. In the Dandenongs, I saw Simon and Marcia Begg's underground fire shelter, which reminded me of a World War II Nissan hut.

4. Restrictions on Import of Material. Australia has a long and sad history of imported animal, plants, pests and diseases causing havoc. Broom, gorse, sycamore, laurels, South African daisies, cane toads, rabbits—the list is long and the problems they cause insurmountable. Probably largely too little too late, Australian governments have decided that enough is enough. Only plant seed can now be brought in, no live growing plant material, and only seed of plants already in Australia. All new species need to be evaluated in a "weediness test," i.e., as to whether they will go wild or not. In Tasmania I saw evidence of *Acer palmatum* and *Acer davidii* self-seeding in huge numbers. In other places it might be *Cornus capitata*. So far no rhododendrons have gone native, not even our U.K. villain *R. ponticum*. The restrictions mean that it will only be possible to introduce new hybrids/cultivars to Australia *in vitro.*

Visiting Australia to See Rhododendrons

I do urge all rhododendron fans to consider a visit to Australia. The best time to visit for rhododendron flowering is in the month of October, probably the second half of the month which is when the rhododendron shows and conferences take place. If you start in Queensland for vireyas and work your way south via Sydney to Melbourne, Adelaide and Tasmania, you will enjoy a huge range of plants and gardens. Australian native flora will also be at peak of bloom then too. For Northern Hemisphere visitors, the chance to have two "springs" in one year is surely irresistible. The strength of the Australian dollar relative to other currencies means that it is no longer a cheap place to travel, but I still think it is well worth considering. And what ever you do, don't miss Emu Valley, Tasmania.

Ken Cox is a member of the Scottish Chapter and a recognised expert on rhododendrons world-wide.

References

Craven, L. 2003. Playing with names: *Rhododendrons lochiae* and *viriosum* and the dark side of taxonomy, from *The Rhododendron,* J. Australian Rhododendron Society, Vol. 43: 62-63. (http://www.vireya.net/archive/CravenAusJ03.pdf

Scobie., C. 2006. *Last Seen in Lhasa: The story of an extraordinary friendship in modern Tibet.* Rider: 256 pp.

Ward, F.K. and Cox K. 2001. *Frank Kingdon Ward's Riddle of the Tsangpo Gorges: Retracing the Epic Journey of 1924-25 in South-East Tibet.* Antique Collectors Club Ltd, Woodbridge: 319 pp.

The Propagation of Evergreen Azaleas by Novices

John M. Keshishian, MD
McLean, Virginia

August will soon be past and now the new growth on azaleas is ready for propagating. So let's have at it! If any of you are not novices, not just starting out with azaleas, you might already be familiar with what I have to say, so whether you read further is up to you! This is intended for those of you just starting out in this wonderful avocation, the world of azaleas—for some a passion, for others a full time hobby.

For novices, welcome to the exciting world of propagating azaleas, many with gorgeous blooms that bomb our sensibilities each spring. Some have lovely green leaves and delicate flowers, some of which have an intoxicating aroma. I'm not talking about those hideous red things at the warehouse nurseries, but rather those azalea plants whose blooms and configuration have captured your fancy, those you'd love to have, if only you could! But guess what? *Yes you can!*

OK, here goes!

For those of you who have any of those lovely leafy evergreen azaleas (or know someone who does), this is the time of year when we can consider making additional plants from them. That is, doing some propagation stuff. I'll get to that bracketed area above later.

Let's start at the beginning with a little up front information on this business of making more plants. There are many ways of creating a new plant: from seed, from cuttings, from layering and from division, i.e., dividing a plant. We'll concentrate on cuttings, but a little background first.

Seeds: Unless you're really skilled at raising plants from seed, leave this to advanced amateurs and the pros. It takes a lot of time, attention and often sophisticated equipment. For example, raising the humidity of the culture environment and monitoring the seedlings. Yeah, so for now skip this, but don't misunderstand, it can be done, even by a rank amateur, but it's time consuming and not visibly rewarding in the short term.

Cuttings: This is probably the easiest method for those of you starting out. What it takes is planning. August is the time when evergreen azaleas, those which keep their leaves as opposed to the deciduous ones which shed them, put out new growth. New growth is easy to spot. Look for a small branch or stem rising head and shoulders above the other bright green stems. They're called leaders. After the plant has bloomed and the bloom falls off, a small ring of new growth can be seen around its base. One will be longer, taller than the others—this is the leader. It will continue to grow at a faster rate than the others, and is known as the dominant. At first it's "tender"—that is if you bend it gently, it stays bent—but when it's "ready," in late August usually, it will return to its original position, i.e., it springs back. This branch is now ready for propagating.

Snip it off cleanly and put in a small plastic bag wrapped with damp paper towels. Take several cuttings, and if you don't do the next steps right away, store them in the fridge for a few days. They will survive.

Repeat this process with cuttings from several different plants. It would be nice if you had their names, and if you do, scribble them on a label and add each name to that plant's bag.

Now here's what I meant by "planning" ahead. In my early days of plant gathering, I'd spot plants that had all the features I liked, but each of us has their own preferences. Mine goes to the various shades of pink, solid, striped, etc., and I've often referred to this shade as lingerie pink. Not always considered politically correct, but it is descriptive! Now, some of these plants were located "elsewhere," that is to say, not in my possession. I'd identify them, mark them, sometimes surreptitiously of course, then in August do a lightning raid and collect my cuttings. Where were they, you ask? Well some were in somebody else's gardens [**Editor's note**: it is recommended to get the permission of the plant's owner!] and some were kindly given me by friends. The bottom line is, I got the material that I wanted to propagate. That's called planning ahead. You need to do the scouting each year, spotting and marking the plant from which you'd like to get some August cuttings.

Now at some point we have to root these babies, these cuttings. I take one or several small Rubbermaid pans about the size of a laptop, about four inches (ten cm) deep. Next, we prepare a growing mixture and buy some peat pots. I go for four inch (ten cm) pots and fill them with my special "rooting" mixture. From your local garden shop, get several small bags of good potting soil, and then a small bag of milled sphagnum moss and a small bag of Perlite or, if available, sharp river sand. This should not be "playground sand," it has to be sharp river sand. I specifically include sphagnum moss because it has antifungal and possibly antibacterial properties that protect small plants against "damping off," which can happen if mold gets established in the mix. It's a boon for starting out new growth.

Now take a third of each: soil, sphagnum or milled peat moss and either sand or perlite, enough to fill that pan, and mix them well. I want to stress that this mixture should be soft, homogenous, and it's best if rubbed between your palms, like one does with semolina flour for making cous-cous. When well mixed, put an inch (about three cm) in the bottom of the pan, fill the peat pots with it, set the peat pots in the pan and sprinkle enough mix in

between them to support the pots. If any is left over, scatter it in the pan. Now this is important—this mix needs to be moist but not wet, so please use a fine sprinkler and gently moisten the mix.

Now take the cuttings, reduce their length to about three inches (eight cm), strip the lower leaves off and leave a small crown of upper leaves. Then using a sharp, clean knife, scrape off some of the bark at the bottom of the stem—don't girdle it, just do one side. Now dip this branch in some rooting powder; Rootone® works well, but other similar products also exist. It's Indole-3-butyric acid [often sold simply as Indole Butyric Acid (IBA)], and is a plant growth regulator. Any garden shop should have it. To plant the cutting in the medium, take a pencil, push it down into the mix in the center of the pot to make a hole, stick the powdered stem into the pencil hole and then push the mix around it. This now needs just a sprinkle or water to assure the moist mix is in contact with the branch stem. This step is important, as the stem must be surrounded with the mix if the stimulated stem is to send out root tendrils into the medium. This is the first phase of the rooting process. Leave the stems in the mix for several months, keeping the mix always moist but not wet. One can create a plastic covering over the pan to maintain a high humidity by preserving moisture but that's not necessary, so long as you keep the setup moist. You may need to overwinter them in a bright sunny room, but avoid direct sunlight. Consider putting the pan in a large aluminum baking dish and adding water to this pan from time to time. Evaporation of this water will provide a moist atmosphere that helps the rooting process.

Now after several months, give one of the stems a gentle tug. If it resists being pulled out, it's rooted. This might be sometime after Christmas, but it varies and there are too many variables to discuss here. Just keep checking, and when rooted, move on. The next step is to transfer this tiny rooted cutting it to its very own larger five inch (13 cm) plastic pot, using the same mix and same moist conditions. Now at this point, I add a few drops of an indoor plant fertilizer to my sprinkling water and gently provide some nutrients to these tiny plants.

As they grow larger, say by the next spring, look for a protected outdoor place and prepare a planting bed outside. Prepare some holes, each a bit larger than the tiny root ball, tap the rooted plant out of its pot and gently insert it into a hole, which you then fill using the original soil mix, to which you can now add a generous dollop of good loam or leaf mold mix.

You must still protect these babies so consider a cover, such as a large transparent or opalescent plastic bowl. Cover them all if you can, and of course a cold frame works here too. Your call! The young plants worst enemy is a rabbit or a deer, but I leave that to you to work out.

In a year or so, these babies should bloom, maybe earlier depending on climatic conditions. Good luck. You decide which to keep, which to toss. My suggestion is to keep them all—let them grow, then decide later which ones you want to keep to grace your garden.

Now, I mentioned layering. Basically there are two kinds. Air layering and ground layering. Let's skip air layering, which is more complicated, and focus here on ground layering. Its easy—just look for a large lower branch on the selected plant, push it down and peg it into the ground. Use a clothes pin or even the "U–shaped" ends of a metal clothes hanger. Cover it all with potting soil, over which add a generous layer of mulch. Put a good-sized stone, not a brick, over the soil to assure the branch stays down. (Why not a brick? Well, a brick just doesn't look right in a garden bed, while a stone does. That was forcefully told me by a nice lady many years ago.) Let Mother Nature now kick in, as you don't need Rootone® here. The following year, find the layered stem under the soil, then at a point between the plant and the layer, clip the stem half way across. A month or so later, finish the cut. This new layered plant with its new roots should have survived. You can now gently lift and transplant it to your choice location.

Commercially, the British do this with both evergreen and deciduous azaleas—the plant is dug up, placed on its side, and its roots covered with a large protective layer of soil/mulch mix. The branches, now splayed out, are pegged and will eventually root. Sounds brutal and it looks brutal, but it works for commercial nurseries. The plant is then returned to its original bed, given nourishment and left to await its next ordeal. I've seen this in azalea growing nurseries in England.

There's another couple of methods I've used. It's a variant of rooting cuttings, and I've made many plants this way. I take a large pot, fill it with the mix, then using several prepared new growth stems, insert them a few inches (5-7 cm) apart. I've often used four, five or sometimes six stems. If they all root, you'll have a plant which has instant body to it. A variation of this is to take an entire branch with several sprigs of new growth, and keep it all as a single clump. Scruff all the new growth off, powder it with growth hormone and then stick the whole mass into a large pot filled with the soil mix—with luck you'll have a sizable plant next spring.

Another trick I've used is to dig up a large azalea that you'd love to have cloned, and make two of them by laying it on its side and using a heavy axe or a machete chop it vertically in half, thereby dividing the roots so that each half has it's own root supply. Replant both of them and they'll do just fine if you water them and add a tad of dilute fertilizer.

John Keshishian is a member of the Potomac Valley ARS Chapter.

Vancouver Island Rhododendron Hybridizers - Part 3

Alan Campbell
Shawnigan Lake,
British Columbia
Canada

(Modified from the Cowichan Chapter Newsletter, Dec., 2006. Part 1 in the Winter 2011 issue covered the Ted and Mary Greig hybrids, and Part 2 in the Spring 2011 issue covered the work of Bob Rhodes and Evelyn Weesjes.)

Three Victoria Contributors

The Victoria Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society came into being in 1980 through the desire and need seen by local notables such as Fred Collins, Bill Dale, and Norman Todd. The Victoria Rhododendron Society was by no means the first horticultural society to be chartered in this "Garden City," but becoming the new kid on the block was not a detriment. Membership swelled in this genus-exclusive society, drawing gardeners from throughout Victoria and southern Vancouver Island. Among those filling chair seats at those early chapter meetings were leaders, if not legends, of the local horticultural scene. Three men, highly educated and of diverse backgrounds, would come to touch the rhododendron gardens and gardeners of Victoria.

Albert de Mezey (1903–2005)

Albert de Mezey was born in Hungary to an upper-class family, which assured him of a classical education and paved his way into his chosen field of engineering. Forced out of his home and country after his father's death and political upheaval in central Europe, he and his sister Mary, along with their mother, found their way to the Canadian Prairies in 1928. The Dirty Thirties notwithstanding, Albert de Mezey continued his education into university, obtaining a firm grasp of engineering principles, which would hold him in good stead as boom times developed with the Second World War.

The de Mezeys found their way to Victoria in 1946, and Albert quickly became infatuated with the native flora of Vancouver Island. His membership in the Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Garden Society undoubtedly found him scrambling over the scree of the central highlands of the Island. Now, we all know how to identify a rock and alpine gardener, don't we? Their noses to the ground and posterior regions catching the sun. It is with this picture in mind that I put into words a vision of mine. It isn't documented anywhere, but I can picture Albert de Mezey and Ted Greig scrambling over the moraines of Forbidden Plateau on central Vancouver Island and bumping heads over a rare specimen of *Saxifrage lyallii*. I know it just had to have happened that way.

The de Mezey home in Victoria was a Samuel Maclure mansion built in the Fairfield district, and the garden quickly became a mecca for garden enthusiasts. Albert's interest in hybridizing and his generosity would see his work flow out to the gardens of neighbors and friends. Should he become especially enamored of someone, he would name one of his hybrids for that person. Some of his known hybrids are *R.* 'Jean Todd'* (*R. williamsianum* × *R. microgynum*) and 'Shirley Smith'* (unknown parentage). One very familiar hybrid on the Island is known as 'Mary's Favourite', named for Albert's sister, but when Herman Vaartnou attempted to register the plant it was found that the name had already been taken, so it was renamed and registered as 'Mary de Mezey' (*R. williamsianum* × *R. wardii*). A second plant of the same cross which is seen in some gardens is 'Mary's Favourite Sister'*. The plant 'Albert de Mezey' is another *R. williamsianum* cross. Yet another of his crosses is named for Princess Abkhazi, also of Victoria garden fame—'Peggy Abkhazi' (Penjerrick Group × 'Aurora'), registered by Bill Dale.

In his often-published article "The Birds and the Bees," Norman Todd tells of being told by Albert de Mezey that "to grow rhododendrons one needs a physical age of 30 and a longevity of 300." This indicates to me that he realized the effort, dedication, and deliberation needed to grow rhododendrons well. On the other hand, another well-known member of the Victoria Chapter states ". . . Another problem that comes out with Albert de Mezey's plants is that he used the same (unregistered) name for all the seedlings from a cross—you have almost no idea what the plant will look like! Worse, there are so few records you might not even know what rhodos are crossed. It's a shame." Did a man so educated, such an astute businessman, an engineer, all aspects that demand precise record-keeping, become so lax when it came to his hybridizing hobby? Apparently so, but of course records can be lost or misplaced. Are there more de Mezey hybrids hidden in Victoria gardens? I like to think so, but for now we can enjoy and purposefully preserve those known plants he has left us.

Herman Vaartnou (1917–1996)

Dr. Herman Vaartnou was also a charter member of the Victoria Rhododendron Society. He was born in Estonia, and managed to escape to Sweden as the Russian army overran his country during the Second World War. In Sweden he marked up two achievements: he gained a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture, and he married Hella, also an expatriate of Estonia.

In early 1950, the Vaartnous emigrated to Canada and settled in Vancouver where Herman entered the agronomy department at the University of British Columbia (UBC) as a laboratory assistant under the eye of Dr. Vernon Brink. At the same time, he undertook the added task of upgrading his education to a Master of Science in Agriculture. Upon attaining that degree, he then took on the position of Supervisor of Grounds in the

Department of Physical Plants at UBC, which he held until 1966, during which time he also obtained his Ph.D. in plant ecology and taxonomy.

It was during his tenure as grounds supervisor that his interest in rhododendrons took root. Late 1964 saw the initial steps taken by Dr. Milton Walker of the newly formed Rhododendron Species Foundation and Mary Greig of the Royston Nurseries to bring in rhododendron species plant material from Britain to UBC for propagation. Herman was immediately taken with the project and enlisted the aid of his promising new propagator, Evelyn Jack (Weesjes), to begin the conversion of seed and cuttings into garden-worthy plants. At this time, Dr. Vaartnou began his own collection of species rhododendrons by procuring propagated material coming out of Brodick Castle in Scotland to UBC, as well as chosen Greig forms of species from the Royston nursery. See how the various threads of the local rhododendron community are starting to form a tighter weave?

Herman and Hella moved to their Lansdowne Road property in Victoria in 1976 and immediately began what was to become one of the noted gardens of Victoria for its large collection of big-leaved rhododendrons. In time, Herman became involved with the newly formed Victoria Rhododendron Society as well as the Friends of the University of Victoria's Finnerty Garden.

Herman selected, named, and registered many good forms of rhododendrons from his collection, as well as those in the university gardens, though it is not always clear if those chosen were Greig-selected forms, his own selected forms from Brodick, or open-pollinated plants from his own garden. Two Greig-selected plants that he named and registered were 'Chancellors Choice', a form of *R. pseudochrysanthum,* and 'Toni James', a form of *R. williamsianum*. Some of those plants coming out of Britain that Dr. Vaartnou named and registered are: 'Peeter's Pride', a form of *R. montroseanum* (and yes, Peeter is spelled correctly); 'Mother Julia', a selection of *R. vernicosum*; 'Manivalde', a selection of *R. praestans*; and 'Doctor Brian Saunders', a form of *R. calophytum*. Still more of his registered plants were of selected seedlings from open-pollinated (OP) seed or, as Clint Smith calls them, "bumble bee" hybrids. Open-pollinated means that the pollen parent is unknown. 'Linda Marie' is from OP seed of *R. irroratum, and* 'Erik's Choice' is from OP seed of *R. grande*. Of course, we are all familiar with 'Prince Abkhazi' and 'Princess Abkhazi', both of which are from OP seed of *R. irroratum*. The two named plants from OP seed of *R. soulei* are 'Finnerty' and 'Mrs Dora Kreiss'. Are they related? We don't know. Two OP *R. macabeanum* seedlings were also registered, 'Mrs Margaret Buffam' and 'Norman Todd'. The same question exists: are they from the same seed pod or do they have different pollen parents? Again, we don't know.

I do not want to appear to be trivializing or holding with less regard the contributions of Dr. Vaartnou because they are not the result of focussed hybridizing goals, but I would like to make a point or two. I've been told that he named and (or) registered in excess of 50 plants, but lists held by Evelyn Weesjes and the Victoria Chapter count only 36. What plants are missing? We don't know. The documentation just isn't there and, as shown in the preceding paragraph, documentation is incomplete for many of the plants we do know of. My second point concerns those 14 or so plants missing from the lists. Do they still exist in some secluded part of someone's garden or, as in the case of the *R. macabeanum* hybrid 'Norman Todd', have they disappeared? The registered hybrid 'Norman Todd' died out in the Vaartnou garden and the name can never be used again in the rhododendron registry. If a hybridizer believes that a plant is worthy of naming and registering, then it must be propagated and planted out in various gardens to safeguard its existence. All that being said, I still feel that if someone should have the space and decide to amass all the known Vaartnou plants, that collection would be a fantastic sight to see.

Stuart Holland (1910–1989)

Interest in rhododendrons blossomed in Victoria long before the start of the Victoria Rhododendron Society. During the early 1950s, Dr. Stuart Holland began to establish the garden of his Transit Road property in Oak Bay. Born in British Columbia and brought up here, Stuart Holland followed his interest in geology to UBC, received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees, and continued on to a Ph.D. from Princeton University. His expertise in geology would see him become the chief geologist for the mines ministry in British Columbia.

In performing his duties as chief geologist, he travelled the length and breadth of the province, from seashores to alpine meadows, and with his inquiring mind developed a fascination for the diverse flora he came upon. Through his interest in botany, he became acquainted with Dr. Adam Szczawinski, curator of botany at the Royal BC Museum during the 1950s, and the two of them, along with eight other gardening enthusiasts around Victoria, organized The Arboretum Society of the Pacific Northwest. The purpose was to establish a national arboretum within Victoria, beginning with a specialized rhododendron garden. Federal politics being as fickle as it is, these plans were stifled within their fledgling steps. Undeterred, the Arboretum Society scaled back their plans and with donations from area nursery operators such as Ed Lohbrunner, Richard Layritz, and Ted and Mary Greig, the planting of Playfair Park in Saanich began.

Stuart Holland's interest in rhododendrons was second to none, and naturally led to attempts at hybridizing. He dabbled in the Subsection Triflora with *R. augustinii* and also did some work with *R. thomsonii*. No record of the hybrids produced from this work seems

to exist, but his work with the Subsection Cinnabarina is where he really excelled. Bill Dale gives high praise indeed when he speaks of his best friend as being "the best rhodo man I have known." The Victoria Chapter has chosen to make one of Stuart Holland's *R. cinnabarinum* crosses as their marquee plant. This hybrid is 'Transit Gold' ('Royal Flush' (cream form) × *R. cinnabarinum* ssp. *xanthocodon*). Stuart Holland died early in 1989, but Bill Dale saw to the registration of his finest work—'Stuart Holland', an OP hybrid of *R. cinnabarinum* Roylei Group, but it is not clear in the registration declaration in the Journal of the ARS whether this is a Holland cross or a Vaartnou cross. Bill Dale is adamant that the hybrid was a plant selected by Stuart Holland from his garden, which was registered by Herman Vaartnou in Holland's memory. The only other hybrid that has been found, to my knowledge, and attributed to Holland is growing in Peter Kearns's garden at Cowichan Bay, BC. This unnamed hybrid is a cross of *R. cinnabarinum* Roylei Group and 'Lady Chamberlain'. Only three hybrids known of one man's work! Are there more? I have heard of cuttings taken from the old Transit Road garden by a member of the Victoria Rhododendron Society but have yet to confirm this.

Stuart Holland's memory will endure not only because of the Victoria Society's choice of 'Transit Gold' as its emblem, but also because of Saanich, BC, immortalizing the names of the original members of the Arboretum Society on a bronze plaque in Playfair Park.

I grow and propagate the plants of these three gentlemen, but unfortunately, never had the opportunity to meet any of them, but I do know those they mentored and who have taught me in turn. In that, I hold them in gratitude. Dr. Holland I hold in special reverence in the expectation that, should I ever enter the realm of the hybridizer, I too will work with the Subsections Cinnabarina and Triflora.

(Text continued on next page.)

R. 'Mary de Mezey'.

R. 'Princess Abkhazi'.

R. 'Transit Gold'.

What's in the Works Now?

"The good old days," we all remember those, even if our individual recollections differ. I hold fond memories of childhood days in the mid 1950s growing up in the village of Cobble Hill, BC, and its central agricultural feed store. Farmers from their surrounding farms would meet there, talk of all that was of concern and purchase that which was needed. "The Creamery" was a fantastic place for us youngsters—dimly lit alleyways made from towering stacks of burlaped sacks of grains, the smell of alfalfa hay and molasses. Yet even from the depths of these battlements of burlap we would hear the arrival of "old Bob Caven" and his team of Clydesdales pulling his buckboard wagon up to the loading ramp for his weekly supplies. A scene of perhaps 100 years earlier eroded away by the Mercury and Fargo pickup trucks parked around him. The horse and wagon had served Mr. Caven well his whole life; no need for those new fangled foul smelling machines.

I applaud Mr. Caven's ability to be content with his ways and means and not feel the "need" to embrace all that is new, but to disregard the ability to improve is another thing all together. Charles Duell was a man who foresaw the end of advancement. In the year 1899, during his tenure as the Commissioner of the United States Patent Office, Mr. Duell stated: "Everything that can be invented has been invented." Thankfully those with inquiring minds chose not to heed him. It is those men and women with an inborn sense of curiosity or inquisitiveness that allows the addition to or improvement of that which has come before.

Joe Harvey, Ph.D.

Joe Harvey, Ph.D., of the American Rhododendron Society's Victoria Chapter is one such man. Born in the County of Yorkshire, England, and schooled in Durham, Dr. Harvey focused his scholastic endeavours towards biology. An interest in hybridizing became part of Joe's work while pursuing his doctorate. Rhododendrons were not his subject of choice at that time. The hybridization of violets became the substance of his thesis. (Joe has kept rather mum on that point amongst rhododendron circles so perhaps we'll just keep that to ourselves).

The lure of the western horizon pulled Joe to Halifax in 1963 where he accepted a position in the Biology Department of Dalhousie University. During his time on the East Coast, Dr. Harvey became acquainted with the local rhododendron scene. Nova Scotia has its own "rhodoholics" and men such as John Weagle and Capt. Dick Steele would see Dr. Harvey fully engulfed in the addiction. Twenty-six years later, Joe attended the 1989 American Rhododendron Society's Spring Convention hosted by the Victoria Chapter. This four-five day sojourn to the West Coast would cause an epiphany within Joe, resulting in he and his wife Linda selling their eastern home and retiring to Sooke in 1990.

Producing rhododendron hybrids with improved habit and foliage is now Dr. Harvey's focus. Choosing species specifically with indumented foliage and hand pollinating the desired crosses has produced exceptional plants. John Weagle has registered one such plant named as 'The Porcupine' (*R. degronianum* × *R. makinoi*), a very compact plant whose new growth emerges standing straight up, reminiscent of its namesake in an irritated state. Numerous crossings using *R. degronianum, R. makinoi, R. pachysanthum, R. pseudochrysanthum*, along with choice plants from the Subsection Taliensia will I am sure produce more plants being registered having Joe Harvey as hybridizer.

With his Ph.D. in biology and his membership in the Linnean Society of London, Joe is the first to admit that he is a scientist, not a gardener. Gardener or not, this scientist's inquisitiveness has cultivated a prodigious amount of rhododendron seed. Seed lots obtained by local propagators as well as those offered through the ARS Seed Exchange will ensure that Joe Harvey's rhodo hybrids will be growing not only in Vancouver Island gardens but also in the gardens of Eastern North America, France, Denmark and Finland.

Harry Wright

Harry Wright is another "East Coaster" who has greatly enhanced the rhododendron scene here on Vancouver Island. Harry and his wife Gwen's thirty-five plus years of living in the Comox Valley, BC, at their Haida Gold Garden has garnered them the respect and friendship of countless people in the American Rhododendron Society.

His parents' love of the soil not withstanding, Harry looked for a little more adventure than what he was finding digging potatoes out of the New Brunswick soil. Harry's search for "the new" eventually had him join the Royal Canadian Air Force in the early 1950s. A twenty-year military career included a two-year tour of duty with N.A.T.O. in Europe along with a one-year tour with the U.N. in West New Guinea. These extended duties provided Harry with the opportunities to visit the many magnificent gardens of those regions. A lengthy posting to C.F.B. Trenton in Ontario followed but couldn't keep Harry's enquiring mind busy enough. His mother's love of landscape surfaced in Harry and pulled him into a correspondence course in landscaping and to take an off-hour part time job at a nursery. Eventually Harry started his own landscape maintenance business and the desire to learn more had Harry begin a three-year course on General Horticulture from the University of Guelph, ON, which he finished just in time to take a new posting at C.F.B. Comox. BC. This was to be the last posting for the Wrights, and Harry took his release from the military in 1972.

The years that followed were busy ones —establishing a landscape maintenance business, purchasing the land that would hold their home and gardens and eventually taking on the position of Parks Foreman for the city of Courtenay. Harry quickly became aware that West Coast gardening revolved around rhododendrons. Yellow

rhodos took top spot on Harry's list, with Bob Rhodes' 'Haida Gold' coming in first. Asking for and receiving permission to use the name "Haida Gold," Harry left his position as Parks Foreman to devote full time to Haida Gold Garden.

Harry started to dabble in hybridizing during the late 1980s. His focus was to try and extend the bloom period especially in the yellows. Work began on the "Courtenay Royals." The first named plant, 'Courtenay King', was actually a plant purchased in the early 1970s as *R. auriculatum* but it showed itself to be a hybrid once it bloomed. A crossing of *R.* 'Haida Gold' × 'Golden Star' produced sister seedlings named 'Courtenay Queen' and 'Courtenay Princess', both good yellows, with the 'Princess' blooming in April and the 'Queen' more fragrant and blooming a month later. 'Courtenay Lady' (Ladybird Group × 'Enchanted Evening') was next, followed by 'Courtenay Duke' ('Madame Guillemot' × 'Gomer Waterer'). These, the "Courtenay Five," were registered in 2001. Harry was asked to name a plant for the UK Queen Mother and permission was given to use the name "Queen-Empress." Bill Dale had given Harry seed of a crossing of ((*R. fortunei* × *R. decorum*) × *R. decorum* ssp. *diaprepes* 'Gargantua'), the progeny of which Harry grew on, evaluated, and chose the best to honour the Queen Mother. *R.* 'Queen-Empress' was registered in 2004. A third selection from the 'Haida Gold' × 'Golden Star' seedlings was chosen and named for Iona Campagnola, who was the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia from 2001 to 2007. 'Iona Cee' is similar to its sister seedlings but blooms a month later, in mid June. My list also shows a 'Courtenay Gold'* ('Haida Gold' × 'Crest') not registered as yet.

Harry Wright's desire to learn more led him to join the Vancouver Chapter of the ARS. Finding his needs not being met due to his inability regularly to attend the meetings in Vancouver [then, the nearest ARS Chapter, and about a four hour car and ferry ride away!], Harry saw no recourse but to start a rhodo club in the Comox Valley. The North Island Rhododendron Society (NIRS) subsequently received its charter from the ARS in 1984. Harry has sat as President of the NIRS on numerous times and in other executive positions. In 2003, Harry was approached to sit as the Alternate District 1 Director (to relieve an ailing Ken Gibson) which he accepted, and followed that position with three years as District 1 Director. During this time, Harry somewhere found the time to compile a listing of the many species and hybrid rhododendrons growing in the gardens of District 1. My fourth edition of this compilation shows 125 gardens contributing and 4180 different rhododendrons listed.

Perhaps not as large in stature as some, Harry Wright is definitely larger than most in accomplishments. Harry is a very approachable man, generous with his knowledge and his plant material, and we have always found an open door at Haida Gold Gardens.

John Hawkins and Lloyd Gilmore

John Hawkins and Lloyd Gilmore of the Victoria Rhododendron Society are relatively new to hybridizing, both having converted from the purview of propagator to that of hybridizer in the last five to ten years. Both have approached hybridizing independently though their goals show similarities.

I recall John saying once, "If I'm going to grow rhodos from seed, then it might as well be seed that I have produced." The seed John produces reflects his three main hybridizing goals. Firstly to bring more colour into late winter blooming plants. Here he is using the late January (in Victoria, BC) blooming *R. ririei* as the seed parent, hoping to introduce more colour into the usual seasonal white and pale pinks. John also likes the yellows and has been trying to create yellow-flowering plants with better habits (more compact). His main seed parent here is *R.* 'Marie Starks'. Finally into this mix John hopes to introduce fragrance.

Lloyd Gilmore's goal "…is to create a 'hose in hose' flower with indumentum and scent in a slower growing plant for smaller house lots." Sounds easy if you say it fast enough! A Jack Lofthouse plant, *R.* 'Jeda', is Lloyd's key plant. To introduce indumentum Lloyd uses *R. pachysanthum, R. bureavii, R. flinckii, R. mallotum,* and *R. roxianum*. For increased pigmentation, 'Marie Starks' introduces a good yellow; for spotting, 'Paprika Spiced' is used and for a red introduction, *R. neriiflorum* 'Rosevallon' and *R. sanguineum* ssp. *haemaleum* have been used. Into this mix goes 'Dexter's Spice' for fragrance. Lloyd has not as yet registered a plant though two have been named, 'Sooke Clouds' ('Jeda' × *R. pachysanthum*) and 'Parksville Sunset' ('Paparika Spiced' × 'Jeda').

Throughout the writing of this last instalment of "Vancouver Island Rhododendron Hybridizers," the thought floated across the bottom of the page that this would end the series before I realized that the thought mirrored the thinking of Charles Duell. In no way have all rhododendron hybrids that can be hybridized been hybridized! Someone will always come to see a characteristic that needs improvement, no matter how subjective that may be. Perhaps this will be the last vignette on the subject to be pulled from my pen but for those budding hybridizers, I'll finally close here with a quote from Lloyd Gilmore.

"Set your goals, plan your crosses, using plants that are dominate for your desired traits, do some armchair hybridizing, dream, use the internet, read, ask questions and observe, but above all have passion."

References

Salley, H.E. and H.E. Greer. 1986. *Rhododendron Hybrids: A Guide to Their Origins.* Timber Press, Portland, OR: 391 pp.

Alan Campbell is a past President of the Cowichan Valley Chapter and a frequent contributor to its newsletter.

R. ('Apricot Fantasy' × 'Phipps Yellow') × ('Phipps No. 51'* × 'Snow's Red'*).

R. (*R. brachycarpum* ssp. *brachycarpum* × *R. macabeanum*) × ({'Orange Marmalade' × 'Percy Wiseman'} × {'Voluptuous' × 'Phipps Yellow'}).

R. 'Angel Powder'.

Little Epiphanies

George Woodard
Westbury,
New York

Photos by the Author

e·piph·a·ny [ih-pif-uh-nee]: A sudden, intuitive perception of or insight into the reality or essential meaning of something, usually initiated by some simple, homely, or commonplace occurrence or experience.

One of the reasons some of us are so obsessed with the *Rhododendron* genus is the experience of having "little epiphanies" while standing in front of some rhododendron species or hybrid, or standing in some amazing garden. We remember these moments and attach the experience of wonder to the plant, and the plant becomes an icon in our minds. The feeling invoked is different for each person, but I am sure it has something to do with a sense of wonder at what plants, the realm of photosynthetic organisms and the base of all food chains, can produce. The first time I had a little epiphany was standing in front of *R.* 'Wyandanch Pink' at the Planting Fields Arboretum back in the early '70s when the local hippies almost trashed the place and caused it to be closed to the public for a few years. I went back to visit that plant many times over the years. The most powerful experience involving a rhododendron garden occurred for me in Frank Fujioka's garden, and it kept happening every time I visited him. The

R. (‘Naselle’ × ‘Sandra Hinton’) × (‘Fantastica’ × ‘One Thousand Butterflies’).

R. ({‘Scintillation’ × ‘Pink Petticoats’} × *R. yakushimanum*) × ({‘Dumper’s Yellow’* × ‘Phipps Yellow’} × ‘One Thousand Butterflies’).

quality of his hybrids, his collection of species, the perfect specimen of ‘Horizon Monarch’, and his talent as a gardener and designer, leaves one standing there, the mind temporarily stopped, feeling “What could ever be a problem after this?”

We anticipate spring all year. Some of these iconic plants we acknowledge all year long because of the feelings they invoke in us when they are in bloom. We walk past

Magnolia ‘Big Dude’

R. ‘Legacy’ × *R. mucronulatum* HP No. 2.

R. ({‘Looyes Tet Purple’* × [‘Gertrude Saxe’ × ‘Señora Meldon’]} × *R. russatum* Blue-Black) × ‘Angel Powder’.

them in winter and forgive their forlorn appearance because we know, come spring, we will be once again be thrilled to be standing in front of them. Then spring comes and our "sense perceptions" are saturated with colors and smells. I live for this, the temporary lifting of the gloom of winter when the iconic plants show their stuff and all is well one more time.

The lepidote hybrid 'Angel Powder' has this effect on me. Listed in the registry as 'Epoch' × *R. mucronulatum*, white flowered, it sets three or four terminal buds on every branch and when it flowers, the large white flowers, dusted with a soft mauve, look like elipidote trusses. Its name is perfect. I can see no evidence of *R. mucronulatum*, but I've never found any open-pollinated seed on it, so it may be an infertile triploid. It has successfully pollinated some blue tetraploid lepidotes, but only a few seeds were produced.

Arisaema ringens, the Japenese cobra lily, or Japanese jack-in-the-pulpit, is thrilling when it first emerges, with the mottling on the stem and the prehistoric way its leaves unfold.

Several years ago, I crossed 'Legacy', a double flowered purple lepidote, with a dark pink *mucronulatum*, producing about 150 seedlings with a color range from mauve-lavender to dark pink, and almost all of them were doubles. I was intending to select the best five, propagate them and throw the rest away. My friend Hitch Lyman, a well known garden designer here in the Northeast, suggested I plant the whole crossing in the woods, which we did, laying them out in a wide array which slides up a hill and ends with the best five planted in a group. Every spring I can't wait for them to bloom, as they line the edge of the Estate along a road and light up the woods at a time in spring when intense color is just what the doctor ordered.

I used a plant resulting from the cross *R. brachycarpum tigerstedtii* × *R. macabeanum* five years ago, crossing it with several of my older yellow hybrids. One cross in particular, using ('Orange Marmalade' × 'Percy Wiseman') × ('Voluptuous' × 'Phipps Yellow') as the pollen parent, produced amazing plants. I grew out about 150 seedlings and there are ten or 12 that are outstanding, with amazing foliage. One seedling produces huge trusses with over 20 flowers in the truss. It is not a plant where the intensity of the color saturation will fill you with wonder, but the foliage and the size of the truss gets my attention every spring. Some of these seedlings are very vigorous and want to be trees, which is wonderful, and they will be planted as backdrops and screening.

The *Magnolia* are an ancient genus, evolving before bees appeared, with its flowers developed to encourage pollination by beetles. *Magnolia* 'Big Dude' has been blooming here for 10 years and each year everyone living and working here spends some time in front of it, in wonder. The flowers are huge, white on the inside, dark pink on the outside, appearing before the leaves, and their dancing in a wind takes your breath away.

R. 'Taurus' is a well known hybrid. Most of us are in awe of it and hybridizers are desperate to cross with it, but to no avail. My favorite 'Taurus' story came from the Cape Cod Chapter. It seems a member had it planted beside his driveway on a well-used road, and drivers passing by were hitting their brakes when they saw it in bloom, causing fender benders. The homeowner felt obliged to move 'Taurus' to the back yard. Hitting your brakes at the sight of a rhododendron hybrid in flower is a type of epiphany in a class by itself.

R. ({'Consolini's Windmill' × 'Unique Marmalade'} × {'Karen Triplett' × 'Big Deal' No. 3*}) No. 1* produces a large yellow truss, one of the deepest yet produced here. There are a lot of yellow hybrids that have been produced, too many at this point. I think there needs to be something else besides the yellow flower to get new attention, and with this hybrid it is the watermelon-orange color of the buds that slowly turn yellow that I like and wait for each spring.

R. ('Apricot Fantasy' × 'Phipps Yellow') × ('Phipps 51'* × 'Snow's Red'*) is another floriforous plant that we just can't wait to see each year. The tight full truss with a large calyx opens pinkish-red and turns creamy yellow, but it is the form of the truss that is so pleasing.

R. ({'Scintillation' × ['Pink Petticoats' × *R. yakushimanum*] × ['Dumper's Yellow'* × 'Phipps Yellow']} × 'One Thousand Butterflies') is another pink flowered hybrid, and there are plenty of those around, but this one has so many flowers in the truss, it seems edible. The foliage is a bit olive colored but that is something that is excused when it flowers.

R. ({'Naselle' × 'Sandra Hinton'} × {'Fantastica' × 'One Thousand Butterflies'}) is another hybrid that stops you in your tracks. Picotee edged red with a white center and a blotch, it has good foliage and performs well.

In conclusion, to me a "little epiphinay" means "lucky to be alive at that very moment"!

* = not registered.

George Woodard is a member of the New York ARS Chapter.

ARS District 9

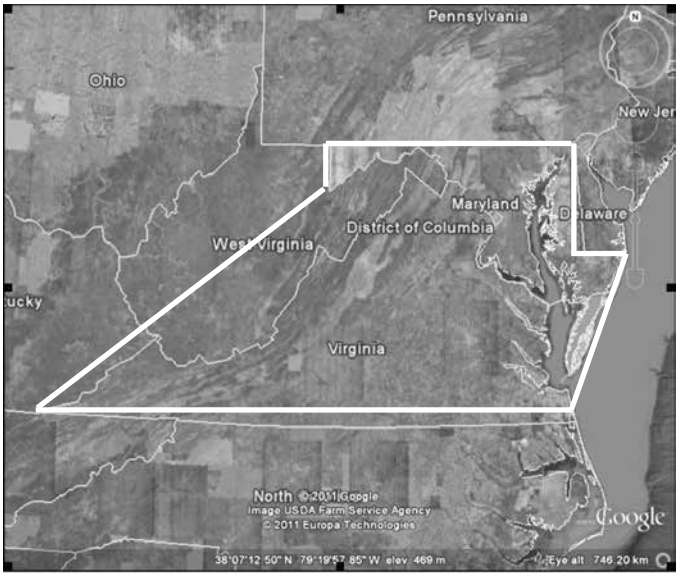
Ann Mangels
Baltimore, Maryland

Glen Jamieson asked me if I'd write an article about ARS District 9 to whet your interest in attending the fall ARS conference to be held outside Richmond, VA, which will occur on October 21-23, 2011.

Some interesting history surrounds the three chapters in District 9. We were all organized back in the 1952 as one, the Mid Atlantic Chapter (MAC). MAC was officially begun as one of the first few chapters in the ARS. The Tidewater Chapter was formed in the late 1960s, but dissolved in 1978, and the Potomac Valley became an offshoot of MAC in January, 1970, followed by Mason Dixon in January, 1982. We are a very fortunate district in having a close proximity among the three chapters. Many of us know other chapter members within the district and attend each others meetings and events, and a number have memberships in all three chapters.

In 2010, District 9 had 213 ARS members in total, 81 in MAC, 69 in the Potomac Valley and 63 in the Mason Dixon Chapters, which are roughly located geographically in Virginia, the District of Columbia (DC), Maryland, and the south-eastern part of West Virginia (see map).

Fall in District 9 is a wonderful time of year in the Mid-Atlantic. The days are still long and the temperatures delightful. In an area as small as ours, Virginia, part of West Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia (DC), our geographic features range from Atlantic Coastal, flat farmlands, and rolling hills to mountains. Maryland is known as "America in Miniature" and Virginia could have a similar slogan. DC is DC—filled with the hustle and bustle of the Federal Government and crowded with people, although filled with parks and monuments, museums and gardens, and many shady places to relax. One of those gardens is the National Arboretum, a real treasure with extensive azalea gardens, boxwoods and bonsai exhibition. West Virginia is away from the crowds and is its own beautiful bucolic state. The fall is most beautiful for leaf color, and there is nothing like the mountains for a satisfying day trip. The Antietum Battlefield, MD; Yorktown, VA; Gettysburg, PA; and Fort McHenry, MD, the home of the Star Spangled Banner in Baltimore, are all within a short driving distance.



ARS District 9 lies within white border.

In 2006, when District 9 held the ARS Annual Meeting in Rockville, MD, the event was called "Springtime in District 9." Since it was a joint ARS/ASA meeting, the use of "Springtime," a beautiful azalea, had multiple meanings. I guess we all love spring for the return of color, nesting birds, flowers, sweetness in the air, and happiness at seeing our wonderful plants bursting forth and blooming—a general feeling of happiness to be alive. Spring here, though, is with us for maybe a month—one morning we wake up with the furnace going, but by noon, the windows are open, and by the next day, the air conditioning needs to be turned on. Spring is delightful, but far too short. Summer invades quickly and heatedly! Actually our plants are more damaged by the heat of summer than that of the cold of winter. When plants are listed for low temperature tolerance, that's not the issue for us—we most need to know about heat and sunshine tolerance.

The western parts of Virginia, Maryland, and West Virginia are ideal places to enjoy quieter living and cooler temperatures. There is nothing like the Maryland and Virginia ocean beaches or bay areas, and the western parts of the District are ideal places to enjoy quieter living and cooler temperatures. Fishing is great in all our waters, and did anyone say "crabs"? Not to be missed—the Chesapeake Bay blue crab. They are the best, and of course there are oysters, clams, mussels, geese, ducks, deer, etc., for fishing and hunting.

As winter approaches we usually have a gradual swing to cold temperatures, before getting hit with the gamut of winter weather. Although Virginia and the coastal areas are not as susceptible, in central Maryland we can have very hard, cold, snowy winters. Last year (2010) in the Baltimore area we had over 80" (2 m) of snow—a record. But by the end of February, when days are longer again, we see snowdrops, helleborus, crocus and growing buds on early rhodies changing daily.

This Middle Atlantic area is wonderful —always changing for each season, and definitely not boring—it's kind of like an old shoe, you know what to expect, and we look forward to the comfort and uniqueness of each season.

Ann Mangels is a member of the Mason Dixon Chapter and ARS Director of District 9.

Hybridizer Jim Barlup Aims for Orange

Doug Crane
Bellevue, Washington

This thumbnail sketch is of Cascade's long time members but one who is making rhodies known worldwide. By now you may guess who we mean; it is Jim Barlup. How did Jim get to this point? It started with learning what hard work is on his parents' 5,200 acre (2104 ha) wheat farm in Kansas. With the hard work there were also some pleasant times, as when Jim was 12 years old he was given the job of driving the loaded wheat trucks from the family farm to the grain elevator.

In 1946 his family moved from the Midwest to a smaller farm in Pennsylvania near Gettysburg, where in 1953 Jim and Judy were married.

In 1958 Jim and Judy moved to Santa Barbara, CA, so that Jim could attend a School of Photography. Upon completion in 1961, it was back to Philadelphia, PA, where Jim was immediately employed by the Curtis Publishing Co., both as a photographer for the *Saturday Evening Post* and as a color laboratory technician. After two years they moved to Sacramento, CA, where Jim's employment was with the Pope Studio until 1966.

At that time Judy expressed a desire to continue her education and obtain a Master's Degree. This prompted a move to Seattle where she could attend the University of Washington. There, Jim obtained employment with Dudley, Hardin and Yang in Seattle, a well known commercial photography company, where he worked for eight years. In his spare time, he frequented the U.W. Arboretum with a camera, and what did he discover—rhododendrons, a long way from the Kansas wheat country.

He decided to add rhodies to their Seattle home landscape, and in searching nurseries, he visited the Wells Medina Nursery in Medina, WA. This first time visit was in 1974, and he asked for an orange flowering plant, which, he was told, they did not have. That answer sparked an interest in "orange" rhodies, which continues to this day.

During this visit Jim met their employee Gary Winberg (not related to John Winberg, current Cascade Chapter member and fellow hybridizer), who in the course of conversation suggested Jim talk to Ned Wells, owner of Wells Medina Nursery, for possible employment. Jim had already left his employment in Seattle, and so became an employee with Wells Medina Nursery, initially just for the spring season of '76. However, this employment did not stop there. Within three years, Jim was buyer for all the Wells Medina Nursery rhododendron stock. Fifteen years later, in 1991, he left this nursery.

To go back to 1975 when he had only eight rhodies in his possession, he was already trying a few crosses, with the resulting seedlings being cared for on the kitchen windowsill. It was the beginning of a new obsession, even though Jim may not have known it at the time.

Ever since the day in 1974 when he was told an orange rhodie was not available, Jim has been trying for an orange that would please him. During his years as a photographer, he had developed an "eye" for color that has been valuable. Oranges and yellows are illusive and if any come from crosses, they tend to be not very hardy, and a lack of hardiness can be a big problem. During 2010 though, Jim has another orange rhodo that shows promise, but it will need much more evaluation and careful judgment before it might be offered for sale. Imagine—over 35 years trying for a desirable orange rhodo! Goals such as this are what keeps Jim young in spirit and enjoying his life hybridizing rhodies.

Today of the 100 (more or less) new hybrids that he is able to produce each year, he says that he is lucky to find 5% that are good enough to market.

R. 'Dancing Embers' ('Lem's Tangerine' × 'Delp's Fiery Orange'.

R. 'Dazzler' × 'Hill's Low Red #10B'.

R. 'Orange Prelude'.

Between 2000 and 2006, Jim has been invited to attend and give seminars in France, England and Denmark. In 2004, Jim was awarded the ARS Gold Medal for his achievements. He has had a remarkable journey in rhododendrons.

Doug Crane is a member of the Cascade ARS Chapter.

Growing Rhododendrons for Cold Climates from Seed

Betty Ann Addison
Minneapolis,
Minnesota

Photos by the Author

My Breeding Goals

Minnesota's climate is rigorously severe, with long, dry, cold winters and hot, muggy summers—not the most hospitable for rhododendrons. Only a few kinds survive and thrive, mainly lepidotes and the Northern Lights azaleas, bred here, which are outstanding anywhere. The very few elepidotes that thrive include some, but not all, of the Finnish hybrids.

Although hardy, with winter taking up nearly half the year, large leaves that curl up like cigars when it is cold are a definite landscaping drawback. No one minds the small leaves of PJM Group which "read" in the landscape like fine texture and can be placed in a foundation planting, but large leaved plants need to be placed in a view setting, so that they are looked at from a distance.

It is my goal is to produce small-leaved elepidotes that are extremely tolerant of cold, sun, wind and alkaline soils. Forty-some years ago, David Leach gave me advice that has been my guiding principle. Start growing species from seed, selecting those few that are super hardy, then breed them with each other and others that are nearly hardy. Now I have a small stable of pollen parents, hardy to -30° F (-34.4° C) or colder, in the full sun and wind of winter. No, we don't always have snow cover! I have started to breed these, mainly pink-flowered plants with purples, reds, yellows and picotees. Therefore, my program is now at the end of stage one and beginning stage two.

Getting Seed

Obviously, our wonderful Seed Exchange is a priceless source of unique seed, but collecting seed from your own plants is a good way to practice growing them. You can just plant open-pollinated seed or make your own hybrids. To pollinate, remove the whole "brush" of stamens and pistil from a likely pollen parent and brush it on the sticky stigma of your chosen seed parent. A metal label with identification impressed (seed parent × pollen parent), attached to the base of the flower will keep your records straight. To discourage bees or wind carrying unwanted pollen, some recommend removing the petals before the flower opens, but I don't bother, relying on getting there first with the most pollen. An easy way to store pollen is to write the name on a coffee filter and lay the stamen clusters on it, then store in an air-tight can with a dessicant (e.g., silica gel, activated charcoal, calcium sulfate, calcium chloride) on the bottom. The pollen will remain viable for several weeks. At the end of the season I fold the papers and transfer the packet to a plastic bag in the freezer.

It is a delight to watch the ovaries swell on your pollinations (or not). In the fall some seed pods will begin to turn brown or actually open to signal they are ripe. Even if the pods are still green in late fall they should be picked and put in an envelope to ripen fully. When they are dry the seed can be extracted with needle-nose pliers, gently twisting the pods. Sift the seed through coarse and fine strainers to remove pod fragments and dust. A little debris is not a problem for your own planting. Of course you will want to share really clean seed with the ARS Seed Exchange. Store them in paper coin envelopes so they stay dry until planting.

Planting Medium

Coarse sphagnum peat has antibiotic properties, and I have used it successfully for over 40 years to germinate rhododendrons. Put peat into a bucket, pour on hot water and work it until it is evenly moist. Pack new pots firmly, nearly to the top to avoid stagnant air around the seed. To settle the surface, water again, until it runs out the bottom. Pat down to make the surface as smooth and level as possible, almost like a petri dish in a laboratory. Put the pots into a new flat without drain holes, as you will be watering them from below. (I do this messy work in the bathtub, and all the debris can get washed away easily.)

Sowing Seed

I place the prepared flats, seed and plastic labels on the kitchen table, where there is good light and a comfortable chair. Insert the label, marked with the seed parents, first, then slit the envelope in order to keep the seeding correct. Sow in a circle by gently tapping the envelope to control the release of the seed. Look inside to see if the quantity remaining calls for another pot or two, make labels and insert before sowing the balance. It is too easy to mix up sowings if the pots are not labeled first.

Cover with Saran wrap (but not ordinary plastic) for the first few days to fully hydrate the seeds. The seed should have some air and gases will pass through this wrap. Domes are too air-tight and the seed may quickly mold. When, not if, white mold appears on the surface of the seed, spray it away with a solution of 2 cups of water (500 ml) and 1 ⅓ tablespoons (21 ml) of bleach. White surface mold will disappear on contact with the spray, but may return once or twice. Bleach in this weak form does not hurt the seed. Remove the wrap when the seeds look plump.

Light Table Conditions

The light table I use has two tiers, and is about 7 feet (2.1 m) high, constructed of perforated, angled steel. New high-intensity flourescent lights, 8 feet (2.44 m) long, put out more lumens than the older lights I had been using. They are on a timer

First year seedlings transplanted from under lights spend hottest part of summer in pots.

Surviving plants of hundreds after one winter in ground to be replanted in test garden.

and are operating 18 hours per day. The propagation mat is set for 70° F (21° C). Pots are approximately 6" (15 cm) from the light. The flats are placed on an inch (2.5 cm) of perlite, which is kept moist. A sheet of heavy plastic separates the propagation mat from the layer of perlite. The goal is to have this temperature, high humidity and as much light as possible.

The biggest improvement this year was to add reflective shields along the side of the light fixtures to bounce the light back into the chamber. Last year, excess light spilled out on the floor. Now, the light table is so enclosed that I must turn on an overhead light to see well before I open up the shield! It is an insulating bubble wrap with aluminum foil on both sides and comes in a 25' (7.6 m) roll, 18" (45 cm) wide. Eight foot (2.44 m) lengths are secured to the frame with spring clothes pins. A thin sheet of plastic is draped over the whole setup to confine moist air and heat, except for one end open for ventilation.

Increased light from the new fixtures and especially the reflective shield has made a tremendous difference in the growth of the seedlings. They germinate in a week to 10 days and have their true leaves in only two months.

Watering, Nothing More Important

Not too wet and not too dry is easier said than done. Checking once a day to add water either to the pots or to the perlite base will almost guarantee success. The first few days the pots will be saturated. The only chore will be to spray the bleach solution on any mold. After 3 or 4 days, the Saran wrap should be removed. The pots may still be moist, yet the surface with the seeds can become dry. Spray with plain water a couple of times a day to keep them hydrated. Peat is dark when it is damp. Beware of tan peat that will suck the moisture out of your germinating seed or seedlings. Pouring water on the surface can dislodge tiny seedlings, so in an accidental too dry emergency situation, you should spray water on the emerging seedlings first and then resaturate the pots from below. Well water is preferred as chlorine and flouride can damage new growth. Spring water for spraying the plants and municipal water for watering the perlite is a reasonable compromise.

When to saturate the pots again can be determined by lifting the flat. It should feel heavy. If it feels light, then it is time to fill the flat halfway up with water. The water should be gone in an hour. If it is not, take out the pots and dump out any excess from the flat and replace the pots. I resaturate about twice a week and water the perlite every day.

After the seedlings are growing and are getting true leaves, careful watering from the top washes down salts that can begin to accumulate on the surface like frost. This condition is not healthy for continued growth. Luckily, when the seedlings are only ¼ inch (6 mm) high with their first true leaves, their roots delving an inch (2.5 cm) or more into the peat, it is time to transplant. This is about two and a half months after planting the seeds.

Transplanting

When true leaves appear, the strongest seedlings can be pried out with a fine instrument like a sharpened pencil; lift them by a leaf and plant them right away. The rest, just germinating, can be left in the pot, though from experience I believe that the first seedlings to germinate will also have the most vigor in the garden. One cannot usually plant all the seedlings, so why not plant the best and discard the rest?

Even at this early stage you can tell a lot about a seedling. Deep, wide roots that look like a miniature cluster of grapes, will

Test garden seedlings of several years.

seek out water in the garden. Beet red coloring on the underside of the leaves indicates a good chance of red or purple flowers, whereas light red indicates pink and clear green leaves give you a good chance of white flowers. The form of the plant, compact growth, evidence of a second set of leaves and even indumentum can be useful measures of worthy plants.

As a practical tip when transplanting, place a pan with a little water next to your work. The obvious winners are planted right away, the weak discarded and the ones awaiting decisions can be laid out in the pan without damage until you have need to fill out numbers in the flat.

I have found that plug trays have too much surface area and dry out too quickly, while taking up a lot of room under lights. Deep propagation flats can accommodate about 100 seedlings on one to two inch (2.5-5 cm) centers and are easy to keep moist. Pure peat is what I have found most useful, but may try Dr. Konrad's mix of peat and composted bark next time. Watering can now be done from above, so water drains out onto the perlite base. Fertilizing once a week with quarter to half strength Peter's acid fertilizer will keep them growing.

Lights are raised gradually to 12" (30 cm) above the top of the pots to give the most light without burning the foliage. Reflective shields increase growth even more visibly at this stage.

Flies in the Ointment

If fungus gnats find your bed of nice, moist peat, they will certainly want to lay eggs and then their larvae will eat the roots of the seedlings. You can fight back against those rascals in at least three ways. Put up yellow sticky traps to catch any gnat explorers. Dissolvable packets containing BT (*Bacillus thuringiensis* Israeliensis, which is specific for fungus gnats) can be dissolved in water (dissolve one packet in a quart of water (0.95 l) and then dilute with two gallons (7.6 l) of water) and poured on to the medium. The third, a homemade spray, consists of 1 ½ cups (350 ml) water, 1 cup (240 ml) isopropyl alcohol and 1 tablespoon (15 ml) Ivory Soap. The spray kills the flies, but remember to wash it off the foliage afterwards with the water sprayer.

Planting Out

In May, the seedlings are brought outside and are placed in a shady spot to get acclimated to the outdoors. In June they are lined out in prepared beds four feet (1.2 m) wide, planted six inches (15 cm) apart. Fertilizer, mulch and water are applied. No covering, just a good soaking in the fall, prepares them for winter. The next spring, the survivors are concentrated in one bed for further evaluation and a new batch of seedlings get planted out. Thousands of seedlings have died over the years from drought, cold and disease with this unkind treatment, but the survivors are to me like gold.

Benefits

Trading pollen, plants and seeds can knit your fellow growers together and rekindle excitement for a chapter. When an easy, cookbook method such as this is presented, it stimulates discussion, friendly competition and ultimately more enthusiasm for our favorite plant. Besides, in cold harsh climates, there is nothing better to make the long winter pass quickly. This seeding method is nothing short of garden magic.

Betty Ann Addison is a member of the Midwest Chapter and a co-owner of the Gardens of Rice Creek in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Awards

Pioneer Achievement Award: Edward John Pemberthy Magor

Edward John Pemberthy Magor, 1874–1941, received seed indirectly from most of the early-20th century plant collectors, and was one of the 16 founder members who launched the Rhododendron Society in London in 1916. He was very knowledgeable and was continually in contact with Sir Isaac Bayley Balfour of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh in connection with the taxonomy and naming of the newly introduced species.

He was one of the earliest to hybridize with the newly introduced species and made 2044 crosses in his lifetime, of which around 100 are named, probably a record for a British plantsman. From 1901 onwards he established and developed the well known garden at Lamellen, Cornwall, which remains a very fine garden with a good collection of plants that is now cared for by the third generation of the Magor Family.

This quiet, reserved, unassuming gentleman became the mentor respectfully known as “Mr. Magor” to a brotherhood of early rhododendron pioneers in the remote homesteads located on Vancouver Island (George Fraser), in Oregon (James E. Barto), in Pennsylvania (Joseph Gable), in New Jersey (Guy Nearing), in Massachusetts (Charles Dexter), together with pioneers in Germany, Chile, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. He was also a mentor to many gentleman gardeners from the landed gentry in Britain and Ireland.

Mr. Magor was uniquely placed to provide both plant material and knowledge from hands-on experience and distributed seed, scions, pollen and plants from 1922 until the postal services were disrupted at the onset of WWII. He was instrumental in encouraging Lionel de Rothschild, and many other key personalities, to respond to requests from overseas for plant material; and must have done more towards the start of rhododendron growing in the USA and Canada than any other person in Britain.

John Hammond presents the award to Felicity and Jeremy Peter-Hoblyn. Felicity is E.J.P. Magor’s granddaughter.

For all these contributions to the plant world, the American Rhododendron Society is pleased to present its most prestigious honor, the Pioneer Achievement Award, to Edward John Pemberthy Magor, in Vancouver, Washington, May 2011.

Gold Medal Award: Kathy Van Veen

You have had a significant impact on the American Rhododendron Society and its members locally, nationally and internationally.

You have provided propagation services to individuals and chapters across the United States and Canada that has, and continues to be, a valuable resource. It has been said that “you could root a pencil.” Your service to hybridizers has allowed many new rhododendrons to be available that never would have reached a widespread audience. You have continually provided plants to chapters for their plant sales and “plants for members” programs. Your efforts have greatly increased the variety of rhododendrons available to ARS members.

You have generously shared your knowledge and experience by giving programs at chapter meetings and at ARS regional and national conferences. Locally, you have served the Portland Chapter as president and in other roles. You have also served District 4 in many ways.

For your outstanding service and valuable contributions, the American Rhododendron Society is pleased to award the Gold Medal to: Kathy Van Veen, May 14, 2011, Vancouver, Washington.

ARS President Don Smart presents the award to Kathy Van Veen.

Gold Medal Award: June Sinclair

You have made a major impact on the rhododendron world internationally as well as nationally. You have earned an honorary membership on the Rhododendron Species Foundation Board of Directors and are highly valued as a member of the Olympic Peninsula Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society.

Your travels to China and Tibet allowed you to collect seeds which you supplied to the Seed Exchange Program for many years. Your plant donations have been added to many collections in famous gardens and in state and city parks. You have been an enthusiastic and influential ambassador for the American Rhododendron Society, contributing to its goals for education and the enjoyment of the genus *Rhododendron*.

For your outstanding service and contributions, the American Rhododendron Society is pleased to award the Gold Medal to: June Sinclair, May 14, 2011, Vancouver, Washington.

ARS Past President Fred Whitney, right, presents the award to June Sinclair. Mickey Sinclair, left, is June's son.

GREATER PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER
Bronze Medal: Myo Myint

The Bronze Medal is awarded to Myo Myint for his exemplary service to the Greater Philadelphia Chapter. Myo has been a stalwart volunteer in our activities. He has served for successive years as treasurer and membership chair. At our annual plant sales he has helped the chapter to setup the event and has served our customers by recording sales. He performed these same duties, tirelessly, for the plant sale at the Northeast Regional Meeting in 2009. Myo has given many hours to our Plants for Members Program and has donated numerous cuttings for propagation.

Most recently he volunteered to bring our chapter into the digital age by establishing an outstanding website and constantly maintaining and updating our site.

For his efforts on behalf of the genus *Rhododendron*, we express our great gratitude and bestow our highest award.

NANAIMO CHAPTER
Bronze Medal: Allen and Gayle McRae

It is with great pleasure that the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society awards Allen and Gayle McRae the Bronze Medal for their service to our club. Allen and Gayle have both served on our executive; Allen as president and director; Gaylle as treasurer. Allen and Gaylle have each been important contributors to our club through committees and events, including our annual auction, truss show and plant sale, and our 2012 conference committee, which Gaylle co-chairs. Allen and Gaylle have always supported the club by extending their hospitality in opening their garden and hosting meetings. Individually and as a team, they've made a difference!

PILCHUCK CHAPTER
Bronze Medal: Dave and Joan Hammond

The Pilchuck Chapter recognizes Dave and Joan Hammond for their many years of service to the chapter and the American Rhododendron Society. They are chapter members of Pilchuck Chapter. Their combined knowledge of genus *Rhododendron* is known far and wide. They have donated plants for the chapter plant sales. Dave has served as plant sales chairman, with Joan's support, for several ARS conventions held in Washington State.

They have shared their home and gardens with the chapter many times for picnics, potlucks and campouts. Dave and Joan are long time supporters of the American Rhododendron Society. The Chapter's Bronze Award is a token of appreciation for all their hard work.

Bronze Medal: Fred and Lenita Kirby

The Pilchuck Chapter recognizes Fred and Lenita (Len) Kirby for their many years of service to the chapter and the American Rhododendron Society. They are charter members of Pilchuck. Fred has served as vice president a number of times. Together they have managed our annual bus trips by setting up the tours and following through. They have worked on all the plant sales helping to pot up, and transporting plants to and from the site. Fred and Len have always supported the chapter in any capacity needed. Len is always right there making sure all the 'T's' are crossed and the 'I's' dotted.

The Kirby's are outgoing and friendly people who are always promoting the rhododendron society. They always bring something for the raffle and goodies to eat. They are a terrific team and their membership enriches the Pilchuck Chapter. *(Lenita Kirby passed away in May 2011.)*

TAPPAN ZEE CHAPTER
Bronze Medal: Gus Cerini

Because you have unselfishly given so much of yourself to our Tappan Zee Chapter, reviving our Annual Banquet, composing and enacting new bylaws, organizing our meetings and plant sales, increasing membership, we hereby award you the highest Tappan Zee honor, the Bronze Medal awarded this February 19th, 2011, by order of The Board of Directors Tappan Zee Chapter ARS.

WILLAMETTE CHAPTER
Bronze Medal: Dick and Carol Lundin

On February 9, 2011, the Willamette Chapter ARS, Salem, Oregon, conferred its highest honor, the ARS Bronze Medal, on Dick and Carol Lundin. Members of the Willamette Chapter for over 10 years, the Lundin's have nearly done it all. The Bronze Medal is in recognition of their multiple contributions. Dick has served as our Chapter Newsletter Editor for 6 years integrating our Chapter activities with information from the other Oregon ARS Chapters. Carol has been our

(Continued on next page.)

Awards (Continued from page 147.)
Awards Committee Chair for 6 years and has caught us up with the honors we have needed to bestow. Both Dick and Carol have maintained and enhanced our Chapter Library and publicized it steadily in our newsletter. They have organized field trips to local rhody gardens and chaired study groups especially dealing with propagation. They propagate a range of materials from the Cecil and Molly Smith Garden near Newberg, Oregon, for sale at the Smith Garden and in Chapter plant sales. Dick and Carol cheer the Chapter on, stimulate work parties, make fine wine for Chapter events, and provide wonderful advice. The quality of our Willamette Chapter has grown steadily with their impressive inputs. It is with great pleasure and appreciation that the Willamette Chapter recognizes Dick and Carol Lundin for all their efforts.

In Memoriam

Gay Arsen

Gay Arsen passed away on March 22, 2011, 2½ years after her husband and fellow rhodophile, Frank. Like many ARS couples they were heavily involved in chapter affairs and growing azaleas and rhododendrons as a team. It was said that Frank never did anything unless he checked with Gay first. When Frank's eyesight went bad, Gay acted as his eyes in selecting notable hybrids and the caring and placement of plants in their garden.

Gay became a member of the ARS in the early sixties and was awarded a Bronze Medal from the New York Chapter in 1978. Among the activities she performed over the years was as recording secretary, corresponding secretary, nominating committee chair, flower show recorder, plant sale volunteer, and official greeter. As greeter, she helped to welcome me to my very first meeting in 1996.

She had an elepidote rhododendron named for her, which was a cross between *R. yakushimanum* and 'Henrietta Sargent'. Their garden was featured in three *Newsday* and two *New York Times* articles and was featured for many years on the chapter's annual garden tour itinerary.

She is survived by her two sons, Erik and Ted, daughters-in-law, Debbie and Rita, and many friends who will miss her. Her daughter-in-law, Rita, told me that Gay would ask her why Frank died first and left her all alone. Rita told her that Frank went on ahead to prepare a garden for her. I'd like to think that they'll be there welcoming us to their garden when our time comes.

Jim Fry, New York Chapter President

William Robinson

The Plant Whisperer

On May 27, 2011, the American Rhododendron Society, to say nothing of a number of other horticultural organizations, lost a long-time, stalwart contributor. William Robinson, known affectionately as "Robbie," passed away peacefully after a lengthy span of 94 years. Robbie was the last charter member of the ARS (from 1945). His interest in horticulture was launched in his early '20s, when he abandoned a nudging to go into law and instead started work for the noted John Bacher of the Swiss Floral Co. After a brief stint with Bacher, Robbie undertook his long association with Portland Parks where he advanced to and held the top position for decades. This underpinned and abided what became his multifaceted interest in things botanical.

Recognized for his knowledge over a wide spectrum, he was ever ready to share his enthusiasm in much the same way as his celebrated cousin, Linus Pauling, with whom he shared a pioneer heritage from the small eastern Oregon town of Lone Rock.

Having personally benefited from his mentorship over the last approximately 40 years, I, like many others, say farewell to one who most certainly made a difference.

Peter Kendall

"Appalachian Spring": 2012 Convention Shaping Up! May 4-7, 2012 – Asheville, NC

Marilyn Haynes, Southeastern ARS and Vaseyi ASA Chapters
Hendersonville, North Carolina

The beautiful Asheville Crowne Plaza Resort has reduced our contracted room rates! They are: Double-$99.00, King-$109.00, Executive Suite-$119.00, Loft Suite-$169.00. These rates are good for 5 days before **and** after the convention, so start planning your "Appalachian Spring" vacation now! We can now access a customized web site for room reservations at https://resweb.passkey.com/go/ARS2012 or call in for reservations to 888-233-9527, and mention ARS-ASA Convention. To reserve a studio ($109), one bedroom ($129), or two bedroom ($159) villa, please call 800-733-3211. The link will not work to reserve a villa.

The ARS and ASA Boards will meet on Friday, May 4, with a Welcome Reception and Mini-Trade Show in the afternoon/evening. Fabulous garden tours will be on Saturday and Sunday with a post convention tour on Monday. There might even be a pre convention tour. We're hoping to show our guests the spectacular native azaleas in bloom if the weather will only cooperate. The ARS Banquet will be on Saturday night and the ASA Banquet on Sunday night. Everyone will want to go to both, of course, regardless of your membership status, because we all like to eat, right?

The 2012 Convention web site will soon be available with all the convention details, including garden pictures and descriptions, speaker bios, etc., plus links to area attractions to entice our out of town guests to extend their vacation in this beautiful part of the world.

The gardens we are touring were magnificent this spring! A couple of gardens are open to the public, but most are private gardens owned by our members. Lunches on the tours will be delicious buffets, no box lunches that have to be eaten on a bus! There are no simultaneous tours, so everyone will be able to go on all the tours. A tasty hot buffet breakfast will be provided at the hotel before boarding the busses.

We will have five or six first rate speakers, some local, some from far away, on a variety of interesting topics, and maybe even a workshop or two.

The plant sale will be gigantic with probably over 3,000 rhododendrons, azaleas and companion plants! Pictures of the plant blooms will soon be on the web site.

Yes, there will be a judged flower show, so start thinking about how you'll transport those perfect trusses or sprays. There will also be a photo contest. .

Online Access to ARS Membership Roster

Current ARS members who opt to do so can access on-line ARS member contact information at the OARS web site. In the Fall 2010 Journal issue, an article was published with instructions on how to select a personal login and how to access the membership roster. It seems appropriate to inform members more than once about the on-line ARS roster. Thus we are republishing a brief notification on how to do this, but please refer to the Fall 2010 article if you would like more details.

The ARS Board of Directors has approved allowing members to access all member contact information online. For those who want to sign up for this capability, you will need to register on the ARS website (www.arsoffice.org) for both a personal ID and password to allow you to login securely. Your personal login is similar to that typically used either to access an account at a financial institution, make an online purchase, or open an online email account.

Firstly, only ARS members can register to utilize the online membership roster. Non-members are blocked from viewing ARS member information. Secondly, members can opt to keep their phone, fax, and email address "Confidential," and only allow a street address to be included in either printed or Internet (online) rosters.

Instructions to register for online access to the ARS member roster: 1. Open your Internet browser and go to web page http://www.arsoffice.org/protect/login.asp 2. Click on the "Register Now" button. 3. Fill in the required fields in the registration form. Provide your name, a working email address, a username (minimum of four characters), password (case-sensitive, and a minimum of four characters), your ARS member number and ARS chapter. Note: Your member number can be found on the ARS Journal mailing label printed on the paper wrapper of published issues, beginning with Volume 64, Number 1, Winter 2010, or it can be obtained from your Chapter membership chair/treasurer. 4. Type in the four characters requested in the colored human verification box. This provides security against bogus registration forms being submitted by spammers. 5. Read and accept the "terms and conditions of use" by checking the box provided. Please note that ARS roster information is not for commercial use, and should not be disclosed to non-members. 6. Click the "Register" button. 7. You will receive an email message with the subject "American Rhododendron Society On-Line Registration." Open the message and click on the link in the message body. You must complete the email confirmation step in order to verify your registration. Note: some email systems may mistakenly place the message in a spam folder, so you may need to look for it in this folder if it is not quickly delivered to your in-box. After activation of your account via the email message, the registration process is completed and the online roster can then be accessed.

Instructions to login to the online ARS membership roster: 1. Open your Internet browser and go to web page: http://www.arsoffice.org/protect/login.asp. (Suggestion: save this web address in your "Favorites" list.) 2. Click on the "Login" button. 3. In the ARS login form, type in your username and password. The password is "upper/lower case-sensitive," for example, if you choose your password to be "Rover" then, for example, "rover," "ROVER" or "roveR" are not acceptable. If you forget your username or password see the section below. 4. Click on the "Login" button. 5. On successful login, the User Area page is displayed. From this page one can (1) access the ARS member roster, (2) **edit your personal log-in account information (name, email address, password, and ARS Chapter if necessary**, and (3) log-out. To retrieve roster information click the blue-colored "Access the ARS Member Roster" button. 6. Next a form to search the roster database is displayed. One can search the roster list by last name, city, country, chapter or district or any combination of these parameters. Type/select the desired search parameters. 7. Select whether you want to view the search result as on the web (HTML) or download the results in a Microsoft Excel file (MS Excel). HTML is the default. 8. Click the "Search" button. 9. Search results are then provided. For protection of personal information member data is transmitted over the web using strong encryption. 10. Search results for more than twelve people are displayed on multiple web pages. Use the "Prev Page | Next Page" links located at the page top, right to move between the different pages. Microsoft Excel must be available on your computer to use the MS Excel option. Save the Excel file with the search results locally to an appropriate folder on your computer.

Yearly Re-registration Required To ensure that only valid ARS members can access the online roster, everyone will be asked to renew their log-in registration every year. All existing logins expire on April 30 of each year. Only members in good standing on or after April 30th can renew their registration and continue to access the online roster.

Rhododendron Calendar

2011	ARS Eastern Regional Conference, Mid-Atlantic Chapter, Oct. 21-23, Sandstone, Virginia. Board meeting.
2011	New Zealand Rhododendron Association 2011 Conference, Oct. 25-28, Stratford, Taranaki, New Zealand. Enquiries: rhodges@xtra.co.nz
2012	ARS-ASA Annual Convention, Southeastern Chapter ARS and Vaseyi Chapter ASA, Asheville, North Carolina. Joint convention with Azalea Society of America, May 4-7. Board meeting.
2012	ARS Western Regional Conference, Nanaimo Chapter, British Columbia, Canada. (dates and place to be announced). Board meeting.
2013	ARS Eastern Regional Conference, District 12, Fall (Dates and places to be announced). Board meeting.

ARS Membership Report, Summer 2011

Shirley Rock
ARS Membershiip Committee, Chairman

The 65th Annual International Convention of the American Rhododendron Society, held in Vancouver, WA, at the Heathman Lodge, was marvelous! The lodge was beautiful, the tours were well done, the presentations were well attended, and the attendance was well over 400! I picked up a few more ideas for "What Works" and want to share them with you.

A couple from New York won a membership at the New York Chapter's plant sale. They attended the next meeting and felt welcome. That was three years ago.

Another chapter uses a phone tree. A group of chapter members calls other members to remind them of an upcoming meeting. This works because it personalizes the reminder.

Many chapters take care of business at the board meeting. The general meeting is taken up with social interchange and the program. Members interested in the business side of the chapter, may attend the board meeting.

Have the social time at the beginning of the meeting. This gives folks a chance to catch up, make guests welcome, and get the talking done.

Name tags help new members feel existing members are more approachable. A door prize ticket is given to each member who wears their name tag. A name tag for the speaker helps members know who that person is during the social time.

Newsletters with complete and timely information helps members stay on top of coming events. Some clubs meet with the speaker at a local restaurant before the meeting. This is announced in the chapter newsletter and is open to all members. This is a great way to bet to know the speaker and new members.

Eureka chapter has pizza night! Feed them and they will come. This works for them!

Have programs that illustrate companion plants, "how to" topics, hands on topics, and tours. Some topics for "how to" and hands on are how to plant for your area, grafting, growing from seed, hybridizing, etc.

The majority of those I spoke to are long time members. Be an ambassador for your chapter. When you are at a nursery, help customers by answering questions about rhododendrons and azaleas. My husband, Jerry, ends up doing just that whenever he is looking through the rhody selection at a nursery. People approach him, because he is friendly, approachable, and knowledgeable.

Past President Ted Stecki receiving a thank-you gift from ARS Executive Director Laura Grant at the ARS Annual Convention.

ARS Program Library

The ARS Program Library provides programs on DVDs that chapters can purchase for use at their meetings. These DVDs are viewed with the digital projector, with a computer or DVD player, or viewed on a television set with the DVD player.

Chapter members may borrow from their chapter library, and make a copy, or purchase personal copies.

The DVDs currently available:

•Garden Walks 2006 - Gardens visited during the joint convention of the ARS and Azalea Society of America in Rockville, Maryland.
•Frank Fujioka's Program – May 2006 Societe Bretonne Du Rhododendron in France.
•Elepidote Hybrids in Central New Jersey – Hybrids selected by the Princeton Chapter Study Group. Narration by Jerry van de Sande.
•Arunachal Pradesh, India – Ron Rabideau's trip, narration by Ron Rabideau.
•The Zurich Garden – A narration by the garden's creator, Dr. William M. Zurich.
•Rhododendrons at the Golden Gate – 2007 Annual Convention with narration.
•Rhododendrons in the Wild West – 2008 Annual Convention in Tulsa with narration.
•A Spring Walk in Walters' Woods – Spike & Kay Walters' garden in Western PA.
•Nepal: Our Ultimate Rhodo Flowering Experience! – Narration by Ian Chalk, Australia.
•Oban, Scotland ARS 1996 Convention Revisited – Narration by Win Howe.
•Lendonwood Garden – Len Miller's garden in Grove, Oklahoma. DVD produced by Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension Service. Available on VHS and DVD for $15 each.

New DVD: Charles Feryok on Pruning. Chuck, retired horticulturist living in central NJ, discuses pruning principles and demonstrates as he walks about a small NJ garden.

ARS Board Decisions, May 11, 2011, Vancouver, WA

ELECTIONS MOTION: **Marvin Fisher** moved that we vote to accept **Bob MacIntyre** for the position of the western vice president; **Ann Mangels** second. RESULTS: Unanimous

BOARD MEETING COMMITTEE ACTION: An ad hoc committee was formed to look at options for ARS Board meetings (frequency, format, ways to reduce costs, etc.). Chair: **Don Smart**; Members **Kath Collier, Bruce Feller, Bob MacIntyre**, and **Ann Mangels**. DUE DATE: Fall meeting.

JOURNAL MAILING ASSIGNMENT: **Laura Grant** to communicate changes in delivery timeline and journal replacement process to members. DUE DATE: Fall Meeting.

POLICIES MOTIONS & FOLLOW-UP:

MOTION to accept new wording of Bylaws III, section D made by **Fred Whitney**; **Bill Mangels** second. RESULTS: Unanimous

8.2.3. MOTION to accept new wording made by **Bob MacIntyre**; **Bruce Feller** second. RESULTS: Unanimous

4.1.3. FOLLOW UP action to **Fred Whitney**: minor word adjustments recommended (i.e., remove "local"). MOTION: **Mary Parker** motioned to adopt with corrections; second **Larry Coleman**. RESULTS: Unanimous

2.2.4.5 MOTION to accept new wording made by **Bob MacIntyre**; **Don Smart** second. RESULTS: Unanimous

Vocabulary POB 11.4 – MOTION to accept the proposed changes made by **Larry Coleman**; **Don Smart** second. RESULTS: Unanimous

9.10 MOTION to accept the rewrite/ update of the North American Registration Agent position description. Motion tabled. There were recommendations that records also include electronic records and that the word "physical" (in 9.10.6) may need to be clarified so that all records are included, including electronic records.

FOLLOWUP actions: (1) **Fred Whitney** to follow-up on wording and ownership of the database. Evidently Jay has enriched the existing database significantly. There was a discussion as to ownership of this enhanced data and how we make sure that the data, collected for the ARS, remains with the ARS. (2) **Fred Whitney** to look at drafting wording, potentially into 10.6, regarding data ownership.

15.0 MOTION to accept proposed changes (grammar, punctuation) made by **Tim Walsh**; **Bob MacIntyre** second. RESULTS: Unanimous.

ASSIGNMENT: Discussion regarding how to assess the number of votes when more than one name is listed on a lifetime membership. **Fred Whitney** suggested that the number of names listed in the roster would equal the number of votes. Not all agreed. After some discussion, **Fred Whitney** agreed to draft policy regarding this point and present it at the next meeting for a vote.

ENDOWMENT FUND:

MOTION by **Don Smart** to approve the three endowment fund requests; second by **Mary Parker**. RESULTS: Unanimous

MOTION to donate a maximum of $5,000 to the Friends of the National Arboretum endowment campaign to save the Glenn Dale azaleas at the National Arboretum (by **Karel Bernady**; second by **Bob MacIntyre**). There was an amendment to this Motion to require that there be a public announcement regarding the commitment of saving the azalea collection (**Karel Bernady**; second by **Fred Whitney**). RESULTS on the Motion and amendment: Unanimous. ***Note: This donation would not foreclose subsequent future grants.***

ARS BLOG – There was a MOTION by **Don Smart** (second by **Dave Collier**) to approve moving forward with the ARS blog project (lead: **Bob Weissman)**. There was a discussion regarding posting a disclaimer about the accuracy of the information included there. RESULTS: Unanimous.

RESEARCH FOUNDATION MOTION to approve the slate of officers for the Research Foundation as presented by **Karel Bernady**. Motion to approve made by **Dave Collier**; seconded by **Ken Gohring**. RESULTS: Unanimous

JOURNAL DISTRIBUTION MOTION was made by **Fred Whitney** (second by **Karel Bernady**) to authorize the electronic journal committee to move forward and refine costs and workloads. RESULTS: Unanimous

NEWSLETTER CONTEST COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: The Board requested the Newsletter Contest Committee to continue moving forward on sharing information/ guidance/samples that editors may be able to use to improve their newsletters. **Shirley Rock** will reissue the judging guidelines for judging to the committee for review. Committee lead: **Shirley Rock.** ACTION: **Marty Anderson, Ted Stecki,** and **Don Smart** to be added to the existing committee list.

BUDGET AND FINANCE: Clarification regarding expenses requested for **Don Smart** (related to airfare for meetings on opposite coasts). A MOTION was made by **Bob MacIntyre** to adopt the budget; seconded by **Don Smart**. RESULTS: Unanimous.

HONORS ASSIGNMENT: **Dee Denari** will author a journal article related to the process for nominating honor recipients.

GRANTS: It was suggested that an article be created describing the kinds of things that are needed and could be obtained through a grant for Journal publication. MOTION to adopt by Bob MacIntyre; second by **Don Smart**. RESULTS: Unanimous. This task was not assigned to anyone in particular.

BUDGET DOCUMENATION MOTION: **Marvin Fisher** requested that the budget be presented in a more tabular format; second by Fred Whitney. Motion carried. RESULTS: Unanimous.

INSURANCE RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT: **Laura Grant** will research the insurance coverage for guests and volunteers and provide information to the Board regarding how the coverage would be applied.

SALARY REVIEWS MOTIONS: There were a series of motions related to increasing the salary of **Laura Grant**, **Sonja Nelson**, and **Glen Jamieson** by 3 percent starting September 1, 2011 (**Fred Whitney,** second **Marvin Fisher; Tim Walsh**, second by **Fred Whitney; Karel Bernady**, second **Bob MacIntyre; Tim Walsh**, second **Fred Whitney**). RESULTS of all motions: Unanimous

Kath Collier
ARS Secretary

American Rhododendron Society
Statement of Financial Position
August 31, 2010 and 2009

	2010	2009
Assets:		
Cash in Checking	$ 36,023	$ 21,687
Money Market at Morgan Stanley	318,735	445,735
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents	354,758	467,422
Accounts Receivable/Chapter Balances	4,713	4,407
Prepaid expenses	-	4,560
Inventories	1,803	2,497
Investment in Bonds	201,665	115,108
Investment in Stocks	307,414	225,296
Equipment net of $13,475 and $11,635 depreciation	3,157	4,936
Total Assets	$ 873,510	$ 824,226
Liabilities and Net Assets:		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	$ 1,159	$ 1,159
Prepaid Dues - 2009	-	33,989
Prepaid Dues - 2010	34,119	4,830
Prepaid Dues - 2011	5,458	1,163
Prepaid Dues - 2012	996	410
Prepaid Dues - 2013	674	210
Prepaid Dues - 2014 to 2020	489	592
Total Prepaid Dues	41,736	41,194
Total Liabilities	42,895	42,353
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted-Undesignated-General Fund	43,919	57,513
Unrestricted-Designated-Life Member Fund	99,941	97,886
Unrestricted-Designated-Endowment Fund	462,435	438,355
Unrestricted-Designated-Seed Exchange Fund	23,175	22,219
Total Unrestricted Funds	629,470	615,973
Temporarily Restricted-RDC Start-Up Fund	7,117	7,117
Permanently Restricted-Endow Publications	102,417	102,417
Permanently Restricted-Endow Other	91,611	56,366
Total Permanently Restricted Assets	194,028	158,783
Total Net Assets	830,615	781,873
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	$ 873,510	$ 824,226

Botanists *versus* Horticulturists: Changes in Plant Names

Donald H. Voss
Vienna, Virginia

In many fields of endeavor, people may share common interests yet differ vehemently on relevant details. In the field of music, for example, composers and critics have often been at odds; following the first performance of Brahm's concerto for the violin, one critic referred to it as a concerto *against* the violin. Botanists and horticulturists share interest in plant identification and nomenclature. When the question "To what end?" is posed, differences emerge. Botanists are concerned primarily with native populations of plants and their phylogenetic (evolutionary) relationships. As research develops new information on the relationships, changes in the scientific names and ranks of taxonomic groups of plants (taxa; singular taxon) are often necessary. The horticulturists are concerned primarily with plants under cultivation, and a change in the scientific name of a plant not only is an annoyance, but also may be costly in terms of revision of labels, plant records, and catalogs—i.e., of time and money.

The Latin scientific names of plants are governed by the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* (ICBN) (McNeill et al. 2006). Among the prime objectives of this code are "the provision of a stable method of naming taxonomic groups, avoiding and rejecting the use of names that may cause error or ambiguity or throw science into confusion" and "avoidance of the useless creation of names." The modern-language names for plants in cultivation are governed by the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants* (ICNCP) (Brickell et al. 2009), which "aims at the provision of a stable method of naming taxa of cultivated plants, avoiding and rejecting the use of names that may cause error or ambiguity." In each of the codes, stability in method, not stability in names, is the stated objective.

The ICBN

The ICBN deals with scientific names for individual groups of plants to provide a unique Latin name for each group, indicating its taxonomic rank (e.g., genus, species, varietas). Priority of publication is a key determinant of the legitimacy of a name. Thus, the familiar name *Rhododendron macrosepalum* published by Maximowicz in 1871 had to be replaced when Mabberley (1990) discovered that R. Hogg had validly published *R. stenopetalum* in 1865 for the same taxon. Not all botanical taxonomists see virtue in the enforcement of this rule, but the rule stands.

Other provisions of the ICBN can also result in the replacement of names. One of these permits changing the name of a taxon to accommodate the findings of adequate taxonomic study. Many of the older Latin scientific names were coined in the days when botanists often relied on the gross morphological characters revealed by a few herbarium specimens. As time passed, more herbarium material became available and field study of plant populations was undertaken. This led to name changes stemming from new insights on taxonomic relationships within and between plant populations. Scientific method has expanded remarkably: where once the primary adjunct to visual observation of plant characters was a 10′ hand lens, biochemistry, molecular biology, and electron microscopy are now used routinely. When new relationships that flow from scientific research are incorporated into the body of knowledge of plants, changes in the names of taxa are inevitable. A variety may be found to differ sufficiently from others in its species to warrant segregation as a species, or a particular group of plants in a species may be found to warrant treatment as a variety. The transfer of a taxon from one genus to another may necessitate selection of a new specific or infraspecific epithet; e.g., the epithet in *Azalea pontica* used by Linnaeus in naming the Pontic azalea was not available in the genus *Rhododendron* for this azalea when azaleas were later given the genus name *Rhododendron,* because the epithet had been previously used in *Rhododendron ponticum* for the Pontic rhododendron. The Pontic azalea was renamed *R. luteum* by Sweet.

Changes in Latin scientific names also result from code provisions relating to legitimate, valid publication. To be validly published, a name must conform to the rules for effective publication and those for the formation of names at various ranks. In publishing the name for a new taxon at the rank of family or below, the author must specify a "type." For a species or infraspecific taxon, the type is usually a single specimen designated by the author and held in a specified herbarium. The name of a taxon is permanently attached to its type. *R. bakeri* Lemmon was discovered to be illegitimate: its type is from a hybrid, not from the red azalea of the Cumberlands described by the author. The earliest legitimate, valid name for the described plant is therefore *R. cumberlandense* E.L.Braun.

Nomenclatures rules are: According to the ICBN, a name is illegitimate and must be rejected if the taxon being named includes the type of a name that should have been adopted (superfluous name). A name is illegitimate and must be rejected if it is spelled exactly like a valid name based on a different type that was previously published for a taxon at the same rank (later homonym). The avowed substitute

for an invalid or illegitimate name is indicated as nom. nov. (*nomen novum*) when published. A new combination (a name based on an earlier legitimate, valid name and employing the same final epithet—commonly encountered when a species is transferred to a different genus) is identified as comb. nov. (*combinatio nova*). A name resulting from changing a taxon to a different rank (e.g., raising a variety to the rank of species) is identified as stat. nov. (*status novus*).

The ICNCP

The ICNCP deals with three kinds of taxa: the cultivar, the Group, and—for orchids only—the grex. The basic unit with which we are concerned in *Rhododendron* nomenclature is the cultivar. Minimally, the name of a cultivar comprises the genus name and a cultivar epithet; e.g., *Rhododendron* 'Cadis'. If the cultivar can be identified to specific or infraspecific rank, the code recommends including the full botanical name to provide useful information to the user; e.g., *Rhododendron argyrophyllum* var. *nankingense* 'Chinese Silver'. Cultivar epithets may not be duplicated in a denomination class (e.g., in *Rhododendron*); priority rules.

It is important to understand the ICNCP's definition of "cultivar" and the scope of its practical application in *Rhododendron.* The code defines the term as follows:

> A cultivar is an assemblage of plants that *(a)* has been selected for a particular character or combination of characters, *(b)* is distinct, uniform, and stable in these characters, *(c)* when propagated by appropriate means, retains these characters…

The code recognizes that cultivars may originate and be reproduced in many ways; indeed, fifteen modes are described. For *Rhododendron*, cultivars are nearly all clonal; i.e., a given cultivar comprises plants that originated from one plant by means of asexual propagation and are thus genetically identical. Dr. Alan C. Leslie, International Cultivar Registrar for *Rhododendron,* has estimated that 98% or more of rhododendron cultivars are represented by clones (pers. comm.).

In the ICNCP, the requirements for effective publication somewhat resemble those of the ICBN. The publication must be in the form of printed or similarly duplicated matter and be distributed to the public or to libraries accessible to botanists and horticulturists. Explicitly excluded from qualifying as effective publication under the ICNCP are communication of new names at a public meeting, placing names on labels in plantings open to the public, microform versions of unpublished material, publication by electronic medium, and inclusion in a confidential trade list that is not made generally available. Establishment of a name requires that it appear in a dated publication and conform to the rules of the ICNCP for formation of names. For names published after January 1, 1959, a description or reference to a previously published description of the cultivar must be included. Names subject to the ICNCP are to be rejected and not used if they are contrary to code rules (an exception is that names established by a statutory registration authority must not be rejected).

The Battleground

Priority and changes in rank.

The title of this article is somewhat misleading, as disagreements over the desirability of nomenclatural change occur between botanists as well as between botanists and horticulturists. An example may be found in the tortuous course of changes in the rank to which the vireya rhododendrons have been assigned. C. L. Blume published *Vireya* as the genus name for the vireya rhododendrons in 1826, with *V. javanica* as the first of five species listed. In his *General History* (1834), G. Don retained *Vireya* as a genus. J. J. Bennett in 1838 transferred two of the five species in Blume's genus *Vireya* to *Rhododendron* (*R. javanicum* and *R. retusum*). Bennett noted that "the characters assigned to that genus [Blume's *Vireya*] differ in no respect from those of *Rhododendrum* [sic] . . .The name *Vireya* must, in so far at least as the present species are concerned, sink into a synonym of *Rhododendrum.*"

A year later, in the *Prodromus*, A. P. de Candolle (1839) listed *Vireya* of Blume in the synonymy of *Rhododendron,* noting that the reference was to neither *Vireya* Rafinesque nor *Viraya* Gaudich (genera in other families). Because Rafinesque's *Vireya* was published in 1814, Blume's *Vireya* was a later homonym and thus illegitimate as a genus name. Because the priority rule of the ICBN is effective only within a rank, *Vireya* remained available as an epithet for infrageneric taxa in *Rhododendron*. (The ranks of taxa in descending sequence between genus and species are subgenus, section, subsection, series, and subseries.) In 1876, J. D. Hooker classified vireyas in two unnamed, numbered subseries, and the once proud genus of Blume reached a nomenclatural nadir. Subsequently C. B. Clarke in 1882 published *Vireya* at the rank of subgenus, but most taxonomists since then have considered this group to be a section in a variously named subgenus comprising the lepidote rhododendrons.

By the end of the twentieth century, botanists and horticulturists were in general agreement that it is proper to consider the lepidote rhododendrons as a subgenus of *Rhododendron* and the vireyas as a section in that taxon. Section *Vireya* appeared, for example, in publications by H. F. Copeland (1929), H. Sleumer (1949, 1980), and D. Chamberlain et al. (1996). Alas, lurking in the shadows were five sectional names for vireya rhododendrons of German New Guinea published by R. Schlechter in 1917. For some reason, subsequent authors apparently did not consider Schlechter's sectional names appropriate candidates for an epithet to identify all of the vireyas, or possibly they thought that the narrow geographical focus of Schlechter's work was disqualifying. Whatever the reason, it is irrelevant in view of the rigid priority

rule of the ICBN. Craven et al. in the Fall 2010 issue of this journal pointed out that, when the vireyas are classified as constituting a section, the priority rule requires the sectional name for them to be chosen from Schlechter's 1917 list. Based on considerations explained in their article, Craven et al. have chosen *Schistanthe* as the correct sectional epithet. (Those who find *Schistanthe* unpalatable may find solace in knowing that the German word "schlechter" means "worse" in English.) "Vireya" remains available as a common name.

In 2006, G. Argent published a morphologically based classification returning the vireyas to *R.* subgenus *Vireya* C.B. Clarke and changing the sectional affiliation of many species. The Argent placement conflicts with the general acceptance of the rank of section for the vireyas as well as with the results of ongoing molecular studies by Craven et al. Their work thus far supports the retention of the rank of section. The article promises a revision of the classification in this section in light of recent molecular studies. One hopes that decisions will reflect consideration of morphology as well as the sampling of molecular constitution.

Botanical series vs. Balfourian series.

From the initiation of its publication in 1980 (Cullen 1980), the Edinburgh revision of *Rhododendron* taxonomy (Chamberlain 1982) provoked unfavorable response from some horticulturists. With respect to the taxonomic treatment above the rank of species, the adoption of a hierarchical ranking of taxa conforming to ICBN rules and abandonment of the Balfourian series was a cause of the dissatisfaction. (Note that the Balfourian "series" are conceptually different from the series of the ICBN, which denote an infrageneric rank between section and species.)

Those who still carry the banner for Balfourian series should pause and consider that these were to a considerable extent based on horticultural criteria and were often nomenclaturally invalid. The system devised by Bayley Balfour in the early 1900s was not intended by him to be a taxonomic treatment of *Rhododendron* (Stevenson 1930). It was driven by the necessity of identifying the large volume of new plant material arriving from China and the Himalayas, sent to Edinburgh by Forrest and other collectors. As more material from various collections became available, the need for a thorough taxonomic revision of *Rhododendron* became evident (Cullen 1980; Anon. 1981).

The Balfourian series were based largely on plant material grown from seed collected in the Orient and cultivated at Edinburgh, and not on wild populations. Little attention was given to the geographic origins of taxa. Also, there were differences between the authors who contributed to the Balfourian series literature with respect to the concepts of series and species. In some cases, plants that originally had been identified as separate taxa have been found to be intermediates between extremes (Cullen 1980; Anon. 1981). Considerable modifications to the Balfourian series system were published by Cowan and Davidian, but it was not until the 1980s that publication of a thorough taxonomic treatment began—the Edinburgh revision. From a checklist comparing the Balfour system with the Cullen (1980) and Chamberlain (1982) revisions, it appears that for most of the species listed the associated Balfourian series correspond to the rank of subsection in the hierarchical system of the ICBN (Anon. 1981).

Replacement, conservation, or rejection of names.

With respect to individual species, an interesting example of horticulturists' reaction to a name change is the firestorm of opposition that arose from Chamberlain's (1982) decision to accept replacement of the well-known but illegitimate name of the elepidote rhododendron *R. metternichii* Siebold & Zucc. with *R. japonicum* (Blume) C. K. Schneid. (1909), non *R. japonicum* (A. Gray) Suringar (1908). Chamberlain held that Suringar had proposed the combination *R. japonicum* only provisionally to replace *R. molle* Siebold & Zucc. (1846) should that name be inapplicable for Gray's deciduous azalea, *Azalea japonica* A. Gray (1859) (Chamberlain 1982).

Gray's use of the epithet *japonica* for a Japanese deciduous azalea had long been accepted. The American Association of Nurserymen and American Rhododendron Society objected strongly to its use for the elepidote rhododendron. A letter from Dr. Henry T. Skinner stated that the cost to the American horticultural trade resulting from such a name change could be about one million dollars. Acting on a proposal to reject the name *R. japonicum* (Blume) C. K. Schneid. for the elepidote rhododendron, the Committee for Spermatophyta (which deals with seed-plant nomenclature) carefully reexamined Suringar's publication and decided that Suringar's 1908 combination for the deciduous azalea was validly published (Brummitt 1987). Schneider's 1909 combination thus became a later homonym and illegitimate. *R. metternichii* has consequently been replaced by *R. degronianum* ssp. *heptamerum* var. *heptamerum* (Maxim.) Sealy (Chamberlain et al. 1996).

"East is East, and West is West, and never the twain shall meet."

Kipling's couplet suggests that some human differences are irreconcilable. The author of this article believes that some differences between botanists and horticulturists with respect to changing the Latin names of plants are indeed irreconcilable. There is broad agreement that a unique name of worldwide application is essential for recording and communicating the identity of a given taxon. Yet even in this regard there is a fundamental difference. To the botanist, the naming of plants is a dynamic process that must accommodate changes in relationships between taxa resulting

from advances in scientific knowledge. To many horticulturists, a plant name once established should be a static, immutable means of reference for a given taxon.

Changes in Latin scientific names (especially those for species and infraspecific taxa) may be problematical for some users, introducing uncertainty with respect to plant identification. Most new botanical names are published in botanical journals. There are many of these journals, and articles appear in many languages. Most horticulturists (and, indeed, many botanists) do not have access to relevant journals and may lack the ability to translate the language used in the material accompanying a new name at its publication.

How does the change in a Latin name affect work with plants? Consider the following situations. One may read that part of species "*a*" has been found to be sufficiently distinct to be treated as variety "*x*". Species "*a*" will now comprise both variety "*x* "and variety "*a*", which has been automatically created for the remainder of species "*a*". Unless the characters distinguishing the varieties are superficially evident, a nurserymen or hybridizer possessing a plant of species "*a*" may not be able to determine whether his plant belongs to the new varieties "*a*" or "*x*". Similarly if species "*b*" comprises varieties "*b*" and "*y*", and a botanist finds that variety "*y*" does not warrant separate status, variety "*y*" will be sunk into species "*b*". If records and labeling are changed accordingly, a future hybridizer or other user of plant material who needs a plant with the characteristics associated with the former variety "*y*" may be hard pressed to find the desired plant among those now labeled species "*b*".

In some situations there are solutions acceptable to both botanists and horticulturists. When the results of taxonomic study dictate that a long recognized taxon be sunk into another, it may be horticulturally valid to preserve separate recognition for a group sharing a certain combination of characters—even if the combination is not botanically significant. For example, *R. cinnabarinum* var. *roylei* was sunk by Cullen into *R. cinnabarinum* ssp. *cinnabarinum*. Although no longer recognized botanically, the former variety may still be recognized as *R. cinnabarinum* ssp. *cinnabarinum* Roylei Group (Anon. 1981; Brichell & al. 2009).

Beyond the narrow range of situations in which accomodation of the sort just described is practical, comity may be served if those on both sides of the nomenclatural battleground would consider each other's needs. The ability of the botanist to accommodate the interests of the horticultural community with respect to nomenclatural matters is, however, severely constrained. Research findings and the rules of the ICBN leave little "wiggle room." Mabberley may have been aware that horticulturists would be displeased by another name change; but when he discovered Hogg's valid publication of *R. stenopetalum*, the ICBN's rule of priority required displacement of *R. macrosepalum.* Ultimately both the botanical and horticultural communities would benefit from botanists' heeding the Preamble of the ICBN, which limits proper reasons for changes in nomenclature to "more profound knowledge of the facts resulting from adequate taxonomic study" or to rejection of nomenclature that is contrary to code rules. The word "adequate" deserves emphasis; e.g., basing a name change on an inadequate sample of characters is unlikely to reveal the true relationships among taxa, thereby setting the stage for further nomenclatural changes.

The burden of mutual understanding falls primarily on the horticulturist. The ICNCP defers to the ICBN with respect to Latin scientific names. Horticulturists have on occasion been known to react to botanists' changing of scientific names with vituperation entailing the use of epithets quite different from specific epithets and cultivar epithets. Understanding the reason for a nomenclatural change will, however, often lead to acceptance. As discussed above in relation to the *R. japonicum* controversy, the process of appeal for conservation or rejection of a name is available to challenge nomenclatural changes believed to be disadvantageous. In some cases, the horticulturist must just count to ten—or perhaps (recalling the conservation of another name) chant *Chrysanthemum, Dendranthema, Chrysanthemum.*

References

Anon. 1981. *An Alphabetical Checklist of Rhododendron Species.* London: Royal Horticultural Society. 56 pp.

Argent, G. 2006. *Rhododendrons of subgenus Vireya.* London: Royal Horticultural Society. xii+388 pp.

Bennett, J.J. 1838. *Rhododendrum.* Pp. 85-88, t 19. In Horsfield, T. *Plantae Javanicae Rariores,* 1. London, G.H. Allen & assoc.

Blume, C.L. 1826. *Bijdragen tot de Flora van Nederlandsch Indië* 15: 854-856. Batavia, Ter Lands Drukkerij.

Brickell, C.D., Alexander, C., David, J.C., Hetterscheid, W.L.A., Leslie, A.C., Malecot, V., Jin, Xiaobai, and Cubey, J.J. 2009. *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants.* 8th Ed. Scripta Horticulturae No. 10. Regnum Vegetabile 151. Leuven, Belgium: International Society for Horticultural Science. 184 pp.

Brummitt, R.K. 1987. Report of the Committee on Spermatophyta: 31. Proposal 660 to reject *Rhododendron japonicum* (Blume) Schneider (Ericaceae). *Taxon* 36(1): 72-73.

Candolle, A.P. de. 1839. *Prodromus Systematis Naturalis Regni Vegetabilis.* Paris: Treuttel & Wurtz 7(2): 719-721.

Chamberlain, D.F. 1982. A Revision of Rhododendron: II Subgenus Hymenanthes. *Notes RBG Edinb.* 39(2): 209-486.

Chamberlain, D., Hyam, R., Argent, G., Fairweather, G., and Walter, K.S. 1996. *The Genus Rhododendron: Its classification and synonymy.* Edinburgh: Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. 181 pp.

Clarke, C.B. 1882. *Rhododendron*, Linn. Pp. 462-464. In Hooker, J.D. assisted by various botanists. *Flora of British India* 3. London: L. Reeve.

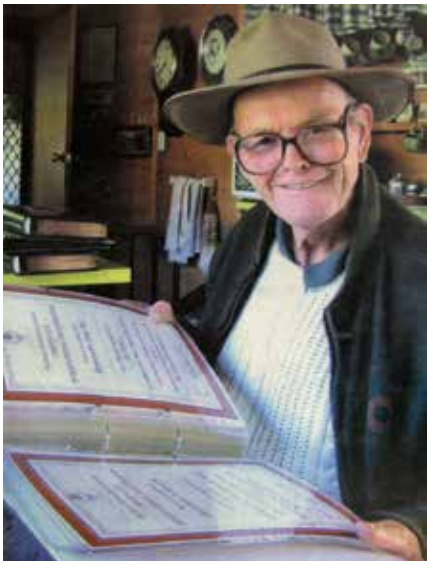
Copeland, H.F. 1929. Philippine Ericaceae, I: The Species of Rhododendron. *Philipp.* J. Sci. 40(2): 133-179.

(Continued on page 169.)

Lockngton Garden, Tasmania, Australia. Photo by Frances Burns.

Lockington Garden, Tasmania - The Measure of a Man

Frances Burns
Walterville, Oregon



Don Dosser. Photo by Lana Best.

Beautiful, remote Tasmania is the smallest of the six Australian states, an archipelago of 334 islands separated from mainland Australia by 321 km (200 miles) of the infamously dangerous waters of Bass Strait which connects to the Indian Ocean on the west and the Pacific Ocean on the east. South of Ulverstone, located midway between the cities of Burnie and Devonport on the north coast of Tasmania, lies an area reminiscent of England with its prosperous patchwork farms. Traces linger of logging industries and historical tin, silver, and lead mines; small communities with evocative names like Nowhere Else, Promised Land, and Paradise dot the map.

Some 50 km (31 mi) south of Ulverstone, and 7 km (4.5 mi) north of Wilmot (elevation 303 m, 955 feet, population 580), the winding, up-and-down Upper Castra Road leads to Don Dosser's Lockington Garden—named after a Yorkshire English village, the home of his great grandfather, a dairy farmer, who immigrated to Victoria, Australia in 1860 and named their new farm "Lockington." The garden is the hard-won reality of a life of hard work and a lifelong passion for plants, especially rhododendrons. Through it all Don developed a boiled down bit of wisdom: "Don't start a ½ ha (1.3 acre) garden like this when you are 58 years old—it's hard to keep up to a good standard when you get to be 76 years old!"

After forty-seven years of hybridizing, Dosser is by far the most "prolific rhododendron breeder" in Australia. Born in Wangaratta, Victoria, Australia in 1935, one of seven children, Don learned the discipline of hard work at an early age. His first employment at age 13 was in a door and window frame factory where he learned carpentry skills that he has utilized throughout his life. His mother, a florist for many years, influenced his love of gardening; Don pursued this interest by learning the business "from the ground up" working in nurseries. Propagation and grafting skills were quickly learned at Olinda Nurseries from 1966-1970, from the prominent Australian hybridizer, Karl van de Ven, whose rhododendron hybrid 'Blue Peter' × 'Corry Koster' was introduced (1973) and registered (1974) by Don Dosser as 'John Dosser' (John was Don's late younger brother.) Another Karl van de Ven hybrid, 'Fire Prince'* ('Britannia'* × *R. arboreum* ssp. *delavayi* var. *delavayi),* was mentioned elsewhere by Carl Phetteplace in comments on *R. arboreum* ssp. *delavayi* var. *delavayi* hybrids.

From 1970-1975, Don worked for Harry van de Ven at Toolangi Nursery, in Victoria. Harry was hybridizer of 'Olinda Early Surprise' (*R. arboreum* ssp. *delavayi* var. *delavayi* × 'Marion'), also mentioned by Phetteplace. Lastly, Don worked for J. King at Delamere Gardens until 1980. At that time he built a home and established Lockington Nursery on 0.4 ha (one acre) of ground in East Warburton, where he began his Lockington rhododendron breeding program. All too soon the once country garden was incorporated into the city, water rates soared and he felt closed in and uncomfortable living in the city. In 1994, he potted up his prodigious collection of plants, and put them on hold while he once again looked for an affordable place in a climate with changing seasons for his maples, a running creek and waterfall, and plenty of room for all the rhododendrons he'd gathered to use in hybridizing.

Don found his "promised land" after a year and a half of searching—a listed property in the Wilmot area of Tasmania, that had remained unsold for some time. Never mind that it was covered with an impenetrable mat of blackberries and wattles—species of *Acacia* in the largest family of native flora in Australia. [**Editor's note**: Until 2005, there were thought to be roughly 1300 species of acacia worldwide, about 960 of them native to Australia, with the remainder spread around the tropical to warm-temperate regions of both hemispheres, including Europe, Africa, southern Asia, and the Americas. However, the genus was then divided into five, with the name *Acacia* retained for the Australian species (and a few in tropical Asia, Madagascar and Pacific Islands), and most of the species outside Australia divided into *Vachellia* and *Senegalia*. Australian species are usually called wattles, while African and American species tend to be known as acacias. The two final genera, *Acaciella* and *Mariosousa*, only contain about a dozen species from the Americas each. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acacia#Description]

The small steep hillside acreage was a challenge. However, the sound of running water attracted Don's attention, and so he geared up and methodically hacked his way downhill through the bullying wattles and blackberries for most of a day before discovering Braddon's Creek, with fish, platypus (there is no universally agreed plural of "platypus") and the requisite falls, flowing cool and clear through the property, resplendent with six m (20 foot) man-ferns (*Dicksonia antarctica*), velvety mosses (over 60 families grow in Tasmania) and attractive giant Australian black wattle trees (*Acacia melanoxylon*), also known as blackwood trees. (The name blackwood is a slight misnomer—its sapwood is straw-colored while its heartwood is reddish brown to dark brown and used in furniture making.)

Don was elated with the acidic sandy loam soil, for elsewhere in Tasmania the soil is often 30 cm (one foot) or less thick over shale, and when cleared, washes away unless left alone until native plants eventually "return to claim their own." The annual rainfall of 1397 mm (55 inches) and the four-season climate to color his maples were "icing on the cake" for Don's plans.

Australians take their gardening seriously; many gardens are on steep hillsides. Months of planning and hard labor lay ahead—he must build a road, connect with electric power, and tame Braddon Creek with a hundred-year-old Billabong ram pump powered by water flow to fill a tank to provide water for the garden. Don erected a hexagonal house, a garage and a propagating shed, all sited

atop the hill facing east looking down on the creek, embraced by morning sun and blessed with evening rays to illuminate the maples he still had to plant. He terraced the steep hill with stone retaining walls, and built paths and fences before moving in his rhododendrons, azaleas, maples and rare conifers such as *Picea glauca* var. *albertianum* 'Conica'.

Two lengthy semi-trucks specially built for moving plants and crammed full of cherished plants, books and tools were ferried across Bass Strait from Melbourne on the mainland, an overnight trip at best, to his new "Lockington." It was an enormous project, but to Don, "worth every cent" of the $9,000 shipping tab.

Preparations accomplished, he began the real work for which he had prepared: hybridizing rhododendrons, deciduous azaleas, Japanese maples and even a few daffodils. His constant companions in the beginning were two cats, five hens and two gorgeous English Cocker Spaniels, Bonnie and Droopy. Don has owned 12 of the spaniels in his lifetime, 11 of them now passed on and remembered with an endearing garden memorial inscribed, "In loving memory of the Cocker Spaniels who have lived in my garden." A lively young English Cocker named Peter now bounces among their haunts in the garden, and *with* them in his master's heart. Don's doctors credit Peter and the garden with "keeping him going" as he fights ongoing battles with cancer and Parkinson's.

Don has a great love of family and one wall is covered with photos of generations of them. Many rhododendrons have been named after people he loved and respected, such as 'Elissa' after a late niece, and 'Peggy Charlotte' after a little girl who died of cancer many years ago. Beautiful old paintings depicting "a country life of arcadian contentment" are displayed throughout the house and at the visitor's building at the entrance to the garden. Don pressed maple leaves and framed them into artworks and there are displays of unusual plant propagations and fascinating bonsai specimens. There's the published book he wrote for his grandchildren, *Back When We Were Kids,* to alleviate their boredom when there was "nothing to do" on their visits, and the two miniature villages he built, one with houses, a mine-head and Garrett's Beer House—the latter named after a pub his grandfather established in Victoria in 1862. The buildings are surrounded by a small forest of dwarf sweet myrtle (*Myrtus communis compacta*). There is another village down by the creek among the large ferns where one can while away the hours—all creations of a solitary, caring renaissance visionary.

On the first and second weekends of November, Lockington Garden is open for visitors to view the choice collection of 72 valuable rare conifers, 200 weeping maples, some nearing 50 years of age, and 130 other maples, with resplendent new foliage. The *Acer palmatum* are especially compatible, providing "feathered shade" for his more than 300 rhododendrons and 50 azaleas. It is not remarkable that he is known locally as "The Man of Maples"! His own 'Lockington Gem'* and 'Warburton Pygmy'*, the latter a tad over 13 cm (5 in), are natural bonsai types. All proceeds from his open garden days each fall (five dollars entrance fee) are donated with gratitude to the W.P. Holman Clinic at the Launceston General Hospital—some $13,000 over the past four years for cancer research.

As we visited in his comfortable living room, Don brought out heavy albums neatly filled with registration certificates, each rhododendron photographed and detailed. On that day applications for four new hybrids lay on his desk waiting to be mailed: 'Susie Jones'**, 'Lockington Superb'**, and 'Graham Eaton'**—all from 'Countess of Lockington' × 'Australian Sunset' and 'Lockington Pearle' from 'Miss B.L. Jones' × Unknown. His gorgeous 'Lockington Pride' ('Morio' × 'Mrs E. C. Stirling') with a 28 cm (11 in) truss, won best Australian hybrid in 1984 and is seen in many Australian gardens. Another is 'Lockington New Dawn'*. Don confided, "I decided to call one 'Marcus of Lockington', because I already had 'Countess of Lockington' and 'Earl of Lockington'. I sent the papers to England to the Royal Horticultural Society and they queried the spelling of Marcus, they said "do I mean *m-a-r-q-u-e*?" I'm not that well educated—but I wrote them a letter and I said, "It's M-a-r-c-u-s and it's named after a Cocker Spaniel dog." They probably thought, "Colonial upstart"! But mindful of the words a boss once told him, "There can't be too much wrong with anyone who loves plants and animals," Don added, "I have found that in life, too."

All good things must end and so did our visit—I had an overnight ferry to Melbourne to catch, which is a story unto itself—but I will always remember my first and last sights at Lockington—rambunctious Peter sitting impatiently by his master in the driveway. At age 76, Don Dosser has completed his own memorial—Lockington Garden, bursting with beauty from every possible vantage.

*= not registered; **Registration in process

Author's note: I was asked by Harry Ronken in 2003 to consider writing an article on John Dosser, but family health issues prevented my pursuing it at that time. It was suggested again in 2009, but I didn't think I could do justice to an article through a third party, without seeing the garden or meeting a gardener who had no computer with which to communicate. When I was invited by my dear friends Ian and Neilma Wallace to visit the Dandenongs in Victoria this past fall, a second visit to Tasmania (the first in 1997) was arranged for the purpose of my interviewing Don. Many thanks to Harry and Ian for piloting me around Tasmania on "the wrong side of the road" and the delicious lunch at a pub in Forth.

More photos on next page

Lockington Garden, Tasmania, Australia. Photo by Frances Burns.

R. 'Lockington Sunset'. Photo by Harry Ronken.

R. 'Countess of Lockington'. Photo by Frances Burns.

R. 'Lockington Pride'. Photo by Frances Burns.

R. 'Belle of Lockington'. Photo by Frances Burns.

Companion Plants for the Rhododendron Enthusiast

Kath Collier
Boring, Oregon

In October, I had an opportunity to speak in Florence on "Companion Plants for the Rhododendron Enthusiast." This article reiterates some of that information, contains feedback from participants, and provides a bit more details. Enjoy!

Photos by the Author

Japanese maple *Acer palmatum* 'Sango kaku'.

In preparation for the October presentation, I visited a number of gardens to learn what types of companion plants members had chosen for their gardens. I found some absolutely breathtaking rhododendrons, and equally breathtaking companion plants, hidden away in some pretty fabulous gardens. As it turns out, most of us are no strangers to companion plants, and in some cases the companions outnumber the rhododendrons.

Participants at the conference confirmed that all had companion plants in their garden and there were clearly some favorite plants other than just rhododendrons. As it turns out, many conference participants are active in other plant societies. It was interesting to note the number of members who participated in different plant societies. A few members belonged to up to six different plant societies. Clearly, folks in the ARS are *not plant snobs!* We like a variety of plants and are knowledgeable about them.

Defining Companion Plantings

Companion planting in woodland garden is similar to a vegetable or flower garden companions. The concept of companion plants is typically described as placing two or more plants near each other with

Hellebore.

the idea that there would be some type of benefit. Benefits are often identified in terms of a vegetable or flower garden. Benefits traditional have included *growth improvements, higher yields, attracting pest predators,* and *repelling pests*. In the woodland garden, the benefits might be expanded to include several other ideas such as enhancing the amount and type of blooms in the garden, creating a rich tapestry of textures and colors, controlling the view, making the garden a fun place to learn and explore, improving the health of the garden, reducing the garden workload, and more. But not all plants make good companions!

Plants that outgrow, out compete or are invasive are not good choices for any garden. New plants are added to the invasive list each year, some of which we have in our garden or see in garden sales. Examples include: yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacortas*), English ivy (*Hedera helix*), Scotch broom (*Cystisus scoparius*), and kudzu (*Pueraria montana* var. *lobata*). These invasive plants often impact air circulation, water flow, sunlight, soil conditions, etc. There is a good reason these plants appear on invasive lists. Even some plants that are not considered "invasive" could still be very detrimental to a garden. Timber bamboo (*Bambusa oldhamii)*, for instance, is generally not a good choice for small gardens. Bigleaf maples (*Acer macrophyllum*) can easily smother plants in a thick blanket of golden fall leaves that take forever to break down in the compost bin and make soil overly acidic. Some ornamental grasses can create several problems with their massive root mats that retard water and air movement in the soil, not to mention their penchant for spreading all over the garden.

Consider avoiding plants that create a mess or attract overwintering insects that will damage the garden. Some plants are so beautiful that it is difficult to label them as poor companions for a rhododendron garden. Tulips, for instance, have worked their way onto my "poor companion" list. Why? Because they attract burrowing critters (which eat the tulips and cause dry pockets around other plants), have a fairly short bloom season, leave a mess when they are done, and may bloom only once unless planted annually (depending on the variety). Don't get me wrong. I like tulips a lot. I've planted hundreds of them, over and over and over…

Companions that are worthy of keeping in your garden might do one or more of the following things:

- Enhance or complement garden design,
- Increase year-round interest and diversity,
- Improve the health of the garden, and
- Improve garden experiences, reduce workloads, mitigate possible risks

Enhance or Complement Garden Design

Companions can define vertical and horizontal space within a garden. Vertical design space can include high areas that might be occupied by large trees (or very old rhododendrons), moderately high spaces that may be occupied by rhododendrons, other shrubs, and smaller trees, and low spaces which may be occupied by lower growing rhododendrons, azaleas, or ground covers. Horizontal space in a garden might be defined as garden rooms or areas that are not immediately visible, pathways, or as distances that capture an inviting vista or define key areas of activity (such as entries, stairs, corners, etc.).

Create patterns and repetition or support a theme. Companions can help create patterns and repetition in the garden, thereby strengthening a garden design or theme. For instance, one might be able to plant multiple groups of hostas in a garden much easier than multiple groups of *Rhododendron* "Loderi's." The hostas might be used in such a way as to spotlight other plants, such as rhododendrons. Heather might be used to draw the eye away from the naked winter stems of a deciduous azalea, which in other seasons would have vibrant orange foliage or purple flowers. Evergreens could create a dramatic background to brightly colored deciduous azaleas.

Evergreen azaleas are commonly found in Japanese gardens. If you were to create a garden with a Japanese theme, a few carefully pruned evergreen azaleas would help develop that look.

Increase Year-round Interest and Diversity

Want a garden with year-round blooms? Rhododendrons can provide many months of blooms, but there are a few months where there are not many rhododendron blooming, depending on your location. Companions can step in and provide both color and texture through their blooms, leaves, leaf color, stems, and structure.

Hellebores, for instance, are a popular companion plant because they often start blooming in mid-winter (in the Pacific Northwest) and like similar cultural conditions as rhododendrons. These hardy perennials offer 2-inch (5 cm) flowers in a number of colors, with a new double flower version now available. The blooms often persist until late spring or early summer. To minimize their spread, simply pick the flowers. Even without blooms, hellebores have interesting leathery leaves that come in a variety of shapes and textures.

Companions can create a lush tapestry of textures and shapes in the garden. *Pieris japonica,* for instance, is a common early bloomer in Pacific Northwest gardens. This shrub is in the heath family and therefore grows well where most rhododendrons do. *Pieris* have early clusters of flowers with petite narrow leaves that form a whorl. The leaves create a soft feathery texture that may be variegated, or have flagrantly colored new growth, and/or celebrate the fall with deep reds and bronzes.

Vines create a totally different shape from a rhododendron and can be very complementary in a garden. There are many vines that would make good companion plants including *Clematis*,

Arctic kiwi (*Actinidia arguta*), roses, winter jasmine (*Jasmine nudus*), etc. Consider pairing vines that bloom at different times on one trellis.

Improve the Health of the Garden

Companions can help improve the health of the garden in a number of ways. Groundcovers, for instance, can play an important role in maintaining soil moisture, protecting shallow roots, controlling weeds, and protecting soil from erosion. Corsican mint (*Mentha requierii*) is an interesting perennial herb that forms a tightly woven mat of tiny leaves that discourage weeds. The leaves are extremely fragrant and are used to make liquor. Depending on your climate, they may remain evergreen with its tightly woven mat discouraging weeds.

Companions can signal soil compaction. Trilliums are very sensitive to being trampled or having their flowers picked. After such an event, the plant may need years to recover—if ever. Watch the number of trilliums in your woodland garden. If they dramatically decrease in number, it may simply be because they are being walked on.

Companions support diversity in the garden which can help attract good predators, pollinators, or even attract (and therefore help control) pests. Primroses, for instance, will attract root weevils and can easily be plucked off the plant after dark. One of the most diverse areas of any landscape can be found along the edges. Edges occur between garden rooms, between your garden and the neighbor's, and where there is a change in the ecosystem, such as by a water feature. Edges provide transitional cover and additional food sources for insects, birds, and other critters.

Improve Experiences or Manage Risk

Companions can be used to create an element of surprise by controlling the view. The surprise might be a stunning deciduous azalea in full regal bloom. It could also function as a screen between garden rooms. An excellent example of this can be found in the Butchart Garden in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Companions are used here to control how much of the garden is visible at any one time and to draw the visitor through the garden. A dynamic "push and pull" (juxtaposition) is created between the winding pathways, vertical living plant screens and stones, and thousands of colorful companions.

Rhododendrons and companions might also be used to help block out undesirable views, such as a utility pole or a neighbor's yard. Not only might they block the view, but they may also absorb noise, control access, and provide some other benefit (like fruit, seasonal color, etc.).

Companions can discourage unwanted visitors or control foot traffic. A flowering quince (*Chaenomeles speciosa*) pruned in a fan shape can help control foot traffic with its 2-inch (5 cm) thorns. Quinces are good companion plants not only because they have similar growing requirements, but because they bloom fairly early, provide fruit when mature, and can act as a wind and sun break. Plants that provide multiple benefits particularly earn their place in a garden.

Companions can also provide fragrance which many rhododendrons lack. Bloom or leaf fragrance can be used as a garden signpost of sorts. Consider positioning fragrant rhododendrons like the PJM Group or companions like winter daphne (*Daphne odora*) near key junctions in a garden. The fragrance provides a non-visual clue as to location or to changes in elevation, which can be important to those with vision problems.

Companions can help reduce the impact of wildfire. Plants that stay green and help retain moisture in the soil, such as some groundcovers, could help reduce the risk of wildfire or create a fire break and reduce the potential damage from fire to a garden.

Some companions can help *reduce garden maintenance* by shading or crowding out weeds (*Iberis sempervirens,* or candy tuff), or naturally retard weed growth (heathers). Irises can help crowd out weeds and improve soil friability and protect soil from erosion. The roots of irises are fairly tough and will hold the soil in place. Annuals can be used as a cover crop to reserve an area for future development.

The Best of the Best

What makes the very best companion plants for the rhododendron garden? Consider plants that earn their keep and provide more than one benefit, in more than one season. One of the best of the best is a Japanese maple called *Acer palmatum* 'Sango kaku'. 'Sango kaku' has leaves that unfurl in early spring as chartreuse lime green with a red edge, darken to a medium green in the summer, and spark up orange and gold in the late summer. The show doesn't stop there! In the winter, the bark is dark red. Fabulous year round interest! The best of the best will:

- Thrive in the same environment as rhododendrons
- Fill a gap or need in the garden (blooming when most rhododendrons are not, providing different bloom colors or shapes, bloom height, etc.)
- Provide texture variations (such as seasonal leaf shape and colors)
- Provide interesting shapes (such as mounding, upright, prone, etc.)
- Don't make a mess or go where they are not wanted
- Can be shared as in floral arrangements (especially when rhododendrons are not blooming) or complement rhododendrons.

And finally, there are a few companion plants that may not do a lot, but really deserve a place in your garden simply *because you like them!* So many plants, so little space.

Kath Collier is a member of the Portland ARS Chapter and Secretary of the ARS.

The Word: Leaf

Bruce Palmer
Cutten, California

The word for this issue is **LEAF**. **Leaf** derives from the Middle English *lefe*, which in turn descends from the German *laub*, to peel off. Leaves are of primary importance to plants. I was reminded of this recently when I received a copy of a reprint of the English translation (Mueller 1952) of *Goethe's Botanical Writings* from a publisher friend in New Haven. We think of Johann Goethe as the great German poet and writer (think Mephostophiles in *Faust*), but he was much more than that. Goethe had a wide variety of interests; he was what today we call a Renaissance Man and was then called a Polymath. At the same time as Joseph Priestly and Carolus Linnaeus and years before the atomic theory or genetics, Goethe pursued a wide variety of topics. He is credited with discovering the intermaxillary bone in the human mouth; previously its absence in humans was thought to distinguish us from other primates. He had a law license and studied medicine. He was Privy Councillor and Director of Mines for the Duke of Saxe-Wiemar. His importance for us is that on a trip to Italy in 1788, he observed many plants that were new to him and concluded that in plants "everything is leaf, and through this simplicity, the greatest diversity becomes possible." Goethe is often credited with being the first to discover that flowers and fruits are derived from modified leaves.

When our rhododendrons set leaf and flower buds in the late summer and early fall, it is clear at first that the parts form from leaves. The accompanying photo of *R.* 'Loderi Venus' shows clearly

R. 'Loderi Venus'. Photo by the author.

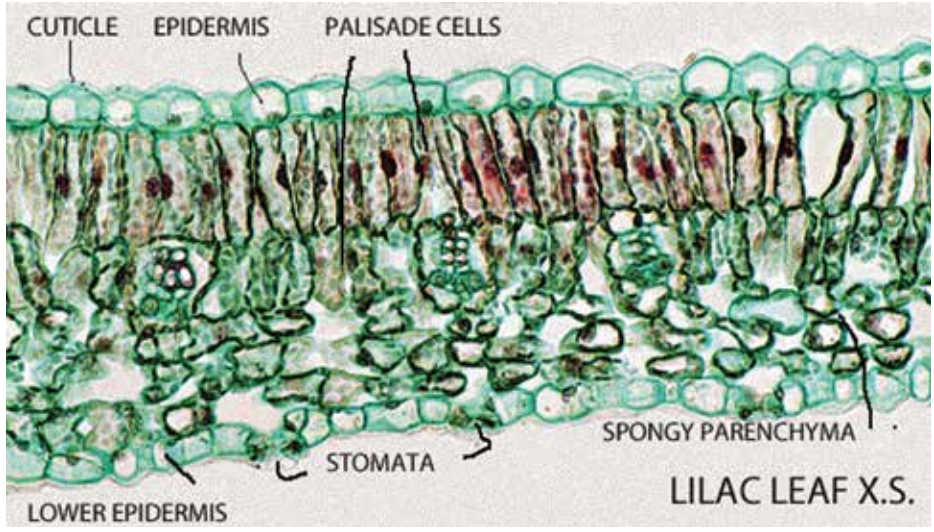


Figure 1. Cross-section of a lilac leaf.

the protective leaf scales around the buds. By early fall we can usually tell what a bud will produce: leaf or flower. We can be fooled, though, because weather and other conditions can cause what appears to be a flower bud to become a leaf bud instead. We have *R.* 'Vulcan' outside our kitchen door. Last fall it appeared that most of its buds would produce trusses. Instead, about half of them developed leaves instead. Sometimes one or more flower parts will develop as leaves or parts of leaves as the flower opens. We don't need to follow this reasoning as far as Goethe did, but study of developing flower petals, sepals and all of the reproductive parts show that they start out as leaves.

The primary function of a leaf, of course, is photosynthesis (Greek, *phos*, light and *syn-titheni*, to put together), the process of converting light energy into chemical energy, allowing for the existence of all plants as well as all animals. Broad-leaved higher plants have evolved a leaf system that is ideal for the maximum capture of light. The accompanying cross-section of a lilac leaf illustrates the idea (Fig. 1). The thickness is ideal for capturing about 90% of the visible light used in photosynthesis. The top of the leaf is protected by a waxy coating, the cuticle, that covers a single layer of cells, the epidermis. Under the epidermis is a layer or two of cells, the palisade cells, where most of the photosynthesis takes place. Palisade cells are arranged vertically to capture the maximum amount of sunlight. Beneath the palisade layer is a lot of open space with rounded cells, sometimes called the spongy layer. The space allows for storage of the water and carbon dioxide required in photosynthesis. On the underside the lower epidermis is pierced by holes with controllable openings called stomata (Greek, *stoma*, mouth) that mediate the passage of carbon dioxide and water in and oxygen out.

The structure of the broad leaf in higher plants is ideal for photosynthesis when the light and temperature are optimal. As the temperature begins to lower and the day length shortens photosynthesis slows. Many higher plants with broad leaves address this problem by dropping their leaves when the days get too short for efficient photosynthesis. It is more efficient for them to drop leaves and start over when conditions improve than to retain them. These are the deciduous plants. Most of our rhododendrons are not deciduous. They keep their leaves, giving us the great variety of shapes and accessories such as indumentum and scales that we enjoy when they aren't in bloom. We may soon have "artificial leaves" that can trap sunlight and split water for energy (Service 2011) but they will never compete aesthetically with the real thing. Now the flowers are gone from our rhododendrons, let's get out in our gardens and enjoy the many surprises the leaves have to offer.

References

Mueller, Bertha. 1952. *Goethe's Botanical Writings*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press. 258 pp. (Reprint by Ox Bow Press, Woodbridge, Conn., 1989)

Service, Robert F. 2011. Artificial Leaf Turns Sunlight into a Cheap Energy Source. *Science* 332, 1 April, 2011: p. 25.

Bruce Palmer is a member of the Eureka ARS Chapter. He was a teacher of biology at Maui Community College in the University of Hawaii system for 25 years.

ARS Supports Hiring of an Intern at the Azalea Collection of the U.S. National Arboretum

Barbara L. Bullock, Curator, Azaleas & Rhododendrons
U. S. National Arboretum
Washington, DC

Thanks to a $7000 donation from several local chapters of the American Rhododendron Society (ARS) and the Azalea Society of America (ASA), an intern, David J. Empel from Franklin Lakes, New Jersey, has been hired at the Azalea Collection at the U.S. National Arboretum**.** This initiative was mainly spearheaded by the members of the ARS Mid-Atlantic Chapter, which contributed approximately $4200.

Goals during the internship are to learn how the National Arboretum is run, new skills and techniques, the characteristics of new plants including azaleas, and generally about Washington D. C.

While supporting the azalea collections, Dave will also be participating in a group project with other USNA summer interns. This year's project is to design, develop and install a garden in a space outside of the headhouse/ greenhouse facility. Interns have different responsibilities and Dave is in charge of layout and design. During this project he will be able to put into practice landscape architectural skills he learned in college Dave and I would like to personally thank the ARS and ASA for joining together to make this internship possible in the Azalea Collection.

Rhododendron maddenii Hooker

Steve Hootman
Federal Way,
Washington

A Species Profile reprinted from the Rhododendron Species Foundation website: www.rhodygarden.org

Subsection Maddenia is a large and widespread group of approximately forty lepidote (scale-bearing) species. Members of this diverse group are found terrestrially or as epiphytes from the eastern Himalaya (Nepal) in the west to southeastern China and adjacent regions of Vietnam, Laos and Thailand in the east. With a few notable exceptions, species in this subsection are tender to semi-hardy in most of the *Rhododendron* growing areas of the world. They typically have large, often highly fragrant flowers and a straggly or open growth habit. Many have beautiful smooth and exfoliating bark and/or colorful and interesting foliage and many forms flower quite late in the season, well past the rush of spring.

Rhododendron maddenii is the type species for this subsection. In other words, it is the species from which the subsection was originally described. As treated in Dr. Cullen's 1980 revision of the subsection, *R. maddenii* is an extremely variable species into which all eight members of the former Subseries Maddenii (under the old Balfourian system of classification) have been lumped (except *R. excellens*). It is distinguished from the other members of subsection Maddenia primarily by its greater number of stamens and ovary chambers. Taken as a whole, these eight "former" species occur from the Sikkim Himalaya in the west through China and Burma to Vietnam in the east. As one would expect from a group of plants with such an extensive range, there is a tremendous variation in the morphological features that are typically used to separate closely related taxa, including such things as flower size, number of stamens, and scale density. Unfortunately, most of this variability and intergradation of distinguishing characteristics cannot be correlated sufficiently enough with important factors such as natural range to define clear-cut taxa. This is the botanical justification for the merging of this complex and closely related group of "species" into the single species *maddenii*.

Within this classification scheme, *Rhododendron maddenii* is divided into subspecies *maddenii* from the western end of the range, and subspecies *crassum*, which is generally found in the eastern half of the range. Included within ssp. *maddenii* are the former species *calophyllum*, *brachysiphon, maddenii* and *polyandrum*. These all have a truncated apex on the fruiting capsules. The ssp. *crassum* includes the former species *crassum*, *manipurense*, *chapaense* and *odoriferum*. Members of this group have rounded capsule apices and generally wider leaves.

Rhododendron maddenii is one of the "original" rhododendrons first introduced from the Himalaya by J.D. Hooker in the mid 1800s (1849). It was named for Lt.-Col. E. Madden, a member of the Bengal Civil Service. The other "species" now lumped under *R. maddenii* were subsequently introduced and named from various widespread locations: *R. brachysiphon* - Cooper (1915) Bhutan; *R. calophyllum* - Booth (1853) Bhutan; *R. chapaense* - Dop (1930) Indo-China; *R. crassum* - Delavay (1885) W. Yunnan (introduced by Forrest in 1906); *R. manipurense* - Watt (1882) Naga Hills, Assam; *R. odoriferum* - described by Hutchinson in 1927 from a cultivated plant raised from seed collected by Bailey in S. Xizang, China; *R. polyandrum* - Cooper (1914) Bhutan (introduced by him the following year); and *R. maddenii* ssp. *maddenii* is found in the eastern end of the Himalaya Mountains, from Sikkim and Bhutan to Arunachal Pradesh. It occurs at elevations of 5,000 to 10,000 ft (1525 to 3050 m) in a wide range of habitats.

Subspecies *crassum* is found from the Naga Hills in NE India into SE Xizang and Yunnan, China and south into Vietnam. It occurs at elevations of 5,000 to 12,000 ft (1525 to 3660 m), also in many different habitats. I have observed this common species in the wild on many occasions, from Sikkim at the far western end of its range to Arunachal Pradesh (where the two subspecies seem to merge into each other) and the Naga Hills of NE India to Yunnan, China where ssp. *crassum* is found on virtually every mountain. These plants were found growing in a wide range of habitats, from deep forests where they formed small, single-trunked trees up to 25 feet (7.6 m) or more in height to open slopes, cliffs and road-cuts. Typically, most forms of this species are vigorous-growing large shrubs or small trees, often attaining up to 30 ft (9.1 m) in the wild. The leaves are evergreen and extremely variable in shape and size but are generally between four and eight inches (10-20 cm) in length and one to three inches (2.5-7.6 cm) wide. They are densely covered with scales beneath. The tubular-funnel shaped flowers are also more or less covered with scales on the outer surface. These highly fragrant flowers appear over a long season from mid-spring into mid-summer and can be quite large, sometimes five inches (12.7 cm) long and up to five inches across. They are generally white, sometimes pink and rarely yellow. They typically have a pink or rose flush, and/or a pink to purple, green or yellow base.

With such a wide altitudinal and geographical range it is not surprising that there is a great deal of variability in the

hardiness of different forms that have been introduced into cultivation. Some forms are only suitable for the cool greenhouse or protected sites while others have proven to be hardy when planted outdoors in milder climates such as along the west coast of Great Britain, New Zealand and in certain mild areas along the western coast of North America. Many of these forms are wood hardy to at least 15° F (-9.4° C) and a few will survive 10° F (-12.2° C) or even lower. Unfortunately, the flower buds are usually more tender than the plant itself and in some locations the flower buds may be frozen in any given year.

One of the hardiest forms that we have grown here at the RSBG is *R. maddenii* ssp. *crassum* (formerly *manipurense*) RSF#1966/633 from Leonardslee which was planted in the old Upper Study Garden under an overstory canopy of conifers. This plant eventually attained a very respectable size of six feet (1.8 m) high and eight feet (2.4 m) across and survived a low of 7° F (-13.9° C) (with some tissue damage) in 1989 before succumbing to a killing 4° F (-15.6° C) the following year.

Our more recent efforts to determine the relative hardiness of our *R. maddenii* collection have resulted in many fine large plants growing without protection in the garden and producing masses of flowers in most years. Eventually, we know that a hard winter or early hard freeze will provide the killing or damaging temperatures necessary for such an evaluation. In the intervening years, we continue to enjoy the robust growth, deep green glossy foliage and annual display of showy fragrant flowers. In addition, for those regions with little or no frost and warmer growing seasons, this species offers a wide selection of forms and colors where other rhododendrons fail due to heat stress. Due to its primarily terrestrial nature in the wild, this species, in its myriad of forms, is less difficult to please in the garden than many of its more epiphytic cousins. In our climate, established plants are relatively tolerant of drought and quickly form large robust specimens, especially in full sun. A light amount of afternoon shade is recommended to avoid foliage scorch during the hottest part of the summer however.

Their vigorous and leggy growth should be taken into account when considering container cultivation or smaller areas such as courtyards. Frequent pinching and plenty of exposure to the sun will help to keep the plants compact and manageable. This species, in its myriad of forms, has won many awards for its outstanding floral displays. The first of these was an Award of Merit (AM) in 1924 to a clone with white flowers (as *crassum*). Other award winning clones include an AM in 1933, flowers white with a yellow throat (as *polyandrum*); AM in 1938, flowers white with a green flush inside the tube (as *maddenii*); AM in 1938, flowers rose-pink (as *polyandrum*); and an AM in 1978 to a clone 'Ascreavie' from L&S#1141, flowers white flushed reddish purple (as *maddenii*). *R. maddenii* has been used extensively in hybridizing schemes, producing such well-known cultivars as Royal Flush Group, Lady Chamberlain Group and Lady Rosebery Group, among others.
(See photo on page 178.)

Botanists *versus* Horticulturists
(Continued from page 158.)

Craven, L., Danet, F., Veldkamp, J., Goetsch, L.A., and Hall, B.D. 2010. *Rhododendron* section *Schistanthe*, the Scientific Name for Vireya Rhododendrons (Ericaceae). *J. Amer. Rhododendron Soc.* 64(4): 190-192.

Cullen, J. 1980. A Revision of *Rhododendron:* 1. Subgenus Rhododendron sections Rhododendron & Pogonanthum. *Notes RBG Edinb.* 39(1): 1-207.

Don, G. 1834. General *History of Dichlamydeous Plants* 3, 848. London: J.G. & F. Rivington.

Hooker, J.D. 1876. Rhododendron Subseries 7 & 8. Pp. 599-600. In Bentham, G. & Hooker, J.D. *Genera Plantarum*, 2(2), London: Reeve & Co.

Mabberley, D.J. 1990. *R. stenopetalum* (Hogg) Mabb. *Feddes Repertorium* 101(5-6): 270.

McNeill, J., Barrie, F.R., Burdet, H.M., Demoulin, V., Hawksworth, D.L., Marhold, K., Nicolson, D.H., Prado, J., Silva, P.C., Skog, J.E., Wiersema, J.H., and Turland, N.J. 2006. *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (Vienna Code)*. Regnum Vegetabile 146. Ruggell, Liechtenstein: A.R.G. Gantner Verlag. 568 pp.

Schlechter, R. [F.R.R.] 1917-1918. Die Ericaceen von Deutsch-Neu-Guinea. *Bot. Jahrb. Syst.* 55(1,2): 139-162.

Sleumer, H. 1949. Ein System der Gattung Rhododendron L. *Bot. Jahrb. Syst.* 74:511-553. Transl. by H.F. Becker. Pp. 1-18. In J.L. Luteyn (ed.) 1980. *Contributions Toward a Classification of Rhododendron,* New York Botanical Garden, New York.

Sleumer, H. 1980. Past and Present Systems of Rhododendron Based on Macromorphological Characters. Pp. 19-26. *In* J.L. Luteyn (ed.) *Contributions Toward a Classification of Rhododendron,* New York Botanical Garden, New York.

Stevenson, J.B. (ed.) 1930. *The Species of Rhododendron.* Edinburgh: Rhododendron Society. 861 pp.

Acknowledgments

The author thanks Dr. Joseph H. Kirkbride, Research Taxonomist, U.S. National Arboretum, for constructive comments relating to this article and for guidance through the maze of the ICBN. Mr. William C. Miller III read a draft of the article and offered useful suggestions. Any errors or infelicities in the article are the sole responsibility of the author.

American Rhododendron Society
Register of Plant Names and Checklist—Summer 2011 Supplement

Jay W Murray
North American Registrar of Plant Names
Colts Neck, New Jersey

Questions from **North Americans** concerning name registration, the availability of particular names, and requests for forms (no fee) should be directed to the Regional Registrar, **Jay W. Murray.** Forms also may be downloaded from the ARS web site: http://www.rhododendron. org or completed on-line for automatic emailing to J.W. Murray. **Non-North Americans** should direct questions to the International Rhododendron Registrar **Dr A.C. Leslie, 109 York Street**.

Introduction: The following rhododendron and azalea names were approved and added to the International Rhododendron Register prior to May 1, 2011 by the Royal Horticultural Society, International Cultivar Registration Authority for the genus *Rhododendron*. The North American Registrar assisted the RHS by providing data for plants originating in North America. References: Names conform to the rules and recommendations of the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants – 7th Edition* (2004). Color numbers refer to the RHS Colour Chart unless noted otherwise. Accompanying color names are taken from *A Contribution toward Standardization of Color Names in Horticulture*, R.D. Huse and K.L. Kelly, edited by D.H. Voss (ARS, 1984). Format: Parentage lists the seed parent first, followed by an "(s)" if the direction of the cross is known; this is followed by an upper case "X" and then the name of the pollen parent. If either parent is itself a cross, the individual components within that cross are separated by a lower case "x". Parentheses are used only in describing the more complex crosses. Abbreviations are used where appropriate: (a) = azalea, (r) = rhododendron, (v) = vireya rhododendron, (z) = azaleodendron; H = hybridized by, G = grown to first flower by, R = raised by, S = selected by, N = named by, I = introduced commercially by, REG = registered by; dates are enclosed in parentheses immediately following the activity. Metric conversions of dimensions are reported in 5mm (0.2") increments for dimensions greater than 1" (25mm).

ATTENTION: Non-North American Members of ARS

The International Rhododendron Registrar, Dr A.C. Leslie, accepts registration applications from all areas of the world. Where there is a Regional Registrar, applications may be preprocessed locally and then forwarded to the IRR. ARS members living outside North America who register directly with the IRR, or through other Regional Registrars may have their registrations published by the ARS if they notify the North American Regional Registrar of the plant name and the official registration date. The entry will appear in an early Supplement in the *JARS*.

(r) 'Ayomi'

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Janet Blair' (s) X *R. yakushimanum*. H (1969) and G: Dr. Joseph Brueckner, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada; N (2010): Adam Brueckner, Andrew Woodward, and Andrea Keefe, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada; I and REG (2011): Christina Woodward, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada . Fls 17/ conical truss, broadly funnel-shaped, 1.8" (45mm) long x 3" (75mm) wide, with 5 frilly-edged lobes. Color strong reddish purple (70B) and strong purplish pink (63C) in bud, opening inside very pale purple (76D), edged light purple (84C), with a rather faint, dorsal blotch of brilliant yellow (11A) spots; outside very pale purple (76D), with a light purple (84B) streak on the center of each lobe. Truss 4.4" (110mm) high x 6" (150mm) wide. Lvs held 3-4 years, 4"-5.4" x 1.6"-2.2" (100-135 x 40-55mm), elliptic, broadly acute apex, oblique base, flat margins; dull and moderate olive green (147A) to dark yellowish green (139A) above; hairless. Shrub 4' (1.2m) high x 5' (1.5m) wide in 41 years; intermediate habit; responded well to heat waves as warm as 90°F(32°C). Plant and bud hardy to at least -25°F (-32°C). Flowering May to mid June. usually for 4-6 weeks).

(r) 'Blue Tango'

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Purple Amethyst' (s) X 'Plum Passion' H (2002), G (2006), N (2010), I, and REG (2011): Jim Barlup, Bellevue, WA. Fls 18/ ball truss, broadly funnel-shaped, 1.8" (45mm) long x 2.8" (70mm) wide, with 5 wavy-edged lobes. Color deep purplish red (71A) in bud, opening inside light purple (77D), edged strong purple (77B), with moderate red (183C) spotting on dorsal lobe, extending c1.2 " (30mm) from base; outside light purple (77D), edged strong purple (77B), with mid veins strong purple (77B); filaments and anthers nearly white. Truss 5" (125mm) high x 5.6" (140mm) wide. Lvs held 2 years, 5" x 2" (125 x 50mm), elliptic, broadly acute apex, rounded base, upcurved margins; semi-glossy and moderate olive green (147A) above; hairless. Shrub 3' (0.9m) high x 3' (0.9m) wide in 8 years; intermediate habit. Plant and bud hardy to at least 10°F (-12°C). Flowering late May.

(r) 'Burgundy Moon'
Elepidote rhododendron: 'Black Sport' (s) X 'Purple Lace'. H: (1988), G (1996), N (2005), I, and REG (2011): Rick Shellenberger, Snohomish, WA. Fls 16/dome truss, broadly funnel-shaped, c2" (50mm) long x 2.5" (65mm) wide, with 5 wavy-edged lobes. Color dark red (187A) in bud, opening inside dark red (59A) with a dark red (187A) spotted blotch in the throat; outside dark red (59A). Truss 5" (125mm) high x 5" (125mm) wide. Lvs held 2 years, 6" x 2" (150 x 50mm), elliptic, broadly acute apex, cuneate base, flat margins; dull and moderate olive green (137A) above; hairless. Shrub 5' (1.5m) high x 5' (1.5m) wide in 10 years; intermediate habit; plant prefers a semi-shady location. Plant and bud hardy to at least 0°F (-18°C). Flowering mid May.

(r) 'Heritage Campfire Peach'
Elepidote rhododendron: Parentage unknown. H (1960's):John C. Cowles, Stow, MA; G (1970s): Heritage Museums & Gardens, Sandwich, MA; S: Bea MacDonald, Hanson, MA; N (2011), Sandwich Club (ARS) and Heritage Museums & Gardens; I (1990s) and REG (2011): Sandwich Club (ARS), c/o Norman Beaudry, Bethesda, MD. Fls 12/ball truss, openly funnel-shaped, 2.2" (55mm) long x 3.6" (90mm) wide, with 6-7 wavy-edged lobes; lightly scented. Color strong pink (48D) in bud, opening inside pale yellow green (155A), the lobes edged with moderate purplish pink (54D), and with twin narrow red rays on the dorsal lobe; outside pale yellow green (155A) striped with strong pink (54C); stigma and style green; stamens rudimentary. Truss 6" (150mm) high x 6" (150mm) wide. Lvs held 1-2 years, 5" x 2" (125 x 50mm), oblong, obtuse apex, rounded base; dull and moderate olive green (146A-B) above; hairless. Shrub 7' (2.2m) high x 8' (2.5m) wide in 15 years; open habit. Plant hardy to at least –10°F (-23°C); buds, -5°F (-21°C). Flowering late May (at Cape Cod, MA). (Code numbers: HP 61-98, 108-86 BM, 97-3.)

(r) 'Heritage Pastel Perfume'
Elepidote rhododendron: Parentage unknown. H (1960's):John C. Cowles, Stow, MA; G (1970s): Heritage Museums & Gardens, Sandwich, MA; S (1985): Ed Collins, Hendersonville, NC; N (2010), Sandwich Club (ARS) and Heritage Museums & Gardens; I (1990s) and REG (2011): Sandwich Club (ARS), c/o Norman Beaudry, Bethesda, MD. Fls12/ball truss, openly funnel-shaped, 2.2" (55mm) long x 3.6" (90mm) wide, with 7 wavy-edged lobes; strongly scented. Color light purplish pink (62C) in bud, opening inside yellowish white (158D), edged with pale purplish pink (62D), and with a strong greenish yellow (153B) flare on three dorsal lobes; outside pale purplish pink (62D). Truss 5.6" (140mm) high x 5.6" (140mm) wide. Lvs held 2 years, 6.6" x 2.2" (165 x 55mm), oblong, obtuse apex, oblique base, upcurved margins; semi-glossy and moderate olive green (146A) above; hairless. Shrub 7' (2.2m) high x 8' (2.5m) wide in 15 years; open habit. Plant and bud hardy to at least –10°F (-23°C). Flowering late May (at Cape Cod, MA). (Code numbers: HP 13-94; EC 85 F-1; BG-28)

(r) 'Heritage Snow Ruby'
Elepidote rhododendron: Parentage unknown. H (1960's):John C. Cowles, Stow, MA; G (1970s): Heritage Museums & Gardens, Sandwich, MA; S: Ed Collins, Hendersonville, NC; N (2011), Sandwich Club (ARS) and Heritage Museums & Gardens; I (1990s) and REG (2011): Sandwich Club (ARS), c/o Norman Beaudry, Bethesda, MD. Fls 12/dome truss, openly funnel-shaped, 2" (50mm) long x 3" (75mm) wide, with 7 wavy-edged lobes. Color light purplish pink (62C) in bud, opening throughout pale purplish pink (62D) and maturing to yellowish white (155D); with prominent interior central markings of deep purplish red (59B) consisting of several irregularly-shaped, flare-like objects extending upwards from the throat on all lobes, and moderate purplish red spotting on the three dorsal lobes; stigmas red. Truss 6" (150mm) high x 5.5" (140mm) wide. Lvs held 2 years, 5.6" x 2" (140 x 50mm), oblong, obtuse apex, rounded base; semi-glossy and moderate olive green (146A) above; hairless. Shrub 7' (2.2m) high x 8' (2.5m) wide in 15 years; intermediate habit. Plant and bud hardy to at least –10°F (-23°C). Flowering mid May (at Cape Cod, MA). (Code numbers: HP 61-98, 106-90 BM, 97-3.)

(r) 'Holli's Hope'
Elepidote rhododendron: (['Plum High' x 'Jonathan Shaw'] No. 2) (s) X 'Plum Passion'. H (2000), G (2005), N (2010), I, and REG (2011): Jim Barlup, Bellevue, WA. Fls 16/ball truss, broadly funnel-shaped, 1.5" (40mm) long x 2.8" (70mm) wide, with 5 wavy-edged lobes. Color dark red (187A) in bud, opening inside light purple (76A), changing to strong reddish purple (72B) on dorsal lobes, with central dorsal lobe edged strong purplish red (72A), and with a dark red (187C) flare on the central dorsal lobe extending c1" (25mm) from the base; outside light purple (76A), changing to strong reddish purple (72B) on dorsal lobes, with deep purplish red (71A) mid veins; filaments and anthers nearly white. Truss 4.5" (115mm) high x 4.5" (115mm) wide. Lvs held 2 years, 4.5" x 1.5" (115 x 40mm), lanceolate, acute apex, cuneate base, flat margins; dull and moderate olive green (147A) above; hairless. Shrub 1'(0.3m) high x 1.7' (0.5m) wide in 5 years; intermediate habit. Plant hardy to at least 0°F (-18°C). Flowering mid May.

(r) 'Impromptu'
Elepidote rhododendron: Parentage: ('Pinnacle', open pollinated) (s) X Unknown. H (1981) and G: Dr. Joseph Brueckner, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada; N (2010), I, and REG (2011): Christina Woodward, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada . Fls 10/conical truss, broadly funnel-shaped, 2" (50mm) long x 3" (75mm) wide, with 5 wavy-edged lobes. Color dark red (59A) and moderate purplish

red (59C) in bud, the three dorsal lobes opening inside moderate purplish red (54A) with a spotted dark red (187A) blotch, the other lobes opening strong purplish red (64B); outside deep purplish red (71A) with a strong purplish red (64B) streak down the middle and along part of the edge; pistil and stamens white. Truss 5.2" (130mm) high x 4.8"-5.2" (120-130mm) wide. Lvs held 2-3 years, 7.4" x 3.4" (185 x 85mm), elliptic, broadly acute apex, rounded base, flat margins; dull and moderate olive green (147A) to (137A) above; hairless. Shrub 5' (1.5m) high x 5' (1.5m) wide in 29 years; intermediate habit. Plant and buds hardy to at least -25°F (-32°C). Flowering late May to early June.

(r) 'Joseph Brueckner'
Elepidote rhododendron: *R. brachycarpum* (as ssp *tigerstedtii*) (s) X *R. arboreum* (from RGB, Edinburgh). H (1978) and G: Dr. Joseph Brueckner, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada; N (2010): Marta Brueckner, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada; I and REG (2011): Christina Woodward, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada . Fls 15-17/conical truss, funnel-campanulate, 1.8" (45mm) long x 2.4" (60mm) wide, with 5 frilly-edged lobes. Color vivid red (57A) in bud, opening inside with a 0.25" (6mm) wide band of deep purplish pink (54B) at lobe margins, then changing abruptly to deep purplish pink (66C) and blending to white at the base with some randomly scattered deep red (53A) and strong red (53B) spots on the three dorsal lobes, in addition there is a surface depression at the base of each lobe colored pale purplish pink (56A); outside strong purplish red (54A) and deep purplish pink (54B) turning to light purplish pink (55C) towards the base, and finally to white. Truss 4" (100mm) high x 5.6" (140mm) wide. Lvs held 3 or more years, 4"-8.4" x 1.6"-2.4" (100-210 x 40-60mm), elliptic, broadly acute apex, rounded base, flat margins; dull and moderate olive green (147A) with a hint of (137A) above; hairless. Shrub 11' (3.4m) high x 12' (3.7m) wide in 32 years; intermediate habit. Plant and bud hardy to at least -25°F (-32°C). Flowering mid May.

(r) 'Limoncello'
Lepidote rhododendron: *R. keiskei* (s) X *R. fletcherianum*. H (1982) and G: Dr. Joseph Brueckner, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada; N (2010), I, and REG (2011): Christina Woodward, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada . Fls 7/lax truss, openly funnel-shaped, 1.5" (40mm) long x 2.4" (60mm) wide, with 5 wavy-edged lobes. Color a blend of brilliant yellow green (142B) and vivid yellow green (154A) in bud, opening inside pale yellow green (4D) to pale greenish yellow (2D) to light yellow green (2C) with very small and faint brilliant yellow green (154B) spotting; outside pale greenish yellow (2D) to light greenish yellow (1C). Truss 2.2" (55mm) high x 3.2"–3.4" (80-85mm) wide. Lvs held 2-3 years, 1.5"-2.4" x 0.8"-1,2" (40-60 x 20-30mm), elliptic, broadly acute apex, flat margins; semi-glossy and moderate olive green (147A) to (137A) above; hairless. Shrub 5' (1.5m) high x 7.2' (2.2m) wide in 28 years; open habit. Plant hardy to at least -25°F (-32°C). Flowering mid May.

(r) 'Raspberry Mist'
Elepidote rhododendron: 'Violet Mist' (s)

X 'Black Adder'. H (2003), G (2008), N (2011), I, and REG (2011): Jim Barlup, Bellevue, WA. Fls 17/ball truss, broadly funnel-shaped, 1.8" (45mm) long x 2.5" (65mm) wide, with 5 frilly-edged lobes. Color deep purplish red (71A) in bud, opening inside deep purplish pink (72D) in the center, and darkening through strong reddish purple (72B) to strong purplish red (72A) at the edges, and having a densely spotted dorsal flare of dark grayish reddish brown (200A) starting c0.4" (10mm) from the base and extending c1" (25mm); outside deep purplish pink (72D), with mid veins and outer edges strong purplish red (72A). Truss 4.5" (115mm) high x 5" (125mm) wide. Lvs held 2 years, 4.5" x 1.8" (115 x 45mm), elliptic, broadly acute apex, rounded base, flat margins; dull and moderate olive green (147A) above; hairless. Shrub 2.8' (0.8m) high x 3' (0.9m) wide in 7 years; intermediate habit. Plant hardy to at least 0°F (-18°C). Flowering early June.

(r) 'Rose Dust'

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Winter Spice' (s) X 'Muffy'. H (2003), G (2007), N (2011), I, and REG (2011): Jim Barlup, Bellevue, WA. Fls 15/ball truss, broadly funnel-shaped, 2" (50mm) long x 3.2" (80mm) wide, with 5 wavy-edged lobes. Color strong purplish red (67A) in bud, opening inside very pale purple (69B) with lobe edges deep purplish pink (70C), and with strong purplish red (71C) nectar pouches on all lobes extending c0.4"-0.6" (10-15mm) from the base, and strong purplish red (71C) spotting extending c1.2" (30mm) on the dorsal lobe; outside very pale purple (69B), the lobes edged with deep purplish pink (70C), and lines of the same color along the mid ribs. Truss 5" (125mm) high x 5.5" (140mm) wide. Lvs held 2 years, 5" x 2.2" (125 x 55mm), elliptic, broadly acute apex, rounded base, flat margins; dull and moderate olive green (147A) above; hairless. Shrub 2' (0.6m) high x 3' (0.9m) wide in 7 years; dense habit. Plant hardy to at least 0°F (-18°C). Flowering mid May.

(r) 'Seraglio'
Elepidote rhododendron: 'Evening Glow' (s) X ('Fred Winter'* x 'Fashion Plate'). H (2005), G, N (2010), and REG (2011): Dennis Mac Mullan, Hamburg, PA. Fls 12/conical truss, broadly funnel-shaped, c3" (75mm) long x c3" (75mm) wide, with 6 frilly-edged lobes. Color orange/yellow in bud, opening inside medium yellow at base, merging into paler yellow, and then dark ivory at margins, with three rays of orange spots on dorsal lobe extending from base to mid-lobe; outside similar but unmarked. Calyx 0.8" (20mm) long; light to medium yellow. Truss 5.6" (140mm) high x 6.6" (165mm) wide. Lvs held 2 years; 2.6" x 1.2" (65 x 30mm), elliptic, broadly acute apex, rounded base, flat margins; semi-glossy and medium green above; hairless. Shrub 6' (1.8m) high x 3.6' (1.1m) wide in 5 years; intermediate habit. Plant and bud hardy to at least -10°F (-23°C). Flowering early to mid season.

(r) 'The Minahan'
Elepidote rhododendron: ('Janet Blair' x 'Crest') (s) X 'Yellow Balloon'. H (1989), G, N (2010), and REG (2011): Dennis Mac Mullan, Hamburg, PA. Fls 12/conical truss, funnel-shaped, c2.8" (70mm) long x 3.8" (95mm) wide, with 6 wavy-edged lobes. Color medium yellow in bud, opening inside strong medium yellow in tube, paling to yellow towards lobes; outside medium/light pure yellow; medium yellow speckles on the dorsal lobe. Truss 8.6" (215mm) high x 9" (225mm) wide. Lvs held 3 years; 3.6" x 1" (90 x 25mm), elliptic, broadly acute apex, rounded base; semi-glossy and mid green above; hairless. Shrub 4' (1.2m) high x 4' (1.2m) wide in 7 years; intermediate habit. Plant and bud hardy to at least -10°F (-23°C). Flowering mid season.

(r) 'Violet Breeze'
Elepidote rhododendron: ('Fancy' x *R. yakushimanum*) (s) X ('Frank Galsworthy' x 'Purple Splendour'). H (1995), G

Register of Plant Names—Newly Registered

'Ayomi'. Description on page 170. Photo by Christina Woodward.

'Blue Tango'. Description on page 170. Photo by Jim Barlup.

'Burgundy Moon'. Description on page 171. Photo by Rick Shellenberger.

'Heritage Campfire Peach'. Description on page 171. Photo by John Delano.

'Heritage Pastel Perfume'. Description on page 171. Photo by John Delano.

'Heritage Snow Ruby'. Description on page 171. Photo by John Delano.

'Holli's Hope'. Description on page 171. Photo by Jim Barlup.

'Impromptu'. Description on page 171. Photo by Christina Woodward.

'Joseph Brueckner'. Description on page 172. Photo by Christina Woodward.

'Limoncello'. Description on page 172. Photo by Christina Woodward.

'The Minahan'. Description on page 174. Photo by Dennis Mac Mullen.

'Violet Breeze'. Description on page 171. Photo by Jim Barlup.

(2000), N (2010), I, and REG (2011): Jim Barlup, Bellevue, WA. Fls 13/ball truss, broadly funnel-shaped, 1.5" (40mm) long x 2.5" (65mm) wide, with 5 wavy-edged lobes. Color strong purplish red (72A) in bud, opening inside very pale purple (76C) changing to strong purple (77B) on outer tips of lobes, and with prominent dark red (183A), densely spotted flares on two upper lobes, extending c1" (25mm) from the base; outside very pale purple (76C) changing to strong purple (77B) on mid ribs and outer tips of lobes. Truss 4" (100mm) high x 4.5" (115mm) wide. Lvs held 2 years, 4.5" x 1.5" (115 x 40mm), elliptic, broadly acute apex, rounded base, flat margins; semi-glossy and moderate olive green (147A) above; hairless. Shrub 2.6' (0.8m) high x 4' (1.2m) wide in 11 years; dense habit. Plant hardy to at least 0°F (-18°C). Flowering late May

(r) 'Wild Berry'
Elepidote rhododendron: 'Violet Mist' (s) X 'Plum Passion'. H (2001), G (2005), N (2010), I, and REG (2011): Jim Barlup, Bellevue, WA. Fls 14/ball truss, broadly funnel-shaped, 1.5" (40mm) long x 2.5" (65mm) wide, with 5 frilly-edged lobes. Color deep purplish red (71A) in bud, opening inside light purple (77D) changing to strong purple (77B), with a moderate red (183C) dorsal flare extending upwards c1.2" (30mm) from the base; outside light purple (77D) changing to strong purple (77B), with the tips of lobes deep reddish purple (77A) and with strong purplish red (71B) mid veins. Truss 4" (100mm) high x 4.5" (115mm) wide. Lvs held 2 years, 4.5" x 1.8" (115 x 45mm), elliptic, broadly acute apex, rounded base, upcurved margins; semi-glossy and moderate olive green (147A) above; hairless. Shrub 2' (0.6m) high x 2' (0.6m) wide in 9 years; intermediate habit. Plant hardy to at least 0°F (-18°C). Flowering mid May.

The following unregistered name appears as a parent for one of the above entries:
'Fred Winter': Yellow-flowered elepidote. H: Joe Becales; parentage: 'Merley Cream' X 'Polynesian Sunset'.

Plant name registration forms can be downloaded from the ARS web site: http://www.rhododendron.org

Do you need a speaker for your chapter meetings or an ARS convention?
The ARS Speakers' Bureau is designed to help.
Log onto www.arsoffice.org, select "Speakers' Bureau Database."
You will need to enter your chapter user name and password.
Then you can search the database or add your name.
Try it! It is just that easy!
If you still have questions, send an email to Bill Stipe at:
wstipe@whidbey.com

2010 Cary Awards

(Reprinted from the March 2011 Massachusetts Chapter newsletter)

The Cary Awards are given annually by the Tower Hill Botanic Garden to woody plants that are first-rate New England garden plants—hardy, pest and disease-resistant, valuable in multiple seasons, and underutilized. Selected plants have proven their performance in New England. The Cary Award Program is a collaborative effort of the Worcester County Horticultural Society, the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, the New England Nursery Association, the Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association, and numerous other organizations across New England. The program is in its 14th year and is named in honor of the late Ed Cary, a local nurseryman who left money to Tower Hill, in part to support awards and prizes in horticulture. This year two plants were recognized by this excellent award program. Check out this year's selections and their pictures, as well as past winners at www.caryaward.org .

Rhododendron 'Weston's Sparkler': A fine example of the type of plant suitable for the Cary Award. In addition to being a beautiful summer blooming azalea, it is durable, hardy to zone 4, and pest and disease resistant. Its rich pink flowers, with elegantly ruffled petals, open in early July and perfume the air with a spicy fragrance. The deciduous leaves have a blue green cast in summer and take on lovely burgundy hues in the fall before dropping. When grown in full sun or partial shade 'Weston's Sparkler' has the potential to reach 12' (3.7 m) tall. This cultivar, which was selected by the late Ed Mezitt of Weston Nurseries, was named a Proven Performer by the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society.

Picea orientalis (Oriental Spruce) An elegant and underused spruce, which has many fine qualities that make it ideal for the modern landscape. Hailing from Caucasia and Turkey, this tree is hardy to zone 4, unattractive to deer and other pests, and grows at a moderate rate to 50 or 60' (15 to 18 m) tall. Its width can be as much as 20 feet (six m), but selections and cultivars offer moderate size and vibrant color. One of the most remarkable conifers in the winter season is *Picea orientalis* 'Skylands', a slow-growing, yellow-needled form named after the famed New Jersey Botanical Garden known as "Skylands." The yellow needles glow year round but truly stand out in the winter months. Severe, wind-whipped winters can cause the upper surface of the needles that are exposed to full sun to burn a bit in the late winter, so site it out of the winter winds. The cultivar 'Gowdy' develops a particularly narrow form and can be seen in the Secret Garden at Tower Hill. Look also for other dwarf cultivars such as 'Shadow's Broom', 'Nana', 'Weeping Dwarf' (Pendula), and 'Tom Thumb'.

Errata in the Spring 2011 Issue

Page 62: The sequence of two of the cover photos was accidentally reversed. The correct sequence from bottom right to bottom left: 'Margaret Abbott' (*R. prinophyllum* × *R. calendulaceum*) by John and Sally Perkins; Unnamed hybrid of 'Midnight Mystique' × 'Midnight Beauty' at the Hachmann Nursery in Barmstedt, Germany, by Don Hyatt.

Page 87: In the description of June and Tim Walsh's garden, the correction is that they had "planted over 300 rhododendrons in their back yard."

Ultimate Prevention of Powdery Mildew on Rhododendrons

Doug Blenkarn
Nanaimo, BC,
Canada

For 28 years my rhododendrons and I have waged war with powdery mildew (Erysiphaceae). Up until two years ago, approximately 10% of my rhododendrons were vulnerable. The susceptible plants were *Rhododendron* 'Douglas Stephens', 'Unique', 'Karen Triplet', 'Apricot Fantasy', 'Tequila Sunrise', 'Phylis Korn', 'Olin Dobbs', 'Purple Lace', 'Purple Splendor', 'Virginia Richards', 'Horizon Monarch',' C.I.S.', 'Grandma's Hat', 'Trude Webster', 'Elizabeth', 'Cynthia', and 'Blue Boy'.

I followed the usual cultural recommendations such as relocating plants to sunnier and better ventilated sites, avoiding over crowding, deadheading and removing all diseased leaves on and below the plants, spraying protectants and eradicants during the late spring and summer. In short, these measures were only partially effective in reducing powdery mildew.

For several years, and on Terry Richmond's recommendation, I have included dolomite lime with the spring fertilization. More recently Terry has begun field trials to assess the effects of various compounds (including magnesium sulfate) on rhododendron health and performance and powdery mildew vulnerability. There are many anecdotal reports on the efficiency of epson salts to increase plant growth, stem and root strength and to "green up" leaves. Foliar spraying of magnesium sulfate solution has been recommended for treating chlorosis.

In 2009, I sprayed bimonthly and thoroughly all new growth on vulnerable rhododendrons. I used a solution of magnesium sulfate (epson salts) of 20 ml/l (2.7 oz/gal) of water. I was surprised and gratified that this treatment totally prevented powdery mildew. I inadvertently missed spraying 'Elizabeth'. Her foliage showed the usual evidence of powered mildew and became my control plant.

In 2010, initially I held off spraying, but closely monitored the vulnerable rhododendrons. The amount of powdery mildew recurring was variable, but overall was much less than previous years when no protectants and eradicants were used. I sprayed only cultivars that exhibited recurrences.

I plan to continue a strategy of zero tolerance, vigilance, early detection and preventative foliar spraying of magnesium sulfate of the more susceptible cultivars. I sense that a less concentrated solution and less frequent spraying might provide sufficient protection. The plant experts might explain the precise mechanism that appears to halt the powdery mildew invasion. Foliar magnesium seems to be a simple, inexpensive, and safe protectant against powdery mildew. Other protectants and eradicants are costly, inconsistent and have safety and environmental issues.

Doug Blenkarn is member of the Nanaimo ARS Chapter and has gardens in Nanaimo and at Sproat Lake, BC. ddblenkarn@gmail.com

Rhododendron maddenii Hooker (Contined from page 168.)

R. maddenii Gigha form jenkinsii 1021. Photo by Steve Hootman.

Attention!
Journal Authors/Photographers

The ARS requests that all authors and photographers who have contributed articles and/or photographs for publication in the *Journal American Rhododendron Society* and the *Quarterly Bulletin* grant the ARS permission to use their work in the *Journal American Rhododendron Society*; on any of the ARS websites; as printed materials individually or in anthologies or similar collections of work published by the ARS, including ARS chapter newsletters; and on compact disks (CDs or in other digitized formats published by the ARS.

The ARS non-exclusive Copyright Policy allows authors and photographers to retain copyright to their own work and submit their work to other media.

If you, as an author or photographer, have not already granted permission for the ARS to use your work as described above, please request a form from the Assistant Editor:

Sonja Nelson, Assistant Editor
Journal American Rhododendron Society

New Members
from 2/14/2011 Through 5/29/2011

AZALEA
Bruce Burton
Cynthia Hendry
James A. & Linda S. Rollins

CONNECTICUT
Elizabeth Georgian
Suzanne Mamet

DANISH
Koen Camelbeke
Jane Christiansen
Ebba Holmboe
Jens Krisian Kristensen
Frode Larsen
Egon Sigsgaard
Martin Tversted

DE ANZA
Ella Ancheta

EUGENE
Emily Aune

EUREKA
Laurie Ervin
Ron Gilliland and Bob Stanley
Bojan Ingle
D. Jayne McNeilly and Victoria Onstine
Pam Sageman
Mark & Anne Sahlberg
Cindy Woods

GREATER PHILADELPHIA
Nils Knutzen

LEHIGH VALLEY
Nelson Shores

LEWIS COUNTY
Vivian A Varney and Anthony Kirk

MAINE
Kathy Smith

MASSACHUSETTS
Randy Green
John & Shirley Shuster
James Vossberg

NANAIMO
John & Diana English
Diana Walker

NEW YORK
Cesar Castillo

NON-CHAPTER
Katsuhisa Fujiwara

NORTH ISLAND
Joan Collinge
Sasha Nowicki and Jaff Reinhart

PIEDMONT
Laura Motsinger

PORTLAND
Arnie and Michelle Conzelmann
Patricia Frobes
Elsie Prayzich
Larry and Joanne Turner

RSC ATLANTIC REGION
David Siegel

RSC NIAGARA REGION
Marcelle Dallaire
Beth Edward
Molly Fuller
Ron Sutton

SCOTTISH
Ian McEwan

SEATTLE
Jayne Logan

SOUTHEASTERN
Alan Mizeras
Western Kentaky Botanical Gardens Inc.

SWEDISH
Bjorn Karlsson
Bo Lundh

VANCOUVER
Ronda Tuyp

VICTORIA
Paul Frost

WHIDBEY ISLAND
Arlee J. Anderson
Robert Boehm and Penny Harger

In Memoriam
from 2/14/2011 through 5/29/2011

Adams, Dorothy
Arsen, Gay
Hall, Shirley
Joyner, Billy
Kirby, Lenita
Laucks, Dorothy
Metcalfe, Evelyn

Chapter/District & Special Donations

Donor	Amount	Source
General Fund		
Eureka Chapter	$100.00	Chapter donation
Research Foundation		
Philadelphia Chapter	$1,0000.00	Individual members in honor of Elizabeth "Betts" Layman

*PUBLICATION**LIST***

Remember to support your Rhododendron Society. One of the ways you can do this is to buy your books from us! You get to learn and we get to continue to promote our beloved flower

Book	Retail	Member
American Azaleas, Towe	$29.95	$25.46
*Daphnes, A Practical Guide,*White, hardcover	$34.95	$29.71
Dogwoods, Cappiello & Shadow, hardcover	$39.95	$33.96
Gardening with Hardy Heathers, Small & Wulff	$39.95	$33.96
Greer's Guidebook To Available Rhododendrons Greer, Third Edition, Softbound	$19.95	$ 9.98 SPECIAL
Hardy Rhododendron Species, Cullen	$49.95	$42.46
Hybrids and Hybridizers, Rhododendrons and Azaleas for Eastern North America, Edited by Philip A. Livingston and Franklin H. West	$10.00	$10.00
In Praise of Dahlias, DVD, Mendocino Coast Films	$25.00	$25.00
Kalmia: Mountain Laurel and Related Species, Jaynes	$34.95	$29.71
Pacific Coast Rhododendron Story, softbound	$29.95	$14.98 SPECIAL
hardbound	$39.95	$33.96
Passion for Rhododendrons, A, DVD Mendocino Coast Films	$25.00	$25.00
Pocket Guide to Rhododendron Species J.F.J. McQuire & M.L.A.Robinson	$135.00	$124.95
Rhododendron Handbook, The, RHS 1998		$50.00
Rhododendron Hybrids (Second Edition), hardcover Salley & Greer	$59.95	$47.95
Rhododendron Hybrids on CD, (Third Edition), Salley & Greer	$34.95	$26.21 SPECIAL
Rhododendron Species, Vol. IV, Davidian	$54.95	$25.00 SPECIAL
Rhododendrons in the Landscape, Nelson	$29.95	$15.00 SPECIAL
Rhododendrons of the World, Leach (SPECIAL)		$100.00
Rhododendrons & Azaleas: A Colour Guide, K. Cox	$65.00	$55.25
Seeds of Adventure, In Search of Plants, Cox &Hutchison	$75.00	$63.75
Sikkim and the World of Rhododendrons, Pradan	$90.00	$85.00
Success with Rhododendrons and Azaleas, Reiley,	$24.95	$21.21

Journal ARS back issues are available from 1982 through the current issue with some exceptions.
Some copies of the *Quarterly Bulletin ARS* from 1962 through 1981 are still in stock.

25 Year Index to ARS Publications (1947-70)	$4.00
10 Year Index to ARS Publications (1971-80)	$4.00
10 Year Index to ARS Publications (1981-90)	$5.00
10 Year Index to ARS Publications (1991-2000)	$5.00
Journal ARS, Back Issues (if available)	
To U.S. and Canada	$ 8.00
To all other countries	$10.00
Commemorative Rhododendron Prints (set of 4)	$75.00

Above book prices are in $US.
Prices for books do not include shipping costs.
Contact: Greer Gardens, Inc
1280 Goodpasture Island Road
Eugene Oregon 97401
1-800-548-0111
Email:orders@greergardens.com

To receive your discount, please mention you are ordering through the ARS program.
For overseas book orders extra shipping and packaging charges apply. Checks must be in US funds. Make checks payable to Greer Gardens. Send orders to address above or call with credit card information.

ADVERTISING RATES

	SIZE	1 TIME	4 TIMES
1"	2-1/4"x1"	$20.00	$72.00
A	2-1/4"x3"	$50.00	$180.00
B	4-3/4"x3"	$80.00	$288.00
Full Page	7-1/4"x9-1/2"	$325.00	$1170.00

Color rates quoted upon request.
Above prices are in $US.

DEADLINE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS:
FEB. 15, MAY 15, AUG. 15, NOV. 15

Send copy or inquiry to:
Sonja Nelson, Assistant Editor
Journal American Rhododendron Society

WRITERS, PHOTOGRAPHERS, AND RESEARCHERS GUIDELINES

Writers, Photographers, and Researchers Guidelines are available for the *Journal American Rhododendron Society*.