

# American Rhododendron Society





# American Rhododendron Society

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## 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](http://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.**

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## From the President



Don Smart  
Carnation,  
Washington

**W**hat a year it has been for gardeners! In the Pacific Northwest, August may be the first month to reach average temperatures. Last year the news media was talking about “January,” and this year I heard references to “Julober.” Rhododendron bud formation last year for this spring’s blooms was not good for most of the earlier flowering varieties and some of our shows were quite sparse. I know you folks in the Midwest and East Coast had early heat waves, so I’ll be interested

in learning how that affects next year’s bloom. And as I write this, Hurricane Irene is approaching the east coast. I wish you all well!

In Ted Stecki’s last article in the spring issue, he referred to the ARS’s and the ASA’s efforts to “Save the Azaleas” at the National Arboretum. The ARS Board granted \$5000 to the “Friends of the National Arboretum” (FONA) endowment fund for the continuing upkeep of the Azalea and Boxwood Collection. We had understood that FONA had received an anonymous \$1 million donation for a restricted endowment fund. It was our understanding that their fundraising for a second \$1 million was to add to the endowment fund. In discussions since June, we have found out the second fundraising is for money to supplement the earnings from the endowment fund and that it will be used as needed for ongoing maintenance. Apparently the arboretum

estimates \$100,000 a year is required for this upkeep. The board will be discussing how our \$5000 grant will be used when we meet in October in Richmond, VA.

It was a nice beginning to my job as president to sign this grant letter, and also to send off checks to the three other ARS grantees: the Humboldt Botanical Garden in Eureka, CA; the Planting Fields Arboretum in Oyster Bay on Long Island that many of us toured during the convention last year; and the Lake Cowichan Rhododendron Memorial Garden on Vancouver Island in British Columbia, Canada. I think it is great to be part of a Society that can help garden endeavors here and around the world.

I hope to see some of you in Richmond in October and many of you in Asheville next spring. I have been privy to a lot of both the Richmond and Asheville planning committees’ emails and they are putting together great conventions.

## From the Editor



Glen Jamieson  
Parksville, BC  
Canada

**A**s our President points out above, this has been a rather dramatic year for weather in North America at least! I say weather rather than climate, because climate is the longer term average of the short term environmental conditions that we call daily, weekly or monthly weather. Weather-wise this year, we’ve had a very prolonged cooler, relatively wetter spring and early summer in the Pacific Northwest, followed by a six-week drought in coastal areas. The central southern States around Texas, where my daughter

currently resides, is in the midst of a brutal heat wave and one of the worst droughts in memory, while the northeast has had extensive flooding, tornados and earlier in the summer, very high temperatures. Whether or not you believe that humans are causing climate change, i.e., a change in the average weather conditions, I suspect that most would now agree that our past regional climates may not currently be a reliable predictor of what future conditions may be, and that at the least, weather events are becoming more extreme and challenging. This not only affects our economy and insurance rates but for us gardeners, what we can grow and how much effort we need to devote to having our plants survive and flower beautifully. Most rhododendrons and azaleas can survive heat if they receive sufficient water, but early fall freezes, extreme drought, extensive rain and flooding, strong winds and cool springs can certainly play havoc with how our gardens perform and look.

On top of all this, many of us are always pushing the limit tolerance-wise on what we grow in our gardens—the plants in my west coast Canadian garden range from temperate alpine rhodos to maddenias, and like many of us, I push the limit by trying to grow tender plants for our climate. I am slowly developing an understanding of the different microclimates in our half hectare (one acre) garden, and am trying to locate those plants that require specific conditions (shade, good water drainage, winter shelter, etc.) appropriately. I find this an ongoing challenge, as for most plants and species in particular, tolerated environmental conditions are not generally specified except for minimum temperature. While perhaps most important, this alone is not really sufficient, and it would be great to see easily found descriptions of the broader habitat conditions that species rhodos, azaleas and vireyas in particular prefer.

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## In this issue...



*Trillium undulatum* is one of many treasures to see in the Southern Appalachians on tours in conjunction with the ARS/ASA Annual Convention in Asheville, North Carolina, next spring. See page 195.



*R. polyanthemum* carries the attribute of fragrance along with numerous other vireya rhododendrons. See page 222.



'Cranberry Ice' is the newly registered name of a cultivar grown from seed collected at Muckross Gardens, Ireland. See page 235.

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Clockwise from top left: A water colour portrait by Winnifred Walker by Douglas Justice; *R. argyrophyllum* ssp. *nankingense* 'Chinese Silver' by Peter Kendall; *R. hookeri* by Hartwig Schepker; *R. vaseyi* by Don Hyatt.

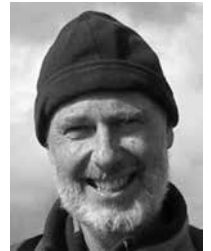
# Arunachal Pradesh: Botanical Explorations in Remote Areas of North-eastern India



Fig. 1: Mechuka Valley with the Siyom River, 1900 m (6234 ft). Photo by Hartwig Schepker.



Hartwig Schepker  
Bremen, Germany



John Roy  
Ballachulish,  
(West-)Scotland



Fig. 2: *R. hookeri*, lower surface of young leaves with white tufts of hairs on the lateral veins (left) and the smooth mahogany-coloured peeling bark (right). Photos by Hartwig Schepker.



Fig. 3: *R. arizelum* with its cinnamon indumentum. Photo by Hartwig Schepker.



Fig. 4: *R. thomsonii* ssp. *lopsangianum* (syn. *R. lopsangianum*). Photo by Hartwig Schepker.



Fig. 5: *R. charitopes* ssp. *tsangpoense*. Photo by Hartwig Schepker.



Fig. 6: *R. cinnabarinum* Blandfordiiflorum Grp. on the Tokok La, 3500 m (11,483 ft). Photo by Hartwig Schepker.

Arunachal Pradesh in the north-eastern corner of India is a magnificent piece of land. On the one hand it is mostly a rugged mountain country with steep hillsides resulting in bad accessibility. It is also one of the wettest areas in the world with annual precipitation easily exceeding 4000 mm (157 in). Not surprisingly it hosts an amazing array of obnoxious insects like the nasty dim-dams, tiny little biting sandflies [*Phlebotomus sp.*] which like to settle on your scalp, or the unpleasant leeches—73 different species makes the area one of the world's capitals in terms of leech biodiversity.

On the other hand it is simply the immense treasure of animal and plant species that makes this remote country one of the most interesting places of the present time for botanists and biologists. Remoteness is the key for its diversity. Inaccessibility of the terrain and harsh weather conditions allow only a small human population and this again assures a minimum human impact on nature. A recent World Wildlife Fund (WWF) report announced Arunachal Pradesh the second biggest hot spot in terms of plant diversity. Between 1998 and 2008, scientists have described 353 new animal and plant species there.

In terms of rhododendrons, Arunachal Pradesh has been a white or at least a grey spot on the world rhododendron map until 2000. Before, the knowledge of rhododendron distribution was based mainly on the findings of Kingdon Ward and Ludlow and Sherriff. Peter Cox (2005) rightly assumed that the actual number of rhododendron species should be higher because the great plant hunters had neglected most of Arunachal Pradesh. The *Rhododendron Handbook* of 1996 lists 51 species for this Indian state—a definite understatement if one considers the real reconnaissance that has been made by the following plant hunters in the lands of Arunachal Pradesh:

Frank Kingdon Ward came through this area at least four times but always scratched only the most eastern or western



Map of India with arrow showing trekking area in Arunachal Pradesh.

parts of what is today called Arunachal Pradesh. In 1926 and 1927–28, he made two expeditions in the most eastern parts, coming from Assam and Burma respectively. Except for passing through the Diphuk La on the Burmese border, he stayed mostly in lower terrains. Here he had his first encounters with the local peoples in the Mishmi Hills. In 1933 he came through the Delei Valley on his way to southeast Tibet, and in 1935 he travelled through the western parts of what is now the West Kameng Province, passing the high altitude Se La and heading north towards Mago into Tibet.

In 1936, Ludlow and Sherriff had a glance at the north-central parts of Arunachal when they were on their way

eastwards along the huge mountain divide splitting the Tibetan plateau from the southern mountain flanks. For a few miles, Ludlow walked via the Lo La into Arunachal, on the way discovering not only the rare *Primula elizabethae* but also noting that "...on its northern slopes, in a region of incessant rainfall, grew the most amazing variety of plants I have ever seen."

In summary, most of Arunachal Pradesh has never been properly explored for rhododendrons or other plants, and existing knowledge was mostly based on findings in the extreme western and eastern areas.

After Indian independence, Arunachal Pradesh was for decades a forbidden territory for foreigners. The

Indian government decided to implement a strict no-go policy, mainly to preserve the many ethnic groups. One of the very rare chances to visit the former North East Frontier Agency was given to Peter and Patricia Cox and Peter Hutchison in 1965. They were allowed to explore the lower parts in the Apatani and Talle Valleys along the Subansiri River, a short visit that resulted in three new finds: *R. coxianum*, *R. santapau* and *R. subansiriense*.

Since its opening at the millennium, rhododendron freaks have been rushing into Arunachal. Kenneth Cox started his reconnaissance trips in autumn 2001 and led the first serious rhododendron-hunting trip in 2002 into the Subansiri-Siyom divide. Roughly 20 documented trips by different groups have followed, undertaken mostly by British, American, German and French rhododendron enthusiasts. Reports have been published by Cox (2004, 2005a, 2006, 2007 and 2008), Cox (2003, 2005b), Gallavan (2007), Hootman (2006, 2008), Richardson (2006), Rouau (2009), Schepker (2008) and Sweetman (2006). Several RHS seed lists also document the activities of Rushforth and Clark and colleagues.

John Roy, Scottish dentist and keen plantsman, was a member of the 2002 Subansiri expedition, a strenuous voyage with thrilling botanical results like the already mentioned *Primula elizabethae* (Cox 2004, 2005a and 2008). Due to it being an autumn trek, most of the rhododendrons were long out of flower. Only *R. kasoense* from the *Monantha* subsection was flowering. Not surprisingly, seeing all the magnificent plants in flower remained one of John's major wishes. The idea of re-doing parts of the 2002 trip evolved in 2008 during the Edinburgh Rhododendron Conference. One year later, only two of several candidates finally made their way to the border town of Mechuka: the two authors of this paper.

In 2002, Mechuka was the final stop of the trip. This main village of currently ca. 3000 inhabitants lies on a high altitude plateau at the end of a huge gorge cut by

the Siyom River, a tributary of the Siang River which later changes its name into the Brahmaputra River. Situated at 1900 m (6234 ft), it is a perfect start for higher altitude expeditions, thus avoiding long, tiring and unsatisfactory walks through the hot and rhododendron poor lowland forests. But Mechuka is extremely far from the nearest airport in Dibrugarh (Assam). It takes a three-day journey, including a ferry ride across the Brahmaputra River and a long ride in a cramped jeep on bad roads with endless zigzags to reach this military outpost close to the Tibetan border.

On May 30<sup>th</sup>, a group of eight porters led by our good friend Katu Bage, who has accompanied both of us on previous expeditions in Arunachal, joined us climbing the path westward, towards the Tochoch La. We followed the same route that the 2002 group used when coming down from the Subansiri-Siyom divide. Everything had been organized by Oken Tayeng from Abor Country Expeditions, who together with his partner Katu, is now in his tenth year of organising botanical trips in his home country. His local contact had hired the porters and a hunter named Lakpah as the main guide, who was one of the surprisingly few locals familiar with the mountain areas we intended to explore.

Mechuka is surrounded by mountain ranges easily reaching 4000 m (13,123 ft). The slopes are deeply forested except for a belt of 100-200 m (328-656 ft) above the plateau that is used for farming and grazing. The first steps upward through open ground provide fantastic views of Mechuka and the Siyom River (Fig. 1) but very soon the path disappears in the lush green of the subtropical forest. In less than three hours of walking, more than a dozen rhododendrons species were found between 1950 and 2450 m (6398–8038 ft). The first four species seen grew on a stump, *R. vaccinioides*, *R. grande*, *R. kendrickii* and the leathery-leaved *R. boothii*, but none were in flower. The surroundings were botanically diverse:

*Magnolia rostrata* grew in abundance, along with *Arisaema consanguineum* and a *Hypericum* species that produced deep yellow flowers. Shortly after, we stumbled across the first *R. maddenii* ssp. *maddenii*. The first non-rhododendron highlight was *Podophyllum aurantiocaulis*, which John had introduced into cultivation from south east Tibet. This member of the barberry family occurred in countless numbers, more than John had seen on all treks put together. One specimen reached a height of more than 1 m (3.3 ft). More *Arisaema* (*A. speciosum*, *A. nepenthoides* and an *Arisaema* spp. John has seen on many treks to the area, but which is still to be identified. It is trifoliolate, can grow to about 1 m tall and as much across, and its spathe is most often greenish and below the foliage. These were joined by *Dryopteris wallichiana*, *Streptopus simplex* with its pretty single white flowers, nice *Smilacina oleracea*, and masses of an unidentified waist-high fern. The canopy included trees of the genus *Abies*, *Sorbus*, *Pinus* and *Tsuga* with many *R. hookeri* in the understory and *R. edgeworthii* growing as an epiphyte. *R. hookeri*, unmistakable because of the tufts of hairs on the lateral veins of the lower leaf surface, formed trees of 7-8 m (23-26 ft) with a nice coloured smooth stem that was not covered like the many other trees with mosses (Fig. 2). The first plants of *R. hookeri* at 2250 m (7382 ft) had oblong lanceolate leaves, and at the upper end of its vertical range (ca. 3200 m (10,500 ft) the leaves were much more narrow and had either green or red new shoots. Another epiphytic rhododendron in this lower part of the mountain that has not yet been identified had long hairs at its leaf edge.

Around 2350 m (7710 ft) some rhododendron mysteries showed up. A species with large leaves forming trees up to 10 m (33 ft) had very small conical buds with long-tailed scales, resembling those of *R. hodgsonii*. Peter Cox (2004) called this taxon either *R. sidereum* aff. or *R. grande* but was not happy with either name. Like the group in 2002, we saw a big leafed



Fig. 7: *R. campylocarpum* on the Tochoch La, 3,500 m (11,483 ft). Photo by Hartwig Schepker.



Fig. 9: Group photo on the Tochoch La, 3500 m (11,483 ft). Photo by Hartwig Schepker.



Fig. 10: *Primula elizabethae*. Photo by John Roy.



Fig. 11: Suspension bridge over the Siyom River, Mechuka Valley. Photo by Hartwig Schepker.



Fig. 8: *R. x candelabrum* (*R. thomsonii* var. *pallidum*, the hybrid between *R. campylocarpum* and *R. lopsangianum*). Photo by Hartwig Schepker.



Fig. 12: An unknown *Arisaema* species, Damjin La, 3550 m (11,647 ft). Photo by John Roy.



Fig. 13: *R. chamaephytum*, Damjin La, 3800 m (12,467 ft). Photo by Hartwig Schepker.



Fig. 15: *Primula laeta*, Damjin La, 3900 m (12,795 ft). Photo by John Roy.



Fig. 14: *R. forrestii* ssp. *forrestii* Repens Grp., Damjin La, 3800 m (12,467 ft), with John, Lakpah and Hartwig. Photo by John Roy.



Fig. 16: *R. tsariense*, Damjin La 3900 m (12,795 ft). Photo by Hartwig Schepker.



rhododendron with rounded buds, a *species nova* belonging to the subsection *Falconera*. In culture it has no horticultural merit—it grows very early and gets regularly frosted. On the way back, Katu discovered in the same area a plant with green seed capsules which was easily identified as *R. kasoense*, a yellow autumn flowering species, growing here as an epiphyte. One of the first rhododendrons of this trip in bloom was *R. edgeworthii* with extremely sweet scented flowers. Also easy to recognize was *R. glischrum* ssp. *rude*. The new leaves and shoots were covered with red glandular hairs, and only a few rose coloured flowers with dark purple blotches were left.

The first camp was constructed at 2550 m (8366 ft) altitude. There was not enough flat ground for the tents, so the porters built platforms. The fire was nurtured with wood from large *R. arizelum* that proved to be the most common species on the whole mountain. Its vertical range in the Mechuka area is from approximately 2400 to 3750 m (7874 to 12,139 ft). *R. arizelum* has a beautiful cinnamon indumentum (Fig. 3), and the flower colour ranges from rose fading to pale pink to white.

Around the camp several *R. maddenii* ssp. *maddenii* (Polyandrum Grp.?) had very sweetly scented flowers. Very common right above the camp were *R. keysii* and *R. neriiflorum* ssp. *phaedropum* with smooth mahogany-coloured stems accompanied by a few *R. leptocarpum* and *R. arboreum*. *Vaccinium nummularia* was plentiful as an epiphyte. In the shrub layer were identified plants belong to the genera *Pieris*, *Corylus*, *Sorbus*, *Enkianthus*, *Acer*, *Schisandra*, *Rosa*, *Viburnum* and *Vaccinium*. Another epiphytic subsection *Monantha* species was *R. concinnoides* growing on a stump near the path at 2700 m (8858 ft). It was only the third finding in history. Hootman and Cox rediscovered it in 2005 west of the Siang River (Hootman 2006), 80 years after Kingdon Ward first described it in the Delei valley.

The next day the weather became really bad. Constant rainfall made the

path extremely slippery and botanising difficult. Between 2900 and 3250 m (9514 to 10,662 ft), a bamboo forest reduced the plant diversity significantly. Half rotten bamboo stems and leaves made the path even more treacherous. During the breaks, Dorjee Khandu, our very helpful and friendly cook, split the bamboo and took out the inner layers as long strings. These were later used to produce bamboo baskets. Above the bamboo thickets towered old trees of *Abies densa*, which were packed with mosses, orchids such as *Coelogyne* sp. and lots of flowering *R. megeratum*. The perennial flora was rather poor with a few anemones and violas, but *Syneilesis* sp. and *Primula normaniana* were quite common.

Things became botanically better above the bamboo zone. The vegetation became more open with huge *R. arizelum* taking over the lead and producing fine rose flowers. Around 3300 m (10,837 ft) we camped again; the rain was just too heavy. Everything was wet despite rain gear and extra plastic sheets to cover the backpacks. John recognised this place—it was the same spot the 2002 group had used when rushing down the mountain desperate to reach warmer zones. Despite the wet conditions the surrounding of the camp was highly interesting. Besides *R. arizelum*, two more rhododendron species were in flower: *R. charitopes* ssp. *tsangpoense* and a strange rhododendron that produced some confusion seven years ago. It received several names during the discussion between Peter and Kenneth Cox in 2002. After seeing pictures and herbarium material a couple of months after our trip, both finally agreed on the name *R. thomsonii* ssp. *lopsangianum* (syn. *R. lopsangianum*). *R. lopsangianum* COWAN was discovered by Ludlow and Sherriff in May 1936 at Migyitun, Tsari Chu, South Tibet and later in other localities in the same region, as well as in Takpo Province. Both Tibetan regions are roughly 150 kilometres (90 mi) west of Mechuka. *R. lopsangianum* is named after the late Dalai Lama of Tibet, Nga-Wang Lopsang Tup-

Den Gyatso. The description in Davidian's (1992) *The Rhododendron Species*, Vol. 3, fits well. It is a compact shrub up to two m (6.6 ft) with elliptic to oval leaves that are glabrous underneath and point into a tip. The most significant leaf feature is the very short petiole. The inflorescence is 3–4(5) flowered (Fig. 4). The campanulate to tubular-campanulate, five-lobed flowers are five to six cm (2–2.4 in) long; they have five dark nectar pouches at the base, ten stamens, red and in the upper part, turning white with black filaments. Style and ovary are dark red. All flower parts are without hair and glands. The calyx is disc-like and short (< 1 cm (0.4 in)). The corolla is crimson; some of the high altitude forms are even dark crimson. The texture of the flower is fleshy with a waxy outside. It is a very common plant on this mountain between 3200 and 3600 m (10,500 to 11,810 ft), and in the upper part of its vertical range it is one of the main components in the shrub layer.

Also very abundant on both sides of the range was *R. charitopes* ssp. *tsangpoense*. It produces healthy bushes with very showy three to five purplish flowers (Fig. 5). The descriptions for the calyx didn't fit at first. At one cm (0.4 in), it was much longer than described and the lobes were not rounded, but were pointed. This seems to be a problem of the current, too narrow description, which is based on only a few past findings.

We spent hours during the dark evening at the campfire to dry wet clothes and shoes, sitting close with our porters. Above us a large plastic cover prevented the rain spoiling our activities. Unfortunately, it also prevented the smoke getting away, thus smoking our clothes thoroughly—a feature which can still be smelled months after the trip.

The next day more *R. arizelum* in flower were observed, along with the first *R. campylocarpum* and a rhododendron that we later identified as *R. cerasinum*. The crimson flowers placed it in the subsection *Thomsonia*. Kingdon Ward named this form “Coals of Fire” when he first

found it. It was a foggy day, producing a mysterious atmosphere with bamboos and *Abies* trees pointing out of the clouds. The scenery opened up dramatically around 3500 m (11,485 ft) where we camped for the third night. A few last *Abies* led into a pure rhododendron zone. Open cliffs were full of masses of *R. trilectorum* and patches of *R. ludlowii*. *R. trilectorum* had been discovered but not introduced by Ludlow and Sherriff. It is a strange species, not looking like a “typical” rhododendron, and is slow growing species with leaves in whorls. The Coxes successfully introduced it after their 2002 trip. Another Ludlow and Sherriff find was *R. ludlowii* who discovered it on the Tibetan border on the Lo La north-east from our trekking area. We also managed to find a few scattered *R. pumilum* whose leaves were reddish and thereby easy to distinguish from the many surrounding *R. ludlowii*, but both species were unfortunately not in flower. However, lots of *Diapensia himalaica* with white and rose flowers and the beautiful *Omphalogramma tibetica* with large ice-blue flowers compensated for this. The flowering highlights for the day were nevertheless two rhododendrons. *R. cinnabarinum* was in full flower with orange yellow flowers, making it ssp. *cinnabarinum* Blandfordiiflorum Grp. (Fig. 6), and *R. campylocarpum* produced up to 2.5 m (8 ft) bushes full of yellow flowers with a lovely reddish-orange glow and lots of speckles in the same colour on the inside of the upper lobe (Fig. 7). Right next to it grew large quantities of *R. lopsangianum*. With increased altitude, the flowers of *R. lopsangianum* seem to get darker, becoming almost black red. These two species obviously hybridise well, and we found many plants intermediate in flower and leaf characteristics. An extremely beautiful specimen was in full flower (Fig. 8), deserving of a place in gardens. The natural hybrid between *R. campylocarpum* and *R. lopsangianum* is *R. × candelabrum*, syn. *R. thomsonii* var. *pallidum*.

An easy afternoon walk along the ridge provided more botanical findings. In wet

conditions near small streams, thousands of red shoots of *Primula elizabethae* emerged and made identification easy. The red leaves of *Vaccinium sikkimense* accompanied by *Cassiope* sp. were scattered in large numbers on the east facing slopes between different species of fine rhododendrons. A few plants of *R. tsariense* were found on a small cliff, but its creamy yellow flowers were not the showiest ones. More impressive was *R. ludlowii*, and even without flowers this plants was simply amazing. It crawled above rocks and boulders, forming mats just a few centimetres in height with branches easily reaching a length of one metre (40 in) and more. Late that afternoon the dense cloud cover broke up and gave way for a few sunrays, and the following night was astonishingly mild. The campfire, fuelled mainly with rhododendron wood, gave enough warmth during dinnertime and at 9 °C (48 °F), the temperature in the tent was enjoyable.

The weather improved even more the next day. No rain, a dry path and the clouds high up in the sky, providing a beautiful view of the Mechuka Valley and the opposite mountain range. It was one of those Himalayan mornings that make all the effort worth it just for that view. We were able to get a first glimpse of our second tour destination that was lying just a few kilometres (miles) away eastwards. But before leaving this ridge, John intended to walk again on his 2002 path down the western side of the Tochoch La. The pass itself at 3600 m (11,811 ft) altitude provided a perfect view in a western direction towards 2002 trek’s starting point, a village called Siyum. Other villages visited then, Eru and Rai, could also be seen in the distance. This view had been denied the trekkers of 2002 because of poor weather. At the pass we found the darkest forms of *R. lopsangianum*, and an *Arisaema* species that was just emerging out of the ground but already impressive because of its extremely vigorous shoots growing under the rhododendron bushes. Katu ran over to John, very excited, and

showed a picture on his camera screen he had taken only metres away in among the *R. lopsangianum*. One of the yellow shoots had a spathe, which even in its immature state could only be described as stunning (Fig. 12). It had developed bright green trifoliolate leaves and a large orange spathe veined in blood red. The spadix appendix was thick, a bit “crumpled” looking, slightly longer than the spathe limb, and all pointing upwards, as though ready for action. John went to where Katu had taken the photo to find not just one but several more in different stages of emergence.

On the pass, John gathered the team members for a group photo with a copy of his home newspaper (Fig. 9). Most of the slopes on the western side of the range were covered with a bamboo species of approximately 50 cm (1.6 ft) height. Patches of freshly emerging *Euphorbia* sp., *Bergenia* sp. and the only *R. pumilum* flowers of the whole trip gave some colour in the otherwise gray-brownish appearance. We walked down the path, reaching a vegetative zone with a different, man-high bamboo species in which some *R. cerasinum* and several *R. charitopes* ssp. *tsangpoense* were growing. Once we reached the *Abies* zone again, familiar rhododendrons showed up—*R. cinnabarinum* spp., *cinnabarinum* Blandfordiiflorum Grp. and *R. arizelum*. At a side stream at 3400 m (11,155 ft), we had to stop as a snowfield was covering the stream. The upper part was still frozen, but we could hear the rushing melt water under it and were unsure about its stability. Using his binoculars John checked the surroundings. A surprised scream and John was up, and ignoring his doubts about the snowfield’s safeness, he quickly crossed it and rushed up the opposite bank where a group of a few yellow flowers had drawn his attention. Here she was, *Primula elizabethae* in bloom (Fig. 10)! Everywhere else one could only observe the new red shoots but there under some shrubs, a very sun exposed spot had received enough warmth for the first few shoots to flower. *Primula*

*elizabethae* has wide saucer shaped flowers when they are mature, but these first still immature flowers looked bell shaped. This was very probably only the second time in botanical history that *Primula elizabethae* had been seen in flower in its native range by western botanists—73 years after Ludlow's original—and its yellow bells contrasted well with the small white flowers of neighbouring *P. hookeri*.

Two days later we again arrived in Mechuka. The first part of the trip had been successful, confirming some observations made in autumn of 2002 but also improving the identifications of hitherto unsolved taxa. There was enough time left over to cover some new ground which had not been explored before by westerners. After consultation with our main guide we decided to climb up the mountain range right above his village just a few kilometres north of Mechuka. Lakpah is only one of very few locals who regularly hunt in these remote mountain areas near the Tibetan border during the summer months. We added to our supplies in the local shops and recharged the camera batteries during the short period in the evening when the diesel generators produced electricity for the village. In the afternoon, all the electricity goes to the local satellite system, which enables the locals to use their mobile phones. We even managed to make calls to Scotland and Germany with Katu's mobile phone! Remember, this is one of the remotest areas in all of India—but impressively, Indian telecommunication finds its way even to Mechuka.

The following morning we were greeted by a bright sky. A very enjoyable walk along Mechuka's military airstrip, over the Siyom River using a fine suspension bridge (Fig. 11) and through agricultural fields with many Buddhist signs brought us to Lakpah's village, called Damjin at 2050 m (6725 ft). Here we paused and were served tea, delicious potatoes and self-made "chang," a kind of local beer made of rice. The first 400 m (1312 ft) upwards led us through deforested grazing fields where

the fern *Pteridium* sp. dominated. Once the forest took over, rhododendron species were found immediately: *R. kendrickii*, *R. arizelum* (up to 20 m (66 ft) high), *R. boothii* growing epiphytically on stumps, *R. kasoense* and very healthy looking terrestrial *R. edgeworthii*. The same big leaved *species nova* with rounded buds belonging to the subsection *Falconera* that we had observed a few days before on the other side of the valley was also growing here. Several hidden holes in the ground showed us that the Indian military had used this area for manoeuvres. We set up camp just above 2600 m (8530 ft) on a small ridge. Bamboo was cut to produce some open ground and ferns were used as a soft layer beneath the tents. Some large *R. grande* trees and plenty of *R. vaccinioides* surrounded us, and only the obnoxious dim-dams spoiled the otherwise peaceful and quiet campground.

The next day started with a steep and slippery climb through dense forest with many huge *Lithocarpus* and *Tsuga* trees. The rhododendron family was represented, besides the already mentioned species, by *R. neriiflorum* ssp. *phaedropum*, *R. hookeri*, *R. edgeworthii*, beautiful *R. megeratum* on tree stumps and *R. maddenii* ssp. *maddenii*. Surprisingly we found one single specimen of *R. megacalyx*, very far away from its main territory in Yunnan, Burma and SE Tibet, so this plant filled a gap. John had seen a hillside of this rhododendron not far to the west in 2006. Around 2900 m (9514 ft), we entered a mystical temperate forest of *Abies* trees with an understory of 2–4 m (6.5–13 ft) high *Ilex nothofagifolia*, treelike *R. arizelum*, many *R. keysii* and a few *R. leptocarpum*. The strange looking fern *Vittaria elongata* with its long unbranched shoots of about 50–60 cm (two feet) length was growing as an epiphyte on fallen trunks. Another *Monantha* subsection species, not yet identified, was growing at this altitude as an epiphyte.

It was the beginning of a long and strenuous walk on a steep ridge with only little altitudinal gain. On the Tochoch La side of the valley, the paths were at least

visible and in quite a good shape. Here on the Damjin La side, one could hardly recognize the path which was covered by waist-high ferns and shrubs and was often blocked by fallen trees. Our guide Lakpah had to use his machete all the time to prepare the way. New botanical finds made walking nevertheless acceptable. *R. exasperatum* was the first observed species that we had not observed before on the other side of the Siyom Valley. It was not flowering but due to its handsome bristly leaves and very short petioles it was easy to identify. The first new shoots were emerging, some red coloured, but most showed a fresh green.

A lunch stop took place in a hollow at 3100 m (10,170 ft). Our porters managed to get a fire started and prepared warm soup and a pot of tea. The place was surrounded by masses of ericaceous plants, mainly *Vaccinium retusum* and at least two unidentified blueberry species, *Leucothoe griffithiana*, *R. arizelum*, *R. cinnabarinum*, *R. keysii* and *Skimmia* sp. from the *Rutaceae* family. A lepidote rhododendron mystery was found nearby, consisting of a small group of plants about 1.3 m (4.3 ft) high, with no sign of flowers or last year's capsules. The leaves were obovate and densely covered with long hairs, and the branchlets and petioles were even more hairy. Collected material, pictures and field information were not enough for a proper identification. It could be something new but until someone sees it in flower, it remains a puzzle.

Another steep climb followed, and again bamboo dominated for 200 m (656 ft) as the understory, but was not as dense as we had experienced before. *R. arizelum* and *R. exasperatum* were the most common rhododendrons in this plant community. Another yet unidentified rhododendron of one m (3.3 ft) height with very aromatic smelling leaves was growing on a little clearing. Underneath, this subsection *Glauca* member had two different kinds of scales: many shining white ones and a few black ones of almost the same sizes.

Around 3550 m (11,650 ft), the next novelty showed up. On first sight, this rhododendron had similarities with *R. fulgens*—it was red flowering, attractive red bracts accompanied the new shoots, and it showed a smooth reddish-brown bark. The flowers had 5 nectar pouches and 10 black coloured stamens, style and ovary were both glabrous and the disk-like calyx measured about one cm (0.4 in). The leaves were broadly elliptic and had a flesh-coloured under surface. A couple of months later, Kenneth Cox looked at the herbarium specimen, field notes and digital pictures, and concluded that this taxon is identical with one he found in 2001 on the northern side of the Yang Sang Chu, about 100 km (62 miles) to the east of our location. He named it provisionally *R. viscidifolium* aff. (KC 0126), and later the name was changed to *R. populare*. Again, while Ludlow and Sherriff discovered this plant for the first time in May, 1936, at Natrampa, Chayul Chu, in South Tibet, about 175 km (109 miles) west of the Tochoch La, it was not introduced at that time. The description in Davidian's Vol. III (1992), including altitude and vegetation zone, fits well except that it doesn't mention any nectar pouches.

This place proved to be full of surprises. Below an overhanging rock just 50 metres (164 ft) higher up we discovered more of this most amazing *Arisaema* species found at the top of the Tochoch La. 40-50 cm (1.3-1.6 ft) long orange shoots were forcing their way up along the path. The first spathe was unfolding and presenting a beautiful orange cap of at least 15 cm (6 in) width (Fig. 12). The total height of the plant should be around 1 m (3.2 ft) with very broad green fleshy leaves. *Arisaema* specialists later confirmed that this taxon is unknown. No surprise that we finally voted this new species to be the plant of the trip.

The following slope was simply covered with nothing else than rhododendrons and blueberries. Close together were growing *R. arizelum* (the

highest plant was found on 3750 m (12,303 ft)), *R. campylocarpum*, *R. neriiflorum*, *R. exasperatum*, *R. tsariense* in large numbers, *R. cinnabarinum* Blandfordiiflorum Grp. Dotted the hillside, *R. charitopes* ssp. *tsangpoense* and more *R. cerasinum*. At the upper end of the slope a bad surprise was waiting for us: a steep cliff with no sign of a path. Lakpah had to fell a fir tree and cut all branches leaving stubs so that the trunk and stubs could serve as a ladder. Like us, the porters were not amused, one grumbled: "Damjin La—dangerous!" Very carefully and with lot of support by Lakpah and Dorje, everybody finally managed to pass this difficult and slippery part. Above this "freak point," our camp was finally reached, situated above the tree line at 3775 m (12,385 ft). As usual in mountain places like this one, there was not a single square metre of flat ground. Consequently, to our disgust, rhododendrons had to be cut down to prepare enough semi-flat ground for the tents. In all ways it was an incredible campsite, reached after a long day of climbing up more than 1100 m (3642 ft). Surrounded by rare rhododendrons like *R. tsariense* and towering high above the Mechuka Valley, we were served surprisingly delicious food after our porters arranged a fire with thoroughly wet wood, and despite immense smoke, Dorje prepared tasty mashed potatoes from Lakpah's home grown variety.

Late the next morning we started to explore the other side of the mountain ridge, and another "freak point" was encountered right at the beginning. (In 2002, the trekkers adopted the phrase "danger point" but in 2009 this expression was expanded!) The slope dropped down for several hundred metres (about 650 ft), a false step and nothing would prevent one from falling to their death, and the north-eastern side of the Damjin La was covered in clouds. The path led through a field of large stones covered with multi-coloured lichens, with *Primula elizabethae* and yellow *Diapensia himalaica* plentiful, along with *R. ludlowii*. Dense groups of

a small growing elepidote rhododendron species dominated another slope at 3800 m (12,467 ft). It was red flowering, either with a very small disk-like calyx or with a 1 cm (0.4 in) long, frayed calyx (Fig. 13). After checking pictures and the herbarium specimens, both Coxes later identified this as *R. chamaephytum*. We had seen a couple of plants of this taxon already on the Tochoch La, but here it occurred in abundance and showed attractive hanging blood-red, 5-lobed flowers (length 4-4.5 cm (1.6-1.6 in)) with black nectar pouches. The ovary was covered with white hairs, the style was red, the stamens were black and in the lower half red. The obovate leaves were rugose and had a very short petiole (< 1 cm (0.4 in)). *R. chamaephytum* is a provisional name. The 2002 crew found it on the Tochoch La side (HECC 10066). Some herbarium investigation later revealed that it matches the un-introduced Ludlow and Sherriff find of *R. chaetomallum* var. *chamaephytum*, but as it looks distinct, this "*R. chamaephytum*" probably deserves its own species rank.

Just around the corner a beautiful sight was waiting for us. The whole slope was covered with mats of *R. forrestii* ssp. *forrestii* Repens Grp. in full flower (Fig. 14). John remembered seeing this in flower first on the Doshong La, southeast Tibet in 1996. Hartwig had seen several populations in different parts of the Himalaya, but always out of flower. It was a fantastic experience for him to finally observe the blood-red single flowers, and a few plants of *R. pumilum* occurred here as well.

Then we entered primula heaven. *P. calderiana* became commonplace, with small groups of *P. pulchra* making pink blobs into the distance. Small rosettes of dark green leaves and dainty white flowers were *P. hookeri* but not so closely growing with *P. elizabethae*. These were much rarer on this pass, most still in bud, but one was just starting to show yellow flowers. A tiny *P. rotundifolia* had leaves no more than 1 cm (0.4 in) long. Then we saw a purplish

primula, with mealy leaves elongating from pale sheaths, and a long mealy calyx. This was the gorgeous *P. laeta*, not seen since Ludlow and Lumsden found it crossing the Lo La in 1936 (Fig. 15). Again, there were many yellow flowering *Diapensia himalaica*, *Bergenia* sp., a crawling species of *Salix*, the first rosettes of a *Meconopsis* sp. and very attractive rhubarb species, probably *Rheum nobile*, not yet ready to elongate its long flower stems. Around noon we reached the highest point of the trip—4080 m (13,385 ft), but due to dense clouds, the view was limited. *R. anthopogon* (similar to the red flowered “Betty Graham” form) was plentiful here and our guide Lakpah took off branches, leaves and flowers for incense. *R. tsariense* occurred high up on a cliff in full flower but it was unreachable for us, unfortunate since despite the distance, this was clearly the most attractive of all the *R. tsariense* seen during the trip. The fully open yellow flowers contrasted well to the orange bloom of the ones just opening (Photo 16).

Climbing up more than 2000 m (6563 ft) means that the same distance has to be covered when going down. Starting at 7.30 am the next day, it took us 11 long hours to cover the distance back to Mechuka. For the last three kilometres (1.9 miles) in the valley we stopped a jeep for a short drive back to our simple guesthouse. It was an incredibly exhausting day, giving us a second chance to pass all the dangerous and beautiful points on the Damjin La. Local beer and good food made up for the blisters, hurting knees and sore legs. Our last day in the mountains was a rest day, and we had time enough to visit the new local monastery opened in 2003 by the Dalai Lama, clean the trekking equipment, organize a goodbye meeting with our guides and porters, add to the field notes and observe activities on the airstrip. Suddenly something was happening there, as soldiers were chasing away grazing animals and children who were fishing in adjacent ponds. A noisy Indian military aircraft approached and

landed, obviously delivering supplies for the military base. One hour later, the Russian-built aircraft started again, leaving an incredible dark exhaust behind. One could have interpreted this as a bad sign as two days later we learned that that aircraft crashed ten minutes after departure in the mountains near the village of Tato killing 13 Indian soldiers!

This crash reminded us that this remote northeastern Indian mountainous region is despite all modern inventions still a dangerous area. We also experienced the instability of this terrain on our long drive back to Dibrugarh where several landslides had blocked the road; one happened a minute or two before us, and our jeep was the first to arrive at the blockage. However, Indian efficiency at least in terms of road clearance was proven by GREF (Ground Research & Evacuation Facilities) when their bulldozer showed up 1½ hours later, and within another two hours the road was cleared despite constant rain and still more rocks dropping down. The bulldozer pushed the rocks over the edge and there was an incredible noise as they dropped down several hundred metres (about 700 feet). We were the first to pass and we were very relieved that we made it without any problems. Later on we passed a crashed jeep, and were told that one person had died a day before in this accident. After endless zigzags and numerous hours of blowing the horn on a very dark night due to cattle standing and lying on the badly paved roads, we reached the little town of Aalo. Two more days of rough roads and a long ferry ride across the Brahmaputra River brought us via Pasighat to Dibrugarh, and after another two days we were back home.

It had been an incredible journey with many unforgettable impressions. We were very lucky with our team, as all members worked hard to guide us safely during our trekking. The redoing of the 2002 trek proved to be very valuable, and we were able to solve a few mysteries, especially in terms of *R. lopsangianum* and *R. cerasinum*. The short trip into the newly

explored area east of Mechuka has shown that many interesting rhododendrons and other plants like the unknown *Arisaema* species are growing here. A comparison between the two mountain ridges provides some interesting details: *R. trilectorum*, *R. lopsangianum*, *R. glischrum* ssp. *rude* and *Omphalogramma tibetica* occur only on the Tochoch La (= western) side of the Mechuka valley. *R. forrestii* ssp. *forrestii*, *R. viscidifolium* aff. (*R. populare*) and *R. anthopogon* appeared only on the Damjin La (= eastern) side. Some species like *R. exasperatum* seemed to prefer the western flanks of both mountain ridges, as there was no sign of it on the eastern slopes. *R. chamaephytum* was plentiful on the eastern flanks of the Damjin La, but very rare on the eastern side of the Tochoch La, and we did not see it on the western flanks of either mountain ridge. We identified at least 35 rhododendron species, and a few specimens remain unidentified due to poor material. It has been to our knowledge the first glimpse by botanists into the vast mountain area between the Siyom and the Siang River. We were thus able to add to our overall knowledge of the occurrence and distribution of rhododendron species in one of the last unexplored rhododendron areas of the world, but there is much more to be discovered there.

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## The Utility of Corn Gluten in Gardening

Glen Jamieson  
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One of the pleasures of being *JARS* Editor is receiving some publications from other societies and associations. The *Digger*, from the Oregon Association of Nurseries, is one of these, and in the April and June, 2011, issues, there was an article and follow-up by Mike Darcy on “cherished myths of gardening.” I know that we are a rhododendron society, and while this means we largely prefer shrubs, some of us, to varying degrees at least, have some grassy areas, if for no other purpose than to get to the rhodos. I largely ignore the weed prevalence in my lawn areas, and to conserve water, even let my lawn go brown (dry up!) in the summer drought we typically have here on the east side of Vancouver Island, BC, but over time, weed occurrence has gradually increased to the point where my wife Dorothy requested I try and do something about this problem. Being at times lazy, I remembered a product called “Weed and Feed,” a lawn fertilizer with a herbicide

for broad-leaved plants. However, when I recently went to my local gardening store, I found out that the Canadian government has now banned all weed feed products for pollution reasons, and that products high in corn gluten were now being touted as the solution for weed control. Leary about any new product, I have procrastinated buying it, wisely I might add, as Mike recently discussed this product’s utility.

As he pointed out in the April issue of *Digger*, the sales pitch sounded fantastic—corn gluten poses no health risk to humans or animals, and since it contains about 10% nitrogen, it acts as a fertiliser too. However, research at Oregon State University has shown it did not control weeds there in trials conducted over a two-year period. On his own lawn, Mike reported the same result, although he points out that as an organic fertiliser, it did turn his lawn green. He thus indicated that corn gluten’s effectiveness as a herbicide is thus a gardening myth, at least in Oregon.

In the June issue of *Digger*, however, he revisited this topic, and indicated that

as a result of his earlier article, he received many comments, which suggested a possible reason for his earlier observation. It turns out that the suggestion of herbicidal properties with corn gluten came from research done at mid-western universities, which in most recent years at least, have a relatively dry spring climate, in contrast to the relatively wet one we have on the west coast of North America. Apparently, corn gluten acts a bit like a sponge and can pull water away from germinating weed seeds, thereby affecting their growth, but in our coastal environment, there is simply often too much water available, so this water removal effect is minimised. Thus the dichotomy of thought between regional effectiveness, once again showing me the importance of considering your local climate when gardening and not always believing everything one hears! As for my own lawn, this year we got down on our hands and knees and manually pulled out the largest weeds—time consuming, but largely effective and we could immediately see results!

# How Personal Names Become Epithets

Donald H. Voss  
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The scientific name of a plant species consists of the genus name and the specific epithet; e.g., *Rhododendron album* for a white vireya rhododendron. Historically, a specific epithet was chosen to be descriptive or suggestive of some characteristic of the species, to identify its geographic origin, to commemorate its discoverer or describer, or to honor a scholar for contributions to plant science. Over time, the practice broadened and came to include *Rhododendron annae* (after a French lady). The 2006 edition of the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* (hereinafter, ICBN) decrees: “The epithet in the name of a species may be taken from any source whatever, and may even be composed arbitrarily.” This permission is, however, subject to provisions that scientific names of taxonomic groups (e.g., genera and species) are treated as Latin regardless of their derivation and that the name of a taxon must be composed only of letters of the Latin alphabet.

Consulting your favorite reference books—Gray’s Manual (Fernald 1950), Rehder’s Manual, Hortus, or Kruessmann’s manuals, etc.—may, unfortunately, yield some epithets spelled with incorrect terminations. One reason for this is that the rules developed to standardize the Latin terminations to be appended in creating epithets from modern personal names have evolved over the past two centuries. Understanding a bit of the history of the changes and learning the present rules

will benefit those who communicate information relating to plants.

## Latin Endings in the Computer Age

The computer and the Internet provide an amazing array of information—some good and some bad! Among the good are sites that provide access to standard botanical reference works yielding authentic spelling of names, bibliographic references, images of live plants or of herbarium specimens, and sometimes entire books or journals. To search these records for information on a given plant, one must enter the plant’s name—and thereby possibly be frustrated by a Latin genitive case ending!

A century ago, specific epithets in about 40 genera were chosen to honor Alvan Wentworth Chapman, a prominent expert on the flora of the southeastern United States. Some authors published the epithets as *chapmani*; others, as *chapmanii*. If the name appears in a database as *chapmani*, searching for the now correct form of the epithet, *chapmanii*, may result in a “not found” response. Understanding how the Latin endings are applied to names may assist in formulating successful searches. One useful option is to substitute a wild card for the ending (e.g., enter *chapman\** for Internet queries in the International Plant Names Index, GRIN (USDA Germplasm Resources Information Network), and the herbaria of Harvard University, Kew Gardens, and New York Botanical Garden). For Tropicos (Missouri Botanical Garden), truncation (e.g., *chapman*) is used rather than a wild card.

## Epithets Based on Personal Names

The Code states that specific epithets may be substantival or adjectival. A substantival epithet based on a personal name takes the form of a genitive (possessive) noun and retains its own gender and Latin case ending; it thus reflects the sex and number of the person(s) commemorated. When adjectival, the epithet takes the ending appropriate for the gender of the genus.

In ancient Rome, the *nomen* (clan

## Correct Botanical Names

It is incumbent on those preparing plant catalogs, seed lists, plant labels, plant data bases, or articles about plants to use correct botanical names. International rules of botanical nomenclature exist to ensure that the Latin scientific name of a plant has unique application and a standard format worldwide. Note that this article does not address cultivar epithets; their formation is prescribed by a different code of rules.

name; the second part of a Roman name) for a man commonly ended in *-ius*. In Cicero’s time, the genitive singular ending for proper names in *-ius* was *-i*; later, *-ii* came into use. Thus the genitive form for Marcus Tullius Cicero, originally Marci Tulli Ciceronis, later became Marci Tullii Ciceronis. For names ending in *-us* (e.g., Marcus), the genitive ending *-i* was maintained. Advancing to the time of Linnaeus for guidance on formation of epithets from non-Latin names, one finds little clarity. In *Species Plantarum* (Linnaeus 1753), few of the trivial names (which became the specific epithets of binomial nomenclature) were based on personal names, and some of those leave us at sea with respect to understanding differences in genitive endings: viz., *gmellini* for J. G. Gmelin and *osbeckii* for P. Osbeck.

With the rapid increase in the number of new genera and species discovered as plant exploration expanded in the early 19th century, the need for international agreement on codification of botanical nomenclature became pressing. Swiss botanist Alfonse de Candolle (1867) prepared the *Lois de la Nomenclature Botanique*, which were adopted by the First International Botanical Congress at Paris in 1867. To illustrate the use of a personal name as a substantival or adjectival epithet, the *Lois* provided only “*Clusii* ou *Clusiana*” after Clusius (the Latin name of de l’Ecluse), a celebrated 16th century Flemish botanist. The *Lois* did not, however, receive universal adherence,

and divergent practice in forming epithets from personal names continued.

The need for standardized practice was considered at the 1905 Botanical Congress in Vienna, and the rules promulgated then specified use of the termination *-ii* for epithets from modern personal names ending in a consonant (except *-er*). Nevertheless, some use of *-i* in this circumstance persisted through much of the 1900s. For example, in the Index to Latin Names in Fernald's (1950) "*Gray's Manual of Botany* (8th ed.)," one finds lingering inconsistency in epithets from personal names ending in a consonant. Thus, in *Carex*, the index includes *Backii* and *Bayardi*; in *Quercus*, *×Fernaldii* and *×Fernowi*. The rules published in 1952 (Lanjouw et al. 1952) reflect a strengthening of resolve by those advocating a standardized procedure: "Those who follow this Recommendation may treat the termination *-i* as an orthographic error and correct it." By 1978, this permissive plea had become an adjuration: "The wrong use of the termination *-ii*...is treated as an orthographic error to be corrected."

Today, the ICBN continues to provide instructions for giving personal names Latin terminations in order to create specific or infraspecific epithets. Explicit distinction is made between (1) modern personal names and (2) Greek, Latin, or well-established latinized names. For the latter group, the ICBN presents a few examples of the appropriate Latin genitive forms of names (e.g., *martini* for Martinus, *martii* for Martius, *edithae* for Editha, *beatricis* for Beatrix), but no criteria are specified for determining what is a "well-established latinized name." As shown below, the instructions for creating epithets from modern personal names are detailed; and use of an ending contrary to those specified "*is treated as an error to be corrected.* [emphasis added]." The capitalization of epithets based on personal names and some other proper nouns dates back to the time of Linnaeus, but the ICBN now recommends that all epithets

be written with an initial lower-case letter.

To facilitate comparison of the various endings pertinent to epithets based on modern personal names, an abstract of the ICBN rules is presented in tabular form. Note that in the Latin alphabet, the letter "y" is a vowel derived from the Greek upsilon. Identification of persons honored by names in the examples is taken from *The Rhododendron Handbook* (Leslie 1980) (except for *R. latoucheae*, from Davidian).

### **Prescribed Endings for Specific and Infraspecific Epithets Based on Modern Personal Names (With Examples from *Rhododendron*)**

#### Substantive (noun) Epithets

#### **Name ending in a vowel (except -a) or in -er:**

For male: add *-i* (plural *-orum*) to name:  
*R. fortunei* (after R. Fortune, collector in China)

*R. vaseyi* (after G. S. Vasey, who discovered the plant in North Carolina)

*R. hookeri* (after Sir J. D. Hooker, a former Director of Kew, botanist, and traveler in the Himalayas)

For female: add *-ae* (plural *-arum*) to name:

*R. latoucheae* (discovered in Fukien, China, by Mme de la Touche)

*R. parryae* (after Mrs. A. D. Parry, wife of an officer in the Assam Civil Service)

*R. farrenae* (after the wife of Capt. Farrer, East India Co.)

#### **Name ending in -a:**

For male or female, add *-e* (plural *-rum*) to name:

*R. nakaharae* (after G. Nakahara, Japanese collector) (m.)

*R. annae* (after a French lady) (f.)

#### **Name ends in a consonant (except -er)\*:**

For male: add *-ii* (plural *-iorum*) to name:

*R. metternichii* (after Prince Metternich, Austrian diplomat)

*R. wardii* (after F. Kingdon-Ward, collector and explorer)

For female: add *-iae* (plural *-iarum*) to name:

*R. amesiae* (after Mary S. Ames of North

Easton, Massachusetts)

#### Adjectival (noun-modifier) Epithets

#### **Name ending in a vowel (except -a): add -an + -us (masc.), -a (fem.), or -um (neut.) depending on gender of genus name. *Rhododendron* is neuter.**

*R. roxieanum* (after Mrs. Roxie Hanna of Tali-fu, China, friend of George Forrest)

#### **Name ending in -a: add -n + -us, -a, or -um:**

*R. wadanum* (after K. Wada of Japan)

#### **Name ending in a consonant: add -ian + -us, -a, or -um\*:**

*R. balfourianum* (after Sir Isaac Bayley Balfour, former Regius Professor of Botany, Edinburgh)

\*In the Code, the initial *-i* in the substantival terminations *-ii*, *-iorum*, *-iae*, *-iarum* and in the adjectival terminations *-ianus*, *-iana*, *-ianum*, is described as "stem augmentation."

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The Blue Ridge Parkway south of Asheville near Graveyard Fields.

## Chasing the Bloom: Springtime in the Southern Appalachians



*Rhododendron vaseyi*.

Donald W. Hyatt  
McLean, Virginia

Photos by the Author



*Trillium undulatum*.

I have always been enamored by the Southern Appalachians. These mountains were as high as the Himalayas, a mere 200 million years ago. Because they missed the mass extinctions of the Ice Ages, they remain one of the most botanically rich areas in the world and the home to many choice native azaleas, rhododendrons, and wildflowers.

Every spring becomes a series of pilgrimages for me, hoping to catch our native azaleas and rhododendrons in flower. Of course, when peak bloom will occur is not easy to forecast. Mother Nature is rarely predictable, or cooperative. Spring can be early or late, and the bloom date for any species is controlled by many factors including latitude, weather conditions, elevation, and natural variation. However, if one is flexible and knows where to look, from early March through late October it is usually possible to find native rhododendron species blooming in the wild somewhere in the eastern United States.

The motivation behind this article is to suggest some locations where people who come to the joint ARS/ASA Convention in Asheville, NC, in May of 2012 can find native plants in bloom if they want to do some exploration on their own in conjunction with the meeting. The convention garden tours will be wonderful, of course, but if attendees can add some extra time to their travel schedules, there are many beautiful wild places nearby that deserve a closer look.

Many of us in the east will drive to Asheville, so we will likely be exploring along the way. An option for distant travelers is to fly into one airport and depart from another, and rent a car to get between the two locations while seeing attractions along the way. At the 2011 ARS Convention in Vancouver, WA, several of us flew to Portland, and afterwards explored the Oregon and California coasts by car before flying home from San Francisco. Fantastic trip!

### Western North Carolina and the Blue Ridge Parkway

We are so fortunate to have access to the Blue Ridge Parkway, a scenic highway that was started in 1935 that traverses some of the highest mountains in Virginia and North Carolina for a distance of 469 miles (755 km). It allows easy access to a variety of habitats and to rare plant populations that early plant explorers took months or even years to survey on foot. What is in bloom at any specific location does change throughout the year, but fortunately for rhododendron enthusiasts, one of the peak seasons coincides with the 2012 Convention date. Typically, this will be prime time for early spring bloom at the upper elevations of the Parkway, one of my favorite seasons.

In the Asheville area, the Parkway has several access points. We typically use the one at the northeast edge of town where it intersects with Rt. 70 and access to Interstate I-40, or the other one southeast of the city where it intersects with Rt. 191 and I-26. The Parkway actually passes east of the city through part of the property of the Biltmore Estate, but the elevation is low and vistas are rather limited.

*Rhododendron vaseyi*, one of our most charming native azaleas, is usually in full flower in the wild during the first and second week of May. The natural range for this species is very limited, though, and it only grows in a few mountainous regions of North Carolina at elevations from about 4000 to 6000 ft (1220 to 1830 m). Knowing where and when to look is helpful in order to catch this lovely azalea in bloom. Even though the species is considered rather rare, it is abundant in its realm and puts on an impressive show.

There are two main regions along the Parkway where *R. vaseyi* is easily accessible. One is north of Asheville near Grandfather Mountain and the other area is to the south near Mt. Pisgah. My preference is that southern population since *R. vaseyi* is very abundant there, the variation in flower color is excellent, and there are so many other rare plants and

wildflowers along that very scenic stretch of the Parkway.

At the southeast entry point to the Parkway, about milepost (mp) 395 near the North Carolina Arboretum, the road heading south quickly ascends from about 2000 ft (610 m) to heights of about 5000 ft (1520 m) near the Pisgah Inn, a popular restaurant and hotel on the Parkway at mp 408. In a little over 10 miles (16 km), it is interesting to watch the gradual change of the seasons. At the low elevations, nature is in high gear with the trees fully leafed out and yet at the upper elevations, it is very early spring and the leaves are just beginning to emerge.

Don't rush to the top, though. Look carefully into those rich wooded hillsides since they are filled with lovely wildflowers including masses of the great white trillium, *T. grandiflorum*. At the higher elevations after mp 400, look for the white and pale pink flowers of early blooming lepidote rhododendrons colonizing the rocky cliffs. Some forms have flowers with large yellow blotches and on one ledge we have spied a plant with apricot colored blossoms. Formerly known as *R. carolinianum* (Rehder), taxonomists now list this species as *R. minus* var. *minus* (Carolinianum Group).

*Rhododendron vaseyi* begins to make its appearance about mp 410 and continues well past mp 425, a mere 15 to 17 miles (24 to 27 km). When in flower, though, the display is stunning. The Parkway near Mt. Pisgah generally varies between 4500 and 5500 ft in elevation (1370 to 1675 m), which means bloom times for any specific population can vary by a week or more. If spring is late and the *R. vaseyi* still hasn't opened at the upper elevations yet, then be sure to head south on Rt. 215 at Beech Gap near mp 423 toward Balsam Grove. *R. vaseyi* is very heavy on both sides of that road for several miles until the elevation falls below 3000 ft (900 m). Interestingly, in the northern direction on Rt. 215 toward Waynesville, there is little or no *R. vaseyi*. Many of us consider that area around Route 215 and

mileposts 419 to 425 as the “epicenter” for *R. vaseyi* in the US. The mountains even take on a pink haze when the azaleas are in bloom. Flower color varies from white through many shades of clear rose pink to almost red.

Blooming at the same time with the *R. vaseyi* are many other treasures including serviceberry trees (*Amelanchier laevis*) with their bronzy-red new foliage and white flowers. In places, they seem to frost the hillsides with their delicate blossoms. There is also the mountain fetherbush, *Pieris floribunda*, with its white flower clusters contrasting against the dark evergreen foliage.

Be sure to park the car at some of the overlooks and walk among the flowers. At the Graveyard Fields Overlook (mp 419), there are several hiking options, some less than a mile but others much longer. I highly recommend the relatively short trail to the waterfalls. The trail descends the steps at the parking lot to a paved trail and then to recently refurbished decking with more stairs leading to the upper falls. After crossing the stream, a longer trail continues to the left but the right fork descends through a series of decks with more stairs affording many lovely vistas of the lower falls. Be sure to look for wildflowers along the trail including the painted trillium, *T. undulatum*. Come back, if you can, in mid June and again in early July when the other rhododendrons, *R. catawbiense* and *R. maximum*, are in flower. There is even a natural hybrid between those two species right along the trail.

I also recommend another short trail at the nearby John Rock Overlook. That will be the next parking area on the left after Graveyard Fields, just beyond mp 419. Get out of the car and follow the trail to the left into the woods. It is less than 500 ft (150 m) and fairly level, passing by some large plants of *R. vaseyi* and tall evergreen trees. There are excellent views of Looking Glass Rock and John Rock, but the treat is the woodland area carpeted with yellow trout lilies, *Erythronium americanum*, and scattered plants of painted trillium.

Another “must” when *R. vaseyi* is in bloom at this elevation is to walk back from the John Rock parking area along the grassy edge of Parkway toward Graveyard Fields. On the bank is a very deep pink form of *R. vaseyi*. In past years, that plant was called the “red” *vaseyi* until we found deeper colored forms elsewhere. It is often referenced now as “419.2” because of its milepost position. The elevation is nearly 5400 ft (1645 m) here, so that plant is one of the last to bloom along the Parkway.

For able climbers, there is a much longer hike on the Art Loeb Trail that goes over the top of Pilot Mountain, a 5000 ft (1524 m) peak south of Mt. Pisgah. The trail can be reached from various Forest Service roads, some providing closer access to the mountain than others. The path up Pilot Mountain, steep at first, winds through masses of *R. vaseyi* and carpets of ferns and wildflowers. It is a lovely hike.

By milepost 425, the population of *R. vaseyi* gets quite dense but there isn't an overlook. However, it is okay to pull off to the side of the road where shoulders are wide and the car is off the pavement, except in watershed areas. Be careful of ditches or damp areas where a car might get stuck.

It is easy to be distracted by the huge masses of soft pink *R. vaseyi* and bold mountain vistas, but look carefully for delicate wildflowers like the red *Trillium erectum* and tiny Bluets (*Houstonia caerulea*). There are other flowering trees in bloom, too, like the white blossoms of the Carolina silverbell, *Halesia carolinia*, and cream to pale yellow blossoms of *Magnolia fraseri*.

The road continues to gain altitude, eventually reaching 6047 ft (1843 m) at Richland Balsam, the highest point on the Parkway (mp 431). By that time, *R. vaseyi* has completely disappeared from the scene, but it reappears again near Waterrock Knob at milepost 451. If spring was very early, you can probably find it still in flower here along the trail to the Knob where the elevation is 6292 ft (1918 m). From there, the Parkway gradually

descends, terminating at milepost 469 in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park near the town of Cherokee.

In mid June, that same stretch of Parkway from Asheville to Cherokee is ablaze with orange and yellow flame azaleas, *R. calendulaceum*, white and pink *Kalmia latifolia*, purple *R. catawbiense*, scattered plants of the fragrant white *R. arborescens*, and a whole array of other wildflowers. In late September to early October, the fall foliage is glorious, too, with brilliant red vaccinium, maples, and sourwood.

The speed limit along the Blue Ridge Parkway ranges from 35 to 45 mph (52 to 72 kmh) but don't expect to traverse the 75 miles (120 km) from Asheville to Cherokee in just a few hours. I have been known to take a full eight hours to drive that segment, stopping at almost every overlook or pulling off to the side, in total awe of the beauty before me.

The Great Smoky Mountain National Park has many attractions, and I will touch on just a few. There are trails and streams and waterfalls, of course, and there are mountain vistas and carpets of wildflowers too. The one way, ten-mile (16 km) loop through scenic Cade's Cove is a favorite drive for many.

South of the Smokies are attractions like the huge trees at Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest, mountain reflections in Fontana Lake, and whitewater rafting on the Nantahala River. Of course, the big attraction for rhododendron enthusiasts is the rare hybrid swarm of native azaleas on Gregory Bald in the National Park, but they won't be in bloom until mid to late June.

The stretch of the Blue Ridge Parkway north of Asheville is lovely, too, but I must admit that I usually explore this region later in the season when *R. catawbiense* and *R. maximum* are in flower. The northeast access point at Asheville enters the Parkway about milepost 382 and similarly begins a steep climb to an elevation of about 5000 ft (1520 m) near Craggy Gardens, mp 364. This area is well



The "red" *R. vaseyi* at milepost 419.2.



Native azaleas on Gregory Bald.



Picotee form of *Rhododendron maximum* near Mount Mitchell.



*Rhododendron calendulaceum* along the Appalachian Trail near Roan Mountain.



*Rhododendron periclymenoides*.



*Rhododendron catabiense* variations near Otter Creek in Virginia.



*Cypripedium pubescens.*



Scenic Mabry Mill.



*Trillium grandiflorum.*



Trail on the Glenn Dale Hillside at the National Arboretum.



*Trillium luteum* at Mt. Cuba Center.



*Rhododendron prunifolium* at Callaway Gardens

known for its impressive display of purple *R. catawbiense* in mid June.

At milepost 355, there is an access road to Mount Mitchell State Park, the highest point in the eastern United States, elevation 6684 ft (2037 m). The park recently completed reconstruction of a new observation deck on top of the mountain, and the vistas in all directions on a clear day are amazing. At that elevation, spring will be at its very earliest stages in early May but in mid July, the Mount Mitchell area becomes a focus for *R. maximum* and its many variations. The rare red *R. maximum* discovered about 1930 still grows nearby at the headwaters of Curtis Creek, but its location is quite remote and very hard to find even with detailed directions.

There are several scenic waterfalls along this northern stretch of the Parkway including Crabtree Falls at mp 340 and Linville Falls at mp 316. Both will require a hike to see the falls but neither trail is very difficult. There are many vista points along the trail to Linville Falls depending upon how far one wishes to hike.

Farther north about mp 305 is Grandfather Mountain, the other region where *R. vaseyi* and *R. minus* var. *minus* (Carolinianum Group) are plentiful. On top of the mountain is a private park that does have an entry fee. Be sure to note the engineering feat of the Linn Cove Viaduct, an elevated portion of the Parkway constructed through particularly difficult terrain that preserved delicate habitats on the slopes of Grandfather Mountain. This was the last 7 miles (11 km) of the Parkway to be completed, opening for the first time in 1983.

About an hour west of the Parkway along the northern border of North Carolina and Tennessee is another treasure, the magnificent Roan Highlands. Roan Mountain, elevation 6285 ft (1916 m), is the highest point in a series of peaks and open balds. Through this region is one of the most scenic stretches of the Appalachian Trail, mid June is especially beautiful when *R. catawbiense* and *R. calendulaceum* are in bloom.

## The Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia and Skyline Drive

If time and travel plans allow, the first and second week in May is usually the peak time for the native azalea species and wildflowers along the Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia. The northern terminus for the Parkway is about 1.5 hours west of Richmond at the intersection of Interstate I-64 near the town of Charlottesville. This is about three hours south of Washington DC.

After the 2006 ARS/ASA Convention, we offered a post conference tour to Monticello at Charlottesville, and along a 120-mile stretch (193 km) of the Parkway south to Roanoke. There were limited spots where we could park a bus to let people explore along the Parkway, but when traveling by car there is much greater flexibility. The deeper pink native azalea *R. prinophyllum* and paler pink *R. periclymenoides* are scattered all along the first 80 miles (129 km) of the road. The native white dogwood trees (*Cornus florida*) and purple redbuds (*Cercis canadensis*) are lovely, too. Look for an azalea population about mp 4 in an area that has been cleared under the trees. There is no overlook, but the shoulders are wide with room to pull off to get a few photos of the azaleas with vistas of the Shenandoah Valley in the distance. There is more *R. prinophyllum* at Apple Orchard Mt., the highest point on the Parkway in Virginia, elevation 3950 ft (1200 m). Due to the elevation, they will bloom later there, usually opening in mid May in a normal year.

*Trillium grandiflorum* is plentiful in that area too, especially between mps 10-13. The white form is more frequent in the north but there is a large population of the pink *T. grandiflorum* forma *roseum* at the Thunder Ridge Overlook, mp 74. At the big rock near the overlook, head down the Appalachian to the right for a few hundred feet (60 m) to the trillium. There is also a plant of *R. prinophyllum* near that rock, and don't forget to smell its cinnamon-spice fragrance when it is in bloom.

The *R. catawbiense* at the upper

elevations near the Peaks of Otter won't bloom until late May to early June, but at lower elevations near Otter Creek, mps 56 to 61, the species should be in bloom in early to mid May. There is much variation of the species in Virginia, so look for rare color forms including whites.

There are scattered populations of native orchids like the large flowered yellow lady's slipper (*Cypripedium pubescens*) south of the Peaks of Otter Lodge (mp 86) as well as the pink lady's slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*) in some of the drier pine woods closer to Roanoke. Look on sunny banks for birdsfoot violets (*Viola pedata*) about mps 19-21 and masses of wild pinks (*Silene caroliniana*), especially near mp 42.

The natural range for *R. calendulaceum* seems to begin south of Roanoke, but as the Parkway continues south, it gradually loses altitude for a while but then rises again before entering North Carolina. The very scenic Mabry Mill at milepost 176 is a wonderful photo opportunity. A fully operational gristmill, the exhibit is a great chance to see how the early settlers used to live. The masses of *R. maximum* in that area can be stunning in early July, too.

Not on the Parkway but to the west near the North Carolina border is Mount Rogers, the highest point in Virginia, elevation 5729 ft (1746 m). The Appalachian Trail goes through here at the spectacular Rhododendron Gap with its glorious display of *R. catawbiense*. The trail can be reached from Grayson Highlands State Park and this rhododendron will bloom in early to mid June along with *Kalmia latifolia*, and *R. calendulaceum*. Also look for the wild horses in the area that can be seen grazing in the high meadows.

The 105-mile (169 km) scenic Skyline Drive in the Shenandoah National Park of Virginia was started in 1931 and was completed in 1939. It connects to the Blue Ridge Parkway near Charlottesville, and its northern terminus is at Front Royal, just a little over an hour west of Washington DC via Interstate I-66. It has

similar floral attractions and vistas, and at 35 mph (52 kmh) it will take at least three hours to travel its full length, assuming you don't spend too much time at any of its 75 overlooks.

I think it is important to mention a few nearby attractions that are not part of Skyline Drive but are located near the Shenandoah National Park. East of the mountains off of I-66 near the town of Linden is the Thompson Wildlife Management Area. This tract has one of the largest, continuous stands of *Trillium grandiflorum* in the world, an estimated 10 million plants. There are many other choice wildflowers in this area, too. There is a 9-mile (14.5 km) loop trail from a parking area near the lake that connects to the Appalachian Trail and the trillium display along the ridge, but shorter treks are possible. Be sure to download maps from the Internet if you go there. There are also some impressive caverns near Skyline Drive including Skyline Caverns at Front Royal and Luray Caverns near the town of Luray on Rt. 211 near Thornton Gap at mp 33.

### **Beyond the Blue Ridge**

Of course, if your travel plans bring you

near our Nation's Capital, be sure to stop at the National Arboretum to see the Glenn Dale azaleas. The focus of the "Save the Azaleas" campaign, these magnificent plants are over 60 years old and are the hybrids of the Arboretum's first Director, Ben Morrison. They should be in bloom from late April through early May.

Even farther north near Philadelphia are the great estate gardens including Winterthur, Longwood, and Mt. Cuba Center, many of which were featured on the 2004 ARS Convention tours. Most of those gardens are quite close to one another, but plan on at least two full days to do them justice. Late April to early May should be the peak time to see the extensive trillium collection at Mt. Cuba and the azaleas at Winterthur, but the gardens are spectacular at all seasons of the year.

If travel plans take you south near Atlanta, Callaway Gardens is always a treat. Its grand evergreen azalea display in the Azalea Bowl should be through by May, but there are usually many other flowers in bloom. Don't expect to see Callaway's signature plant, the rare plum leaf azalea, *R. prunifolium*, unless spring is

very early since it usually flowers from mid July to August. Return in mid summer to see those brilliant orange-red blossoms. On the same trip, spend some time exploring Providence Canyon located south of Columbus, GA, where native *R. prunifolium* and a tall growing form of *R. minus* var. *minus* grow wild at the base of strikingly colored canyon walls.

My own garden is quite small and its peak season is rather short. Now that I have retired, I truly enjoy expanding my horizons, exploring wild areas and visiting public gardens, wherever and whenever there are flowers in bloom. There is so much to see! The few suggestions offered here are among my favorites but they cannot begin to cover all the floral treasures in the region. I assure you, next spring many of us will be at these very locations chasing the bloom before and after the Asheville Convention. Won't you join us?

*Don Hyatt is a member of the Potomac Valley Chapter and an enthusiast about eastern North American azaleas.*

## **The Hootmanodendron**

Steve Hootman  
Seattle,  
Washington



*(From Steve Hootman's Blog, August 4, 2011.)*

A great deal has taken place within the fenced-in confines of the 24-acre (9.7 ha) Rhododendron Species

Botanical Garden. If you are a member of our organization, you have *some* idea of what has been happening (and thus why it has taken me more than two years to get back to this blog). If you are not, well, it has been a wild ride (quick summation: I am now Executive Director as well as Curator; we have a completely new staff other than Nursery Manager, Dennis Bottemiller; two amazing trips to China with several new species introductions; the largest expansion and re-planting of the garden since it was first moved on site combined with major tree thinning and

canopy lifting for a whole new look in the garden itself; and the construction and completion of our Crown Jewel—the Rutherford Conservatory [for vireyas].

([http://www.rhodygarden.org/steves\\_blog\\_1/2011/8/Hootmanodendron](http://www.rhodygarden.org/steves_blog_1/2011/8/Hootmanodendron))

*Steve Hootman is Executive Director/ Curator of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, WA.*

## What's in a Name – Rhododendron Hybrid Trivia from the Past



A Plate in J.G. Millais' *Rhododendrons and the Various Hybrids* (1917) is a water colour portrait by Winnifred Walker of three late nineteenth century rhododendron hybrids. At top *R. 'Mrs E. C. Stirling'* at left *R. 'Corona'* and at right *R. 'G. R. A. Sims'* [= 'G.A. Sims?']. Mary Anne Kehl (1816 -1895) was a Dury Lane actress who made her début in 1833 and continued on stage for the next five decades until 1886. One of her best roles was the Nurse in "Romeo and Juliet". Some time in mid career, she married the Dury Lane stage manager, and as was the custom took her husband's name and became Mrs. E. C. Stirling. Named by J. Waterer, it is one of the first non-Loder *R. griffithianum* hybrids. 'Corona,' means botanically "little corolla", but was probably named for its almost perfect rounded and compact truss of small flowers. A nice sounding name, though, for this J. Waterer hybrid of unknown parentage. 'G. R. A. Sims' was an A. Waterer hybrid. The Waterer's must have been avid theatre goers for George Robert A. Sims (1847-1922) was a dramatist and play write who wrote many plays alone and jointly that were performed in the 1880s and '90s. None of his many plays, have been heard of, or performed since before the First World War. 'G.R.A. Sims' undoubtedly has *R. arboreum* in it but the parentage is unknown. Gelderen and Hoey Smith (1992) note the hybrid 'G. A. Sims' received two RHS Awards of Merit, the first in 1938 while the other A.M. came 34 years later, in 1972.

Digital photo by Douglas Justice.





Clive L. Justice  
Vancouver, BC,  
Canada

In 1852, John Standish and Charles Noble (S&N), having 30–40 tons of manure double dug in per half hectare (1.24 acres) at their Bagshot nursery, put out a small book titled: *Practical Hints on Planting Ornamental Trees with Particular Reference to Coniferae* which included “Instructions on the Cultivation of American Plants, and on the Rhododendrons of Sikkim-Himalaya,” published by Bradbury and Evans, London. In this little book of 212 pages, these nurserymen give lists by flower colour of the hardy rhododendron hybrids then available. In those days, i.e., about 150 years ago, hardy meant they were outdoor plants suitable for most areas in England. This was just before Joseph Hooker’s Sikkim species came onto the hybridizing scene, so all the hybrids listed by Standish and Noble would have been produced and named at least a year or two before the book was published.

Many of the hybrids bore names in Latin, a common practice in those times to emphasize and impress on people a plant’s features, usually of the flowers or to honour the creator of the hybrid. The hybrid names in English reflected the then current real and fictional heroes, royalty, VIP’s and ladies now forgotten. In S&N’s B.C. (Before ‘Cynthia’) colour category “Blush,” there was *Rhododendron* ‘Album Elegans’, a *R. catawbiense* × ‘unknown’ cross. This “elegant white” made it onto J.G. Millais’ (1917–1924) list of 620 hybrids that he had ascertained were available from English and continental nurseries in 1880; his “Hardy Hybrid Rhododendrons, their origins and the nurserymen who have raised them,” pages 34–45; but not onto his 1917 “Best Hybrids” list of 51 names, *ibid.* “Best Hardy Hybrids,” page 46. This latter list does, however, include

*R. ‘Album Grandiflorum’*, which along with the aforementioned ‘Album Elegans’ and *R. ‘Album’*, were all *R. catawbiense* × “unknown” selections that are listed in Salley and Greer (1986) and are still grown. The late great plant hybridist Dr. Gus Mehlquist (ARS GM 1975), writing in Vol. 1 (1984) of the Journal of the Rhododendron Species Foundation, *Rhododendron Notes & Records*, edited by Judy Young, had something to say to clarify the Catawba Albums:

“. . . the fact [is] that we have two quite distinct rhododendrons with names so similar that they are often confused, that is [*R.*] *catawbiense* album versus ‘Catawbiense Album’. The first named is the white form of *Rhododendron catawbiense* discovered by Powell Glass. It is now widely distributed in the United States under various seedling or clonal names: ‘Catalgl’a’ is Joseph Gable’s selection, ‘Catanea’ is Guy Nearing’s selection, and all these forms of *R. catawbiense* are nearly pure white and are difficult to root from cuttings. The other name, ‘Catawbiense Album’, belongs to a hybrid rhododendron that was introduced by A. Waterer pre-1890; it is white with greenish yellow spotting. This plant has a small amount of germ plasm from *R. ponticum*, as it roots with ease. ‘Catawbiense Boursault’ and ‘Catawbiense Grandiflorum’ must also be of hybrid origin, as they are easy to grow and flower in the greenhouse during the winter and spring months. In contrast, all forms of *R. catawbiense* that I have collected in their native habitat are difficult to grow in such an artificial environment.” Pages 8–9.

Blush hybrid ‘Delicatissimum’ made it into the Millais’ 620, but along with ‘Norma’ was not one of Millais’ 51 “1917 Select.” One meaning of “Norma” as a Latin word is the greatest difference between two successive points of a given partition. Astronomically, Norma is a constellation called the “Rule” between

the stars Lupus and Ara in the southern sky. This was not the meaning Vincenzo Bellini had for his opera “Norma,” one of two masterpieces of lyrical expression, the other being “La Sonnambula.” Norma as a girl’s name is remembered by ‘Norma Hodge’, a hybrid with Fabia Group that was created by Eric Langton, a charter member of the ARS Vancouver, B.C., Chapter and registered in 1979 by his neighbour, Dr. Bob Rhodes. They both lived then in Maple Ridge in the Lower Fraser Valley.

‘Portia’ and ‘Madame Sontag’ appeared on neither of Millais’ lists. While Portia was the heroine of Shakespeare’s “Merchant of Venice,” Madam Henriette Sontag (1806–1846) was a German Opera singer married to Count Rossi, the Italian Ambassador to Russia. Sadly, she died of cholera in Mexico the year “Practical Hints” (Standish and Noble 2007 (reprint of 1852 publication)) was published.

Surprisingly, in S&N’s colour category “Lilac,” only two hybrids are listed:

- 1) ‘Everestianum’: named after Mount Everest, which was named for the Surveyor General of India in the early nineteenth century, Sir George Everest (1790–1866), who first located it in the Himalayan chain on the Nepal-China Border. After retiring, he went home to England, where he was knighted in 1861. Mount Everest is the world’s highest mountain at 8882 m (29,141 ft) in elevation. Although there were several tries, it was not climbed until May 28th, 1953, when New Zealander, Edmund Hillary and his Sherpa guide Tenzing Norqgay reached the top. There are two rhododendrons named ‘Mount Everest’. One is a hybrid, *R. campanulatum* × *R. griffithianum*, selected and reported in 1930 by J.P. Magor in Cornwall [it was hybridized and grown by W.C. Slocock, and was included in the International Rhododendron Register and Checklist (IRRC) in 1958], while the other is a *R. cinnibarinum* selection. The English hybrid *R. ‘Tensing’* is a complex hybrid

made at the RHS Garden at Wisley that was given an Award of Merit in 1953. Although Edmund Hillary was knighted, there does not seem to be a rhododendron hybrid named for him, at least not one that is registered. There is an American hybrid 'Mount Hood' registered in 1975 by Dr. Carl Phettiplace, ARS Gold medalist and 1970 ARS President, and

- 2) another *R. catawbiense* × 'unknown' hybrid called 'Catawbiense\*'. Each made it onto both Millais' "620" and "Best 51" lists and both are still with us in 2009. *R. catawbiense* was first introduced to the UK by John Fraser Jr. in 1809, and it flowered for the first time there in 1813. Andre Michaux, the great French botanist, is credited with the name "catawbiense," naming it after the Catawba River in the mountains of North Carolina where he first found it. Michaux may have introduced *R. catawbiense* to France and continental Europe earlier, although he lost most of his plants and seeds when he was shipwrecked off the coast of Holland on his return in 1796 from North America. There may have been further shipments that arrived safely as he had left his son to run the plant acclimatization nursery they had set up in Charleston, SC. Those shipments would have had to run the British Naval Blockades of continental Europe. However botanical collections where usually not seized and were allowed through in the name of science.

Colour category "Lilac with Jet Black Spots" had only one plant: 'Nigricans', not on any of Millais' lists, and this may have been an error; in 1868 it was the name of a deciduous azalea. The A. Waterer hybrid 'Nigrescens' was pre-1867, and had spots darker than dark plum.

In the list headed "Lilac with Double Flowers," the hybridizers were more productive, as there were four: 'Fastuosum', [= proud] still around, but was on Millais'

620 list as 'Fastuosum Florepleno' and on the 51 list as 'flore-pleno'; so a proud plant with double flowers. There is a large 'Fastuosum Flore Pleno' beside a larger 'Cynthia' in the churchyard of the Church of England in Tofino on the west coast of Vancouver Island, BC. It was probably planted by George Fraser of Ucluelet sometime during the 1920s. However, botanically the flowers are only semi double on this *ponticum* × *catawbiense* cross. Lilac doubles: 'Hyacinthiflorum' and 'Vervaeanum' are in the 620 list but needless to say, not in the 51 as Millais did not like doubles, particularly lilac ones. 'Catawbiense Flore Pleno', the last name on the list of doubles, has disappeared. One suspects they were all similar in colour and flower. However, Standish and Noble did note that "these remain much longer in bloom than those with single flowers." Op. cit., Note 1, page 176.

The colour category "Purple and Purple Tinged with Crimson" lists four cultivars: 'Antagonist', 'Cyanum', 'Queen Victoria' and 'Sir Isaac Newton'. The first two names and the rhododendrons plants that bore them hardly had names to attract buyers and have rightly faded into much deserved obscurity. The latter of the two was latinized Greek for dark blue. 'Cyaneum' came along later. It was also purple but you can take your pick of name origins: 1) Deep azure-blue, 2) the mother by Miletus of Caunus and Byblus, 3) a princess who was violated by her father who did not recognize her, 4) a nymph who unsuccessfully attempted to keep Hades from taking Persephone to the underworld, or 5) the closest—Cyaneus, an unstable poisonous liquid.

Perhaps 'Apology', an 1870s Waterer hybrid, was a replacement name for 'Antagonist'! Herself ['Queen Victoria'] got a colour' upgrade to a deep claret and is a name and plant that still survives, but was not in Millais' 51, although there is plenty of royalty there, what with hybrids 'Crown Prince', 'Royal Purple' and 'The Queen'. 'Queen Victoria' still reigns supreme in Salley and Greer (1986). 'Sir

Isaac Newton' was in Millais' 620 list along with sixteen other 'Sirs' but appears to have fallen out of favour today.

The "Rose-Coloured" list had eight names, 'Elegans', 'Antonio', 'Helena', 'Cerito', 'Magnet', 'Metaphor', 'Albion' and 'Hartley Luttrell'. Only one in this group appears in Millais 620—the hybrid 'Metaphor'. One wonders which hybrid or colour it was a metaphor for. The name 'Cerito' can lead one down a very slippery slope starting with small and waxy, and ending up with a cherry seen through rose coloured glasses. Albion is an archaic name for Britain while fair Antonio is a major character in Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*. "Rose with White Throat" yielded 'Nobleum Bicolor', 'Humboldtii', 'Betsy Trotwood', 'Pulchellum' and 'Mrs Bartholomew\*'. 'Nobleum' [now Nobleum Group], but not the 'Bicolor', made it as one of the 620, along with "Betsy Trotwood", after a character in Dicken's *David Copperfield*. Betsy Trotwood was David Copperfield's great-aunt in the novel that is reputed to be an autobiography of the author Charles Dickens.

Perhaps the closest living relative of 'Pulchellum' [The IRRC describes 'Pulchellum' as a rosy pink with a white throat. There is also a 'Puchellum Album' from Veitch] is the noun "pulchritude," as in: "Look at all that pulchritude paraded before the Miss America Judges." A sexy sounding word for feminine beauty, that is if you can pronounce it. Luckily no one has named or registered a hybrid with that name. Standish and Noble's 1852 list didn't include the competition, Waterer Sons and Crisp's 1835 *R. arboreum* × *R. caucasicum* cross they called 'Pulcherrimum' as it was just white, with no spots or rose petal edges.

However, neither 'Humboldtii' nor 'Mrs Bartholomew' made the cut. German Alexander von Humboldt was famous for his monumental work of twenty-three (Millais-size) volumes published between 1805 and eighteen on his travels with the Frenchman Aimé Bonpland, recording

the natural history of equatorial South America. The Humboldt Current on the Pacific Ocean side of South America is named for him and he is credited with discovering the electric eel. He went on to study the mineralogy and natural history of Central Asia. He wrote in French and his contribution to science was overtaken in England by the discoveries and work of Lyle, Darwin and Wallace. He is remembered for rhododendrons by the German T.J.R. Seidel hybrid 'Humboldt'. It is mauve with darker flare and spots and came out in the 1920s.

There is a remote possibility that 'Mrs Bartholomew', the "Rose and White throated" hybrid listed by Standish and Noble in 1852, was named after the wife of the Scottish engraver John Bartholomew (1831-1893) and the mother of the yet unborn, later to be great, Scottish cartographer John Bartholomew (1860-1920). However, the inclination was to choose a name for a literary figure of the day or one from the past rather than a premonition of greatness to come.

The "Rose Very Much Spotted" list had eight hybrids: 'Deception', 'Paxtonii', 'Mrs. Loudon', 'Sir Walter Scott', 'Bouquet de Flora', 'Geranioides', 'David Copperfield', and 'Picturatum'. Hybrids 'Deception' and 'David Copperfield', the title and hero of a Charles Dickens novel, failed to make it as Millais' 620, while the others became six of them. Joseph Paxton was too busy designing the great glass Crystal Palace for the 1851 Exhibition held under the patronage of Queen Victoria's consort Prince Albert to have had the time to create a rhodo hybrid, so it was probably named for him. He was the local horticultural hero of the day. People came from all over to see his three-seasons carpet bedding displays at the great garden at Chatsworth. John Claudius Loudon (JC) described and critiqued them in the monthly *The Gardener's Magazine* which he founded, wrote and edited. When he died in 1843, his widow Jane carried on his work, which included revising his monumental *An Encyclopedia of*

*Gardening* (Loudon 1822). Mrs. Loudon "improved and corrected" JC's work in a new edition that came out in 1850. Jane Wales Loudon was also a garden writer in her own right. She founded and edited the *Ladies Magazine of Gardening* in 1842, and she wrote the book *Practical Instructions in Gardening for Ladies* (Loudon 1841). The following is a quote from it: "A lady with a small light spade may by repeatedly digging over the same line, and taking out only a little earth at a time, succeed in doing all the digging that can be required in a small garden created, as it were, by her own hands, but she will find her health and spirits wonderfully improved by the exercise, and the reviving smell of the fresh earth." For this she became the horticultural heroine of the day.

Sir Walter Scott, Scotland's most famous writer had died in 1832 but his novels, particularly his Waverley novels, were two decades later still immensely popular. Two of Sir Walter Scott's many novels, perhaps the best two, *Ivanhoe* and *Lady of the Lake*, were still required texts for English in British Columbia high school English courses up until 1940 (my personal experience).

The latinized hybrids 'Geranioides' and 'Picturatum', the former resembling a geranium while the latter meaning variegated, for the flower most likely, as the only variegated foliage hybrid listed was 'Bride', which was listed under the "White and White with numerous spots" list.

"Pale Rose with very Large Flowers and Truss" has only 'Towardii' and 'Sabrina' listed. Both names got onto the Millais' 620 list but Standish and Noble's 'Towardii' had been changed to 'Towardianum'\*. This was probably because one of botanist Alphonse de Candolle's 1867 proposed rules (Article 33) was that if a person were being honoured by, for example, being the plant's finder, one would use the -ii suffix if the person were male. However, if you named the plant after someone who was not the discoverer or in this case creator of it, the gender of an adjectival epithet

is determined by the gender of the genus name, and for a personal name ending with a consonant, the ending would be *-ianus* (masc.), *-iana* (fem.), or *-ianum* (neut.), depending on the gender of the genus name. [Editors note: Along the way to the present, some of Alphonse de Candolle's preferences have fallen by the wayside. Art. 32 of the *Lois* stated that specific epithets are usually based on appearance, characteristics, origin of the plant, etc. Today almost anything goes! In fact, the ICBN now states that a specific epithet can be taken from any source or even be composed arbitrarily!] The journal that this suggestion appeared in (Article 33 in *Laws of Botanical Nomenclature* by Alphonse de Candolle, 1867) was such a relatively obscure one, it's interesting that Standish and Noble knew about it. This plant has the Altaclerence Group [Highclere Castle] as part of its parentage, which was one of the first hybrids to use *R. arboreum* as one of its parents.

The "Red Crimson" colour list had 'Raeantum', 'Erectum', 'Ianthé', 'Reedianum', 'Standishii', 'Maid of Saragossa', 'Vivid' and 'Blandyanum'. 'Blandyanum' also has the Altaclerense Group, and hence *R. arborem*, in its makeup. All but one, 'Ianthé', made it into Millais' 620, although none made it as Millais' preferred 51 thirty-five years later. With the exception of 'Maid of Saragossa' [rosy red], all the others are listed as having flowers with the colour "Rose" in Millais' 620 list. If we are to believe that Standish and Noble heeded de Candolle's nomenclatural rules (Rule 33), then Standish created his namesake 'Standishii' while A. Waterer who must also have read Rule 33 honoured Mr. Reed with one of their crosses.

Now to those names: 'Raeantum' honours John Rae, the Scottish doctor and arctic explorer with the Hudson's Bay Company who accompanied Sir John Richardson overland to the Arctic Ocean in search of the ill fated Franklin expedition. This arctic exploration fiasco featuring the three Johns—Franklin,

Richardson and Rae, is given full treatment for the daring and lunacy it was in Fergus Fleming's (1998) *Barrow's Boys*. 'Erectum', whether fastigate or upright of floral truss or plant, is not known. 'Ilanthe' is the wife of the Cretian Iphus who was changed into a man when she fell in love with beautiful Ianthe. 'Reedianum' probably after Sir Charles Reed who in the late 1840s was the Chairman of the London School Board. 'Standishii' fairly obviously honours the nurseryman creator of this complex hybrid with species *R. arboreum*, *catawbiense*, *maximum* and *ponticum* in its makeup. They came up with 'Vivid' for a hybrid with the same species combination but a different flower colour. Salley and Greer (1986) note the flower colour of the former is not Red Crimson but Violet-Crimson with the black spots of *arboreum*, while the latter is a vivid purplish rose. 'Standishii' and 'Vivid' also have the Altaclerense Group in their makeup. 'Maid of Saragossa' is a city in Spain on the Ebro River. This rose coloured hybrid was created by the Edinburgh firm of T. Methven & Sons. And finally, the origin of the name 'Blandyanum' is a stumper. While this hybrid is another of those with everything but *caucasicum*, like 'Standishii' and 'Vivid', it is closest to being in the right colour list. Millais listed it as Rosy-Crimson, so Standish and Noble were half right in their colour designation.

S&N's Scarlet list had 'Coccineum', 'Lindseyii', 'Compactum', and 'Ignescens'. Only 'Ignescens', a Waterer hybrid, made it onto Millais' 1880 - 620 list. Even today the name would not ignite much of a spark; however, it does mean fiery red, close enough to pass for scarlet. *R. 'Coccineum'* hit the right colour list for it is from the Latin "coccineus" but usually refers to the fruit being red, not the flower. With the hybrid 'Compactum', it is hard to know whether the rhodo plant, flowers or colour was compact or dense. In 1852, even though it is misspelled 'Lindseyii', the name could only refer to John Lindley (1799-1865) who in 1852 was Professor of Botany at University College London.

He had previously been Secretary of the Horticultural Society of London, which evolved into the Royal Horticultural Society. His report on Kew Gardens, that had fallen into disrepair after the death of Sir Joseph Banks two decades earlier, led to the saving of the gardens and establishment of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. William Hooker, Joseph Dalton Hooker's father, became Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Joseph Dalton Hooker succeeded his father as Director, was a founder of geographical botany, and was Charles Darwin's closest friend.

S&N's broad colour classification, "White, Tinged with Margins of the Petals, with Rose and Pink", listed 'Fairy Queen', 'Reginum', 'The Gem', and 'Zuleika'. Rosy 'The Gem' made its way into Millais' long list and so did 'Zuleika', which was the last entry in Millais' list of 620 hybrids. However this girl's given name had lost an "i" so had acquired a softer more mature pronunciation. 'Fairy Queen' in Shakespeare's *Midsummers Night's Dream* is probably the source for this rhododendron hybrid name while hybrid 'Reginum' reflected the fresh young Victoria who had come to the Empire's throne in 1837.

"French White and Blush, very much Spotted" was a heading for hybrids with creamy white, the colour of French Vanilla ice cream. In art classes, French White was usually referred to as off-white or dirty-white or not-quite-white (personal experience). Listed were 'Pictum', 'Delicatum', 'Cinnamomum', 'Cunninghamii', 'Multimaculatum', and 'Mrs Hemans'. John Cunningham himself named 'Cunninghamii' and 'Cunningham's White'. 'Cunningham's White' became with *R. ponticum* seedlings the rootstock for grafting new hybrids to. 'Cunningham's White' was possibly the first named rhododendron hybrid and was hardier than *ponticum*. Used as root understock, it enabled survival of new English, Dutch and German hybrids in places like Estonia, Sweden, Finland and Norway.

'Delicatum' means delicate and 'Pictum' had dark spots, as the name meant painted spot, colour not known, while 'Cinnamomum' had brown spots the colour logically of the spice cinnamon. 'Multimaculatum' came with flowers that had multi (= many) red spots and 'Mrs Hemans' flowers were blush with yellow spots. The last named was for Felicia Dorothea (Browne) Hemans (1793-1835), a prolific writer and poet whose poem "Casabianca" contains the much parodied lines "the boy stood on the burning deck" and "The stately homes of England." Millais' 620 had Mrs. Hemans' yellow spotted hybrid and the many red spotted 'Multimaculatum' but these were not on his Select 1917 51.

The last Standish and Noble listing of hybrid rhododendron flower colour was "White and White with numerous Spots." Listed were: 'Nivaticum', which had snow coloured flowers with yellow spots and was in Millais' 620; 'Album Grandiflorum', a J. Waterer hybrid that was on both of Millais' lists (it even headed up his 1917 alphabetical list) but the colour is more mauve than blush. It is one of a legion of *R. catawbiense* × unknowns that were produced at the time; 'Bride', with variegated foliage, is replaced in Millais with the name 'The Bride'—whether the same or a different hybrid, it fit S&N's colour list for it has pure white flowers with green spotting and needless to say did not have variegated foliage; 'Coriaceum', meaning tough or leathery, referred to the leaves presumably, not the flowers; and 'Alexandrina', a girl's name equivalent to the boy's name Alexander, but it did not appear in Millais' 620.

It is an enjoyable pursuit for a history buff like myself to trace the origins of rhododendron hybrid names, for they are a window into some of what was probably the more important happenings and people at the time when the creator's hybrid first bloomed, and he got to name it. With the Standish and Noble list, they are representative of the end of a time in rhododendron hybridizing

when instead of the hybridizer having only six rhododendron species (*R. arboreum*, introduced in 1809–10, from Nepal, which bloomed first in 1825; *R. catawbiense*, introduced in 1809; *R. caucasicum* introduced in 1803 from the Caucasus Mountains; *R. maximum* collected by William Bartram in Pennsylvania and sent to Peter Collinson in 1736; *R. ponticum*, introduced from Gibraltar in 1763; and according to Davidian (1982), *R. ferrugineum* was growing in England in 1739 but was introduced a second time thirteen years later in 1752) to work with, there was now triple and quadruple the number of species. However, those early, up to 1852, hybrids became the cornerstone for style, form, flower and foliage of what a rhododendron as a plant for the garden should be. It was the standard for the next hundred years.

\* = not registered.

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*Clive Justice is a rhododendron historian and a member of the Vancouver ARS Chapter.*

## 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, discusses pruning principles and demonstrates as he walks about a small NJ garden.

## Awards

### CASCADE CHAPTER

#### Bronze Medal: Dee and Bob Smith

The Cascade Chapter is proud to award Dee and Bob Smith the highest honor that any Chapter can bestow upon a chapter member, the Bronze Medal. This medal is awarded to Dee and Bob to show the Chapter's great respect and its gratitude for their service to both the Cascade Chapter and the rhododendron community.

Over the past number of years, Dee and Bob have done a great deal of work researching all of the rhododendrons we have had available for our spring sale. They have provided printed sale catalogs with complete descriptions of the plants. They have also provided a picture gallery of the rhododendrons in bloom. These items have made our sale very effective and educated the public about the genus *Rhododendron*.

Dee has shown so much enthusiasm during the sale that she has brought in quite a number of new members. This enthusiasm has greatly increased the fun and energy during our sales. Bob's computer skills have given us a great gallery of many rare and hard to find rhododendrons.

Even though Dee and Bob were not able to attend this year's Show and Sale, they still contributed much time and energy, while at the same time experiencing a family loss and preparing for a family memorial.

Clearly we must recognize their contribution to the Cascade Chapter and present them with the Bronze Medal as a small token of our appreciation on this 14th day of June, 2011.

#### Certificate of Appreciation: Bob and Coleen George

The Cascade Chapter is proud to honor Bob and Coleen George with this Certificate of Appreciation for their many years of service in the Chapter.

Bob has taken on the task of Chapter Treasurer and Membership Chairman for the past 14 years. Before that he held all other positions in the chapter including President. Also, for many years Coleen had the title of "Sunshine Lady" and the task of keeping all of us in treats at our meetings.

For the past two years, Bob and Coleen have also taken on the task of chairing the Annual Spring Rhododendron Show. Part of this task included compiling results from the several hundred of "People's Choice"

ballots. This was a daunting task that they handled with their usual grace and skill.

Clearly we want to recognize their contribution to the Cascade Chapter and present them with this certificate and award on this 14th day of June, 2011.

### DE ANZA CHAPTER

#### Bronze Medal: Erika Enos

It is with great pleasure that the De Anza Chapter awards the Bronze Medal to long-time member Erika Enos in recognition of her many contributions to our chapter. Erika has served as president and editor for our chapter numerous times. She is a willing volunteer and supporter of all the chapter's activities. Erika is always strategically thinking of things that need to be done so as to encourage new membership in our chapter. She is part of the glue that holds the De Anza Chapter together. It is with great affection that we present the Bronze Medal to Erika.

### NORTH ISLAND CHAPTER

#### Bronze Medal: Lois Clyde

It was with great pleasure that Past President Harry Wright presented the American Rhododendron Society Bronze Medal to Lois Clyde on June 18, 2011. The Bronze Medal is awarded for outstanding contributions to a chapter and is the highest commendation awarded by a local chapter in the Society. Lois has been a long-time member of NIRS and first served on the Executive in 1994 on the Social Committee, took on the formal role of club Historian in 2003 and over the last few years has assisted with Ways and Means. Throughout the years Lois has been actively involved in all club activities and can be counted on to be a tireless supporter whenever needed. We congratulate Lois on being awarded the ARS Bronze Medal.

The Bronze Medal was presented as part of a framed certificate stating: "NIRS ..... recognizes Lois Clyde for the ARS Bronze Award for her many years of service and continued dedication to the Society."

### SEATTLE CHAPTER

#### Bronze Medal: Deena Henkins

The Seattle Rhododendron Society recognizes the outstanding and continuing service that you have given us. In the nine years of your membership your active involvement in the SRS has been most welcome. As treasurer your attention to detail has kept our finances in order. Your guidance on the Board of Directors has been invaluable. Your quiet and dedicated service to our chapter is not missed and we thank you. You have stepped forward at our annual rhododendron shows organizing the set up, plant sales and take down. You are always willing and expertly able to serve in any capacity and assist with the success of the SRS.

Deena is also active at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden as a valuable and knowledgeable assistant, volunteering two days a week in the nursery and extra days during the busy plant distribution months. She also serves on the Rhododendron Species Foundation Executive Committee as a financial advisor and is a Board member. At the annual "Evening in the Garden" event Deena will be found donating her time and her delicious desserts.

Congratulations and thank you to Deena Henkins for promoting rhododendrons to the community, SRS and RSBG.

The Seattle Rhododendron Society takes great pleasure in awarding you the Bronze Medal, its highest honor.

### 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
- 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. Rhodos In Paradise, Destination Vancouver Island. Coast Bastion Inn, Sept. 21-23, Nanaimo, BC. Board meeting
- 2013** ARS Annual Convention, to be announced. Board meeting
- 2013** ARS Eastern Regional Conference, District 12, Fall (dates and the place to be announced) Board meeting

## In Memoriam

### **Ambrose Christian Congreve**

In an odd way it somehow seemed appropriate that, given his love of gardening, during the time Mr. Congreve was in London earlier this year he should be taken ill whilst planning to make his annual visit to the Chelsea Show; and subsequently passed away on the night of Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May. He had celebrated his 104<sup>th</sup> birthday in April.

Ambrose Christian Congreve was born April 4<sup>th</sup> 1907, the son of Major John Congreve and Lady Helena Blanche Irene Ponsonby, a daughter of the Eighth Earl of Bessborough. Mr. Congreve, as he was respectfully known, enjoyed a long and remarkable life, being an accomplished industrialist, having served his country during the Second World War and achieved worldwide renown as the creator of a paradise garden surrounding his family seat at Mount Congreve in south-east Ireland.

With Lionel de Rothschild as mentor, Mr. Congreve developed an early love of gardening that was inspired by Lionel's landscaping expertise and plantings, which provided much of the foundation for the later development of Mount Congreve garden on the edge of Kilmeaden, a few miles west of Waterford, overlooking a bend in the valley of the Suir. Here lies an immense, magical and impressive garden of 110-acres (44.5 ha) set among the dark green fields of the 700-acre (283 ha) Mount Congreve estate that contains the largest rhododendron collection in Europe.

His wife Marjorie passed away in 1995, and there were no children of the marriage. In 1965, Ambrose Congreve was invested with a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (C.B.E.) for services to horticulture, held an honorary doctorate awarded by Trinity College, Dublin, and was also awarded a Veitch Memorial Medal by the R.H.S. for whom he served as Vice President up to the time of his death. Ten years ago he was awarded a medal for having "The Greatest Garden in the World" by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, an honour he very much appreciated. The "folie de grandeur," as he once described his gardens, is to be transferred to the ownership of the State, ensuring that his masterpiece will remain well cared for and intact.

John M. Hammond

### **Robert Furman**

Robert Furman passed away in April 2011 following an accidental fall in his garden in Brewster, MA. He was a member of the ARS, the New York, Massachusetts and Cape Cod Chapters and an avid rhododendron hybridizer. In 1985, Bob retired from science education, Garden City, New York, where he was involved in the experimental or discovery methods of science, which emphasized scientific attitudes, critical thinking, problem solving, and functional understanding. This background, coupled with discipline, patience and persistence were fundamental to his work as a hybridizer.

Bob had been a serious hybridizer since 1970 and raised thousands of highly selected seedlings. His ultimate goal was to produce the elusive triple five elepidote hybrid, the five level for plant habit, foliage and flowers. His perfect 5/5/5 high performer would be endowed with: (1) a dense compact plant habit (2) hardy insect resistant foliage, dark green, glossy and preferably with indumentum (3) quality highly luminous flowers with pure clear colors of the red, orange, and the yellow part of the spectrum.

Over the years, Bob's seedlings won numerous trophies and awards at truss and foliage shows.

In forty-two years of hybridizing, only ten seedlings have been named and registered. They are 'Pure Pleasure', 'Peach Cloud', 'Peach Monarch', 'Impression', 'Pink Palette', 'Angel Eyes', 'Snow Monarch', 'Hey There', 'Pink Impressions' and 'Unforgettable'. Perhaps his greatest achievement is an unregistered large deep yellow, the product of a complex cross and simply designated as BFBY (BFBY=Bob Furman Big Yellow). The deep yellow 5 ½ inch flowers may be the largest US yellow introduced to date. At the time of his death, he was working to improve its habit by hybridizing it with compact rhododendron forms.

Seed from some of his efforts may be available in the 2012 ARS seed exchange catalog.

In 1970 when the Furmans acquired their Cape Cod property, it was an undisturbed impassable jungle of native vegetation. Exactly 40 years ago (1971) rhododendron seedlings were planted in a small cleared area near the pond. This is where the rhododendron journey began.

We first met Bob at the annual

Massachusetts ARS meeting in 1980 where his yellow entries placed first second and third in their flower show and since that time we corresponded on a regular basis sharing ideas on hybridizing. His carefully hand written letters are collector's items. He was unwavering in his selection process and espoused a goal to select parents possessing a leaf retention of three to four years. He believed that in his selection process that only about 0.1% of his seedlings proved worthy of saving. New hybrids were ruthlessly screened for color intensity, a red flower possessing any trace of blue, was quickly rejected, as well as any new flower lacking a top or a late opening floret. A Furman rhododendron was never released until it proved to be as perfect as he could make it.

Bob will be remembered for his single minded pursuit of the "perfect" elepidote rhododendron and most of us will agree that he DID achieve his goal.

Norman and Jean Beaudry

### **Prudence Ann Holliger**

On June 23, 2011, our dear friend Prudence Holliger unexpectedly and suddenly passed away. She was born in Toledo, OH. After graduating from Bowling Green State University in 1966, she moved west living in Hawaii, California, Oregon and settling in Washington. She met her future husband, Donald King, while hiking the trails of the Cascades in 1993 on Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden sponsored activities. In 1996 Prudence and Don celebrated the first wedding in the gazebo at the RSBG. They built their home in Issaquah, WA, and designed and planted a lovely garden filled with species and hybrid rhododendrons, magnolias and companion plants. The Seattle Rhododendron Society enjoyed some of their annual picnics in the garden and on the deck.

Prudence enjoyed and excelled at photography and won several awards including "Best of Show" in May 2011 at the SRS May Truss show. As always, she was inspired by her subjects and produced beautiful photographs.

She worked as a technical writer and did volunteer work as editor of the Magnolia Journal of the Magnolia Society International, the Rhododendron Species Annual Journal for the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden and was the (Continued on next page.)

## In Memoriam

(Continued from page 209.)

editor of the newsletter for the SRS for many years. She also expertly organized registration for the ARS conventions in 1999 and 2009.

Prudence was awarded the Bronze Medal from SRS in 2010 of which she was very proud. She gave many hours of volunteer time to the SRS serving on and advising the Board and participating in all

activities.

Prudence and Don took an exciting trip to Antarctica where her orange jacket attracted the penguins. Don says she didn't want to leave there as she enjoyed it so.

Prudence also participated in a dream tour and trek to China where she took many lovely photos and saw rhododendrons and other plants in their native habitat.

She made many friends where ever

she lived and especially in Seattle. Her intelligence and sense of humor were, and always will be, an inspiration to those who knew and loved her. It was fitting that her memorial was held on the patio at the Rutherford Conservatory at the RSBG on July 24, 2011.

Prudence will be deeply missed by all SRS members.

Diane Thompson  
Chip Muller

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## 2011/12 ARS Rhododendron Photo Contest Rules

Glen Jamieson, Editor

The Contest is open only to ARS members in good standing as of the contest closing date. Judges and their immediate family (spouse, parents, siblings, and children) and household members are not eligible.

By participating in the Contest, each entrant fully and unconditionally agrees to and accepts these Official Rules and the decisions of the Judges, which are final and binding in all matters related to the Contest. There are no prizes except bragging rights, and the Editor of *JARS* has the right to publish runner up and winning entries in *JARS* and to put them on the ARS website.

All photos submitted must have been taken between January 1, 2011, to July 31, 2012. Entries must be received by midnight PST, July 31, 2012. All entries should prominently feature either **rhododendrons**, **azaleas** and/or **vireyas** in the composition.

### Competition categories:

- 1) Flower, truss or spray;
- 2) Plant in bloom;

- 3) Landscape or plants in the wild;
- 4) Foliage;
- 5) People, Insects, or Animals; and
- 6) Other, for creative or artistic effects of any kind that involves these plants. This could involve the use of software products like PhotoShop.

### Photo Guidelines:

- 1) The Photo must be in .jpg .jpeg, or .gif;
- 2) Images submitted should be sent by email and be of modest size, about 1024 to 1280 pixels in length and 480 to 768 in width, which would correspond to a dpi of at least 300 for a 3 x 5 in (7.6 x 12.7 cm) photo;
- 3) Cropping of digital images and minor adjustments to exposure and color balance is permitted for entries in all categories. Advanced image editing features available in software products like Photoshop should not be used except for entries in category six;
- 4) The Photo caption and/or des-

cription must not exceed 200 characters in length. Provision of some details about the camera and settings for each entry is also required, and for submissions in category 6, include a brief explanation of how the image was created;

- 5) The Photo cannot have been submitted previously in a contest of any kind; and
- 6) The number of entries by any individual per category is restricted to two.

Here is a link on the web to photography guidelines, as we hope this competition can also be an educational tool, especially for our new photographers:

<http://photo.tutsplus.com/articles/round-ups/100-helpful-photography-tutorials-for-beginners-and-professionals/>

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## Research Foundation Update

The Research Foundation of the American Rhododendron Society (ARS) announces changes in its Board of Trustees.

At its meeting on May 11, 2011, in Vancouver, Washington, the Board of Directors of the ARS approved appointment of two Trustees. Mike Stewart and Karel Bernady will serve new three year terms. Karel will continue as Chairman.

With these appointments and the installation of Don Smart as President of the Society, the Board of Trustees will be constituted as follows:

1. Karel F. Bernady, Chairman, for term ending May 2014;
2. Mike Stewart, for term ending May 2014;
3. Jean Beaudry, Treasurer of the Research Foundation, for term ending May 2012;
4. Dan Meier, for term ending May 2012;
5. Harold Sweetman, Chairman of the Research Committee, for term ending May 2013;
6. H.C. (Bud) Gehrich, for term

ending May 2013; and

7. Don Smart, President of ARS, *ex officio*, for term ending 2013.

The Trustees thank Ted Stecki for his service on behalf of the Research Foundation and welcome Don Smart to the Board.

Karel F. Bernady, Chairman  
ARS Research Foundation



## The Olympics and the ARS – Going for the Gold!

Dee Daneri  
Fortuna, California



Did you know that the Olympic Games and the ARS have something in common? Yes, we both offer Gold, Silver and Bronze medals to the best of the best. Olympic medalists are honored as the best in their sport, and that distinction generally comes from years of competition, and a lifetime goal of being at the top. Contrary to this, the typical ARS medalist is someone who started as a naïve homeowner who visited a garden center just wanting to fill up a spot in the yard. It was probably spring, so why not choose the plants with the bigger flowers. The wise nurseryman also made certain that the choices being considered also had great foliage. That summer a neighbor dropped by and admired the great indumentum on the plants. “Please, not in front of the children” was a likely response!

That’s about when the neighbor invited the newcomer to an ARS meeting. From September until spring, the nice people at the meetings would welcome our future medalist with slide shows of unimaginable beauty. The refreshment committee was also very welcoming. Visions of less lawn started causing recurring dreams. The monthly plant auctions at the chapter were successfully building an inventory at the side of the house.

By the next spring, one of the ARS medalists who happily go around sharing their knowledge of the genus had given a great program about landscaping in a rhododendron garden. An otherwise healthy and happy person was beginning to show signs of addiction. There was evidence of household money disappearing, and mounds of expensive soil started arriving by the dump truck load. The family vacation was canceled and the family spent weekends shopping for more plants, which would later be called “companions.” Large stones appeared, and a love affair was getting out of hand. Friends and family started talking about an insatiable appetite for more and more. Neighbors started seeing a light in the garden late at night, as the addict scouted for bugs on his beloved rhododendrons. The bugs would later be called root weevils [family *Curculionidae*]. Heavy bags started forming un-

der the eyes from late nights holding vigil in the garden, which was no longer to be called a “yard”!

The camera was documenting everything. Soon things would turn for the worse, as more knowledge about a thing called “hardscaping” was added to the obsessive behavior. Unable to get enough plants and information, the new rhodaholic started arriving early to meetings, offering to help set up, but really just wanting more time with more seasoned rhodaholics.

It’s a little hazy just when the addict started feeling confident enough to share some of his experiences with the group at the meetings. Maybe a little pride nudged him to share some of his newly rooted cuttings with the others. The addict was dumbfounded when awarded with the Chapter’s Bronze Medal award. It said something about how this enthusiast’s devotion to the group had inspired so many others. A constant contributor to the meetings, now a Chapter officer, always helping out at the truss shows, and even opening the new garden, this rhodaholic had truly arrived. Who could be better deserving of a Bronze Medal.

And the Bronze Medal is so easy for a chapter to award! The secretary just orders a bronze medal from the ARS’s executive director, frame it up with a nice citation, and have a Chapter awards night. Anyone who has contributed to and enhanced a chapter should be honored, whether it’s the super-duper hybridizer or the cookie lady of 35 years—let’s appreciate them and give them honor by awarding a Bronze Medal.

For most rhodoholics, we’re content to try to keep our addiction under control, but not for all. Not at all for our friend here, now the recipient of a Bronze Medal, as the entire District started asking for presentations on those sterling photos of the garden; or maybe it was presentations on the new green houses now full of new hybrids; or maybe it was about that nice bookkeeping system of garden plants and their locations the enthusiast had created for the whole District to use. Yes, it was now appropriate to honor our special gardener with a Silver Medal for so many enriching gifts to regional endeavors.

Did you know how easy it is to honor someone you know with a Silver Medal? Just gather up eight to twelve nice letters from people who are familiar with the special deeds of your nominee, real letters that must be signed by the proposers.

Include the things that made the contributions of this person so very special. Have someone in the group make up wording for a nice citation, about 125 words. Forward it to your District Director for a cover letter to be added. Be sure to include the recipient’s chapter affiliation, and the names, email addresses, phone numbers of all the special letter writers. After all, a Silver Medal is a special award, something not to be rushed through with a bunch of quicky emails. This enthusiast has devoted a life of discretion for our benefit, which is pretty special! The Silver Medal is not held within a district, although the District Director of the member being honored is the one who forwards the award packet to me. The Silver is a *regional* award. Often an individual may, for example, be very influential on the West Coast or in the Northeast, with little contribution beyond that area. These areas might incorporate several districts, but still be centered on a “region.” However, while the Silver is mostly for regional contributions, it could also be awarded to an individual who has specialized more broadly on a particular type of rhododendron, but who probably hasn’t enhanced the general ARS membership of the Society. The District Director will then forward the packet to me. I have a very secret committee of five people who take their job seriously, and they will scrutinize the merits of the many possible proposals. Awards will be given at the spring conference banquet, as we don’t want to negate the honor the ARS is bestowing here.

But our story doesn’t quite end here! Our special person went on to contribute to the rhododendron world on a worldwide scale. Some recipients have been famous hybridizers from around the globe, meriting the greatest medal the ARS has to give—the Gold Medal. Others have devoted time to our ARS committees, Board of Directors, and as our officers. Others have created special tools that are enjoyed by the Society at large. For these contributions, the only distinction between the Gold and the Silver Medals is the awareness of this individual’s contributions beyond the boundary of their District, and often at the international level.

So, let us end this little story by sending the ball to your court. If you and your rhody colleagues wish to identify a member who has contributed well beyond a certain region, and perhaps internationally, follow the exact guidelines you read (Continued on page 220.)

## The ARS Endowment Fund and Grant Program

In 1984 a few dedicated members of the ARS decided it was time to start a memorial (endowment) fund. It was generally agreed that this fund should be endowed for the purpose of assuring our ability to print publications and provide education about the genus *Rhododendron*. Some even felt it could provide an avenue to ward off dues increases forever. The endowment fund was launched in 1985 with the goal of attaining one million dollars by 1995—marking the 50th anniversary of the Society. Within several years it became apparent the one million dollar goal by 1995 was unattainable. The idea of asking members for donations above their dues commitment or otherwise soliciting for the newly proposed endowment fund through development campaigns brought general disfavor and inaction on the part of the board. There were attempts towards undertaking a campaign to grow the endowment; however, motions were made and not passed. What went forward was advertising for contributions placed on the inside jacket of the Journal. By August of 1991 the endowment fund had a balance of \$32,200 and the one million dollar goal was cancelled.

In 1993, then Chair of the Endowment Committee, Austin Kennell, sent an appeal to all chapter presidents asking each chapter to make a contribution to the endowment fund. In his letter he asks... "What's the one thing your chapter can do that will have the greatest impact on the A.R.S.? That's an easy one. There's nothing a chapter can do to compare with contributions to the A.R.S. Endowment Fund." The record shows that 96 members and 19 chapters/districts contributed to the endowment. And by 1995 there was

\$61,135 in the fund and there were times along the way when it was tapped to meet operational expenses. At the end of the decade the endowment had reached about \$150,000.

Then in 2000 the Society received a generous unrestricted bequest of \$344,000 from the estate Dr. John E. Swisher. Dr. Swisher designated the money was to be used for the "benefit of mankind and quality of life on our planet." When the Society received the money, the board considered how best to use these funds for the benefit of the Society and its members. Bud Gehrlich, past president, made a motion at the spring 2001 board meeting that the Swisher money be moved immediately to the Endowment Fund and furthermore that a five member committee be established to consider and report back to the board on management of the Endowment Fund and establishment of criteria for the expenditure of earnings from the fund. The board action placed the Swisher money in the endowment as temporarily restricted funds—or board designated. At the fall 2001 Board meeting the a grant program was proposed and the Board asked the Ad Hoc Swisher Fund Committee, chaired by Bill Mangels, to develop procedures and guidelines for the grant program. At the next board meeting the grant program was approved and the ARS has been awarding grants since 2003. Although no grants were awarded in 2009 due to insufficient income Ed Reiley, then president, asked Bill Mangels to become Chair of the Endowment Committee and appointed six committee members. Two of the original six, Laura Kentala and Gray Carter, have "retired" from the committee. Today the Endowment Fund Committee

members are: Jeff Cheyne (co-chair), Paul Wurz, George Neiswanger, Peter Neubauer, Karel Bernady, and Bill Meyers. At the present time through additional gifts and professional management the endowment fund stands at over \$700,000 and has awarded a total of \$59,109.

This year the board awarded four grants, totaling \$13,500. Three of them were applied for following our guidelines and the fourth to the Friends of the National Arboretum, the result of an appeal to the Society.

The four were awarded to:

- Planting Fields Arboretum state Historic Park—to help establish a vireya collection;
- Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society—for further development of a memorial rhododendron park;
- Humboldt Botanical Garden Foundation—to support uniform labeling of plants; and
- Friends of the National Arboretum (FONA)—for the purpose of establishing an endowment fund to support the azalea and boxwood collections at the National Arboretum.

Society members should be pleased with the grant program as it supports projects that educate fellow members and the general public which in turn creates interest in rhododendrons. At the last Endowment Fund Committee meeting it was decided to look into ways grants could focus on the education of youth, recognizing that this is where future ARS members will come.

Please consider a gift to the endowment fund, using the form inside the jacket cover.

Bill Mangels, Co-chair  
ARS Endowment Fun Committee

## The ARS Endowment Grant Program - Guidelines for 2012 Application

The purpose of the American Rhododendron Society (Society) is the encouragement of the culture of rhododendrons, including azaleas, and the increase in understanding of and interest in all aspects of these plants. In support of this mission the Society has established a grant program utilizing funds from its endowment. Activities to be supported may include the development of programs, projects or publications that educate the general public in the growing and culture of rhododendrons. Amount of grants will generally not exceed \$3,000.

Proposals are accepted up to the deadline of February 15, 2012, and must be submitted to the Endowment Fund Committee at the address below. The applicant must notify the appropriate District Director of the application and request a "letter of assessment" to accompany the application. The appropriate District Director is the one whose geographic responsibility includes the location where grant will be utilized. The application and letter of assessment will be reviewed by the Endowment Fund Committee. The Society's Board will act

on the committee recommendations at its spring meeting. Successful applicants will be supplied "Condition of Acceptance" letters and upon its completion and return to the Society, funds will be sent to the applicant. Unsuccessful applicants will also be notified after the Board meeting.

Proposals should request funding for a single calendar year or less and only one proposal per applicant will be considered. A complete proposal must include:

1) Background and history of the applicant group and the role it provides in  
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# Sir Harold Hillier Gardens

Peter Kendall  
Portland, Oregon



Photos by the Author  
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*R. anwehense.*



*R. argyrophyllum* ssp. *nankingense* 'Chinese Silver'.



*R. thomsonii.*



*R. triflorum.*

Close to ten years ago, when my trip to England launched a foray through an array of outstanding gardens, I ventured to cover my experience in the pages of the ARS quarterly journal. One prominent garden I long had in mind to visit and that met my expectations in so many ways I somehow overlooked in my accounts. That particular garden was the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens (formerly known as the Hillier Arboretum). This noble abode constitutes one of the greatest collections of woody plants in the country, if not the world. It had its origins in the private arboretum of Harold Hillier who took over and extended his forebears' undertakings in 1946. But permit me to digress.

Mention the name Hillier and those familiar with the world of plants recognize at once a bastion of authority and comprehensiveness. It all began in 1864, when Edwin Hillier established a nurseryman's and florist's business in Winchester operating under the title Farthing. The business flourished, and developed ten years later into the now famous West Hill Nursery. The nursery was situated in south central England in the district of Hampshire. Edwin's two sons, Edwin Lawrence and Arthur Richard, assumed the reins from their father. Edwin L. thus became responsible for the development of the superlative collection of trees and shrubs with which the name Hillier is synonymous, while Arthur administered the business. The firm continued to prosper under their tutelage well into the middle of the 20th

century. In 1946, with the retirement of Arthur and two years after the death of Edwin L., Harold G. Hillier (1905–1985), son of Edwin L., assumed control. Harold's sons, John and Robert, were in turn groomed to carry on in their father's footsteps. Despite pressures brought forth in the nursery business to produce more and more of fewer and fewer items, Harold persevered in guiding the firm to acquire a stunning array of some of the most ornamental temperate plants to be found anywhere in the world. Trees, shrubs, bamboos and climbers became the mainstays. In 1953, Harold founded the present day Sir Harold Hillier Gardens (he received a knighthood in 1983 for services to horticulture) and in 1977, nearly 25

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*“This noble abode constitutes one of the greatest collections of woody plants in the country, if not the world.”*

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years after the first plantings, Harold gave his plant collection to Hampshire County Council to be held by them as a charitable trust. It is their commitment that has helped to develop the unique collection of some 42,000 plants (12,000 different types) cultivated on 73 well laid out hectares (180 acres).

Although woody plants by far constitute the bulk of the collection, herbaceous plants are there in some number. The layout of the grounds is very much on level land with prominent

areas around Jermyn's House (the former homestead), in a nearby rock garden scree area and in a rhododendron dell across the road (to list but a few). The plants within these bounds have been identified and named precisely which is in keeping with the Hillier tradition that the public be given the most up to date and accurate information on plants in the horticultural world

To supplement this reknowned collection, the book *Hillier Manual of Trees and Shrubs* (Hillier Nurseries 2007), first published in 1972, was produced to inventory and publicize a great number of the assembled plants. Today over 8000 plants representing 700 genera are definitively described, with horticultural accolades duly noted. This compact and comprehensive compilation is what many consider the bible when it comes to woody plant identification and recognition.

While rhododendrons are amply displayed in many parts of the garden, the Brentry Woodland across Jermyns Lane from the major portion of the garden contains some marvelous selections of the species. I trust that a few of my photographs will convey the flavor of this eminent garden.

#### Reference

Hillier Nurseries. 2007. *The Hillier Manual of Trees and Shrubs* (Hillier Gardener's Guide). David & Charles: 512 pp.

*Peter Kendall is a member of the Portland ARS Chapter.*

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### *The Olympics and the ARS – Going for the Gold! contined from page 211.*

above for the Silver Medal, but ask for the Gold instead. Send the packet to me and I will pass it along to the ARS's secret committee.

This year, and this year only, all packets are due at my office by December 15. Normally we would ask for all to be submitted before November 15, but we want to give everyone a little more time, just this

once. The Society will award up to two Gold and up to three Silver Medals in a given year. It's easy, fun, and what better time to make someone feel warm and fuzzy, including those who take the time to put together these special proposals of "Thank You"!

*Dee Daneri is a member of the Eureka Chapter and is Honors Committee Chair.*

# Adrien Franchet (18 April 1834 – 12 February 1900)

Marc Colombel  
Fouesnant (Brittany)  
France



When you read a book about rhododendron species, often you see reference to “Franch,” such as *Rhododendron selense* Franch. or *R. sanguineum* Franch.

The term “Franch,” short for Adrien Franchet, was a famous French taxonomist who examined, studied and classified, according to the I.P.N.I. (International Plant Names Index, <http://www.ipni.org/>), 3905 species, including 175 rhododendrons. French missionaries were amongst the first explorers in China and they sent all kinds of natural things (animals, minerals and plants) to the Museum National d’Histoire Naturelle in Paris. These missionaries included Father Jean André Soulié, honoured by *R. souliei*, Father Jean Marie Delavay, honoured by *R. arboreum* ssp. *delavayi*, Father Jean-Pierre Armand David, honoured by *R. davidii*, and so on for Father Ducloux, Father Farges, Father Faurie, Father Vial and Father Genestier.

In 2004 while writing an article (Colombel 2004) for the Société Bretonne du Rhododendron, I wondered why

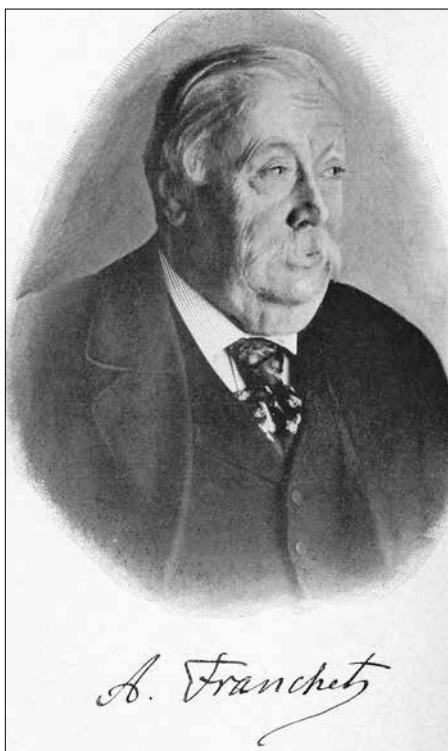


Fig. 1: Adrien Franchet.

there is now no rhododendron named after Franchet, since he was instrumental in naming so many rhododendrons. There were 141 species named after him, including *Peucedanum franchetii* (Apiaceae), *Indigofera franchetii* (Fabaceae), *Rubus franchetianus* (Rosaceae), *Arisaema franchetianum* (Araceae), and one rhododendron (Ericaceae), *Rhododendron franchetianum* H.Lév. by Father Lévillé. However, *R. franchetianum* is now

considered a synonym of *R. decorum* Franch. ssp. *decorum* (Chamberlain et al. 1996). Bad luck!

I thought it was curious that Professor Bureau, who described only a few rhododendrons with Franchet, such as *R. primuliflorum* Bureau & Franch., was honoured with *R. bureavii* Franch. and that another well-known taxonomist, Sir Isaac Balfour, Franchet’s contemporary, was honoured with *R. balfourianum* Diels.

I concluded my earlier article (Colombel 2004) with “It seems Adrien Franchet was the only one of this time without a rhododendron at his name.” To me, this was unfair.

It took me more than ten years to find a rhododendron cultivar that I felt was worthy of this exceptional man. The rhododendron cultivar ‘Adrien Franchet’ was registered by myself on June 27, 2011. It is a bright coloured plant: its corollas are a harmonious mixture of yellow, orange and red; its pedicels and petioles are red and the plant is laden with flowers. (See photo on page 235.)

## References

- Chamberlain, D., R. Hyam, G. Argent, G. Fairweather and K.S. Walter. 1996. *The Genus Rhododendron. Its classification and synonymy*. Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh: 181 pp.
- Colombel, M. 2004. *Adrien Franchet*. <http://www.rhododendron.fr/articles/article42.pdf>
- Cox, P.A. and K.N.E. Cox. 2004. *The Encyclopedia of Rhododendron Species*. Glendoick Pub., Perth, Scotland : 416 pp.
- Davidian, H.H. 1989. *The Rhododendron Species*, Vol. II – Elepidotes. Part 1 – Arboreum-Lacteam. Timber Press, Portland, OR: 344 pp.

*Marc Colombel is a member of the ARS Scottish Chapter and received the ARS Silver Medal in 2008. He founded the Société Bretonne du Rhododendron (a separate French rhododendron society) and was its President for 14 years.*

## DIAGNOSE LATINE.

**Ramis griseis; foliis petiolatis, glabris, oblongo-lanceolatis, obtusis, subtus glaucis, margine revolutis, floribus 8-12; pedicellis 3 cm. longis, hispidis, corolla 3-4 cm. longa, alba, ad partem superiorem leviter punctata; staminibus 10 inclusis et inaequalibus; stylo villosa staminibus multo longiore et corollam æquante, stigmatibus capitatis; ovario villosa; capsula lignea, styli basi persistente; seminibus ex omni parte irregulariter alata.**

Fig. 2. The original description of *R. franchetianum* by Father Lévillé.



# Fragrance in Vireyas

Jane Adams  
Pahoa, Hawaii



Photos by the Author

Vireyas are especially blessed with species that yield fragrance in their crosses, so it's an aspect of plant choice that is highly important to many fanciers. As more and more hybridizers focus on locking in fragrance, and the crosses get more complex, we're looking at a very promising future!

While I'm not a botanist nor an academic, the subject of fragrance is a fascinating topic to explore, not the least because it is a very subjective experience. Each person coming through the gardens has a different reaction to the fragrant vireyas that happen to be in bloom. One person doesn't care for *R.* 'Cyril', and the next person may find it the very best! Believe it or not, there are even a few people who don't want fragrance as they react badly to it.

Have you ever read a wine bottle description of the aromas associated with a particular wine? I recently read one that talked about aromas of citrus, melons and flowers. When it comes to taste, the label talked about pear, melons, apple and lavender. Sounded great! Now, we don't taste our vireyas—bad idea—but we do catch and bask in their fragrance! Some are subtle with sweetness and spice, and some are like sticking your nose in a bowl of cinnamon, nutmeg and cloves.

What affects the level of fragrance other than parentage? These are a few observations from our trade wind-dominated and frequently rainy East Hawai'i weather. A damp atmosphere after a rainy morning will suppress all but the



'Cyril'.



'Sweet Wendy'.



*R. polyanthemum*.



'Saint Cecelia'.



'Love-me-true'\*.



'Sweet Jane'\*.



'Thirtieth of June'\*.



'Pink Swan'\*.

most vigorous fragrances. More sunshine as the buds are opening will increase fragrance, just as it does the color and size of the flowers. In some cases, when a plant is young and has only bloomed a couple of times, often the fragrance does not come out very strongly. Such was the case with 'Sweet Wendy'—a wonderfully subtle pale yellow with a pale purple/

pink halo. I'd always considered it not fragrant, until I was deadheading it about a year ago. The plant is nearly five years in the ground, head height, and gets totally covered in trusses. I thought the fragrance was coming from the nearby 'Pink Swan'\* , but observed that it wasn't in bloom. It was 'Sweet Wendy' putting on a fragrance "show."

Whites and pinks, large and small,



'Bernadette'\*.



'Aleksandr'\*.



'Marshall Pierce Madison' x Jake's *konori*. Seedling 1.



'Marshall Pierce Madison' x Jake's *konori*. Seedling 2.



'Marshall Pierce Madison' x Jake's *konori*. Seedling 3.



'Marshall Pierce Madison' x Jake's *konori*. Seedling 4.

subtle and strong. Those are the contrasts in fragrant vireyas. There's a working hypothesis that whites need to develop fragrance to attract pollinators. I can't think of a fragrant solid red, yellow, or *R. zoelleri* derived bi-colors. However, having recently discovered just how fragrant orange *R. polyanthemum* is, there are likely many surprises out there for us. I welcome any insight and look forward to great discoveries!

Certain species as parents give their hybrids fragrance: *R. konori*, *R. goodenoughii*, *R. loranthiflorum*, *R. leucogigas*, *R. polyanthemum*, *R. herzogii* and varieties of *R. jasmminiflorum*. There are undoubtedly more, but these are the main ones we find in our collections.

For examples of small whites, I looked at 'Aravir', 'Moonwood', 'Felicitas\*', 'Sweet

Jane\*', 'Gwenevere\*', and 'Ivory Coast\*'. The first three all have a combination of *R. konori* and *R. jasmminiflorum* in their parentage—that affects the fragrance and size of both the flower and plant. Some of the small whites also have hints of pink or yellow in them such as 'Bernadette\*', whose fragrance comes from *R. loranthiflorum* and *R. konori*. 'Sweet Jane\*' provides an example of what *R. herzogii* brings for fragrance.

The large whites, of which there are a number, are represented by 'Cyril', 'Lake Habbema', 'Saint Cecilia', 'Saint Gertrude\*', 'Sweet Vanilla\*', 'Semper Fidelis', 'Thirtieth of June\*', 'Love Me True\*', 'Iced Primrose', and 'Gardenia Odyssey'. While most of them have *R. konori*, many of these also have *R.*

*leucogigas*—a double dose of fragrance!

The small intense pinks include 'Pink Swan\*', 'Great Scent-sation', 'Queensland\*', and 'Kurt Herbert Adler'. Most of this group will have *R. konori* for the fragrance, but the pink colors come from having some *R. viriosum* in their background. These are some of the most spicy fragrance vireyas we have.

The large pinks (some with other colors present as well) include 'Aleksandr'\* [Note: Peter Sullivan named this plant for the writer Aleksandr Isayevich Solzhenitsyn], 'The Trophy\*', 'Doctor Herman Sleumer', 'Shantung Pink', 'Shantung Rose', 'Maneau Ra', 'Richard Marques\*', 'Rangitoto Rose\*', 'Rio Rita', an unnamed pink selection from *R. konori* known locally as "Konori Pinkie", 'Pink Jazz\*', 'Superfleur\*', and 'Mae West\*'. They range from highly subtle fragrance to wonderfully fragrant. They most often have *R. leucogigas* as a major part of their parentage, which gives them not only the large size, but very nice fragrance.

Finally there is a promising cross that is proving to be wonderfully fragrant. Six seedlings of a cross hybridized by Mitch Mitchell of Volcano, Hawai'i which we are testing has yielded a series of very nice and hugely-fragrant vireyas coming on.

The cross is 'Marshall Pierce Madison' x *R. konori*, Jake's selection\*. The history that is known of *R. konori*, Jake's selection\*, comes from Mitch: he had a close friend, Jake, who moved to Maui and was going to start growing vireyas. He acquired a number of them, and this was one that was obtained from the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in the mid- or late 1990s. Jake moved back to the mainland, and details about the plant were lost. To those who have it here in Hawai'i, it remains nick-named "Jake's Konori." As with most seedlings, each of the six is a bit different, but each has glorious fragrance! While distribution is years away, we're watching them carefully.

\* = unregistered cultivars.

*Jane Adams is a member of the Hawaii ARS Chapter and its newsletter editor.*

# ARS Chapters at Large



Paul Anderson  
Napa, California

The American Rhododendron Society is greatly enriched by having five Chapters at Large—those who are outside North America: Danish, Dutch, J.D. Hooker (Sikkim), Scottish and Swedish. It has been a pleasure to have been the Director of the Chapters at Large for the ARS for the past year. I have benefited in learning about their contributions to the purpose of the ARS—to encourage interest in and to disseminate knowledge about rhododendrons and azaleas.

The largest chapter, the Danish Chapter, has approximately 550 members with about 150 being members of the ARS. The members are mostly from Denmark and they have about five meetings a year and publish an outstanding newsletter (in Danish), *RhodoNyt*, four times a year. Ole Flindt is the current chapter president and has organized garden tours in Denmark, Germany, Scotland, and Sweden. Two of their members—Bent Ernebjerg and Ole Jonny Larsen—authored an informative article for the Winter 2011 *JARS* issue on “Scandinavian Biluoxueshan and Baima Shan Expedition 2010, Yunnan, China.” Another chapter member, Jen Christian Birck, authored an article in the same *JARS* issue titled “*Rhododendron roxieanum*’s Many Faces.” He also was the recipient of the ARS 2009 Gold Medal award for his contributions to the ARS. He has described several newer Danish rhododendron cultivars in *RhodoNyt* 2/11: *R.* ‘What a Dane’ (*(R. ambiguum* × *cinnabarinum* ssp. *xanthocodon* [previously *concatenans*]) × *cinnabarinum* ‘Nepal’) and *R.* ‘Tessa Dane’ (*R. campylogynum* × *brachyanthum* ssp. *hypolepidotum*).

It was my pleasure to meet several Danish Chapter members at the 75th Anniversary Conference of the German

Rhododendron Society in Bremen Germany in 2010, including Hans Eiberg whose garden I visited on a previous trip to Denmark in 1996, and I had a beautiful garden tour with Torben Stein, the chapter’s president from 1996-1998. Hans is conducting a beginner’s course on the basic facts about the genus *Rhododendron* for the Danish chapter.

The Danish Chapter of the ARS was formed in 1974 with Palle Kristerson as president and it has had a strong interest in species rhododendrons; members have been successful in growing many of the high altitude species in their gardens. I had the pleasure of meeting a group from the Danish Chapter in Sikkim in 2000 that had an alternate tour with our group from America and who under Britt Smith were searching for rhododendron species endemic to Sikkim. We compared notes to see which group had found the most species and where they were located.

The Scottish chapter is also a large chapter with 250 members, mostly from the UK, but some live in other European countries, Iceland, the USA, and Australia. The Scottish Chapter has made many important contributions to the ARS, including hosting one of the ARS conferences (the only one thus far overseas) in Oban, Scotland, in 1996. It also has an impressive number of members who have received ARS medals, with Kenneth Cox receiving the ARS Gold Medal in 2006, Dr. George Argent in 2001, David Chamberlain in 1996, Peter Cox in 1993, and H. H. Davidian in 1993. The ARS Silver award has been awarded to John Hammond in 2001, John Bashford in 1996, and H. H. Davidian in 1975, the latter being the only person to receive both the Gold and Silver ARS awards. Our Society has thus been greatly enhanced by the contributions of the Scottish Chapter.

The Scottish Chapter area includes the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh which has historically been the center

for rhododendron information and taxonomic classification of the genus. Since the plant collecting work of George Forrest in the early 20th century, Edinburgh has had a special connection with China. The Herbarium has specimens going back to the 17th century and contains two million specimens, and has the largest collection of Chinese plants outside of China. Since the first introductions of rhododendron species from China and the Himalayas. Edinburgh has been a principal center for the study and taxonomy of the species. Mr. H. H. Davidian was associated for over 40 years with the Royal Botanic Garden and authored three volumes of taxonomic treatment of the genus, with Volume III published in 1992. Mr. Davidian was always a welcome speaker at many ARS meetings and his description of plant differences among rhododendron species was helpful in knowing the genus better.

The Scottish Chapter continues to have an enviable schedule of activities: its 2011 autumn conference has two days with lectures and garden tours, and its spring 2012 meeting (May 5-6) with local garden visits is with the National show on the West coast of Scotland at Oban. This will be followed with a five day tour, May 23-27, to gardens in the northeast of Scotland, including Meikleour, Novar, Allengrange, Cowdor Castle, Blackhills, Kildrummy Castle, Hazelhead Park, Cruickshank Botanical Garden, Inchmarlo, Brechin Castle, Ascreavie and Christie’s Nursery. A very enticing tour, and other chapter members may wish to consider joining the Scottish chapter for this tour.

The Dutch Chapter of the ARS was formed in 1991 by 15 growers in the Boskoop area. The current president of the chapter is Wilbert Hetterscheid. The chapter publishes an informative journal, *Rhodo Mania*, and schedules garden tours, with the most recent tour being in July, 2011. I met one of the members of the

Dutch Chapter in Bremen 2010, Mr. Rinus Manders, who has sent me email photos of his lovely garden in bloom. He was involved with the excursion committee of the chapter. I had the privilege of touring the Keukehof Garden in April 2011 and found a large number of rhododendrons enhancing the bulbs in bloom.

The Swedish chapter president is Stephan Solomonsson who reported they had a really long winter last year. Sweden, however, is home to some beautiful gardens and selected rhododendrons enhance many of them. The Botanic Garden in Gothenburg with 432 acres (175 ha) is Sweden's greatest botanic garden and one of the finest in Europe, with the Rhododendron and Japanese Valleys dating from the 1950s. The chapter also has a dual membership, as do other chapters at large, and its membership is 16 Euros alone, and 40 Euros to also become a member of the ARS.

The J. D. Hooker Chapter (Sikkim) has sponsored outstanding activities this past year, including holding the Sikkim International Rhododendron Festival over one year, from April 25, 2010 to April 21, 2011, which summarised in the

*JARS* Summer 2010 issue. Other activities included introducing 150 new azalea cultivars to Sikkim from Oregon (Bovees Nursery), California, Belgium and New Zealand. Vireyas have also been added. In addition to the two endemic species to Sikkim (*R. vaccinoides* and *R. santapau*). The chapter promotes the hybridization of rhododendrons that would grow in lower and warmer areas around Gangtok and below. Species like *R. arboreum*, *R. maddenii*, and *R. formosum* are used as parent plants.

The current head of the forestry department in Sikkim is Sonam Lanchungpa, who is a strong promoter of rhododendrons and has had seven rhododendron sanctuaries established in Sikkim. A new book, *Sikkim - The World of Rhododendrons* by Keshab C. Pradhan, has been published in memory of Britt M. Smith who advocated preservation of rhododendrons in Sikkim as early as 1970.

The Royal Horticultural Society's *Rhododendrons, Camellias and Magnolias 2011* publication has an article "Sikkim and its Rhododendrons - 161 years after Joseph Dalton Hooker" by Veru Viraraghavan. This article is a six-page report

about the first week of the International Rhododendron Festival (April 23-30, 2010), with descriptions of tours and photos, and states "Sikkim deserves special attention of rhododendrons lovers with its seven sanctuaries established at different altitudes." We are indebted to this small chapter in strongly promoting interest in rhododendrons in their hospitable environment for rhododendrons. Keshab Pradhan, chapter president, received the ARS Gold medal in 2003.

Other non-chapter overseas ARS members that have received ARS medals over the years are Marc Colombel from France who received a Silver medal in 2008, and Hans Hochmann from Germany received an ARS Gold medal in 1996.

The ARS Chapters at Large provide an outstanding international contribution to the Society's purpose of encouraging interest and disseminate knowledge about rhododendrons and azaleas. We are greatly enriched by their contributions.

*Dr. Paul Anderson is the District Director for the Chapters at Large, and Carl Adam Lehmann is the Alternate Director.*

## Less Is More

(From *The Avant Gardener, New York, Vol.43(10)*)

It's very new, but it is overturning many principles of "modern" horticulture. Rhizosphere science—the study of the environment in which plant roots live—is questioning cherished ideas like "feeding" plants.

Not only do we not need to routinely fertilize plants, applying fertilizers can disrupt some amazing activities going on in the soil. Millions of organisms are at work in every cubic inch of soil, and roots are far from simple support-and-absorb structures. Interactions between roots and the biological life in the soil are so complex that some researchers, reports Michele

Owens in "Garden Design" (Box 8500, Winter Park, FL 32790), liken all this to the immense unceasing furor of the Internet.

The less the gardener interferes in these workings the better. Tilling, fertilizing and applying pesticides are intrusions into an intricate web of plant/microbe relationships. In recent years, gardeners have become aware of one of the most fascinating of these relationships: mycorrhizal fungi, which live in and on roots and send out filaments to bring their hosts nutrients from far and wide. An important study today is the investigation of compounds roots exude to attract and nourish microbes that protect them and boost their productivity.

Nature responds to interference in

many ways. Fertilizing woody plants has been shown many times to decrease their resistance to pests, diseases and drought. While annuals and vegetables need high fertility to support their fast growth, trees, shrubs and perennials are adapted to much smaller nutrient supplies.

Even annual flowers and vegetables, however, do well with very few added fertilizers if "fed" adequately with organic matter—compost, mulches, and animal and green manures. Experts say that as little as 1/4" to 1/3" of compost and manure worked into the upper soil will nourish even nitrogen-hungry lettuce and sweet corn.

# The Haag Legacy

*Reprinted from the Spring 2004 issue of the Journal American Rhododendron Society.*

Some fortunate, long-standing members of the American Rhododendron Society have had the opportunity to become acquainted with Russ and Velma Haag. The Haags' initial interest in rhododendrons dates back to 1952 and blossomed into a love affair that has spanned more than half a century. Although Russ passed away in 1995 at age 85, Velma (now 93) still actively continues to nurture their legacy, working in their garden every day—weather permitting.

During the course of those years, and especially after they retired to a magnificent piece of mountain acreage in North Carolina during the early 1970s, Russ and Velma did extensive hybridizing. Of over 15,000 seedlings put into the ground through the years, they registered only a handful of their crosses and unselfishly made them available to the general membership. These include 'Blue Ridge', 'Carolina Moon', 'Great Smoky', 'Cloud Nine', 'Golden Delicious', 'Good Fortune' and 'Whitewater North Carolina'. In addition to these varieties, there are over 1,000 other mature, unregistered hybrids flourishing today in the natural setting of the Haag RhodoGardens.

In the Springtime RhodoGardens is a feast for the eyes of any rhododendron lover. It is the result of a true lifetime passion Russ and Velma Haag have had for these marvelous plants. Each year Velma welcomes many visitors who come from throughout the country to enjoy the flowers. As a living memorial to their love of rhododendrons, Russ and Velma's son, Curt Haag, has recently created an Internet web site to share with you hundreds of photographs of the flowers and sites around the property.

\*Name is not registered.



Russ and Velma Haag in front of their North Carolina home. This picture was taken by *Money Guide* magazine in 1985 for a special issue on retirement planning. The Haags were among several couples from across the country whose stories were featured in an article entitled, "Picking The Place That's Perfect For You."

## RhodoGardens



Velma holding a beautiful yellow truss from an unregistered cross between 'Phipps Yellow' and *R. maximum*. This plant only started producing these great flowers after it was 15 years old.

## *In Memory* **Velma Haag**

October 28, 1910 – October 8, 2010

Velma has joined husband Russ in that special place where the rhododendrons bloom perpetually – and never need to be deadheaded.

Many of you have enjoyed visits to the Haag's Rhodogardens in Western North Carolina, and as the Haag children now live in other parts of the country, they will be selling the property where Russ and Velma spent their last 40 years. It is our great hope that our parents' rhododendron legacy will continue under new stewardship of buyers from within the rhododendron community.

The article on the facing page was first published in the Spring 2004 issue of The Journal.

While it provides a fascinating glimpse into the Haags' love affair with rhododendrons, the Rhodogardens web site ([www.Rhodogardens.com](http://www.Rhodogardens.com)) tells their whole story. And although the entire 170+ acre property with its 3200-foot mountaintop, 30-foot waterfall and 6-acre horse pasture may be financially beyond the reach of most, the Heart of the Property's 15 acres encompasses not only the entirety of the Haag hybridizing efforts, but also a veritable treasure of other unique plants, the Haag home, a lake and meadow, as well as three additional and very private, potential home sites for possible future development.

For those planning to attend the 2012 Annual Convention in Asheville, we're only an hour away and would welcome members to come view the property and gardens.

## Propagation by Cuttings

Reinhold Gorgosilich  
Nanaimo, BC,  
Canada



(From the Oct 2010 Nanaimo Chapter Newsletter)

### Taking cuttings:

1. Water plant well two days before taking cuttings. If cuttings are dry, completely submerge them in water for 18-24 hours.
2. If possible, avoid shoots with flower buds; if that is not feasible, remove flower buds.
3. Always remove terminal buds from Lepidote cuttings.
4. Use cuttings of average growth; don't use overly vigorous or thin / stunted.

5. If you can, take cuttings on the side of the plant away from the sun.
6. Take cuttings before 11 a.m.
7. Cut back to 6-13 mm (1/4 - 1/2 inch) above last season's growth (Elepidotes only).

### Preparing cuttings:

1. Leave three leaves; remove 50% of each leaf left. When removing leaves, do not leave any stalk.
2. Shorten cutting to no more than 10 cm long.
3. Wound stem.
4. Dip end into water, shake off surplus water.
5. Dip into rooting hormone, tap off surplus.
6. Use dibble to make hole in rooting medium, stick cutting, gently firm and water in.

### Interesting websites:

Propagating Rhodos by seed, cuttings and grafting:

*Quarterly Bulletin* of the ARS; Vol. 18, No.2

<http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JARS/v18n2/v18n2-lofthouse.htm>

*Quarterly Bulletin* of the ARS; Vol. 18, No.3

<http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JARS/v18n3/v18n3-lofthouse.htm>

*Quarterly Bulletin* of the ARS; Vol. 19, No.1

<http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JARS/v19n1/v19n1-lofthouse.htm>

Picasa Webalbum – Birck – great photos:  
<http://picasaweb.google.dk/birck.denmark/RhododendronAndPeat#>

# Winter Protection



Noni Godfrey  
Courtenay, BC,  
Canada

(From the Nov 2010 "Rhodoteller" newsletter of the North Island Chapter.)

**P**rotect your garden from winter weather. Avoid losing your plants to sun, wind and snow by taking preventive measures in the fall. Wrap plants loosely in a weatherproof fabric like burlap or remay to protect them from drying winds, and snow. Tie up or stabilize floppy branches, or protect from underneath to prevent cracking and splitting from the trunk. Pile leaves or compost on the crowns of perennials that are susceptible to winter temperatures. Dig and store those tubers and corms that need winter protection. A little prevention in the fall makes for less pruning and clearing in spring!

Rhododendrons are one reason gardeners love our area [the Pacific Northwest], and November is the best time to plant or replant these beauties. Plants put in the ground now establish

better and faster than those planted in the spring.

The general rule of thumb for planting (or transplanting) is that the later in spring you plant, the more you will have to water for the first year. Then once the plant takes hold, you should be able to resume a more normal watering schedule. They do have some specific needs to bear in mind as you choose the planting site.

**"WASH"** is the key. **"W"** for water—a minimum of one inch per week year-round, either from natural rain or from whatever method you have available. But a hot, dry site will not fill the bill regardless of the amount of water you want to pour into it. Conversely, rhodos don't like to have their roots in moist soil, so a well drained site is equally critical. **"A"** for acid—the soil should be in the pH range of 5.0 to 6.0. **"S"** for shade—a general rule of thumb is the larger the leaf, the more shade the plant will need. However, they do need some sun to flower well. For example, plants with a 13 cm (5 in) long leaf need an average of six hours of sunshine in mid-summer in order to set flower buds. This is somewhat modified in the case of red varieties, which seem to be more sun-tolerant than other colours, but in each case you might want to investigate the requirements of a particular plant you have chosen. And finally **"H"** is for humus content of the planting bed, which should be 50% of the backfill soil mix. This can be in the form of peat moss, compost, oak leaf mulch, shredded bark, or a combination of any of the above.

The planting hole does not need to be deep—usually about 30 cm (12 in) is sufficient, but should be at least three times as wide (some say five) as the existing rootball or container. This allows for humus rich area as the shallow, surface roots spread out. When placing the plant in the hole, be sure that it is no deeper than it was in the container. Some bone meal mixed in the backfill soil is good,

but no other fertilizer is needed at this time. Mulching with a nice fluffy layer of shredded bark or bark mixed with oak leaves will also be appreciated. (Oak leaves because they are acidic.)

If you have a rhodo that seems "sick," this would be a good time to try to correct the situation. Dig straight down at the drip line to a depth of about 30 cm (12 in). Small plants will be no problem to lift, but for a larger plant you may need to "lever" it out with the aid of a plank. Slide it onto a tarp for easy movement. If the site seems to have been the problem, consider changing the location. But if you can't, then make a properly amended hole and enlarge it more than you normally would widthwise. Replant and keep well watered. This will often do the trick, but do remember that plants are living things and there are some that are sickly and will never amount to much, so you may occasionally get one that resists all efforts. In this case, you may find that replacement is in order.

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# American Rhododendron Society

## Register of Plant Names and Checklist—Autumn 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, Cambridge CB1 2PZ, United Kingdom**, [alanleslie@rhs.org.uk](mailto:alanleslie@rhs.org.uk).

**Introduction:** The following rhododendron and azalea names were approved and added to the International Rhododendron Register prior to August 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 – 8th Edition* (2009). 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) 'Angelina Dee'**

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Edith Bosley' (s) X 'Edwin O. Weber'. H (2005), G (2009), N (2010) and REG (2011): John Doppel, Lenhartsville, PA. Fls 13/ball truss, broadly funnel-shaped, c2" (50mm) long x 2.6" (65mm) wide, with 5 wavy-edged lobes. Color deep purplish red (71A) in bud, opening inside light reddish purple (74C) with a large, prominent, spotted dorsal blotch of moderate yellow green (146C) on a paler (nearly white) background; outside light reddish purple

(74C). Truss 4.5" (115mm) high x 4.5" (115mm) wide. Lvs held 1 year, 3" x 1.2" (75 x 30mm); elliptic, broadly acute apex, rounded base, flat margins; semi-glossy and medium green above; hairless. Shrub 2' (0.6m) high x 2.5' (0.8m) wide in 10 years; dense habit. Plant and bud hardy to at least -10°F (-23°C). Flowering mid May.

### **(r) 'Aotearoa'**

Elepidote rhododendron: Parentage unknown. H (pre 1994) and G: Dr. Joseph Brueckner, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada; N (2010), I, and REG (2011): Christina Woodward, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada. Fls 10/lax truss, openly funnel-shaped, 2.2"-2.4" (55-60mm) long x 2.4" (60mm) wide, with 6 wavy-edged lobes. Color deep pink (51B-C) in bud, opening inside pale yellow green (4D) with a strong yellow green (145A) spotted blotch; outside pale yellow green (4D). Truss 4"-4.4" (100-110mm) high x 6.4"-8" (160-200mm) wide. Lvs held 3-4 years, .6" x 2.2" (150 x 55mm), elliptic, broadly acute apex, rounded base, flat margins; semi-glossy and moderate olive green (147A) above; hairless. Shrub 5.9' (1.8m) high x 7.2' (2.2m) wide in 25 years; intermediate habit; tolerant of extended periods of temperatures to 90°F (32°C). Plant and bud hardy to at least -25°F (-32°C). Flowering early May to early June.

### **(r) 'Austin's Firecracker'**

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Red River' (s) X 'John Paul II'. H (2001), G (2005), N (2011) and REG (2011): John Doppel, Lenhartsville, PA. Fls 10/ball truss, broadly funnel-shaped, c3" (75mm) long x 2.8" (70mm) wide, with 5 wavy-edged lobes. Color red in bud, opening inside close to deep pink (52B) at margins, and changing to white in the center of each petal, with brilliant orange yellow (21B)



spotting on the dorsal lobe; outside red. Truss 4" (100mm) high x 5" (125mm) wide. Lvs held 1 year, 4.5" x 1.8" (115 x 45mm); elliptic, broadly acute apex, rounded base, decurved margins; dull and olive green above; hairless. Shrub 2.5' (0.8m) high x 3' (0.9m) wide in 10 years; open habit. Plant and bud hardy to at least -10°F (-23°C). Flowering late May.

**(a) 'Cape Cod'**

Evergreen azalea: 'Wakaebisu' (s) X 'Gumpo White'. H (1974-5), G (1977), N (c1980), and REG (2011): Sandra McDonald, Hampton, VA. Fls solitary, broadly funnel-shaped, hose-in-hose; corolla 1.4" (35mm) long x 2.4" (60mm) wide, with (5+5) wavy-edged lobes. Color white in bud, opening inside and out white, tinged pale green near base; unmarked. Spring lvs c1.5" x 0.5" (40 x 15mm), elliptic, broadly acute apex, cuneate base, flat margins; semi-glossy and moderate olive green (137A) above, with very pale tan hairs on upper and lower surfaces. Summer lvs obovate and smaller, with pale tan hairs on blade surfaces. Shrub 3.7' (1.1m) tall x 6' (1.8m) wide in 35 years; intermediate habit and very floriferous. Plant and bud hardy to 10°F (-12°C). Flowering late May.

**(r) 'Carl Peter'**

Elepidote rhododendron: 'September Song' (s) X 'White Dimples'. H (1997): Tom Ahern, Bethlehem, PA; G (2000), N (2011) and REG (2011): John Doppel, Lenhartsville, PA. Fls 10/ball truss, broadly funnel-shaped, c1.8" (45mm) long x 3" (75mm) wide, with 5 wavy-edged lobes. Color moderate purplish pink (54D) in bud, opening inside white with a light greenish yellow (8C) throat and a dorsal blotch of discrete brilliant greenish yellow (151D) spots; outside white. Truss 5.5" (140mm) high x 5" (125mm) wide. Lvs held 2 years, 4.5" x 2" (115 x 50mm); elliptic, obtuse apex, rounded base, upcurved margins; semi-glossy medium green above; hairless. Shrub 5' (1.5m) high x 5.5' (1.7m) wide in 17 years;

intermediate habit. Plant and bud hardy to at least -10°F (-23°C). Flowering mid May.

**(r) 'Cranberry Ice'**

Elepidote rhododendron: Parentage unknown; grown from seed collected at Muckross Gardens, Ireland (June, 1990). G (2011), N and REG (2011): Robert George, Sammamish, WA. Fls 9+/ball truss, funnel-campanulate, 2" (50mm) long x 3" (75mm) wide, with 6-7 wavy-edged lobes. Color cranberry red in bud, opening inside deep red in the throat, paling rapidly to pale pink lobes; outside red at base, paling more gradually to pale pink lobes; no markings. Truss 4" (100mm) high x 4" (100mm) wide. Lvs held 2-3+ years, 6" x 2" (150 x 50mm); elliptic, broadly acute apex, rounded base; semi-glossy and deep green above; hairless. Shrub 10'-12' (3-3.7m) high x 5' (1.5m) wide in 21 years; open habit.; grown in deep shade until this year. Plant and bud hardy to 15°F (-9°C). Flowering mid May.

**(r) 'Dave's Delight'**

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Newburyport Belle' (s) X 'Olin O. Dobbs'. H (2004), G (2007), N (2011) and REG (2011): John Doppel, Lenhartsville, PA. Fls 10/ball truss, broadly funnel-shaped, c1.8" (45mm) long x 2.8" (70mm) wide, with 5 flat-edged lobes. Color vivid reddish purple (72B) in bud, opening inside very light purple edged with a broad band of strong reddish purple (70B), and with a dense, dark red (187A) basal blotch having numerous spots of the same color extending upwards on the dorsal and two adjacent lobes; outside moderate purplish pink (74C). Truss 4" (100mm) high x 5" (125mm) wide. Lvs held 2 years, 4.5" x 1.5" (115 x 40mm); elliptic, broadly acute apex, rounded base, downcurved margins; semi-glossy and medium green above; hairless. Shrub 2.5' (0.8m) high x 2.3' (0.7m) wide in 7 years; intermediate habit. Plant and bud hardy to at least -10°F (-23°C). Flowering mid May.

**(r) 'Fay Dee'**

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Diane's Delight' (s) X 'Cape White'. H (2007), G (2010), N (2011) and REG (2011): John Doppel, Lenhartsville, PA. Fls 9/ball truss, broadly funnel-shaped, c1.8" (45mm) long x 2.8" (70mm) wide, with 5 wavy-edged lobes. Color strong purplish red (67A) in bud, opening inside vivid purplish red (57C) with a prominent, dense, dorsal blotch of moderate purplish red (186A) spots; outside vivid red (57A). Truss 4.5" (115mm) high x 5" (125mm) wide. Lvs held 1 year, 6" x 2" (150 x 50mm); elliptic, broadly acute apex, rounded base, downcurved margins; glossy and dark green above; hairless. Shrub 2' (0.6m) high x 2.5' (0.8m) wide in 5 years; intermediate habit. Plant and bud hardy to at least -10°F (-23°C). Flowering mid May.

**(r) 'Forbidden Plateau'**

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Courtenay Queen' (s) X *R. fortunei*. H (2005), G (2009), N (2011) and REG (2011): Harry Wright, Courtenay, BC, Canada. Fls 9/dome truss, openly funnel-shaped, c2.4" (60mm) long x 3.6" (90mm) wide, with 7 wavy-edged lobes. Color cream with a touch of pink in bud, opening inside white and changing to light pink with a pale yellow throat, a dark green eye, and some inconspicuous light green spots on the dorsal lobe; outside white changing to light pink. Calyx lobes 0.2" (5mm) long, light green. Truss 5.2" (130mm) high x 5.2" (130mm) wide. Lvs held 2 years, 6.8" x 2.4" (170 x 60mm); oblong, obtuse apex, rounded base, decurved margins; semi-glossy green above; hairless. Shrub 2' (0.6m) high x 1' (0.3m) wide in 6 years; intermediate habit. Plant and bud hardy to at least -5°F (-21°C). Flowering early May.

**(r) 'Holly's Choice'**

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Blue Peter' (s) X 'White Dimples'. H (1994), G (1999), N (2001) and REG (2011): John Doppel, Lenhartsville, PA. Fls 12/

ball truss, broadly funnel-shaped, c1.8" (45mm) long x 3" (75mm) wide, with 5 wavy-edged lobes. Color strong purplish red (67A) in bud, opening inside white with a continuous band of very light purple (76B) at the margins, and some strong greenish yellow (153C) spotting on the dorsal lobe; outside white edged very light purple (76B). Truss 4.5" (115mm) high x 5" (125mm) wide. Lvs held 1 year, 5" x 2" (125 x 50mm); elliptic, broadly acute apex, rounded base, flat margins; semi-glossy and dark green above; hairless. Shrub 6' (1.8m) high x 4' (1.2m) wide in 16 years; intermediate habit. Plant and bud hardy to at least -10°F (-23°C). Flowering early May.

**(r) 'Johann Darney'**

Elepidote rhododendron: Parentage unknown. H (2004), G, N (2011) and REG (2011): Charles O. Darney III, Parkersburg, PA. Fls 9/dome truss, broadly funnel-shaped, 2.5" (65mm) long x 1.5" (40mm) wide, with 6-7 wavy-edged lobes; strongly scented. Color light purple (close to 75A-76A) in bud, opening inside white, edged pale purplish pink (close to (65D)), with a yellowish throat; outside white tinged pale purplish pink. Calyx lobes c0.1" (3mm) long, green. Truss 4" (100mm) high x 7" (175mm) wide. Lvs held 2+ years, 8" x 3.5" (200 x 90mm); oblong, broadly acute apex, oblique base, upcurved margins; moderate green with randomly distributed darker reddish markings above; hairless. Shrub intermediate habit, 8' (2.4m) high x 6' (1.8m) wide in 10 years. Plant and bud hardy to at least -5°F (-21°C). Flowering mid May.

**(r) 'John's Flare'**

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Capistrano' (s) X 'Furnivall's Daughter'. H (2004), G (2008), N (2011) and REG (2011): John Doppel, Lenhartsville, PA. Fls 12/ball truss, broadly funnel-shaped, c2" (50mm) long x 2.5" (65mm) wide, with 5 wavy-edged lobes. Color light greenish yellow (8C) in bud, opening inside pale yellow

green (4D) with a large, prominent, vivid red (44A), spotted dorsal flare; outside pale yellow green (4D). Truss 4.5" (115mm) high x 5" (125mm) wide. Lvs held 2 years, 4" x 1.5" (100 x 40mm); elliptic, broadly acute apex, rounded base, flat margins; semi-glossy and medium green above; hairless. Shrub 1.2' (0.36m) high x 1.3' (0.4m) wide in 7 years; intermediate habit. Plant and bud hardy to at least -10°F (-23°C). Flowering mid May.

**(v) 'Kane Boy'**

Vireya (lepidote) rhododendron: *R. konori* (s) X ['Doctor Herman Sleumer' x (*R. macgregoriae* x *R. aurigeranum*)]. H (pre 2008), G (2008), N (2011), and REG (2011): R.A. "Mitch" Mitchell, Volcano, HI; I (2013): Pacific Island Nursery, Ke'a'au, HI. Fls 7-10/conical truss, tubular funnel-shaped, 3" (75mm) long x 2.5" (65mm) wide, with 6 wavy-edged lobes lightly scented. Color of flowers opening inside light greenish yellow (3D) in center, blending through a yellowish pink to moderate purplish pink (54D) lobes; outside pink at base shading to yellowish pink and finally to moderate purplish pink (54D) lobes; no markings; stigma: light green; style: yellowish green at base, shading into greenish pink; anther: brown; filament: light yellow at base, shading into red. Truss 4.5" (115mm) high x 8.6" (215mm) wide. Lvs 5.5" x 2.4" (140 x 60mm); elliptic, acuminate apex, cuneate base, slightly upcurved margins; glossy and dark green (135A) above; dull and moderate yellow green (146C) below; center vein light reddish purple; no indumentum visible. Shrub 2.3' (0.7m) high x 1.5' (0.5m) wide in 13 years; intermediate habit. Plant and bud hardy to at least 38°F (3°C). Flowering in March and July. (Note: 'Kane' is pronounced Kan-ee)

**(r) 'Leitmotif'**

Elepidote rhododendron: *R. aureum* var. *aureum* (s) X *R. aureum* var. *aureum* x *R. brachycarpum* 'Montanum'. H (pre 1994) and G: Dr. Joseph Brueckner; N (2010):

Marta Brueckner; I and REG (2011): Christina Woodward; all Mississauga, Ontario, Canada. Fls 12/dome truss, funnel-campanulate, 1.6"-2.5" (40-65mm) long x 2" (50mm) wide, with 5 frilly-edged lobes. Color strong purplish red (64B) in bud, opening inside dark red (59A) and strong purplish red (59D), then fading to nearly white; the throat flushed light pink with a blotch and spots of deep greenish yellow (153A) and strong greenish yellow (153B); outside the upper half very pale purple (69B), the lower half deepening to strong purplish pink (63C), and with a longitudinal streak of moderate purplish pink (62B) reaching the tip of the lobe. Note: on some lobes the stamen and pistil are enclosed at the base by 2 tiny petals, very pale purple (69B). Truss 2.8"-3.2" (70-80mm) high x 5.2" (130mm) wide. Lvs held 3-4 years, .4"-4.4" x 2.4" (100-110 x 60mm), orbicular, obtuse apex, cordate base, flat margins; glossy and moderate olive green (147A) above; hairless. Shrub 5.9' (1.8m) high x 10.1' (3.1m) wide in 41 years; dense habit. Plant and bud hardy to at least -25°F (-32°C). Flowering mid to late May.

**(r) 'Martha Player'**

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Mrs Sam'\* (s) X *R. hyperythrum* (Nelson). H (1998), G (c2002), N and REG (2011): Lonnie M. Player, Fayetteville, NC. Fls 20-26/ball truss, openly funnel-shaped, 2" (50mm) long x 3" (75mm) wide, with 5 wavy-edged lobes. Color moderate purplish pink (62B) in bud, opening inside white with a prominent double flare of deep purplish red (59B) spots on the dorsal lobe, and a small green eye at the base; outside, white. Calyx lobes c0.1" (3mm) long, light yellow green (145C). Truss 6.6" (165mm) high x 7" (175mm) wide. Lvs held 2 years, 4.5" x 1.5" (115 x 40mm); elliptic, broadly acute apex, cuneate base, decurved margins; semi-glossy and moderate olive green (147A) above; hairless. Shrub 5.5' (1.7m) high x 7' (2.2m) wide in 13 years; intermediate habit; heat tolerant during a week or more

of temperatures as high as 100°F (38°C). Flowering mid April.

**(r) 'Mimi's Pride'**

Lepidote rhododendron: PJM Group (s) X Unknown. H (1980), G (1987), N (2011) and REG (2011): Miriam L. Wolin, East Brunswick, NJ. Fls solitary, broadly funnel-shaped, 1" (25mm) long x 1.5" (40mm) wide, with 5 slightly wavy-edged lobes. Color deep reddish purple in bud, opening inside a rather vivid reddish purple throughout; outside slightly darker than inside. Calyx lobes c0.2" (5mm) long, light green and tan. Lvs held 1 year, 1.25" x 0.6" (30 x 15mm), elliptic, acute

apex, rounded base, upcurved margins; glossy and dark green above; with tiny dark scales visible with a 10X hand lens on underside of lvs along mid-vein, and on pedicel. Shrub 4.5' (1.4m) high x 6' (1.8m) wide in 30 years; intermediate habit. Plant hardy to at least -10°F (-23°C); buds, 28°F (-2°C). Flowering early April.

**(r) 'Morning Melody'**

Elepidote rhododendron: Parentage unknown. H (1998), G (2004), N (2009) and REG (2011): John Doppel, Lenhartsville, PA. Fls 14/ball truss, broadly funnel-shaped, c2.4" (60mm) long x 3"

(75mm) wide, with 5-7 wavy-edged lobes. Color vivid reddish orange (34B) in bud, opening inside light yellowish pink (26D) with a very large, prominent, spotted, strong red (41B) blotch covering most of the dorsal lobe as well as portions of the adjacent lobes; outside light yellowish pink (26D). Truss 6" (150mm) high x 7" (175mm) wide. Lvs held 1 year, 6" x 2" (150 x 50mm); elliptic, broadly acute apex, rounded base, decurved margins; dull and medium green above; hairless. Shrub 5' (1.5m) high x 5' (1.5m) wide in 12 years; intermediate habit. Plant and bud hardy to at least -10°F (-23°C). Flowering early May.

**(r) 'Paradise Meadows'**

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Haida Gold' (s) X 'Golden Star'. H (1991), G (1996), N (2011) and REG (2011): Harry Wright, Courtenay, BC, Canada. Fls 12/dome truss, funnel-campanulate, c1.5" (40mm) long x 2.8" (70mm) wide, with 6 wavy-edged lobes. Color opening inside light yellow with light green spots on dorsal lobe; outside, yellow tinged amber. Calyx lobes 0.1" (2.5mm) long, green. Truss 4" (100mm) high x 6" (150mm) wide. Lvs held 2 years, 4.4" x 1.8" (110 x 45mm); oblong, obtuse apex, oblique base, flat margins; semi-glossy and mid green above; hairless. Shrub 3.3' (1.0m) high x 2.6' (0.8m) wide in 18 years. Plant and bud hardy to at least -5°F (-21°C). Flowering early May.

**(r) 'Paul Dee'**

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Calsap' (s) X 'Janet Blair'. H (2001), G (2003), N (2011) and REG (2011): John Doppel, Lenhartsville, PA. Fls 15/ball truss, broadly funnel-shaped, c1.8" (45mm) long x 3" (75mm) wide, with 5 wavy-edged lobes. Color deep purplish pink (70C) in bud, opening inside white, shading to very light purple (75C) at margins, with an elongated, prominent, dark red (183A) spotted dorsal blotch; outside very light purple (75C). Truss 5" (125mm) high x 5" (125mm) wide. Lvs



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held 2 years, 4.5" x 1.5" (115 x 40mm); elliptic, broadly acute apex, rounded base, slightly decurved margins; semi-glossy and olive green above; hairless. Shrub 2.5' (0.8m) high x 3.5' (1.1m) wide in 10 years; dense habit. Plant and bud hardy to at least -10°F (-23°C). Flowering mid May.

**(r) 'Sharon Rose Smith'**

Elepidote rhododendron: Parentage unknown. H (c2000), G (2006), N and REG (2011): Parker Smith, Santa Monica, CA. Fls 12/ball truss, openly funnel-shaped, c2.8" (70mm) long x 3.2" (80mm) wide, with 7 wavy-edged lobes. Color strong red (53D) in bud, opening inside brilliant yellow (9C) to pale greenish yellow (9D) in center, with light yellowish pink (36C) edges on all lobes and sparse vivid yellow (14A) spotting on three dorsal lobes; outside light orange yellow (16C) at base, shading to light orange yellow (16B) at outer edges; pedicels red. Calyx lobes c0.1-0.2" (3-6mm) long; green with some red edges. Truss 6" (150mm) high x 7" (175mm) wide. Lvs held 2 years, 6" x 2.5" (150 x 65mm), oblong, obtuse apex, rounded base, flat margins; dull and moderate olive green (146A) above; hairless. Shrub 6' (1.8m) high x 5' (1.5m) wide in 10 years; dense habit. Plant hardy to at least 20°F (-7°C); buds, 26°F (-3°C). Flowering early April.

**(r) 'Silvia Marie'**

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Janet Blair' (s) X 'Purple Lace'. H (2001), G (2005), N (2011) and REG (2011): John Doppel, Lenhartsville, PA. Fls 20/ball truss, broadly funnel-shaped, c2" (50mm) long x 3" (75mm) wide, with 5 wavy-edged lobes. Color vivid reddish purple (74A) in bud, opening inside light reddish purple (74C) at margins and fading lighter towards mid-rib and base, with dorsal blotch of small, discrete, strong greenish yellow (153C) spots; outside light reddish purple (74C). Truss 5.5" (140mm) high x 7.6" (190mm) wide. Lvs held 2 years, 6" x 2" (150 x 50mm); elliptic, broadly acute

**ARS SEED EXCHANGE**

The Seed Exchange wishes to thank each of you who donate seed to the exchange and for making it possible for us to have had another successful year.

The 2012 ARS Seed List and order form will be available electronically for members from January 1st through April 1st at the ARS web page:

<http://www.rhododendron.org/seedexchange.htm>

or for Danish members:


[http://www.rhododendron.dk/ARS\\_seed-2012.html](http://www.rhododendron.dk/ARS_seed-2012.html)

Sales to non-members and the public will be open after April 1st.

A printed catalog seed list/order form will be available to ARS members without internet service and also to those who make their requests to the address below. Seed distribution will begin on or before February 1st.

Norman Beaudry, Chairman  
ARS Seed Exchange

*At this writing, the Seed Exchange has received requests from two Scottish explorers to help fund collection trips to China (S.W. Yunnan, South Yunnan and N.E. Guangsi) and Vietnam (N.W. Lao Cai province, N.E. Ha Giang province) and to China. However, as of this writing in early September, no final commitments have been made.*



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apex, rounded base, decurved margins; semi-glossy and medium green above; hairless. Shrub 3' (0.9m) high x 3' (0.9m) wide in 10 years; intermediate habit. Plant and bud hardy to at least -10°F (-23°C). Flowering late May.

### (r) 'Triple A'

Lepidote rhododendron: *R. minus* Carolinianum Group (pink form) (s) X *R. impeditum* (Comerford selection). H (1970) and G: Dr. Joseph Brueckner; N (2010): Adam Brueckner, Andrea Keefe, and Andrew Woodward; I, and REG (2011): Christina Woodward; all Mississauga, Ontario, Canada. Fls 3-5/ dome truss, campanulate, 2"-2.6" (50-65mm) long x 1.2"-1.6" (30-40mm) wide, with 5 frilly-edged lobes. Color strong purple (83C), vivid violet (87A), or vivid purple (87B) in bud, opening inside vivid violet (87A) and light purple (87C), unmarked; outside vivid violet (87A) and light purple (87C). Truss 4" (100mm) high x 5" (125mm) wide. Lvs held at least 3 years, .0.6" x 0.4" (15 x 10mm), elliptic, broadly acute apex, rounded base, flat margins; semi-glossy and moderate olive green (147A) above; with tiny scales visible with a hand lens on underside of lvs. Shrub 2' (0.6m) high x 2' (0.6m) wide in 40 years; dense habit. Plant and bud hardy to at least -20°F (-29°C). Flowering mid May.

### (a) 'Zoe Elizabeth Stoltz'

Evergreen azalea: 'Carol Kittel' (s) X 'Girard's Fuchsia'. H (1998), G (2000), N (2011) at the request of Ken Stoltz, and REG (2011): Joseph Klimavicz, Vienna, VA. Fls 2-3/terminal, saucer-shaped, semi-double; corolla 1.5" (40mm) long x 2.8" (70mm) wide, with 13 wavy-edged lobes. Color of buds vivid reddish purple (78A) with white along center of petals, opening inside strong reddish purple (78B) at edge of each lobe, fading to white in center of corolla, with slight spotted blotch of moderate purplish red (58A) on dorsal lobes; outside strong reddish purple (78B) with white along center of

petals. Calyx lobes 0.4" (10mm) long; light yellow green (145D). Lvs 1.8" x 0.8" (45 x 20mm), elliptic, broadly acute apex, cuneate base, flat margins; glossy and moderate olive green (146A).above. Shrub 1.5' (0.5m) tall x 1.5' (0.5m) wide in 5 years; dense habit and very floriferous. Plant and bud hardy to 0°F (-18°C). Flowering early May.

The following unregistered name appears as a parent for one of the above entries: 'Mrs Sam': Elepidote rhododendron; parentage is believed to be *R. catawbiense* X *R. maximum*.

## Register photos on next page



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'Cape Cod'. Description on page 230. Photo by Sandra McDonald.



'Cranberry Ice'. Description on page 230. Photo by Robert George.

# The Azalea 'Abigail Adams'

Pete Littlefield  
Holliston,  
Massachusetts



Photos by the Author

(Modified from the Massachusetts Chapter's March 2011 newsletter.)

The Massachusetts Chapter's Display Garden (Payton Garden) at Elm Bank contains five 'Abigail Adams' evergreen azaleas that have been planted in a row along the northwest edge of the center island. 'Abigail Adams' is a rapidly growing evergreen azalea with bright pink flowers and was introduced by Weston Nurseries. It is a 1978 open pollinated hybrid of 'Royal Pillow' and was named for the Abigail Adams Historical Society in Weymouth. 'Royal Pillow' is an open-pollinated Weston hybrid—*R. yedoense* var. *poukhanense* × 'Vuyk's Scarlet'.

Our five plants are now approximately 4 feet (1.2 m) tall and about the same width and when they bloom they provide a spectacular pink mass in the garden. The habit and flower are shown in the first two figures. Many of us know that the number of flowers on our azaleas is influenced by sun exposure. However, it may not be as apparent that sun exposure can affect the winter color of the foliage as well. The 'Abigail Adams' in the Display Garden are essentially in full sun, while the same plant in my own yard gets only a few hours of direct sun in the morning. The third figure shows the azaleas in the Display Garden in November with beautiful maroon foliage (the yellow foliage in the background belongs to 'Delaware Valley White'). The fourth figure shows the 'Abigail Adams' at my home with a little red in the foliage but mostly browns and yellows. The last photo was taken on the same date as that in the Display Garden photo. So, if I can just get a little more sun on my Abigail Adams!

*Pete Littlefield is a member of the Massachusetts Chapter.*

## Adrien Franchet

(Continued from page 221.)



Fig. 3. Rhododendron 'Adrien Franchet'.



Figure 1.



Figure 2.



Figure 3.



Figure 4.

Hardy Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Shrubs, Trees & Perennials.



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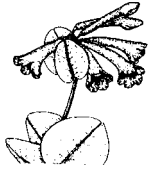
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# Heritage Museums and Gardens, 2011: Elepidote Introductions

Norman Beaudry  
Bethesda, Maryland



The Sandwich Club and the Heritage Museums and Gardens are introducing three rhododendron hybrids in 2011. They have been registered as ‘Heritage Snow Ruby’, ‘Heritage Campfire Peach’ and ‘Heritage Pastel Perfume’ (see photos in the summer 2011 issue of *JARS*, p. 175).

In 1988, a group of East Coast rhododendron enthusiasts, under the tutelage of Donald Kellam from North Carolina and Richard Gustafson from New Jersey, petitioned the ARS Board of Directors and the Heritage Plantation (now Heritage Museums and Gardens) horticulturist, Jeanie Gillis, for permission to evaluate a group of rhododendrons hybridized by John [Jack] C. Cowles of Stow, Massachusetts, during his reign from 1959 until 1967 as Dexter Estate Horticulturist. Both groups agreed and the “Sandwich Club” was formed, so

named to associate it with the small Cape Cod town of Sandwich, MA. During this time, upwards of 2000 rhododendrons from Jack’s breeding program were planted and grown out in the surrounding woods at Heritage. There they have grown for forty-five years, for the most part having been left unattended. The maritime Cape Cod climate is mild by U.S. East Coast standards and is sometimes enhanced with a cooling evening fog cover, and many of the Cowles hybrids thrived there. In 2005, when Dick Gustafson’s health was failing, he asked me to assume chairmanship of the Sandwich Club and continue evaluation, selection and distribution of any outstanding forms. John Delano, a resident of nearby Duxbury, Massachusetts, and a very active and knowledgeable member of the group agreed to work with me. One of my personal goals was to computerize a Cowles hybrid spreadsheet from a handwritten log initiated by Jeannie Beutler. We continue to add locations and descriptions to what is now a living archive of these plants, which is on file at Heritage. We have also completed a similar program for the 400 plus rhododendron hybrids introduced by Charles Dexter’s gardener Tony Consolini and by Eveline and Harold Pilkington, who purchased Tony’s residence after his death in 1971.

During the Sandwich Clubs existence



Left to right: Jeanie Gillis, Director of Horticulture, Heritage Museums and Gardens, Sandwich, MA; John Delano, Sandwich Club member; and Donna Delano, Sandwich Club member. Photo courtesy of Heritage Museum and Gardens.

from 1988 until 2010, an estimated 1500 to 3000 rooted cuttings have been distributed via annual plant auctions to Sandwich Club members willing both to pay propagation costs and to test them under their varying personal climatic conditions. Any profit generated from this endeavor was donated to Heritage in support of their summer horticulture intern program. All members of the Sandwich Club have supported the plant auctions, either by directly donating their time at the auctions or by attending and purchasing these plants

The majority of the Cowles hybrids are offspring of the Dexter hybrids and so perform similarly, with many having performed well in gardens from Boston to as far south as North and South Carolina and Georgia.

The Sandwich Club completed its plant distribution program in 2010, but we are still collecting information on the hybrid’s performances off the Cape.

*Norm Beaudry is a member of the Potomac Valley Chapter.*

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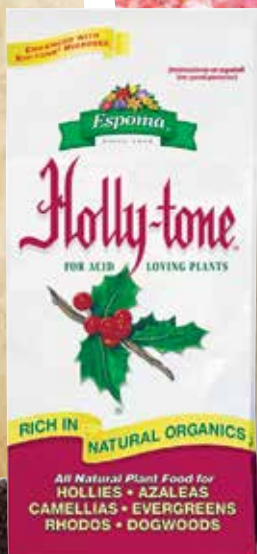
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## Errata in Vol. 65(3), Summer 2011 Issue

Page 128: "section Vireya" should read "section Schistanthe."

Page 155: "10' hand lens" should read "10X hand lens."

Page 166: "Duke of Saxe-Weimar" should read "Duke of Saxe-Weimar."

Page 153: Correction to Board Decisions concerning POB 9.10 which is amended to be:

As designated representative of the Royal Horticultural Society, the North American Registrar of Plant Names (Jay Murray) receives requests for rhododendron registrations (as most recently published on page 170 of *JARS*, Summer 2011) primarily from North American ARS members, but, accepts requests for the genus on behalf of the RHS for all of North America. Those requests for registrations are forwarded to the RHS for approval and inclusion in the *International Rhododendron Register and Checklist* (IRRC) with subsequent publication in *JARS*. Comments relating to an "existing [ARS] database" were based upon incorrect information. There was no "existing database" when Jay became the North American Registration Agent for the RHS. As appropriate, Jay has reported all plant data to the RHS while providing the *JARS* with RHS approved registration data.

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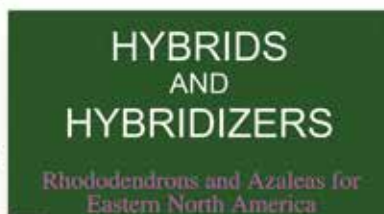
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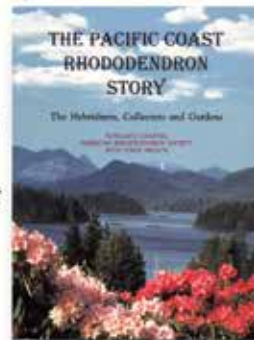
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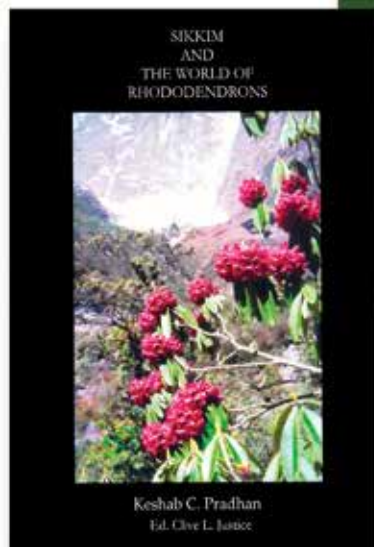
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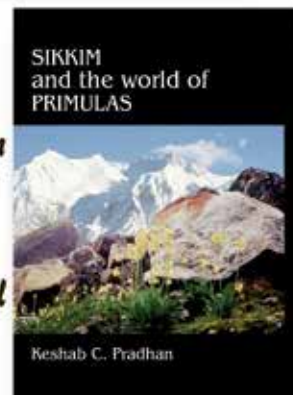
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