JOURNAL

American Rhododendron Society

Vol. 68 Number 4 Fall 2014

"We are Only in it for the Leaves"
Page 63

American Rhododendron Society
A GUIDE TO THE SOCIETY

ARS Districts & Chapters

District Director End of Term
2015: Anne Gross, Tim Walsh, Steve Henning, Don Hyatt
2016: Ken Webb, Richard Fairfield, Marvin Fisher
2017: Dist. 3 vacant, Dist. 6 vacant, John Golab, Lynne Melnyk

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TACOMA CHAPTER - Walt Brooks

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HAWAII CHAPTER - Bill Miller
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NOYO CHAPTER - Jim Celeri
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER - John Morris

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MAINE CHAPTER - Marilyn Brinnick
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SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER - Jackson McCarter
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MIDWEST CHAPTER - John Golab
OZARK CHAPTER - Robert Stassen

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RSC NIAGARA REGION CHAPTER - Sondra Meis
RSC TORONTO REGION CHAPTER - Lynne Melnik

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DUTCH CHAPTER - Wilbert Hetterscheid
FINNISH CHAPTER - Kristian Theqvist
J. D. HOOKER CHAPTER - Sri Keshab C. Pradhan
SCOTTISH CHAPTER - John Hammond
SWEDISH CHAPTER - Stefan Salomonson
NON CHAPTER MEMBERS - Contact Executive Director

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Flower Show & Judging Advisory Resource: Bruce & Marianne Feller
Speakers Bureau: Bill Stipe
Test & Display Gardens: Nicholas Yarmoshuk

Society Contacts

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

Society's Purpose

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

Membership Benefits

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

To Join the Society

Membership categories:
(January 1 – December 31)

Student (include proof if over 18)	$10.00
Regular	$40.00
Commercial	$90.00
Sustaining	$75.00
Sponsoring	$150.00
Life single	$1,000.00
Life family	$1,500.00

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



CONTENTS FALL 2014 & ARS DIGITAL RESOURCES

Features

CONTENTS FALL 2014 & ARS DIGITAL RESOURCES continued

Cover Photo

R. campanulatum with buds.
Photo by Bengt Karlsson.

Society News

Publications

ARS Digital

Website: http://www.rhododendron.org

Office: http://www.arsoffice.org

***JARS* online:** http://www.arsoffice.org/protect/login.asp

***JARS* back issues**: http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JARS

Archives: http://www.lib.virginia.edu/small

ARSStore: http://www.ARSStore.org

Blog: http://www.rhododendron.org/blog/default.asp

Plant Name Registration: http://www.rhododendron.org/plantregistry.htm

Rhododendron & Azalea News: http://www.rhododendron.org/news/newsindex.htm

From the President

Bruce Feller
Old Field,
New York

Late last year, Ann Mangels, Eastern Vice-President, brought to my attention the existence of CAPS—Coalition of American Plant Societies, and their plans to host a meeting in May 2014, in Virginia. ARS Officers were invited to participate, but the CAPS Meeting was regrettably scheduled for the same weekend as the ARS Convention in Painesville, OH, precluding attendance by most of us. Recognizing the potential advantage of establishing a relationship with CAPS, Bill Meyers, former President of the Mason-Dixon Chapter, was asked to represent the ARS at the CAPS Meeting and prepare a report to the Board with findings and recommendations. Unable to attend the Convention in Painesville, OH, Bill graciously offered to function in this capacity. Set forth below are excerpts from his extensive report to the Board, more fully defining CAPS, their objectives, and reasons for our continuing involvement with that organization. My gratitude to Bill Meyers for these efforts and accomplishments.

CAPS is a fledgling organization assembled by the American Horticultural Society (AHS), for the voluntary participation of officers, or key representatives of American plant societies to meet at least once annually, and present and discuss topics of mutual interest. The goals are to learn how organizations are handling various issues and to hear solutions to problems attendees have found to be successful. We learned that most of us are experiencing similar challenges, including declining membership and income, increasing costs, lack of participation by young people, attrition, etc.

This was the third year participants gathered for an intensive one-day program of speakers and discussions, broken by lunch, and followed by a dinner at which those present could have further, one-on-one conversations. This year there were eleven different plant societies represented, some by Presidents, some by Executive Directors and some by nominated representatives. Among other things, Bruce asked me to explore the possibility of common ground with other attending societies by which services/costs might be shared. I learned that two attending societies own their buildings and are willing to have another society or organization share expenses rather than go it alone. I also discovered that a couple of societies had paid Executive Directors who had some extra time, some had unpaid volunteers as Executive Directors, and some had additional paid staff that would be willing to share work/costs with another society.

Beyond the annual CAPS Meeting, there was interest in having each of our societies publish links to one another and to additional societies as they come on board for the purposes of exchanging information. This initiative has the support of our Webmaster, Bob Weissman, and may hold the promise of novel thoughts on cost sharing and expense reduction.

While at the Meeting, I took an opportunity to meet individually with each of the attending plant society representatives. As a result, I prepared a spreadsheet showing comparative information regarding specific items of income and expense. I've been told that upon completion, the AHS plans to publish it and make it available to attendees at this past Meeting and to those who will attend the next gathering in 2015. That conference, hosted by the Herb Society of America, will be held in the Cleveland area in mid-June. It is strongly suggested that the ARS continue to participate in CAPS for the mutual benefit of all member plant societies.

From the Assistant Editor

Sonja Nelson
Mount Vernon,
Washington

The advertisements in our Journal connect Society members with the nurseries that sell the rhododendrons we dream of planting in our gardens. Nurseries benefit too. Ads enable them to connect with members who are searching for the right rhododendron (and companions) for their gardens. While Journal articles inform us, ads can result in the moving of plants from a nursery to a garden.

As Assistant Editor, I handle the advertising in the Journal, and in the course of this work I sometimes wonder if members and nurseries realize the potential that ads have to increase both the enjoyment of rhododendrons among members and also the sale of plants by nurseries. An ad attractively displayed on a page will draw a reader's attention to a particular nursery, but there is more to it than that. Often the nursery will offer a catalog of plants that can be ordered. Or, more often today, the nursery's website address will be given where members can peruse lists and photos of plants, prices, shipping information and plant culture.

From the nursery's point of view, an ad familiarizes members with its name so that when someone wants to buy a particular plant or look for something new that name will come to mind. Think of Greer Gardens. Harold Greer has been advertising in the Journal for decades (as have several other rhododendron nurseries). Who does not think of rhododendrons when they hear the name "Greer Gardens"! Another advantage for advertisers in the Journal is that the ad reaches a focus group—rhodophiles. Beyond this, however, is the capacity of the Internet to greatly expand a nursery's exposure. The ARS website includes a display ad under its Rhododendron Nursery Finder for any nursery that advertises four times beginning with the winter issue of the journal. The ARS website gets over 50,000 "hits" a month!

In this issue, on the inside back cover, sample ads and the advertising rate schedule are shown. To encourage the use of color in ads, we have reduced the rates for the A-size and B-size color ads.

Here's hoping that members will better use Journal ads to enhance their gardening and that nurseries will more often use ads in the Journal, especially color ads, to move their rhododendrons from field and greenhouse to real gardens.

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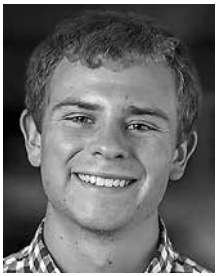
Werner Brack's Living Canvas

'Great Gatsby'.

Alex Kramer
Port Jefferson,
New York



Photos by the author

[Editors note: This article is the third (see *JARS* 67(3), p. 135-137 and *JARS* 68(2), p 59-62) submission from anonymously funded summer interns whose goals are to provide "oral histories" of prominent member hybridizers, growers, and nursery owners while we still have these folks with us. This concept is really great, as it both honours the significant person discussed and as well gives experience and opportunity to journalism and communications students to interview and write an article for publication. This submission is from the eastern USA, the area where this intern resides. I encourage other ARS members to consider funding a student to continue this worthwhile endeavor.]

Artistic inspiration takes many forms. A sculptor sees a block of marble and envisions an iconic statue. A painter looks at a canvas and sees a beautiful landscape. Werner Brack examines two plants and knows how to create rhododendrons with stunning flowers that no one has ever seen before.

Werner has officially registered eleven hybrids and he was awarded the ARS Silver Medal in 2010 for his contributions to the New York Chapter and the genus *Rhododendron*. His creations have been shared with rhododendron lovers across the world.

While sitting in his rustic home on the North Shore of Long Island, Brack began to explain to me his passion for horticulture. New hybrids take up to ten years to flower,

Werner Brack and his daughter Pippa Brack

'Shoreham'.

a lengthy commitment that dissuades most from pursuing this particular art form.

The process of developing new rhododendron hybrids is quite similar to raising children, according to Werner, one of the few people qualified to compare these challenging endeavors.

"It is not that exciting for me when they are seedlings, like it is not that exciting for me when young children are crawling around," Werner said. "It's more fun watching them develop into a complex individual."

When asked about his favorite part of hybridizing, Werner leaned forward with a chuckle and placed a hand on his face. While his 84 years have etched a story of lines on his face, his wit and senses remain sharp. He noticed a faint knock on the door that my young reporter's ears could not perceive. He still clears his impossibly steep driveway with a snow blower and mows his own lawn.

"Most people's idea of gardening is having a lawn service," Werner said.

Werner's passion for horticulture likely stems from his upbringing in Switzerland. His parents operated a hotel on a farm, so he spent his youth helping out on the farm because World War II created a need for firm hands. Werner believes that his early work in agriculture planted the seed for his rhododendron passion.

Werner moved from Switzerland to the United States in 1955 seeking a new challenge. He settled in Oyster Bay, Long Island, New York, and began working with satellite radio equipment as an electrical engineer. He met his future wife Patricia shortly after,

'Stony Brook'.

and the two married in 1958. Werner had no interest in gardening at the time, but that would soon change.

He and Patricia would take their young daughters, Pippa and Elizabeth, to a local park for weekend outings. It was here that Werner noticed the plants that would captivate him for more than 50 years; he was fascinated by the rhododendrons and their unique flowers. Werner's curiosity rapidly transitioned into a full-blown passion for developing new rhododendrons.

The couple was looking for a bigger house in 1970 with rhododendrons in mind, when they attended a christening at a friend's home near the North Shore of Long Island. Werner noticed mountain laurel growing freely near the road, an indication that rhododendrons would thrive in the area. The house was not for sale, but Werner told Patricia that it was exactly the type of property that he was looking for. A few weeks later, Patricia learned that the two-acre (0.81 ha) property was for sale while Werner was away on a business trip. "Buy it!" he said confidently. Werner and Patricia had found their canvas!

"I spent every free minute I had in the garden," Werner said. "It became a release from the pressures of working, a way to get away from the stress."

Werner still lives in the house, which sits at the top of a steep hill in a secluded

neighborhood. The property appears completely ordinary at first, but a closer look reveals a wide array of immaculately kept plants, some which only exist in Werner's garden. He and Patricia spent countless hours working side by side to create award-winning flowers.

The Bracks hosted the garden tour there during the 1992 and 2010 ARS spring conventions. He and Patricia would take turns leading tour groups through their immense backyard garden. Werner typically explains his accomplishments in an understated manner, but he beams when talking about the honor of hosting a garden in the tour. "Hosting in the garden tour is a big deal," Werner said. "It's a recognition of your efforts to produce a garden that you are proud to show."

Patricia passed away in 2012, a year after suffering a major stroke. Werner solemnly shared that her death has left a major physical and emotional void. "Patricia did a lot of the maintenance that does not get done anymore," Werner said. "There was not a weed in the garden while she was alive."

On a bitterly cold day in the middle of the recent brutal 2013/14 winter, Werner perked up as the conversation shifted to the upcoming spring. He is "desperately waiting" for an upcoming warm spell so that he can mend his fence, plant new flower beds and fertilize the soil. This work is all part of his preparation for the "explosion of flowers" that each May brings.

'Voluptuous'.

'White Elegance'.

At first glance, Werner's basement appears to be completely average, with the possible exception of its tidiness. But tucked away on one side of the room is a covered table that may hold the future of your garden. Werner pulls the cover over the table to reveal about 20 seedlings at various stages of growth sitting beneath a fluorescent light, which shines for 16 hours a day. They require little maintenance at this stage, but Werner still likes to check them daily "for my own amusement."

Werner keeps meticulous records of each hybrid on a computer next to his basement nursery. When asked about the specifics of a young seedling, Werner crossed the basement to retrieve a well-organized packet that chronicles the newest plants. This family tree tells the story of the seedling's parents, when they were pollinated and what type of pollen was used. Werner uses this information to tinker with the combinations to create plants with beautiful flowers that others can grow on their own.

"The flower has to be unique, as there are plenty of pink rhododendrons," Werner said.

But beauty alone is not enough to satisfy Werner's standards for his flowers. He constantly evaluates his plants to monitor their potential, stressing the importance of creating plants that will be healthy in a variety of climates. Anything else would give rhododendrons a bad name, an injustice that Werner cannot allow.

The seedlings must pass a series of tests in order to make it to Werner's garden. As the plants develop, he moves them to a small greenhouse attached to his house, then to his

'Janet's Flair'.

front porch and a shaded area in his yard to protect the vulnerable young plants from burning out in the summer sun. In the fall, the successful ones are ready to be planted in his garden.

"It is truly a labor of love," Werner said. "Laypeople think that you are going to get rich from this, but forget it."

This "labor of love" is something that Werner shares with a select group of people. Those in the community of rhododendron hybridizers collaborate regularly to discuss their shared passion. Werner spends hours each day conversing with his colleagues online. These discussions are sometimes personal, but typically drift towards "every aspect of rhododendron culture you can think of."

The unique work that hybridizers do is an invaluable service to rhododendron lovers, according to Bruce Feller, ARS president and a close friend of Werner's:

"The tireless efforts of rhododendron hybridizers like Werner and others are largely the source of the desirable rhododendron cultivars that many of us feature in our landscapes," Feller said. "The value of their collective contributions cannot be overstated."

Werner's tireless efforts are a treat for those who are lucky enough to visit his garden. After months of discussing his garden from the comfort of his living room, Werner and I were finally able to walk through his masterpiece on a beautiful early spring day.

A narrow footpath winds through a maze of rhododendrons that serve as a living timeline of Werner's creations. Older recently registered plants like 'Great Gatsby' and 'White Elegance' stand over ten feet (3 m) tall with countless buds struggling to burst towards the sun. Only the tip of each flower poked out of the bud, but soon their brilliant white flowers would light up the garden.

Further down the footpath, the plants grow smaller and smaller. Newer, less tested plants are marked with posts noting their parentage. Some of these will reach great heights one day, but most will not pass Werner's testing. After several years of careful nurturing, some of these plants flowered for the first time this past spring, a moment for Werner that makes the hours of labor spent worthwhile.

Werner still hosts garden tours throughout the year. He excitedly explained that the New York Chapter would tour his opus this May. Some years are busier than others, but rhododendron enthusiasts cannot stay away from Werner's garden.

"There will always be somebody," Werner said. "No matter what the weather is like."

Alex Kramer has a BA in Philosophy and Psychology from Brandeis University. He is currently finishing an MS in Journalism at Stony Brook University. Alex grew up in a Massachusetts home with a front yard filled with rhododendrons. He currently lives in Port Jefferson, NY, while he finishes his Masters degree.

R. cumberlandense and *Gaylussacia* grow among ice and wind damaged trees on Mt. Cheaha. Photo by Ken Gohring.

Mt. Cheaha Opens up its Canopy to give Azaleas More Sunlight

Charles Andrews
Cumming, Georgia

Mt. Cheaha, at 2407 feet (734 m) the highest elevation in Alabama, has a large number of *Rhododendron cumberlandense*, along with *R. arborescens, R. periclymenoides*, interspecific azalea hybrids, *R. minus, Kalmia latifolia*, and (naturally growing or transplanted?) *R. catawbiense* var. *insularis*. The mountaintop terrain is very rocky, with primarily an oak canopy (*Quercus* spp: chestnut, black, and scarlet oaks) and thick ground cover of huckleberry (*Gaylussacia*), blueberry (*Vaccinium*), and wand flower (*Galax urceolata*). The draws can be moist with small springs and branches.

The Azalea Chapter ARS has been going to Mt. Cheaha for a number of years and 2014 was no exception. It is one of our favorite destinations. The azaleas are plentiful and frequently very dark red. The occasional natural hybrids are outstanding. This year we went on May 24. The *R. cumberlandense* were about a week past prime, and the flowers were not as numerous as in some years. The great surprise this year, however, was the number of downed trees and broken limbs on the ground. There were thousands. Large limbs were everywhere. Walking was extremely difficult. We had to constantly weave our way around and over horizontal tree trunks and broken off tops of trees. The damage was shocking.

Upon return, I browsed the Internet to find the cause. In February 2014, a huge ice storm with high winds hit the area. Electric power was cut off, and roads were blocked.

Joe Coleman and Ken Gohring of the Azalea Chapter ARS work their way around one of thousands of downed trees. Photo by Charles Andrews.

Normally the terrain is just rocky; now both rocks and large limbs make walking very difficult. Photo by Charles Andrews.

Now three months later, none of this was at first apparent. The roads were clear. Power had been restored. The ice had long since melted. The forests were in their usual many shades of green. The sun was bright and warm. But as soon as one stepped off the road and into the woods, the evidence of the massive February ice storm could still be seen. Many of the damaged trees, whose tops and limbs, some a foot (25 cm) or more in diameter, were ripped off by the ice and wind will eventually die. Hopefully, many will recover to live a long life. In assessing this massive damage, one finds a bright spot. The storm significantly opened the canopy of Mt. Cheaha. The once darkly shady understory is now much brighter. This should have the effect in years to come of greatly increasing the blooms of native azaleas, *R. minus*, and other flowering shrubs. Nature rejuvenates her forests. 2015 should be a great year to see *R. cumberlandense* and other plants on Mt. Cheaha.

Tips for Beginners: Understanding Rhododendron Cold Hardiness

(Reprinted from JARS *49(4), Fall 1995: 230.)*

[Editor's note: I have had a number of requests to include more "Tips for Beginners" in *JARS,* and with the current ARS effort to bring in new members, it is timely to ensure that relevant information is made available to them. Over the past decades, a great amount of basic culture information has been published in *JARS*, and so I will be drawing on this wealth of knowledge and reprinting articles I feel may be most appropriate to different seasons and plant types.]

Ted Van Veen.

Ted Van Veen
Portland, Oregon

Rhododendron varieties have long been rated or given a range of temperatures for hardiness. The H-1 rated plant is hardy to -25°F, H-2 is hardy to -15°F, H-3 is hardy to -5°F. These ratings are relative guidelines; sometimes hardy plants die and less hardy plants survive. Many interrelated factors contribute to the successful hardiness of a rhododendron. The ARS recently formulated a new hardiness rating system that takes into account these many interrelated factors. The following is a listing of some common hardiness factors:

1) AGE. It takes about five years for a rhododendron to reach full maturity for hardiness. Young plants need extra protection.

2) TRANSPLANTING. Mature plants that have been moved will need added protection until established.

3) VARIETY. Some varieties are slower to harden in the fall. Damage may occur when sub-freezing weather comes suddenly, without the benefit of light frosts.

4) GARDEN LOCATION. Each garden has micro-climates. Temperature may vary within a garden as much as five degrees. When the hardiness of a plant is marginal choose the best garden location, using the following criteria:

• Choose areas of good air drainage; keep away from frost pockets.

• High, filtered shade or northern exposures protect the plants from rapid temperature changes.

• Mulch plants after the ground has cooled.

Avoid the following locations when the rhododendron hardiness is marginal:

• Windy locations: wind will draw moisture from the plant.

• Eastern exposures: bright morning sun warms the frozen foliage too quickly.

• Sunny western exposures: sun-warmed foliage will cool too quickly.

5) CULTURE. The hardiness is related to the general health of the plant. Poor summer care will reduce the hardiness of a rhododendron. To ensure good health take the following precautions:

• Water adequately during the growing season. Less water in late summer helps bring on dormancy. Water the ground well before it becomes frozen.

• Fertilize with a good rhododendron food. Avoid high nitrogen in midsummer; plants may grow too much and not harden off.

• Pest control is a must. Healthy plants survive better.

6) SOIL. Good soil structure, with proper drainage for healthy root systems, will increase rhododendron winter hardiness.

Ted Van Veen expanded the Van Veen Nursery when he took it over from his father and is responsible for its present layout. He wrote Rhododendrons in America*, the first how-to book for the layperson. He was very involved with the American Rhododendron Society both locally and nationally, earning him the American Rhododendron Society Gold Medal in 1976.*

Kathy Van Veen, daughter of Ted and granddaughter of Van, assumed management in 2003 with the passing of Ted. She brings the accumulated knowledge of her ancestors to the nursery and is said to be able to "root a pencil". Following the family tradition she is active with the American Rhododendron Society and Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden and was awarded the ARS Gold Medal in 2011.

Visit the Van Veen Nursery website at: www.vanveennursery.com

Bibliography of a Rhododendron Library - Part III

An annotated bibliography of books and literature on the discovery and geographic distributions Past and Present - of the genus Rhododendron, Entries 48-67 Its Physiography, Prenology, Botanical Classification & Nomenclature of Wild & Cultivated Species, Affinities & Hybrids with the Biographies of the Women and Men who discovered, collected seed, Hybridized Photographed, Exhibited, Named & Registered these Flowering Broad Leaved Evergreen & Deciduous Plants; Introducing them into our Gardens & Landscapes of the Cool & Warm Temperate Zones of the World.

Clive Justice
Vancouver, BC
Canada

[Editor's note: This is the third part of Clive Justice's bibliography of his rhododendron library, with his comments of the content of each entry, which has been gifted to the University of BC Botanical Garden in Vancouver, BC, Canada. Part I and II were published in JARS 67(3) and 68(1) respectively.]

48. Haworth, L. and N. Yarmoshuk. *Niagara Region and Great Lakes Chapters ARS Convention Brochure.* Niagara Falls, Canada, 1998. **[Convention Booklet with speakers list and articles on rhodos by Great Lakes ARS Chapter's members who hosted this Eastern Canadian ARS Convention.]**

49. Healey, B. J. *The Plant Hunters.* Scribners, New York, 1975. **[London's crime writer Ben Healey takes to writing this popular account of plant collectors hunting for Rhs: Fortune, Rock, Wilson, David, Delavay, Veitch, Lobb, Forrest, et al., with their plant discoveries woven into the narrative.]**

50. Holliger, P., R. Peterson and/or S. Hootman (eds. in different years). *Rhododendron Species.* Yearbooks of the Species Foundation, Vol.1-4, 2006-09, Allen Press, Kansas, USA., with subsequent volumes by year. **[Replaces Rhododendron Notes & Records. Includes writings, photographs by 'amateur and professional contributors to the Rh genus and species, newly found species, collecting trips. Includes notice of species grown by the Foundation and available for sale.]**

51. Hooker, Sir William J., Editor. *The Rhododendrons of Sikkim Himalaya.* Reeve & Co., London, 1849. **[This large Elephant Folio Volume is quarter rebound in green 'Oasis' goatskin, with Roosterell marbelled paper sides by Cortlaned Benson of Victoria. It contains coloured Fitch etchings, stone lithograph printed full sized plates rendered from JD Hooker's field sketches of the twenty three rhododendrons he found in Sikkim and in the western border areas of Nepal and the North eastern border areas of Tibet.]**

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55. Hume H. Harold, *Azaleas Kind and Culture,* The Macmillan Company, New York, 1948. Second copy 1948. **[Has been replaced by Fred Galle's more comprehensive, Azaleas, see entry # 40 in JARS 68: 42.]**

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64. Kingdon-Ward, Frank, *Plant Hunters in Manipur*, Jonathan Cape, London, 1952

65. Kingdon-Ward, Frank, *The Land of the Blue Poppy, Travels of a Naturalist in Eastern Tibet*, first published 1913; this reprint by Minerva Press, London, 1973. **[With the exception of #64 in the four publications above, plant hunting stories can still be read as well written adventure stories by the author (FKW) who was the hunter. #63 is a plea to grow the more interesting Rh species rather than hybrids, with suggestions on how to grow some of the small and rock garden species that he discovered.]**

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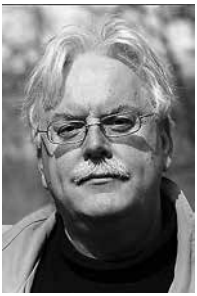
The Dutch Chapter (NRV) and its Belmonte Rhododendron Garden

The Dutch Chapter's Collection garden in 2013.

Wilbert Hetterscheid
Bennekom, The Netherlands



Photos by the author

The Dutch Chapter (NRV) of the ARS was founded in 1991 by a number of *Rhododendron* enthusiasts to encourage the exchanging of both plants and experiences between its members. Its first president and co-founder, Mr. Thijs Huisman, was an avid hybridizer who still offers new hybrids to propagation companies for further growing and testing. These objectives indicated that the young chapter meant serious business. The chapter now has 110 members and issues a quarterly newsletter/journal called *Rhodomania*, soon to go digital. The board consists of seven members with different areas of interest. Each year several excursions are organized, including one of several days to foreign countries. The chapter also initiates an annual plant fair where rhododendrons, especially the less common species and cultivars, along with exclusive trees and shrubs can be bought. However, its major achievement was the founding of

1940 Huize Belmonte

a large rhododendron show and education garden in the Belmonte Arboretum in the town of Wageningen.

The Belmonte Arboretum in Wageningen

Belmonte started out in 1800 as an estate owned by a wealthy aristocratic family. In 1843, a mansion was built and the estate garden was redesigned by the Dutch landscape architect Jan Zocher Jr. A few trees of that period are still present in the

R. 'Belmonte'.

R. 'Bow Bells'.

The Dutch Chapter's collection garden beginnings in 2007.

arboretum. The estate was named Belmonte (beautiful mountain) because of its high elevation, on a "mountain" (we don't have that many mountains in the Netherlands, so every sizeable mound is a "mountain") 60 m (197 ft) above sea level. The "mountain" is the remainder of a glacial moraine and has a very steep slope facing southward. The view is quite impressive, as the low lying area south of Belmonte is wide and the scenery is dominated by a gently meandering part of the Rhine river.

In 1936, the last members of the family donated the estate to a regional trust. During

R. 'Cheer'.

R. 'Peter Koster'.

R. 'Professor Hugo de Vries'.

R. 'Velasquez'.

R. adenogynum.

R. campylogynum ssp. *myrtilloides.*

the Second World War, a German ammunition depot was based on the estate, which became a target of the allied forces when they invaded the Netherlands and heavy artillery was exchanged between both parties. The unfortunate result was the total ruining of the mansion and many of the huge trees surrounding it.

The Wageningen University acquired Belmonte in 1951 for the price of one Guilder in order to expand its dendrological research and education collection. The arboretum became part of the Botanical Gardens of the university, which also encompassed the older Dreijen Arboretum. In 2009 the Botanical Gardens were closed by the University as part of a budget cutting programme, and presently the arboretum is owned by the Belmonte Arboretum Foundation. Its future now depends on the foundation's success in generating funds for preservation of the arboretum.

The dendrological collection of the Belmonte Arboretum (spread over 17 hectares (42 acres)) is quite impressive. Its focal collections are *Rhododendron, Sorbus* (rowan/mountain ash), *Aria* (whitebeam), botanical roses, *Malus* (crab apple), *Prunus* (especially Japanese ornamental cherries), *Celtis* (nettle tree), *Philadelphus* (mock orange), *Aesculus* (horse chestnut), Caprifoliaceae (honeysuckle family), and *Coriaria*. The rhododendron collection is part of a national collection, including the three partner collections in the Trompenburg Arboretum, the Blijdenstein Pinetum and the Von Gimborn Arboretum.

R. dalhousiae var. *rhabdotum.*

R. sutchuenense.

R. ventricosum.

R. williamsianum.

The whole national collection encompasses many hundreds of species and cultivars. The national botanical collections are organized in a foundation, the Dutch National Plant Collections, which is a partner to the Dutch Botanical Gardens Society (www.botanischetuinen.nl; choose the UK version and then the button "SNP coll." in the main menu for all Dutch national botanical collections).

The Rhododendron Garden Beginnings

In 2003, a lucky meeting between the then curator of the Wageningen Botanical Gardens (yours truly) and a friend of his and an early member of the NRV, led to an invitation to the then president of the NRV, Prof. Lou Traas, to discuss the possibility of founding an educational and show garden for rhododendrons in the Belmonte Arboretum. Because the arboretum already contained a sizeable collection of older cultivars (many originated from Dutch rhododendron breeders, dating back to the first half of the 20th century), it was decided that this garden would be a very welcome addition to both the collection and to the aesthetics of the arboretum. The eastern part of the arboretum lacked an attractive object and it was decided to clear 4000 m^2 (one acre) for the collection. Members of the chapter committed to donating plants from their private collections, as did several local commercial growers. Additional plants were

also bought from some well-known international growers.

It was decided that the plants would be grouped according to the Cullen and Chamberlain (1980) system with hybrid cultivars grouped with their closest genetically/morphologically parental species. At that time, the molecular-based phylogeny of Goetsch *et al.* (2005) was not available.

The garden was designed by Dutch garden architect Elke de Langhe, and the first 100 plants were received in 2004. In 2006, the number of plants prompted the board of the chapter to initiate a Grand Opening of the Rhododendron Garden. This took place on May 12, 2007, in the company of both the mayor of Wageningen, the Rector Magnificus of Wageningen University and some 80 other guests. The opening also witnessed the introduction of the new cultivar 'Belmonte', developed by former chapter president Huisman from crosses involving *R. wardii*.

The Rhododendron Garden Today

Presently the chapter's garden contains about 400 species, about 400 cultivars and a grand total of about 1400 plants. On the side, a few non-hardy species are also part of the collection from sections *Maddenia* and *Schistanthe* (former *Vireya*). New plants are still added where possible and sick or dead specimens are quickly replaced. A permanent committee checks the collection at least twice every year. Maintenance of the collection is largely the responsibility of the new Belmonte Arboretum Foundation, with the chapter's committee sitting in an advisory role. All in all, the garden is flourishing and attracts hundreds of extra visitors to the arboretum each year.

Wilbert Hetterscheid is the Dutch Chapter president and a director of the Von Gimborn Arboretum.

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Outstanding Flowers and Amazing Foliage: *R.* 'Cherries and Merlot'

Maria Stewart
Sandy, Oregon

(From the August 2014 Portland Chapter newsletter)

When you see this hybrid by Frank Fujioka for the first time, the colorful undersides of the leaves attract your attention so much that you forget to ask about the flowers. When you hear that the flowers are a deep, bright red, the combination sounds intriguing. In fact, the flowers are so rich in color that they meld well with the foliage to form a truly superb new hybrid. Here is more about 'Cherries and Merlot':

•It is an elepidote, with no scales on its leaves.

•The cross is ('Pretty Baby' × *R. pachysanthum*) × 'Whid Bee'.

• The red flowers come from these parents in this cross: 'Cornubia', 'Noyo Chief', 'Kilimanjaro', 'Rubicon' and 'Rosevallon', with the red-purple undersides of the leaves coming from 'Rosevallon'.

•Flowers: The trusses are rounded and are constructed of deep, bright red corollas that are funnel- campanulate in shape. The bloom time is early April.

•Leaves: Dark green on top, and red-purple on the undersides.

•Height: 3 feet (0.9 m) in 10 years.

•Hardiness: Unknown at this time. Two of the parents, *R. pachysanthum* and *R. degronianum* ssp. *yakushimanum,* may lend some hardiness to the cross.

•Placement in your garden: Protect it from the cold until you know its hardiness. Some shade is desirable.

Visitors, Pollinators, and Robbers - Oh My! The Pollination Ecology of *Rhododendron floccigerum* in the Himalayas of Southwest China

Elizabeth Georgian
Salem, Connecticut
(now living in Vilnius, Lithuania)

*Note - this research will be published with further details in an academic journal. Please contact the author if you would like a copy.

Fieldwork—it can be challenging, fun, exhausting, adventurous, exciting, dangerous, and is always an excellent learning experience. The most important take-away message from fieldwork is the ability to improvise. I learned to be flexible and improvise with my research plans the minute I began my dissertation field research in 2010 in Yunnan Province, China. At that time I was a mere 22 years old and was a China newbie. By 2012, I was an experienced traveler and researcher in Yunnan Province with a good grasp of the local Mandarin dialect. Luckily my lessons learned for fieldwork improvisation were deeply ingrained, as my pollination fieldwork faced numerous challenges.

Let me explain the series of unfortunate events that shaped my pollination field research. As part of my dissertation research I proposed a two-field season study of three species of *Rhododendron* in subsection *Neriiflora* (*R. forrestii*, *R. haematodes*, and *R. dichroanthum*) on the Qiqi trail in Nujiang Prefecture, Yunnan Province, China. Unfortunately, in 2012, when I was to conduct the first season of this research, I was not allowed to return to the Qiqi trail due to severe unrest along the border shared

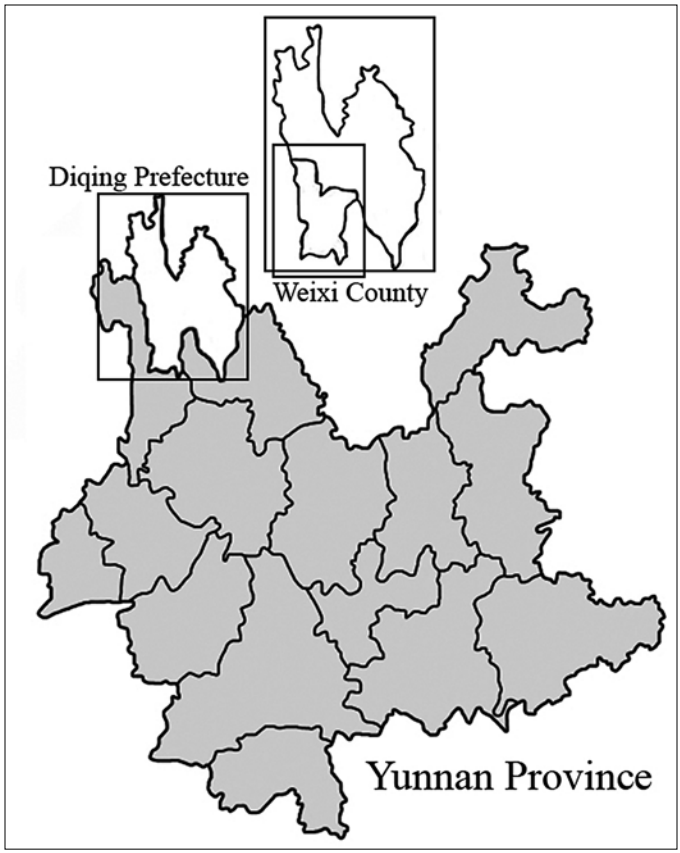

Figure 1: A map of Yunnan Province highlighting both Diqing Prefecture and Weixi County. Fieldwork for this study was conducted in Weixi Town, Weixi County at 27° 09' 39.474" N, 99° 15' 59.339" E.

between Myanmar and China. Conducting long-term research in this location would have proven too dangerous. Thus, I needed to quickly determine an alternate plan for my pollination research mid-fieldwork, while in the midst of conducting fieldwork for other portions of my dissertation. I contacted Zhendong Fang at the Shangri-La Alpine Botanical Garden and he suggested I work in Weixi on the pollination of *R. floccigerum*, also in subsection *Neriiflora* (Figure 1). I thought, okay, this may be a viable solution. Upon arrival in Weixi, Fang introduced me to his friends as well as the local authorities. After a successful 13 days in the field and despite these connections, the local authorities confiscated my collected voucher specimens and forbade the continuation of my research. I feared for my field assistant's safety, and so we left Weixi early the next morning. I was incredibly panicked about successfully finishing my PhD due to this

Figure 2: A compilation of photographs taken by E.G. in 2012 of *R. floccigerum* in Weixi: a) shrub in bloom, b) *R. floccigerum* habitat, c) an inflorescence, d) last year's capsules, and e) evidence of robbing, note the holes at the base of the corolla over the nectaries. From: Georgian, Elizabeth. 2014. Biodiversity and Cultural Diversity Conservation in the Himalayas of Yunnan Province, China. Dissertation. University of Wisconsin-Madison.

incomplete study. Fortunately, because of my ability to improvise, those 13 days in Weixi were incredibly productive.

Doing fieldwork anywhere in the world can have unforeseen problems similar to the ones that I faced. Because of my prior experience in the field, I knew that once I arrived in Weixi I needed to hit the ground running to collect as much data as possible in case any issues arose. By immediately tracking down *R. floccigerum*, I was able to conduct

about two weeks of field research, thus enabling me to conduct a study with publishable results on the pollination of *R. floccigerum* even without the voucher specimens.

Studies conducted to date on the pollination biology of other *Rhododendron* species suggest insect pollinators (Kudo 1993; Ono, Dohzono, and Sugawara 2008; Escaravage and Wagner 2004; Ng and Corlett 2000; Sugiura 2012). Despite the evidence for insect pollination, casual observations also suggested bird pollination might be occurring in rhododendrons with morphological characters such as possession of red, tubular flowers that produce nectar (e.g., species in subsection *Neriiflora*; Argent et al. 1988; Kingdon-Ward 1990; Stevens 1985). Bird pollinated flowers are typically red, unscented, and have a prominent nectar display that produces watery nectar, and if in the Old World, provide a perch for non-hovering birds (Liu et al. 2013). Because of such floral morphology, Kingdon-Ward (1990) proposed that *Rhododendron* subsection *Neriiflora* species are bird pollinated. *R. floccigerum* is a shrub from 0.6 to 3 m tall with leathery, evergreen leaves and flowers that have a red or occasionally yellow or pink tubular-campanulate corolla with five basal nectar pouches (Figure 2). So what is (are) the pollinator(s) of *R. floccigerum.*

In March 2012, I set out to Weixi Town, Weixi County, Diqing Prefecture, Yunnan Province (Figure 1 ; 27° 09' 39.474" N, 99° 15' 59.339" E) to investigate the pollinating and robbing species with *R. floccigerum*. A species was recorded as a potential pollinator if I observed the head of an individual deep in the corolla. A species was considered a robber if the visitor was observed stealing nectar (through piercing the corolla or avoiding the reproductive parts) or pollen, or consuming portions of the corolla. This pollination study was conducted on a mountain outside of Hao Zhu Qing village and while the habitat was partially disturbed by human impact at lower elevations (2400 m; 7875 ft), it was less traversed at higher elevations. I conducted both in-person observations and observations collected by time-lapsed cameras. Two cameras were set to take photographs every ten seconds from dawn until dusk with a Day 6 Outdoors Plotwatcher time lapse HD video camera, and one camera was set to take pictures when the motion sensor was triggered using a Moultrie M80, which provided a total of 498.5 hours of observation.

Over the course of my observation recordings, 13 visitors were identified at *R. floccigerum* (Figure 2). Camera traps were the most successful way to collect data about visitors to *R. floccigerum* as they collected images of all 13 visitors, though *Apis* sp. were impossible to detect unless the camera was within two feet of a flower. Visiting species ranged from insects (*Apis* sp. and *Bombus* sp.) to mammals (*Dremomys pernyi* and *Tamiops swinhoei*) and birds (*Aethopyga gouldiae*, *Brachypteryx montana*, *Garrulax affinis*, *Heterophasia melanoleuca*, *Minla ignotincta*, *Minla strigula*, *Parus major*, *Phylloscopus affinis*, and *Yuhinia diademata*), with birds being the most prevalent visitor taxon (Table 1). A total of 363 visits were observed; however individuals were not marked, thus some visits may have been made by the same individual visiting multiple times. These would

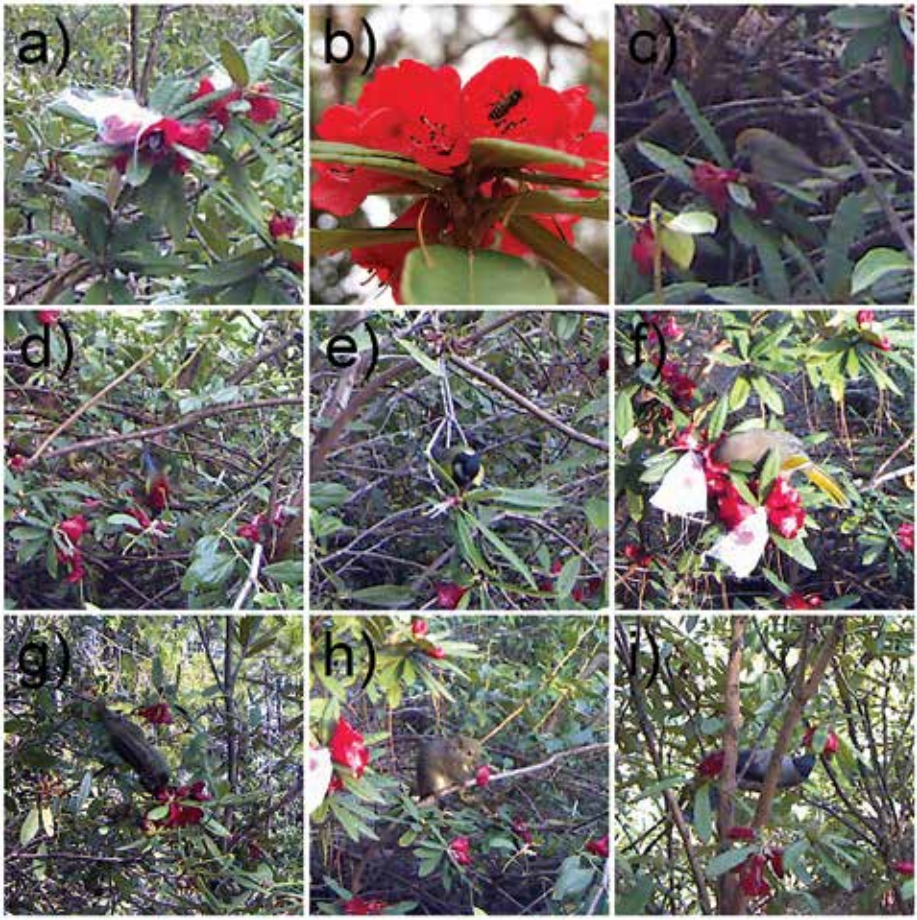

Figure 3: A compilation of photographs taken of visitors of *R. floccigerum* in Weixi: a) *Bombus* sp, b) *Apis* sp., c) *Phylloscopus affinis*, d) *Aethopyga gouldiae*, e) *Parus major*, f) *Garrulax affinis*, g) *Tamiops swinhoei*, h) *Dremomys pernyi*, and i) *Heterophasia melanoleuca*. From: Georgian, Elizabeth. 2014. Biodiversity and Cultural Diversity Conservation in the Himalayas of Yunnan Province, China. Dissertation. University of Wisconsin-Madison.

have been exciting results even in a study where everything went exactly as planned (and my study certainly had not)!

While birds have been proposed as pollinators of some *Rhododendron* (Argent et al. 1988; Kingdon-Ward 1930-1931; Stevens 1985), to my knowledge this is the first study to provide empirical evidence to support this hypothesis. Mammals have not previously been suggested as pollinators, visitors, or robbers and as far as I know, have not been observed visiting *Rhododendron* species before.

Species that showed potentially pollinating behavior to *R. floccigerum* were *Bombus* sp. (bumblebee); the birds *Aethopyga gouldiae* (Gould's Sunbird), *Garrulax affinis* (Black-

Table 1: The potential pollinators, robbers, and visitors to *R. floccigerum* in Weixi, Yunnan Province, China.

Species	Name	Behavior	Total Number of Visits
Insects			
Apis sp.	Honey bee	Robber	179
Bombus sp.	Bumble bee	Potential Pollinator	14
Mammals			
Dremomys pernyi	Perny's Ground Squirrel	Robber	23
Tamiops swinhoei	Swinhoe's Striped Squirrel	Robber	2
Birds			
Aethopyga gouldiae	Gould's Sunbird	Potential Pollinator	18
Brachypteryx montana	White-browed Shortwing	Visitor	1
Garrulax affinis	Black-faced Laughingthrush	Potential Pollinator	10
Heterophasia melanoleuca	Dark-backed Sibia	Potential Pollinator	11
Minla ignotincta	Red-tailed Minla	Robber	2
Minla strigula	Chestnut-tailed Minla	Robber	4
Parus major	Great Tit	Robber	3
Phylloscopus affinis	Tickell's Leaf-warbler	Robber	72
Yuhinia diademata	White-collared Yuhina	Potential Pollinator	23

faced Laughingthrush), *Heterophasia melanoleuca* (Dark-backed Sibia), and *Yuhinia diademata* (White-collared Yuhina). *Brachypteryx montana* (White-browed Shortwing) is considered an occasional visitor as it only was observed only once. Further studies would need to be conducted to determine if *B. montana* plays a significant role in the reproduction of *R. floccigerum*. Species displaying behaviors indicative of robbing visits were *Apis* sp. (honeybee), *Dremomys pernyi* (Perny's Ground Squirrel), *Tamiops swinhoei* (Swinhoe's Striped Squirrel), and the birds *Minla ignotincta* (Red-tailed Minla), *Minla strigula* (Chestnut-tailed Minla), *Parus major* (Great Tit), and *Phylloscopus affinis* (Tickell's Leaf-warbler). Nectar and pollen robbing have been described frequently with *Rhododendron* species (Ng and Corlett 2000; Stevens 1985). I observed greater than 50% of flowers of *R. floccigerum* being robbed.

In summary, despite my difficulties conducting pollination research in Yunnan Province, I was able to identify 13 visitors to *R. floccigerum* including two mammal species and nine bird species. Further research on *Rhododendron floccigerum* (and other subsection *Neriiflora* species) to determine the impact of robbing species and to confirm the pollinating species through exclusion treatments would seem justified. To all those who conduct field research, I wish you the best with your improvisations!

Acknowledgements

I am indebted to Tashicumu who was my assistant throughout this pollination fieldwork and Fang Zhendong who introduced me to this field site. I thank James Burnham for his help identifying bird species and AMNH for allowing me access to their collections. This dissertation research was supported by an NSF IGERT (DGE#0549369), NSF GRFP (#1256259), a National Geographic Young Explorer Grant (9009-11), and an American Rhododendron Society grant.

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If it is not 'Onsloweanum', What is it?

Ian E. Efford
Duncan, BC,
Canada

A rhododendron in the Dominion Brook Park near Sidney, BC, where the 2015 spring ARS Convention will be held, recently has brought attention to a most interesting historical garden that has existed for almost 100 years. This park was created initially by the Canadian Department of Agriculture as a demonstration arboretum and ornamental garden, particularly for conifers. Many of the original plants that still survive were from seed collected in China by Ernest "Chinese" Wilson, plant hunter in Asia from 1899 to 1916, initially for Veitch and Sons in the UK and later for Harvard University's Arnold Arboretum in Boston, MA. Plants from that time period were also obtained from other nurseries in France, England and Japan.

One plant initially listed as the species *R. onsloweanum* (correctly, it is the hybrid 'Onsloweanum') is of interest here for three reasons; its origin in the park, the nursery that sold it to the park and the breeder.

The Source of the Plant

Joan Gibb has determined that the plant was received in 1914 as *R. onsloweanum,* transliterated from the French invoice that listed it as *R. onslovianum*. It was sold by Barbier & Co., (Transon Bros' & D. Dauvesse), Orléans, France, along with 20 or so other rhodos in the same shipment. Albert Barbier and his brother Eugène, after having worked at the nurseries Dauvesse in Orléans, bought this nursery and created the Society Barbier & Co. in 1894 in Orléans. They mainly specialised in roses and between 1900 and 1933, created 66 rose cultivars.

The Hybridizer

The history of John Waterer & Sons [later the Knap Hill Nursery] and the hybridization of rhododendrons is fascinating. It started in 1724 when Thomas Waterer acquired a bog near his farm at Knap Hill near Bagshot Heath in Surrey, west of

The unknown hybrid incorrectly labelled as 'Onsloweanum'. Photo from Joan Gibb.

London. Later, about 1770, his son Michael purchased a neighouring bog and drained it to create a nursery for rhododendrons and azaleas, along with other ericaceous plants. Hybrids were then produced using *R. ponticum* and *R. maximum,* with the objective of creating hardy hybrids. Later *R. catawabiense* and *R. caucasicum* were added to the mix of parental stock. The nursery, and a neighbouring one in Bagshot, was subsequently passed down through the family.

The first recorded hybrid was 'Nobleaneum', a cross made in 1832 by the younger Michael Waterer between *R. arboreum* and *R. caucasicum*, although 'Mrs John Clutton' may be an earlier hybrid by Michael Waterer's father. As late as 1949, 'Nobeaneum' was admired for its hardiness at the Chelsea Flower Show.

It seems that 'Onsloweanum' was hybridized in the 1840s but its actual parentage is unknown. Another of their hybrids was 'Purple Splendour', registered in 1900 and which remains fairly common in gardens on Vancouver Island, BC, today.

The nursery developed into one of the best sources of plants in England. It also exported a large number for plants for the park around the Capitol in Washington, D.C., and it exhibited over 1500 plants at a show in Philadelphia in 1876. The history of this nursery has been described by Waterer (1950) (see p. 209 for another rhododendron showing).

The Plant

I examined the International Rhododendron Register and Checklist (IRRC)

maintained by the Royal Horticultural Society. This revealed that the plant can not in fact be 'Onsloweanum', which is described as:

> **Onsloweanum**: parentage unknown. R.: Waterer (Knap Hill) (pre 1851), N.: Waterer (Knap Hill), INC: ICRA (1958). Fls delicate waxy blush, changing to white, with a yellow eye. Hardy Hybrid.

Obviously, our plant's flower is not white (Figure on next page). Using the descriptions in the IRRC, it was possible to determine that this plant was also not one of the other plants that were on the list of the 20 original plants. The closest was 'Commodore', recorded in the list as 'Commandeur', which has a similar blotch but the colour of our plant cannot be described as "carmine."

It is clear that while we have an historically interesting plant, we do not know the name of the hybrid at this time. At some point, labels were switched but we do not know whether this occurred in France before the plant was shipped or on Vancouver Island during the last century.

A rooted cutting of the hybrid has been planted in the Lake Cowichan Memorial Rhododendron Garden, Lake Cowichan, BC, where it can be examined by anyone interested in it when it matures. There remains the other opportunity to obtain a definitive identification in the future by examining the parent plant in Dominion Brook Park.

It is hoped that participants to the 2015 spring ARS Convention in Sidney, BC, may arrange to visit Dominion Brook Park to see the rhododendrons and other interesting plants and trees there. Although many of the plants that were originally received from Barbier & Co in 1914 have subsequently died, note should be taken of two other surviving rhododendrons from that original shipping that still flower, namely 'Sir William E. Gladstone'* and 'Alexander Adie'.

* = unregistered.

Reference

Waterer, G.D. 1950. Rhododendrons and azaleas at the Knap Hill Nursery. *Quart. Bull. American Rhodo. Soc.* 4: 10-15.

Acknowledgements

Joan Gibb rooted the cutting, helped with research and provided the photograph. Marc Columbel helped with information on the nursery in France and Dr. Alan Leslie of the RHS was kind enough to send more detailed descriptions of some of the other rhododendrons that were planted at the same time as the mystery plant.

Rhododendron brassii

Maurie Kupsch
Burnie, Tasmania
Australia

(From the July 2014 Rhodo News*, newsletter of the Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc.)*

This rhododendron is a relative new-comer to Emu Valley, Burnie, Tasmania, coming to us from Victoria a few years back, and has only now started to flower.

The flower colour is greenish yellow with a strong red flush and, as with most yellows, it is without scent. *R. brassii* was named to honour Leonard Brass—famous for his botanical collecting in New Guinea. It is found in West Papua Indonesia near Lake Habbema, and the north slope of Mt. Wilhelmina, where it grows in shrubby forest or grassy margins of *Podocarpus*—a local conifer. In the wild and in cultivation the plant is quite leggy and grows at a lower altitude than its closest relative—*R. ultimum*.

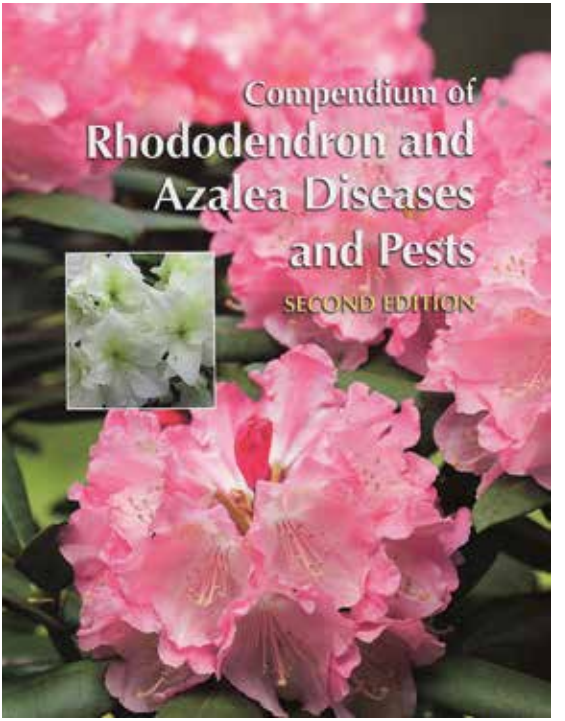
R. brassii. Photo by the author.

Book Review

Compendium of Rhododendron & Azalea Diseases & Pests, 2nd Edition

Linderman, Robert G., Ed., and D. Michael Benson, Ed. Published by the American Phytopathological Society. 144 pages, 173 colour illustrations. Paperback. $79 at the ARSStore: http://arsstore.org

Review by Steve Henning



The American Phytopathological Society (APS) released a major update on July 1, 2014, of their 1986 book *Compendium of Rhododendron and Azalea Diseases and Pests*, a venerable reference.

What makes this book even more special to ARS members is that APS is offering a $20 discount for orders through ARSStore.org, the American Rhododendron Society's online store.

Besides covering more diseases and pests, the 2nd edition covers new work completed in the past 28 years on the understanding and identification of new rhododendron and azalea problems.

Disease and Pest Identification

A total of 173 color photos assist in identifying the damage as well as the cause. This new edition has twice as many color photos and they are located with the appropriate text. Before they were relegated to a *Color Plates* section. With 144 pages, the 2nd edition also has twice as many pages.

It covers specific algal diseases, bacterial diseases, fungal diseases, nematodes, parasites, virus diseases, witches-brooms, weevils, borers, scale, aphids, mealybugs, whiteflies, lace

bugs, midge, rootworms, thrips, mites, caterpillars, cutworms, and leafminers. It also covers problems caused by moisture stress, heat, winter weather, nutrient deficiencies and toxicities, air pollution, pesticides and genetic problems.

Not only is the book complete, but it provides an identification key to identifying specific issues, including cultural problems, disease problems, and pest problems. What I find amazing is that this key that guides you to all specific problems, the Quick Guide to Diagnosis, fits on one page. That is remarkable. It does not list lichens, although many people mistake these harmless organisms for a problem.

Also, the book covers the latest control measures, which have changed and improved in the past 28 years.

Disease and Pest Control

One very interesting point I had never read before is that conifer-bark media, often used in nurseries, is highly conducive to disease. However, compost made from woody materials and organic nitrogen, as well as the tea made from this compost, greatly increases the resistance of the media to disease organisms. The book also discusses biological controls such as beneficial nematodes, beneficial bacteria such as BT, and other microbacterial agents.

The greatest value of this book to me is that it provides ways that I can avoid problems, rather than react to them. I attempt to avoid all toxic materials and this book gives me great insights on ways to do this. For example, it documented how just the use of a raised bed prevented root rot even when the raised bed was inoculated with phytophthora.

The book is written by scientists and does use correct biological terms, but its glossary should help with words that are new. One word I had to look up was abiotic, which means cultural, i.e., not caused by a biological organism.

When the book recommends chemical control, the chemical names are used rather than brand names. One chart lists insects and mites and their geographic distribution and the damage they cause. Another chart lists various insecticides and miticides and lists which pests they can be used for and whether they act by contact, stomach poison, or if systemic, whether they enter through the roots or the foliage. A third chart lists how effective the various insecticides and miticides are against each pest.

Disease and Pest Management

The book mentions ways to prevent problems including integrated pest management techniques. These include treatment of irrigation water, chemical control, biological control, soil selection, fertilization, cultural practices, sanitation, and resistant varieties. For example, the use of organic or nitrate fertilizers offer distinct advantages over ammonia fertilizers. It also discusses exclusion, eradication, and quarantine regulations used around the world.

The book discusses the association of mycorrhizae with plant nutrition and disease prevention. This means there is a tradeoff between sterile media and media enhanced with beneficial organisms. In scientific studies, mycorrhizae were even found to some extent on all rhododendron and azaleas, even on plants raised in the super-sterile environment of tissue culture. Higher acidity tends to reduce some disease problems and enhances the performance of mycorrhizae.

If I have any criticisms of this book, they are 1) that it doesn't treat deer as a pest, but there are complete books that deal with deer, and 2) that it doesn't have as many lists of susceptible and tolerant or resistant plants as I would like. However, it does mention some varieties related to ozone damage, cold tolerance, ringspot virus, dieback, gall, root rot, leaf spot, rust, powdery mildew, nematodes, blights, and thrips.

Is This Book For You?

This book will prove invaluable to nurseries and major gardens where they need a reference their employees can use to diagnose, solve, and prevent problems. It will also be of great importance to "rhodoholics" who have a great deal invested in their passion.

In conclusion, the new APS compendium delivers. It helps identify problems, their treatment, and how to prevent these problems. Since it is very complete, it may have more details than the casual reader can digest. However, for those that need the facts, this book is for you. This new 2nd edition is long overdue.

$20 off at ARSStore.org

The publisher of the book has worked out a deal with ARSStore.org where you can get it for $79, $20 off the regular price. Click on the link at http://arsstore.org.

[For those looking for something simple and inexpensive, Washington State Univ. Ext. service has Bulletin 1229, "How to Identify Rhododendron and Azalea Problems" for $6 or on-line for free. As the name indicates, this 28-page 1994 WSU bulletin only covers identification of some problems and not the treatment, and prevention. It does not have a key to identifying problems, but it does have a list of plant varieties resistant to weevils.]

Steve Henning

Steve Henning, a member in the Valley Forge Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society since 1972, is the webmaster of Henning's Rhododendron & Azalea Pages, the District 8 ARS Director, and volunteers as manager of www.ARSStore.org, which he created.

Society News

Awards

COWICHAN VALLEY CHAPTER

Bronze Medal: Ian Efford

It is with great pleasure the Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society bestows its highest award, the Bronze Medal, to Ian Efford for his ten years of service to this chapter.

Ian has served as president, vice president, member at large, newsletter editor and program coordinator. He has been a regular contributor to the newsletter. He has been coordinator and volunteer for the club plant sale, annual donation of plants to the community, the propagation group and numerous other events the club has been involved in. He has provided the club with a historical document, recording our first 25 years and continues to work on projects to enhance the advancement and knowledge of the rhododendron gardens on the Island.

Through his presentations and collaboration with other community organizations he continues to assist the club with achieving our goal of encouraging interest in and disseminating information on the genus *Rhododendron*.

In appreciation of Ian's ongoing work and generous support we honour him with the Bronze Medal.

EUGENE CHAPTER

Bronze Medal: Paula Hewitt

Paula Hewitt has faithfully served the Eugene Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society as an enthusiastic member as well as in a leadership role. She was for many years the Secretary of the Chapter and an active Board Member. And she, along with her husband Ted, has hosted a number of Chapter Picnics and Open Houses in their wonderful and diverse garden in Eugene's South Hills. Therefore, the Eugene Chapter is pleased to present to Paula our highest award.

Bronze Medal: Ted Hewitt

Ted Hewitt has been an active, productive, and cheerful member of the Chapter for many years. He has served in many capacities including as President, Treasurer, Plant Sale organizer, Website administrator, Convention Treasurer, occasional Newsletter Editor, and Special Assistant in charge of Communications. His ability to see the needs of the Chapter and happy willingness to step up and fill those needs with quiet competence has helped ensure the Chapter's wellbeing for many years. Therefore, the Eugene Chapter is pleased to present to Ted our highest award.

MT. ARROWSMITH CHAPTER

Bronze Medal: Bert Harding

This award is in recognition of Bert's long-standing service to MARS. Since he joined many years ago, he has been a cheerful, willing volunteer taking on any task requested.

Awards continued

Over the years he has worn many hats, most recently that of highly valued treasurer. He has organized general meetings, served on committees, including two successful seasons as chair of the Truss Show; his beautiful garden has been on the annual MARS Garden Tour. It is with great pleasure we recognize this outstanding service with the chapter's highest honor, the Bronze Medal.

NANAIMO CHAPTER
Bronze Medal: Ann and Dick Beamish

It is with great pleasure that the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society awards Ann and Dick Beamish the Bronze Medal for outstanding service to our society. Ann and Dick have been important contributors and supporters of our society for many years. Ann has served on our executive as director and secretary, while Dick has shared his knowledge and experience through presentations, and panel dis-cussions. Together they have supported our club through active participation in club events. They have hosted our year end barbecue and graciously opened their garden to club members and to the community as part of our fundraising efforts. Their enthusiastic support of our Christmas auction and annual plant sale and truss show has been outstanding. Our annual truss show always features many entries from their beautiful garden. Ann and Dick's sense of humour and good nature add to every club event.

SCOTTISH CHAPTER
Bronze Medal: John Roy

You are a long-time Member of the Scottish Rhododendron Society and have supported its activities in many ways. As an ardent plant-hunter you have been on many expeditions to the Himalaya, including multiple visits to Arunachal Pradesh, and have entertained our members with presentations of your adventures. In the shadow of Glen Coe you have made a plantsman's garden, set in a glen with a fast-running burn, that you have opened on several occasions for members to visit and have freely shared plants raised from wild-collected seed.

As a Committee Member of the Scottish Chapter, some years ago you willingly stepped-up and took on the role of Editor of the Society's Newsletter and Yearbook, which at the time was major learning curve in terms of handling publications software; nevertheless, you have continued to make changes that have significantly enhanced the quality and content of these publications. You are an active member of the Shows Sub-committee, have fulfilled the role of Show Steward for the better part of twenty years, and have consistently supported our Shows with competitive entries that helps to upkeep the standard of the Society's National Rhododendron Show.

The Directors are delighted to present John Roy with the Scottish Rhododendron's Society's highest award, the Bronze Medal of the American Rhododendron Society, our parent body. Given at Gargunnock, Stirling, this day 3rd May, 2014.

Awards continued

Bronze Medal: David N. Starck

You have been active in the Scottish Rhododendron Society for a long time and as a relatively new member you took on the role of handling enquiries on the Registration Desk at the 1996 ARS Convention in Oban, which was a very busy week for everyone involved. Shortly after you became a Committee Member of the Scottish Chapter, progressing to the role of Vice-President and in due course served as President for two three-year terms.

The Scottish Rhododendron Society came of age in 2008 when it celebrated on an International scale by holding a Silver Jubilee Conference at the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh. You took on the somewhat challenging role of Sponsorship Manager and were very successful in securing some significant contributions from a number of organisations that underpinned the viability of the Conference. More recently you stepped forward to take up the role of Tours & Visits Manager, which involves a considerable workload in regard to organising the multi-day events that are a feature of the Society's annual programme.

The Directors are delighted to present David N. Starck with the Scottish Rhododendron's Society's highest award, the Bronze Medal of the American Rhododendron Society, our parent body. Given at Gargunnock, Stirling, this day 3rd May, 2014.

Bronze Medal: Dr. David L. Chamberlain

You are a Senior Member of the Scottish Rhododendron Society and have been active since the Society was founded in 1983; you are also a highly regarded Honorary Vice-President. You have a wealth of knowledge and experience with rhododendrons, in both the Herbarium and the wild, and have led the changes in taxonomy that were taken forward during a lifetime's work at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. In the early years of the Society there was much discussion in connection with these taxonomic changes, which you have carefully and patiently explained to our members on many occasions.

You been a valued keystone of our Annual Rhododendron Show since the early days of the Society and have judged innumerable events, always with a very keen critical eye, accompanied with wise advice to competitors when needed, and have on many occasions been quick to recognise when unusual species have appeared on the Show benches. You have worked amiably with a wide selection of Judges, some of whom are no longer with us, including some of International status, such as was the case at the 1996 A.R.S. Convention in Oban. Our Chapter has held many meetings at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, including its Silver Jubilee Conference in 2008, and behind the scenes you have graciously provided support for these activities, attended planning meetings, and led sessions during the event itself. You are an intrepid plantsman and an inspiration to those of us around you in the Rhododendron world, which benefits us all.

The Directors are delighted to present Dr. David L. Chamberlain with the Scottish

Awards continued

Rhododendron's Society's highest award, the Bronze Medal of the American Rhododendron Society, our parent body. Given at Gargunnock, Stirling, this day 3rd May, 2014.

Bronze Medal: Ian W.J. Sinclair

You have always been something of a "dark horse" operating behind the scenes in the Scottish Rhododendron Society, and yet you have been an inspiration to our members for many, many, years. You have a vast knowledge and a wide experience of both plants and trees, dating from your days with the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh, and you readily share this expertise amongst our members in a friendly and meaningful way. Your work with the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh and Benmore Botanic Garden, your many years as a Horticultural Consultant including a period as Curator at Ardkinglas Woodland Garden, your visits to the Himalaya, including leading expeditions, have earned you the respect of many of your peers. You have led garden visits, entertained our members with your adventures on plant hunting expeditions, and shared your experiences in a wider way with presentations to several A.R.S. Chapters in the Pacific Northwest.

You have served on the Committee of the Scottish Chapter for many years, actively providing wise advice, currently in the role of Vice President, and you are Chairman of the Shows Sub-committee that has continued to ensure that our Annual Rhododendron Show has maintained a remarkable standard of excellence in spite of the adverse weather of several recent autumns and winters. You are a man of many talents, not least of which is your knowledge of rhododendrons which benefits us all, and the Directors are delighted to present Ian W.J. Sinclair with the Scottish Rhododendron's Society's highest award, the Bronze Medal of the American Rhododendron Society, our parent body. Given at Gargunnock, Stirling, this day 3rd May, 2014.

In Memoriam

Jim Greig

The Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society (MARS) lost one of their beloved charter members on Aug 25th at the age of 93—Jim Greig, the son of Mary and Ted Greig, recipients of the ARS Gold Medal in 1966. The Greigs started the Royston Nursery on Vancouver Island, BC, and around the age of twelve, Jim began to help his father plant rhodos from their nursery in what is now known as Milner Gardens and Woodlands in Qualicum Beach, BC. Most of those plants are now mature "trees" and a visit to the gardens is a joy. Jim helped in the nursery until his schooling took him to the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, BC, where he received a Bachelor of Commerce. Jim then worked as a chartered accountant for the forestry company Crown Zellerbach Canada until 1985, when he retired as Senior Vice President and moved to Nanoose Bay, BC.

Jim and his wife Jean had a lovely rhodo garden and were active participants in

In Memoriam continued

MARS until recent health issues slowed them down. Jim was a gentle caring friend, a true gentleman, and with Jean, were joint recipients of a MARS Bronze medal in 1996.

Jim was a MARS charter member when it was formed 25 years ago, and for years was its trusty treasurer and later, its auditor. This past June, Jim and Jean attended the MARS 25th anniversary party, allowing many members to have a memorable last visit with him. Jim and Jean were married for 67 years, and have four wonderful children. Daughter Chris Southwick, current president of the Nanaimo chapter, and daughters Jane and Nancy are all keen rhodo lovers, and together carry on their parents and grandparents love of the genus *Rhododendron.*

Mary Parker

Charles W. Rasweiler

Charles Rasweiler, 89, passed away on July 2, 2014. He was a kind and gentle soul who gave devoted service to his country and his community. He is survived by his wife, Fran; three daughters, Doris Rasweiler, Diane and her husband Johannes Richter, and Beth Ann Rasweiler Griffin. His son, Roger Mark, was killed in the World Trade Center North Tower on September 11, 2001. Charles also has 12 loving grandchildren and 5 special great-grandchildren. Charles graduated from Brooklyn Tech and Hofstra University with honors and received two Masters Degrees in Education and Business. He proudly enlisted in the Army Air Corps during WW II. He worked as an engineer for Airborne Instruments and later became manager of the Surface Radar Project at ten major US airports. He was a past president of his local school board and became a physics teacher and coach of the girls' tennis team. He was active in the Valley Forge Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society and was past president of the New York Chapter. He and his wife later retired to Cedar Crest Village in Pompton Plains, NJ.

Dr. Robert C. "Bob" Rhodes

Dr. Robert C. Rhodes was one of a few prominent faces of rhododendron culture in District 1 (British Columbia) for approximately five decades. While living in Maple Ridge, he began his involvement with the ARS with membership in the Vancouver Chapter, joining in 1959. Upon retiring from his medical practice in 1984, and then moving to Gabriola Island in 1988, he and his wife Jean took up membership with the Victoria Chapter, moving on to the Cowichan Chapter on its inception and then to the Nanaimo Chapter to be closer to home. Bob was a very active member of the Vancouver Chapter and represented District 1 for many years.

In 1995 Bob was awarded a Silver Medal by the ARS. As stated in the citation for the silver medal, he "sought out and collected the finest of both rhododendron species and hybrids" and "graciously shared those plants." His well-deserved medal was awarded at the Mount Arrowsmith Chapter's Western Regional Meeting in October of that year. He had spent many hours volunteering as an executive member at various levels for the ARS Vancouver Chapter and made both practical and financial contributions to

In Memoriam continued

the Rhododendron Species Foundation from nearly the beginning of that enterprise in 1964. He was president of the Vancouver Chapter for the first five years of the 1970s as well as a conference speaker and long term program chair.

Bob will be remembered by his many friends for his knowledge of both growing and propagating rhododendrons, as well as his many, many hours of volunteer work and generous donations of plant material and financial support to various fundraisers and gardens such as the Rhododendron Species Foundation and the garden memorial to Eric Langton at the Maple Ridge BC hospital. His name and love of the genus will live on with his hybrid *R*. 'Bob's Blue' ('Ilam Violet' x 'Blue Diamond') (Reg. 1979) which has become a staple in the trade on the west coast. The fine yellow-flowering hybrid 'Haida Gold' (Reg. 1985), although not a Rhodes hybrid, was grown from seed from the Bovee-Mayo seed company and selected by Bob, and has also proven popular with local gardeners. These two hybrids are only two of many plants which were hybridized by Dr. Rhodes.

For many years, Bob and Jean made the trek to the Nanaimo Chapter meetings and events despite the difficulty with catching ferries. They always generously shared their lovely Gabriola Island seaside garden "Steepsides" with anyone who asked. Friend and long-time Vancouver Chapter member Joe Ronsley wrote, "Bob was a very kind, very generous man—generous with his plants, with financial support, professionally, and generally with himself. Certainly his was a full life, but his passing, like that of other special people, is a cause for considerable sadness nevertheless."

Marshall Glenn Stilwell

Marshall Glenn Stilwell of Thomasville, North Carolina, passed away on January 11, 2014, at the age of 86. A life-long resident of North Carolina, he attended college at North Carolina State University in Raleigh and served in the Merchant Marine Service following the WW II. He was employed by the Masonite Corporation and retired there in 1989. His main loves were people, rhododendrons, fishing, maintaining a vegetable garden and NC State basketball. In the early 1970s he established a small rhododendron hobbyist nursery in Thomasville, growing primarily Dexter rhododendrons that performed well in the warm humid southern summers. Later in 1976, he began hybridizing rhododendrons. Like most, he concentrated on bright primary colors, while harboring a great love for whites and soft pastels. A few bear informal names but none are registered. Interest in the Dexter rhododendrons led him in another direction when he answered a call from an article placed in the journal by Heman Howard, the horticulturist at Heritage Plantation, the former Dexter Estate (1967-1977) in Sandwich, MA. Heman was seeking the return of all the important Dexter and Consolini hybrids to Heritage for the formation of a memorial Dexter hybrid garden there honoring its founder Charles Owen Dexter. Marshall answered this call and with his wife, Peggy, drove the thousand miles north to Sandwich, MA, to deliver some of the missing plants they needed. They spent the day with Heman and he allowed them to return with some then unknown

In Memoriam continued

Consolini and Jack Cowles hybrids that were just starting to reach a flowering size. Being intrigued by what he saw in a few plants of this group, he returned the following year with Don Kellam and others, all of whom were duly impressed enough to return yearly during blooming season. Later, in 1988, this group encouraged Don and Richard Gustafson of NJ to put together a formal ARS committee to study the adaptability of these hybrids along the eastern coastal U.S. Thus the Sandwich Club was formed and this group met annually on the Cape for over twenty years. As a member of the Sandwich Club, he contributed with the evaluation and selection/registration of many of the outstanding Cowles hybrids commercially available today. He was a religious man, and served as a deacon at the First Baptist Church in Thomasville. He was also a personal friend and we valued this friendship for over forty years. Marshall held many offices in his local ARS Piedmont Chapter including that of President. He leaves his wife, Peggy and their two sons Mark of Thomasville, NC, and Mike of Dugspur, VA.

Norm and Jean Beaudry

Thomas S. York

Thomas S. York, 73, of Bath, Maine, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Monday, June 30, 2014, following a three month battle with CNS Lymphoma.

Born in Rumford, ME, Tom was the son of Edith and Samuel York. He graduated from Morse High School in 1959 in Bath, ME, and the University of Maine in 1963, majoring in Mechanical Engineering. Tom met his wife, Beth Kendall York, at a friend's wedding and enjoyed 49 great years of marriage together.

Tom began his career as a mechanical engineer at Nestle USA in Connecticut, before returning to work in Maine at Bath Iron Works where he held multiple positions including Vice President of Facilities. He first retired at the age of 52 following 25+ rewarding years at BIW. Tom started his second career growing and selling rhododendrons and azaleas in his seven green houses at York's Hardy Rhododendrons in North Bath. He officially retired for the second and final time last year after 20 years of the most stress free and enjoyable job Tom could have imagined in the flower business.

Tom enjoyed camping, boating, fishing, photography, gardening and spending time with his grandchildren. Watching his grandchildren who called him "Beeps" play soccer, field hockey, lacrosse and ski were probably his most enjoyable days. Within the past year, he also picked up the hobby of building beautiful handcrafted canoes.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Beth York of Bath; two children Andy York and his wife Michelle of Scarborough, and Julie York of Massachusetts; two grandchildren Maddie and Kayleigh York of Scarborough; a brother, Samuel York and his wife Donna of Cumberland and their children Christopher and Heather.

Society News

ARS Research Foundation Donations, 7/1/2013 to 6/30/2014

Date	Donor	Amount	Source
7/26/2013	Donald Hyatt	$ 50.00	In memory of Frances Louer
7/26/2013	Donald Hyatt	$ 50.00	In memory of Sybil Przypek
8/25/2013	Greater Philadelphia Chapter	$ 400.00	Chapter Donation
9/16/2013	Karel Bernady	$ 50.00	Donation
9/25/2013	William & Sandra Bennett	$ 200.00	In honor of Kathy Van Veen
9/27/2013	Ronald E. Sjogren	$ 25.00	Donation
10/10/2013	Robert R. Emmerich	$ 10.00	Donation
10/10/2013	Bud Gehnrich	$ 10.00	Donation
11/1/2013	William T. Norris	$ 25.00	Donation
11/1/2013	William F. Bedwell	$ 50.00	Donation
11/4/2013	Mark P. Widrlechner	$ 50.00	Donation
11/6/2013	Susquehanna Valley Chapter	$ 172.00	Honorarium for Karel Bernady
11/8/2013	Stephen F. Jess	$ 30.00	Donation
11/14/2013	Valley Forge Chapter	$ 500.00	Chapter Donation
11/14/2013	Valley Forge Chapter	$ 638.00	Proceeds from District 8 auction
11/20/2013	Middle Atlantic Chapter	$ 150.00	Chapter Donation
12/3/2013	New York Chapter	$ 200.00	Honorarium for Karel Bernady
2/17/2014	Tappan Zee Chapter	$ 200.00	Honorarium for Stephen Krebs
2/25/2014	Henning's Rhododendron & Azalea Bookstore	$ 37.50	Book sales commission

ARS Services continued

editors can find useful and up-to-date information. Society officers, directors and committees can access important materials needed to carry out society business. A password is required to access information at this website.

Contact: Executive Director, Laura Grant.

RHODODENDRON & AZALEA NEWS – Quarterly electronic newsletter featuring articles, news, and information gathered from ARS chapters and society members. Sections on Plant Tips, People and Events, Gardens, and ideas for chapters provide interesting and useful information for rhododendron enthusiasts. Accessed via www.rhododendron.org - look for the link to R&A News.

Contact: Editor, Marty Anderson.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA LIBRARY - Keeps historical records, letters, journals relating to rhododendrons and the ARS.

Contact: Dr. Sandra McDonald.

VIRGINIA TECH'S DIGITAL LIBRARY & ARCHIVE - View content from previously published *Quarterly Bulletin* of the ARS. Use http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JARS to access the web page that provides links to the *Quarterly Bulletin* table of contents.

Contact: Bob Weissman.

ARS ONLINE STORE - ARSStore.org - Features books, garden tools, ARS logo merchandise, nationally known merchants' online stores and downloadable programs. Every purchase benefits the ARS at no extra cost.

Contact: Steve Henning

Rhododendron Calendar

2014	New Zealand Rhododendron Association International Conference, Dunedin, NZ, Oct 20-25. http:www.rhododendron.org.nz
2015	ARS Annual Convention, 70th Anniversary, Sidney, BC, May 6-10, Board Meeting
2015	ARS Fall Regional Conference, Long Island, NY, dates to be announced. Board Meeting
2016	ARS/ASA Annual Convention, Williamsburg, VA, April 20-24, Board Meeting

Index

Journal American Rhododendron Society,
Volume 68, 2014.

The names of species and hybrid rhododendrons and azaleas occurring within the text of articles are not listed in the index. Reference to plants with colour images is made for the following entries: (AZALEA HYBRIDS, AZALEA SPECIES, RHODODENDRON HYBRIDS, RHODODENDRON SPECIES, VIREYA HYBRIDS, VIREYA SPECIES).

Rhododendron cultivar names not registered in the International Register of Plant names and Checklist are marked with an*.

AZALEA SPECIES AND SELECTED SPECIES FORMS

R. calenduaceum. 1:43.
R. flammeum. 1:12
R. prunifolium. 1:44.
R. schlippenbachii. 1:44.

PLANTS OTHER THAN RHODODENDRONS

PUBLICATIONS

RHODODENDRON HYBRIDS

'Abendsonne'. 3:157.
'Arctic Dreams'. 2:107.
'Belmonte'. 4:180.
'Bow Bells'. 4:180.
'Butterscotch Brandy' Elepidote rhododendron: 'Nancy Evans' (s) X ('Wizard' x *R. irroratum* 'Polka Dot'). 4:217
'Candy Red Apple' Elepidote rhododendron: 'Rubicon' (s) X (*R. repens* x 'Noyo Chief'). 4:217.
'Carley Ann' Elepidote rhododendron: 'Mavis Davis' (s) X 'Evening Glow'. 4:218.
'Carmen'. 1:12.
'Catherine's Princess Di' Elepidote rhododendron: 'Exotic' (s) X 'Lem's Cameo'. 4:218.
'CeeCee' ('Vulcan X *R. hyperythrum*), cross #19-1997. 1:7.
'Cee Cee' ('Vulcan' X R. hyperythrum), (Cross #19 - 1997). 2:91.
'Cheer'. 4:181.
'Consolini's Windmill'. 1:44.
'Coral Dancer'. 2:107.
'Creamcicle'. 2: 59.
'Dreamland'. 3:157.
'Early Winters'. 1:50.
'Eben Jordan' Elepidote rhododendron: parentage unknown. 4:218.
'Elegant Candy' Elepidote rhododendron: 'Emily Elizabeth' (s) X 'Brio'. 4:218.
'Etta Burrows'. 1:14.
'Fire Rim'. 1:45.
'Fred Jennings' [('Blue Ensign' x 'Tina's Picture') X *R. hyperythrum*], cross #8-2000. 1:7.
'Ginny Gee'. 1:45.
'Golfer'. 4:204.
'Grace Seabrook'. 1:44.
'Great Gatsby'. 4:171.
'Hydon Velvet'. 4:205.
'Honey Gold'. 1:50.
'Horizon Monarch'. 1:46.
'Invitation's Gift' Elepidote rhododendron: 'Invitation' (s) X ([*R. degronianum* ssp. *yakushimanum* x *R. lacteum*] x 'Powder Snow'). 4:218.
'James Micheal' ('Vivaceous' X *R. hyperythrum*. Selection 1, cross #10-2000. 1:8
'Janet's Flair'. 4:174.
'Joker's Wild'. 1:51.
'Judy Judy Judy'. 1:51.
'Karen Gervais'. 2:60.
'Karin Seleger'. 1:44.
'Kehr's White Ruffles'. 1:43.
'Komo Kulshan'. 1:45.
'Lance Romance' Elepidote rhododendron: unknown parentage. 4:219.
'Leslie Bell'. 2:61.
'Lily Lynn' Elepidote rhododendron: 'Apricot Nectar' (s) X 'Lem's Cameo'. 4:219.
'Marquis of Lothian'. 3:152.
'Mary Ann Gelsthorpe'. 2:107.

RHODODENDRON SPECIES AND SELECTED SPECIES FORMS

SOCIETY NEWS

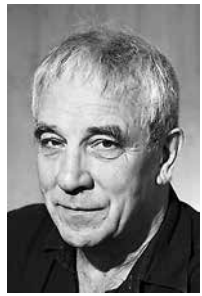
VIREYA HYBRIDS

VIREYA SPECIES

We are Only in it for the Leaves

Bengt Karlsson
Molndal, Sweden

Photos by the author
except where noted



Anyone who has a rhododendron in their garden can enjoy the splendour of their short flowering period. A mature bush often has hundreds of buds that break into thousands of flowers. We humbly stand back and admire this splendid display of colour. When the abundant flowering period comes to an end, the flowers fall to the ground by the thousands, resembling in their exuberance an old-fashioned mafia funeral. But the flowering is only part of the brilliance of rhododendrons, which I hope to show in this article.

R. bureavii.

R. campanulatum with buds.

R. orbiculare.

For the past 20 years a large number of new hybrids, with spectacular flowers in a variety of shapes and colours, have been introduced on the market. Modern hybrids with origins in the United States and Germany are becoming a more common occurrence in nurseries in Scandinavia. Attempts to create more prominent hybrids have resulted in rhododendron flowers in all the colours of the rainbow and, as an additional bonus, many of these varieties also come with distinct, decorative spots in the throat of the flowers, which make them almost resemble orchid flowers. However, the sparkling colours of these hybrids can be so exaggerated that the original characteristics of the parent species are almost eliminated. Orthodox growers, who collect pure species specimens in their relatively sparse and natural colours, may turn up their noses at these modern hybrids and view them as bordering on vulgar. Yet tastes differ, which is why a broad selection benefits both the orthodox collector and the novice consumer.

Let us now set flowers aside for a moment and shift our focus to the beauty of rhododendron leaves, for it is indeed the leaves that are the main attraction amongst many rhododendron enthusiasts. It is also in the leaves that one can perceive some of the greatest variation within the genus *Rhododendron*, which has about a thousand naturally occurring species.

Rhododendrons are a woody group within the *Ericaceae* family, and they display

R. bureavii

a great variety in the way they grow and in the appearance of their leaves. Among rhododendrons, one can find both tree-like varieties growing up to 15 meters (50 ft) tall with up to 70 cm (2.3 ft) long leaves and ground-covering dwarf varieties with only four mm (0.16 in) long leaves. As it is impossible to discuss all these interesting varieties here, I have chosen to present only a select few to help illustrate my reasoning. The shapes vary from the circular leaves of *R. orbiculare* to the sharp, lance-like ones of *R. roxieanum*, and the strongly patterned leaves of the giant *R. rex* and its "little sister" *R. rex* ssp. *fictolacteum*.

Many species have beautiful leaves with an indument-felted under side and a leathery, dark green upper side, which enhance the character and beauty of the plant. The felted surface on the undersides of leaves comes in different shades, such as the silvery shade of *R. agyrophyllum*, the various brown shades of *R. eleganturum* and *R. wasonii*, the cinnamon shade of *R. bureavii*, and the yellow-brown shade of *R. wightii*. Some species also have bluish leaves with a cinnamon-brown under side, as can be seen with *R. campanulatum* ssp. which are commonly found in Sikkim in India. This is also

R. proteoides at Cika Pass 4600m, Yunnan, China. Photo by Ole Jonny Larsen.

characteristic of the decorative *R. clementinae* with its fresh green-blue leaves. There is also the tomentum, that is, the lightly powdered surface on the upper side of the leaves. Hence, discovering all the different characteristics of the rhododendron leaves requires both a trained eye and a willingness to stop, pause and look at a plant closely.

If you go beyond the assortment of commercial hybrids of the large nurseries, you sometimes find at the odd small-scale grower, amateur gardener circles or rhododendron society plant sales a large number of primary hybrids (species × species crosses). These crosses are often a cross between a hardy mother plant and a non-hardy father plant to

Leaves - an overview.

try and add beautiful but non-hardy plant qualities in a hardier plant. An excellent example of this is a cross between the "super-hardy" *R. brachycarpum*, which can endure temperatures as low as -41° C (-42° F), and the yellow-flowered giant *R. macabeanum*. The result of this is relatively hardy offspring in which the leaves remain large and with yellow-white flowers. Another example of a good combination of first-rate qualities is the well-known cross between *R. degronianum* ssp. *yakushimanum* and *R. rex*, known as 'Great Dane'.

If you look you can find some successful commercial hybrids with beautiful leaves. 'Hydon Velvet' (*R. degronianum* ssp. *yakushimanum* × *R. bureavii*) and 'Golfer' (*R. pseudchrysanthum* × *R. degronianum* ssp. *yakushimanum*) are each perfect in their own way. The former is a dense bush with a cinnamon-brown to red indumentum, fresh, dark green leaves and beautiful furry branches. 'Golfer' is a most decorative hybrid with an almost white indumentum and a tomentum on the upper side of the leaves. The leaves on these hybrids change colour from early budding until the leaves are fully opened. For those of us that cross rhododendrons with the aim of bringing out beautiful leaves, a similar or improved hybrid is a tempting goal.

There are giants amongst rhododendron, beautiful in the power of their size, but there are also miniatures that are equally spectacular in their smallness. In the 1980s in the United States, Warren Berg started to experiment with crosses which included the "dwarf" *R. proteoides*, a species that

R. lanatum.

R. roxieanum

'Hydon Velvet' and in the foreground 'Golfer'.

R. rex.

grows at over 4000 m (13,123 ft) in Yunnan, China. This species is extremely hardy and slow-growing and has the unique quality of shrinking its crossing partner. When crossed with a *R. proteoides*, a large species easily turns into a shrunken miniature bush, like washing a woolly jumper in 90° C (194° F) water. This results in a very compact, low, late-blooming, indumented offspring, which fits nicely in a rock garden together with other plants. My own *R. proteoides* crosses from the early 1990s, now about 15 cm (six inches) tall, first flowered in the early 2000s. Thus, patience is required when raising *R. proteoides* hybrids from seed. Yet, the patient grower will, in time, enjoy a hardy plant with small, often decorative white or pink bells that flowers early in the year.

Rhododendrons sometimes have an undeservedly poor reputation. People often associate them with the common park rhododendron 'Catawbiense Grandiflorum' with its blue-lilac flowers. Today this plant is no longer the status quo. If you discuss the issue with someone at one of the large nursery gardens, they will tell you that rhododendrons are currently experiencing something of a renaissance. Sadly though, the assortment available in many nurseries is still limited, which means that the focus remains largely fixed on the appearance of the flowers. With all due respect to flowers, I must state that the beauty of the leaves is much too overlooked in modern hybrids. I once posed the question

"Why rhododendrons?" to one of the leading arborists in Sweden, Tommy Anby, who runs a nursey in Munkedal on the Swedish west coast. He swiftly responded "They are all unique individuals with their very own characters". Tommy belongs to a group of growers in Scandinavia who like to collect indumented species and primary hybrids, particularly large-leaved varieties. Gunnar Bernler, a famous gardener in Ljungskile also on the west coast of Sweden, has a collection of hundreds of indumented hybrids from near and far, with many stunning primary hybrids where the beauty of the leaves plays an important role.

R. campanulatum var. hybrid at sunset in author's garden.

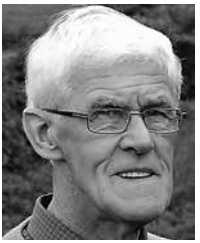
Personally, I like to raise both indumented species and hybrids in the hope of some day being able to raise a beautiful hybrid which comprises all the first-rate qualities of the rhododendron family in one plant. But what about variety? Despite all that has been said in favour of hybrids, a pure species remains in a class of its own. Indeed, who can resist the blue-purple bud of *R. campanulatum* that has made its way from the mountains of Nepal to our Swedish gardens.

If you are interested in seeing more pictures of rhododendron species and hybrids, please visit my website at www.rhododendron.nu.

Bengt Karlsson is the current president of the Swedish Rhododendron Society.

Vireyas in the Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden in Burnie, Tasmania

Ian Chalk and Maurie Kupsch
Burnie, Tasmania, Australia



Maurie Kupsch

Ian Chalk

Emu Valley is an 11 ha (27.2 acre) garden, created, managed and owned by volunteers. It is a not-for-profit incorporated organisation, originally formed by the North West Branch of the Australian Rhododendron Society in 1980. Originally

R. laetum in foreground and *R .tuba* behind.

featuring hybrid rhododendrons and companion plants, the garden now has a large and developing area dedicated to growing the original wild species of rhododendron in geographical arrangements.

Set in a natural amphitheatre sloping towards the Emu River, the garden has a series of lakes, with native tree ferns and blackwood trees (*Acacia melanoxylon*) enhancing the feature plants (for a more detailed garden description, see Kupsch 2013). The garden has established its own nursery facilities and propagates many of its own plants

The visitor experience at Emu Valley is augmented by walking amongst authentic bridges and pavilions, particularly in the Japanese and Chinese sections. These impressive structures are entirely the efforts of the garden volunteers. The modern function room facility, as well as providing a visitor centre, caters for weddings, community events and tour groups.

R. tuba

R. laetum

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden at Burnie, Tasmania, is quite unique in that its climate allows most rhododendron species including vireyas to be grown outdoors.

Emu Valley's collection of 450 rhododendron species includes 87 vireyas, which represents the largest collection of species rhododendron growing outdoors in the world. Across Europe, Britain and North America, vireyas must be grown in glasshouses during the winter months when below freezing temperatures may occur. Because of northwest Tasmania's mild climate, Emu Valley is able to grow vireyas outside all year in a selected frost free area. Emu Valley's collection of vireya species ensures flowering throughout the year and hence their increasing popularity amongst gardeners.

There are more than 300 species of vireyas extending in the wild through parts of continental Asia, Taiwan, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, New Guinea, as far south

as North Queensland and as far east as the Solomon Islands. Preferring cooler temperatures above freezing, they are mostly found on mountains in tropical regions above 1000 meters and occur up to about 4000 metres elevation.

R. 'Penrose'.

Vireyas in the wild can be found growing in tall trees as epiphytes or as shrubs in the soil terrestrially. I accompanied a small group from the Australian Rhododendron Society that climbed four peaks in North Queensland in 2012 to see the two Australian endemic species, *Rhododendron lochiae* and *R. viriosum,* which grow on mossy rocks as lithophytes.

The beauty of the vireya has long attracted the attention of hybridisers in further developing the already varied range of rhododendron flower colours and leaf forms. Public recognition of the vireya is still very limited but its profuse and extended flowering ensures a brilliant future in the right locations.

History of Vireyas At Emu Valley

After the initial planting of Asiatic rhododendrons and the success achieved with the more tender *Maddenia* subsection, inclusion of vireya rhododendrons in the garden was considered to complete collection of rhododendron species. Originally the vireya growing site was covered with blackberries and blackwood trees, which, because of their great numbers, were forced to grow tall, giving the area a high top cover. The blackberries were removed with a spray eradication programme and some of the more spindly blackwoods were cleared, providing an area of about 0.25 ha (0.62 acre) for vireyas. The soil is red basalt, rich in humus from leaves constantly falling from the canopy and from fern frond debris.

The first vireyas, hybrids, were planted in 1988 and they flowered during the winter, which gave us confidence to source more vireyas there, both hybrids and species. This area now contains plants with flowers varying from large flowered, pink, highly perfumed ones to dwarf red flowers.

Maurie Kupsch's Cultural Notes for Vireya Culture

When vireyas first became established in a few privileged gardens in Australia, people

R. 'Maurice Kupsch'.

considered them hard to grow, as plants were frequently grown in shaded areas, with their cultural requirements frequently misunderstood. We now know they are easy to grow if some simple needs are met. Many vireya species grow as epiphytes, like many orchids by simply attaching themselves along with mosses and lichens on the trunks of trees, surviving on frequent rainfalls and the occasional nutrients from animals or decaying vegetation. Other vireyas grow in the ground, often on poorer quality soils.

The basic needs of most vireyas grown in North West Tasmania are as follows:

- Protect them from frost
- Provide perfect drainage
- Water frequently
- Grow in strong sunlight

To assist you in providing such conditions, the following may prove helpful:

Frost runs downhill: Any barrier across a slope (fences, hedges, buildings, etc.) will trap frost on the uphill side. In mild climates, there is often a frost-free area on the downhill side of such barriers. In more severe climates, vireyas in pots can be overwintered during months with below freezing temperatures in a cool, frost-free area, as is commonly done with geraniums and other more tender plants killed by freezing.

Drainage is essential: Remember, most of the plants are used to living in the upper branches of trees or on steep slopes. They will not handle roots submerged in wet soil for any period of time. Like orchids, they need a very open soil mix, either when in the ground or in pots.

Water well: Water is typically readily available in the natural habitats of these plants, often with misty rain or even tropical showers occurring once or more per day. Probably the most economical way to deliver this is by way of a fixed micro-spray system with good fine misty jets.

Sun is essential: This is the case in growing robust vireyas in all climates, and more so in Tasmania because of its lower latitude. Vireyas grown in shade will flower sparingly and become long, leggy plants. With full sun, or just a little (preferably afternoon)

shade, you will have very floriferous, well-shaped shrubs, which will be a delight in your garden.

Fertiliser: Fertilizing should be relatively minimal compared to most plants. Heavy chemical fertilising may burn fragile new roots and destroy soil micro-life. Mulch well and use organic fertilisers, but sparingly. Water availability is more important to vireya health than are fertilisers—these plants are effective nutrient scroungers. If you want to push young plants along to make good flowering size plants or to maximize flowering, use a half strength liquid fertiliser, perhaps fortnightly.

R. 'Veronica Maureen'.

As with any plants, a little cultural understanding will be rewarded. There are very few plants indeed that can provide you with the degree of colour, perfume and year round performance as do vireyas. Try some in your garden and enjoy this wonderful new experience.

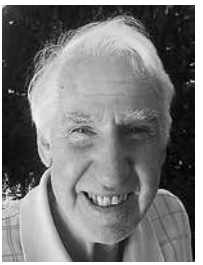
Ian Chalk is the Garden Chairman of the Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden at Burnie, Tasmania, Australia, and Maurie Kupsch is its Honorary Curator.

Reference

Kupsch, M. 2013. The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden. *J. American Rhodo. Soc.* 67: 138-141.

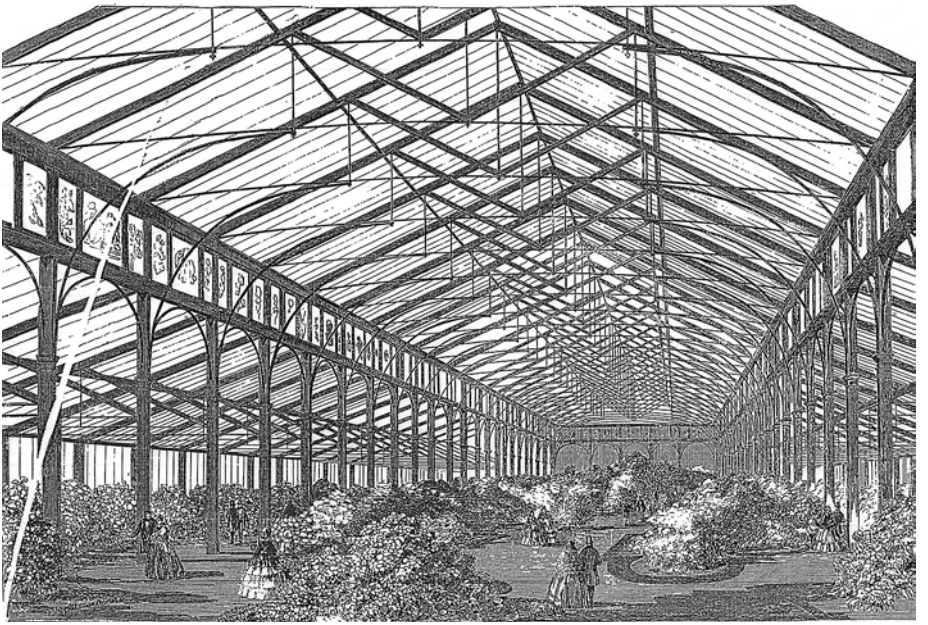
The Show of American Plants at Cremorne

Royce Tennant
Nanaimo, BC
Canada



(As printed in *The Illustrated London News* in 1858; text provided by Royce Tennant, Nanaimo, BC, Canada)

In the noble collection now on view at Cremorne the rhododendron forms the principal feature; and what flowering shrub or tree can be compared with it? There is not a plant so grand and imposing; nothing so beautiful as an evergreen; nothing so gorgeous in flower; nothing so well calculated to form an exhibition of itself; there



The show of American plants in the Ashburnham Pavilion Cremorne Gardens.

seems to be no limit to its varieties—no end of colours—yet it is never brought before the public at the ordinary popular exhibitions.

The space allotted to the garden in which the collection of plants is displayed is four hundred feet long and one hundred feet wide, this being the size of the pavilion. The ground plan is admirable. On each side there is a range of plants forming a wide continuous bank of many colours; recesses have been provided for seats at certain distances; gravel walks under the side compartments of sufficient width for a noble promenade reach nearly from end to end. Next to this, towards the centre, is a series of clumps, between which the centre walk is reached; and, instead of this being uninterrupted, there are noble clumps of costly specimens in the centre; and halfway down the main avenue the walk deviates in two half-circular paths to go round the principal central clump; therefore the garden comprises two long banks of flowers, two side promenades nearly the length of the tent, and within these are two series of differently-formed beds or clumps tastefully edged with grass verges, leaving a wide central promenade, in which clumps of various forms break the monotony of a straight path, and shows off some of the most noble plants in the kingdom to the best advantage.

The garden has been designed by Mr. Milner, of the Crystal Palace, who has shown his usual artistic skill and facility of invention in as pretty a combination of walks, verges, and beds as we ever saw in an oblong square; in fact, it is the best design we ever witnessed within four square walls, for be it known to those who may fancy canvas rather odd materials for walls, that it is the name tent and marquee manufacturers give to their upright sides. The plants have been selected by Messrs. Waterer and Godfrey from hundreds of thousands which they grew at their extensive nurseries at Knaphill, and comprise all the best hardy known varieties in the world; differing in colour, size, habit of growth, and value, and forming one of the best collections ever brought together. The rhododendron is found in all climates, hot and cold, and each locality is noted for peculiar species. The most tender, perhaps, are the few from Borneo, not introduced until 1840 and down to 1848. Then we have tender varieties, and certainly the most beautiful, from Nepaul, which gave us the tree rhododendron called *R. arboreum*, a brilliant scarlet, in 1820; and others of rich purple, red, crimson, rose, and pale pink, all between 1817 and 1837; others too tender to stand in our open climate came from Japan, Lapland, and Khoseea. The hardy kinds are numerous, and come from North America, Kamtchatka, Caucasus, Austria, Siberia, China, Switzerland, Pyrenees, Java, Gibraltar, and Armenia, at various periods; and all these not only differ from each other, but many of the localities possessed a number of species perfectly distinct. The triumph of horticulture is in cross-breeding. As an instance of the effect we need only mention that the splendid colour of the Nepaul varieties, which will not bear our climate, have been obtained in hardy hybrid varieties, raised from seed here, by the simple process of inoculating or fertilising hardy plants with the dust or pollen of the tender ones. The great majority of the hundreds of distinct kinds which now fill the catalogues

with their names, are of English origin from two foreign parents. The magnificent clump of blood-red plants in the centre walk exhibits one of the results of this cross-breeding and we mention it particularly because it has, all the beauty of the tender kind called *R. arboreum*, from Nepaul, upon a plant that will stand all our winters, called 'Atrosanguineum'. It appears that in the crossing of plants the habit of the seed-bearing parent is retained by most of the plants raised from seed, so that if the tender sorts are fertilised with the pollen or dust from the hardy the progeny are tender. Let the visitor bear in mind when he attends the Cremorne show that a vast majority of the plants he sees are improvements of the foreign species, and have been raised in England. Close to the noble clump of blood red plants ('Atrosanguineum'*) already mentioned are four smaller ones of a white ground variety, with green spots, very remarkable, and called *R.* 'Catawbiense Album Elegans'. Such a display of these two varieties will not be found elsewhere. Many of the individual plants are worth notice, especially the noble trees which stand "alone in their glory," some of an enormous size, and are literally covered with their cones and pyramids of flowers of all colours. It would be difficult to enumerate the hundreds of British origin that are distinct enough to bear different names, yet every year adds great to the stock of novelties; and, when once a variety worthy of notice has been raised, it is soon propagated and sold out among the lovers of new things. When the beauty of a tender species can be secured in a plant that will grow well out of doors, a great stride has been made, and the art of the florist is successfully brought to bear in the production of more useful though not less beautiful varieties. 'Alarm' is one of the most striking perhaps of all, for it has a white ground, and each petal is edged with bright scarlet. 'Archimedes' is another very fine variety, a bright rose and light centre; 'Brayanum' is a vivid scarlet, with a light centre and a fine foliage; and 'Baralayanum' is a splendid crimson; 'Prince Albert' is a rich lake of fine texture and very distinct; 'Lord John Russell' is a pale rose, distinctly and beautifully spotted. 'William Downing', a rich dark puce, with a black blotch on the upper petals; 'Lucidum' is a spotted lilac; 'Fastuosum' is a very large double lilac; 'Brutus', a fine large spotted rose, is worthy of notice, as also 'Chancellor' a light purple, finely spotted; and 'Desdemona', a blush, with dark upper petals; But we might go on and fill the paper with remarkable English-raised varieties far excelling in beauty any of the species from which they were raised.

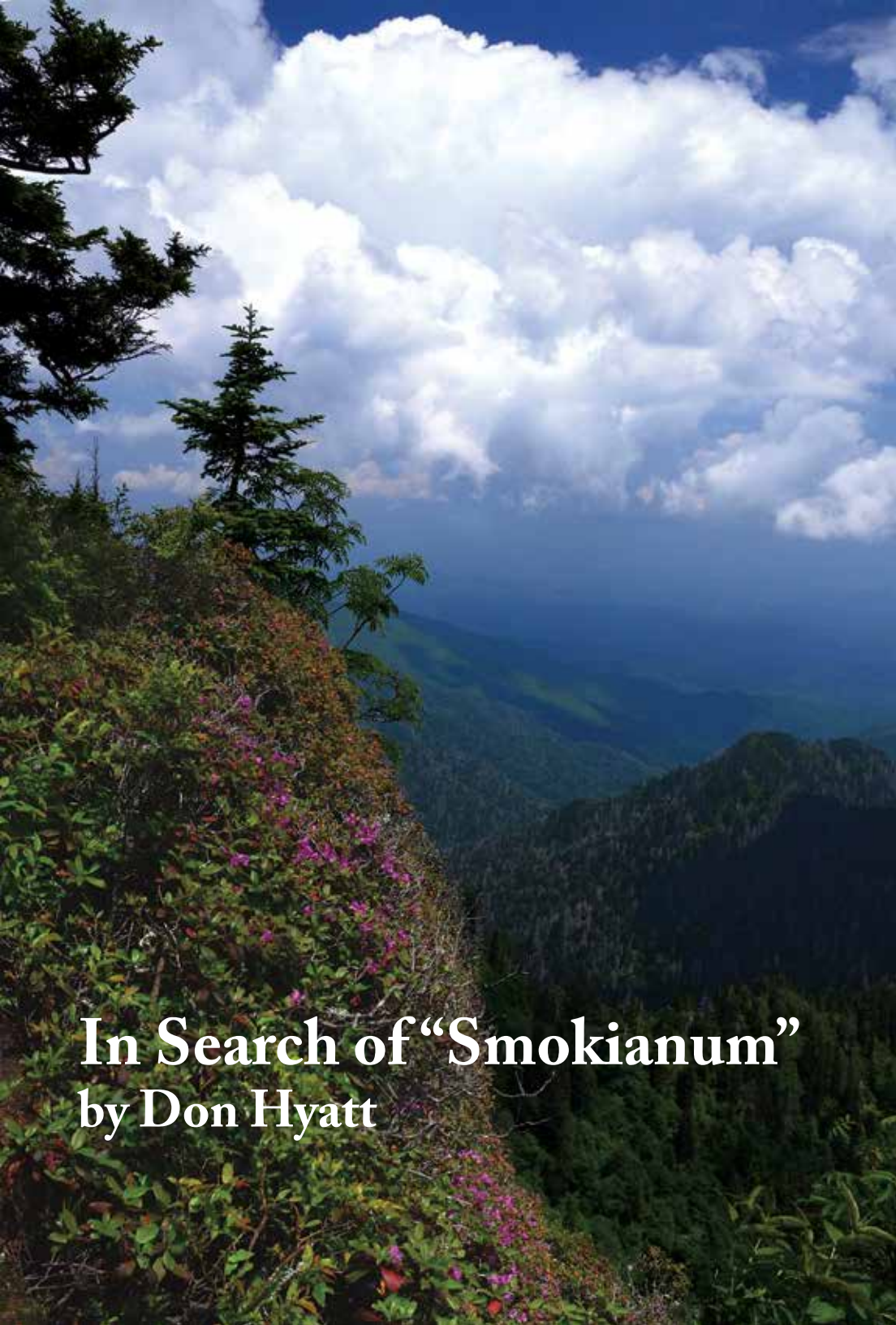
At the private view of this noble collection on Monday last there was a numerous company; most of the visitors were of the nobility and gentry, with a sprinkling of scientific and literary gentlemen, and but one opinion prevailed as to the beautiful display of this garden under canvas, and the taste displayed in the grouping of so many plants, many of which were worth from ten to fifty guineas The company were assembled by special invitation, and having viewed the Americans, as they are improperly called, the visitors proceeded to the open gardens, which are wonderfully improved. Additions have been made to the fern banks and rockwork, many new beds

have been formed on the lawn, which has been increased in size, and the planting is highly creditable to the superintendent of the garden affairs Mr. Smithers, late of the Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park.

Royce Tennant is a member of the Nanaimo Chapter and is an antique print collector. He found this news article on Cremorne Gardens, one of the first to describe the potential of rhododendrons in England.

*[**Editor's note**:* **This article was published 156 years ago, and reflects the fact that rhododendrons were just then becoming known as garden plants to the public. Cremorne Gardens were a popular pleasure gardens by the side of the River Thames in Chelsea, London. They lay between Chelsea Harbour and the end of the King's Road and flourished between 1845 to 1877; today only a vestige survives, on the river at the southern end of Cheyne Walk. Originally the property of the Earl of Huntingdon (c. 1750), father of Steeles Aspasia, who built a mansion here, the property passed through various hands into those of Thomas Dawson, Baron Dartrey and Viscount Cremorne (1725-1813), who greatly beautified it. It was subsequently sold and converted into a proprietary place of entertainment, being popular as such from 1845 to 1877. It never, however, acquired the fashionable fame of Vauxhall Gardens, and finally became so great an annoyance to some of the more influential residents in the neighbourhood that a renewal of its licence was refused, and most of the site of the gardens was soon built over. The name survives in Cremorne Road. Nevertheless, Cremorne Gardens secured a Green Flag award for the first time in 2010 as one of the best green spaces in England. (modified from:**
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cremorne_Gardens,_London)"

***Single quotation marks have been added to rhododendron cultivar names to conform to *JARS* style. They were not in the original article.**



In Search of "Smokianum"

by Don Hyatt

Donald W. Hyatt
McLean, Virginia

Photos by the author

For many years, we have seen occasional plants of a small-leaf rhododendron with purple flowers hanging off rocky cliffs in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. It always reminded me of 'Ramapo' from a distance. It didn't look like any of other native rhododendrons we see in our travels. The plants are not easily accessible and tend to bloom late in the season. Even when not in bloom, the dwarf habit and small foliage is distinctive. They can easily be seen on Rt. 441, the main road through the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, as it descends from Newfound Gap to Gatlinburg.

Since it is difficult to get near the plants to inspect the blooms, we usually tried to stop along that highway to photograph variations during our annual native azalea treks. The species typically flowers at the end of June to July, so this was often our final stop.

"Smokianum" growing in rock crevice.

The most amazing thing is how that purple *R. minus* colonizes 90-degree rock faces, taking root in crevices seemingly devoid of soil. It obviously likes good drainage!

Recent Journal articles (Miller 2013 and Voss 2014) have discussed this plant. Miller calls the late purple *R. minus* "smokianum." We favor that name over others that have been used since the species does have a limited range at high elevations in the Great Smoky Mountains.

Photographing along the highway.

"Smokianum."

It doesn't look like the other forms of *R. minus* that we grow. The garden favorite we knew as "carolinianum" or *R. minus* Carolinianum group (*R. minus* var. *majus*) is larger than "smokianum" in both plant and flower. Its flowers have a totally different color range, primarily white to light lavender pink, and some have a contrasting yellow blotch. It blooms in early spring, at least six weeks ahead of "smokianum." It doesn't grow in the Smokies but can be found at comparable altitudes 50 to 100 miles (80 to 160 km) away to the north and east near both Mount Pisgah and Grandfather Mountain, the same narrow range where *R. vaseyi* grows.

R. minus var. *minus* is common at low elevations throughout the south but it is different, too. That plant is much larger, has tubular flowers, and blooms in midseason after the leaves on the trees have fully expanded. Its flowers are pink to white, and some have a blotch. It is not like the endangered *R. minus* var. *chapmanii*, which also has tubular flowers of light pink.

None of our native lepidotes come in the purple shades we see with "smokianum." Its flowers are small, less than an inch (2.5 cm) across, and can be widely funnel shaped to more narrowly bell shaped with little to no floral tube. Most of the plants seem to have flowers in the strong lavender to purple range, but we have seen some that can be lighter shades of lavender and variants that are purplish rose to even rose pink. We have never seen white forms. Some flowers have obvious spotting on the upper lobes of the corolla that can range from a greenish yellow, to brownish orange, to red. In others, the presence of spotting is negligible.

To get to the larger populations of this rare rhododendron species requires a significant hike along the Appalachian Trail toward Mount LeConte, elevation 6594 ft (2010 m). I have seen pictures of the dwarf purple *R. minus* in that area. However, to get to Mt. LeConte and back is a two-day hike round trip. There are cabins at LeConte where one can spend the night but they must be reserved well in advance.

There is a large population of the dwarf purple *R. minus* a bit closer, a day's hike on the Appalachian Trail from Newfound Gap to Mt. Kephart, elevation 6217 ft (1895 m), a high peak prior to Mt. LeConte. After three to four miles (5.0 to 6.5 km), as the trail crosses Mt. Kephart, there is a side trail to one of its northern spurs that goes out to a place called the "Jump Off." The Jump Off, elevation 6133 ft (1869 m), is a steep cliff that drops off 1000 ft (300 m) to the valley below. The views are spectacular, and its rocky crags are also covered with that dwarf purple rhododendron. Trail guides do warn that the Jump Off can be dangerous. One careless step could prove fatal!

The strange weather patterns this year caused us to miss much of the native azalea and rhododendron display we normally admire in mid to late June. However, that gave us an opportunity to search for other plants including "smokianum." Rather than hiking up to Gregory Bald to catch the end of that display, we decided to hike out the Appalachian Trail to the Jump Off. There was a good chance we might see that area in peak bloom.

George McLellan and I had gone out that trail once but we didn't get all the way. The purple *R. minus* wasn't opened yet, and we were already rather tired from hiking to Gregory Bald the day before. A round trip hike of seven miles (11 km) doesn't sound too taxing, but it all depends upon the trail and, of course, the physical condition of the hikers. Having spent too many hours in front of the computer, I knew I was out of shape. Karel Bernady had been there once before, and he affirmed that it was a challenging hike. Nevertheless, this year the three of us decided to hike to the Jump Off to photograph that plant.

We had nice weather for most of the day, but carefully watched the building cumulus clouds on the horizon. Thunderstorms did roll in about 4:00 p.m., but by that time we were in our cars heading home. One has to be careful of storms when hiking!

It is a very pretty trail but challenging in places, harder than anything we encounter on the Gregory hike. The round trip is only about half the distance of our Gregory

Side trail to the Jump Off pictured on page 79.

Bald trips, but it seemed every bit as exhausting. This trip requires good hiking gear like heavy boots, hiking poles, and plenty of fluids to drink on the trail. The round trip took us nearly seven hours, and we were sore and tired when we finished.

Much of the trail was a steady climb, but hikers do encounter some rocky places that are quite steep and difficult to navigate along the way. We often had to scale giant boulders and rock outcroppings entangled with roots. I was amused many times when I grabbed onto a small tree beside the trail to help pull me up a slope. The bark was as smooth and polished as any fine furniture, obviously due to the hands of countless hikers before me. The side trail to the Jump Off was even more rugged. Many times I muttered aloud expletive-laced versions of "Are you kidding me?"

Soon I realized that going down some of those transitions was often more difficult than going up. A few years ago, I tore some ligaments in my knee when I slipped on ice. The weight I gained recently put additional stress on my knees. One has extra momentum on descents, and I envisioned rolling all the way to Gatlinburg if should I lose my balance!

We reached the Jump Off around noon. It was gorgeous with breathtaking views, billowing clouds, and the purple *R. minus* was in full bloom. Some plants did have dead branches, but it wasn't winter damage this year but possibly some past drought. I gazed over the edge a number of times but held firm to my glasses. I had lost them once on Roan Mountain, and if I dropped them here there was no hope of retrieval. I am not fond of heights so overcoming that fear was another personal challenge.

Most of the prime viewing spots have room for only one or two people, so it is important to go with a small group rather than a big crowd. In the image (see photo on page 214), Karel is using his tripod to hold the camera over the edge of the cliff while George was operating the cable to snap pictures. If you look at the ground about two ft (50 cm) from where they are standing, you can see where someone stepped too close to the edge and it had given way.

Viewing these plants in the wild convinces me that the purple *R. minus* deserves its own unique identity. It is very different from any of the other lepidote forms we see.

Spring is fleeting and it is really hard to predict when peak bloom will be in the mountains. The purple *R. catawbiense* was completely through on Roan Mountain when we were there but was in tight bud just ten days before we arrived. It must have lasted only a few days, probably due to adverse weather conditions. *R. calendulaceum* has a longer flowering season, so we did see that.

Yes, we may have missed the bloom in some places we try to visit every year. When something is not in flower, though, we can usually find plants in other locations or at different elevations to admire. For years we have been anxious to see "smokianum," and this year we were not disappointed!

I traveled almost 1800 miles (2900 km) by car on this year's week-long trip but probably hiked less than 25 miles (40 km). Seeing native plants in the wild is an annual

Karel Bernady on the trail.

Variation in “smokianum” flowers

Karel Bernady and George McLellan trying to photograph “smokianum” at the Jump Off.

focus for me. I am captivated by the beauty of those mountains and the botanical riches they harbor.

Now we start planning for next year. Whatever we see, I am sure it will be lovely!

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Newly Registered Rhododendron Cultivar Names

Michael Martin Mills
North American Registrar of Plant Names
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The following rhododendron and azalea names were approved and added to the International Rhododendron Register before July 22, 2014, by the Royal Horticultural Society, which serves as the International Cultivar Registration Authority for the genus *Rhododendron.* (Information on the registration process follows the descriptions of cultivars.)

Key

(a) – deciduous or evergreen azalea
(r) – elepidote or lepidote rhododendron
(v) – vireya rhododendron
(z) – azaleodendron
X – primary cross
(s) – seed parent of cross, if known
x – cross of an unnamed parent
* – not registered
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
Royal Horticultural Society color numbers in parentheses, unless another system is noted

Dr. Alan C. Leslie, International Registrar for the genus *Rhododendron*, and Michael Martin Mills, North American Registrar, at Dr. Leslie's home in Cambridge, England, in July. The two discussed details of the registration process and shared a classic English lunch of ham and leek pie with "Eton Mess" for dessert – strawberries, cream and meringue tumbled together. According to Dr. Leslie, it was the first time for an international registrar and the North American registrar to have met. Dr. Leslie is a graduate of Clare College, Cambridge University, and also serves the Royal Horticultural Society as the International Dianthus Registrar. Photo by Randy Dalton.

(r) 'Butterscotch Brandy'

'Butterscotch Brandy'. Photo by Don Wallace.

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Nancy Evans' (s) X ('Wizard' x *R. irroratum* 'Polka Dot'). H (2003), G (2009), N (2012), REG (2014): Don S. Wallace, McKinleyville, CA.; I (2014): Singing Tree Gardens, McKinleyville, CA. Flrs 17/dome truss, funnel campanulate, 1.75 inches (44mm) long x 1.25 inches (57mm) wide with 5 wavy lobes. Bud: strong purplish pink (62A). Inside: light greenish yellow (4B), with strong purplish pink (68B) at margins, giving a picotee effect; prominent strong purplish red (58B) nectar pouches. Outside: light greenish yellow (3C), with strong purplish pink (68B) at margins, giving a picotee effect. Truss 4 inches (102mm) high x 6 inches (152mm) wide. Lvs 3.25 x 1.25 inches (83 x 52mm), lanceolate, rounded base, acute apex, flat margins, strong bluish green (127C), glossy. Shrub 2.5 feet (0.8m) high x 4 feet (1.2m) wide in 10 years; intermediate habit, leaves held 2 years. Plant hardy to 0°F (-18°C), bud hardy to 10°F (-12°C). Flowering early (March in northern coastal California).

(r) 'Candy Red Apple'

'Candy Red Apple'. Photo by Don Wallace.

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Rubicon' (s) X (*R. repens* x 'Noyo Chief'). H (2002), G (2008), N (2014), REG (2014): Don S. Wallace, McKinleyville, CA; I (2014): Singing Tree Gardens, McKinleyvile, CA. Flrs 16/conical truss, broad funnel, 2.5 inches (63mm) long x 3 inches (76mm) wide with 5 wavy lobes. Bud: strong red (53B). Inside and outside: vivid red (44A), with black spots inside. Truss 5 inches (127mm) high x 7 inches (178mm) wide. Lvs 4 x 2 inches (102 x 51mm), oblong, oblique base, obtuse apex, downcurved margins, moderate green (135B), glossy. Shrub 4 feet (1.2m) high x 5 feet (1.5m) wide in 10 years; intermediate habit, lvs held 2 years. Plant hardy to 0°F (-18°C), bud hardy to 10°F (-12°C). Flowering early (February in coastal northern California).

(r) 'Carley Ann'

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Mavis Davis' (s) X 'Evening Glow'. H (1997), G (2002), N (2008), REG (2014): Catherine Weeks, Eureka, CA. Flrs 9-12/dome truss, open funnel, 2.25 inches (57mm) long x 4 inches (102mm) wide with 6 wavy lobes. Bud: vivid red (57A). Inside: brilliant orange yellow (23B) with strong red (53B)

markings on upper two lobes. Outside: strong red (51A) shading to deep pink (48B) at margins. Truss 6.5 inches (165mm) high x 6.25 inches (159mm) wide. Lvs 4.75 x 3.25 inches (120 x 82mm), elliptic, cuneate base, broadly acute apex, downcurved margins; moderate olive green (137B) above, matte; moderate yellowish green (138B) below. Shrub 2 feet (0.6m) high x 4 feet (1.2m) wide in 8 years; intermediate habit, lvs held 2 years. Plant and bud hardy to 24°F (-4°C). Flowering midseason (April in coastal northern California). Etymology: named for the late sister of a customer of the hybridizer's nursery.

(r) 'Catherine's Princess Di'
Elepidote rhododendron: 'Exotic' (s) X 'Lem's Cameo'. H (1999), G (2006), N (2006), REG (2014): Catherine Weeks, Eureka, CA; I (2006): Westgate Garden Nursery, Eureka, CA. Flrs10-14/ball truss, open funnel, 2.75 inches (70mm) long with 7 wavy lobes. Bud: moderate red (180B). Inside and outside: pale orange yellow (159C) with moderate red (179A) speckles on inside of upper three lobes. Lvs 6.5 x 2.25 inches (165 x 57mm), oblong, cuneate base, flat margins; moderate olive green (137A), semiglossy. Shrub 3 feet (0.9m) high x 4.5 feet (1.4m) wide in 15 years; intermediate habit, lvs held 2 years. Plant and bud hardy to 25°F (-4°C). Flowering midseason (May in coastal northern California). Etymology: named after the late Princess of Wales, with the hybridizer's name to distinguish it from similarly named cultivars.

(r) 'Eben Jordan'

'Eben Jordan'. Photo by D & J Delano.

Elepidote rhododendron: parentage unknown. H (1960s): John C. Cowles, Stowe, MA; G (1960s), REG (2014): Heritage Museums & Gardens, Sandwich, MA; N (2013): Hope Baker, Boston, MA. Flrs 20/dome truss, open funnel, 2 inches (51mm) long x 3 inches (76mm) wide with 5 or 6 wavy lobes. Bud and outside of corolla: strong purplish red (67A). Inside: deep purplish pink (70C) with white flares centered on lower 2 or 3 lobes and abundant deep purplish red (71A) speckling on all lobes, most prominently in upper lobe. Truss 6 x 6 inches (152 x 152mm). Lvs 4.5 x 1.5 inches (115 x 38mm), elliptic, rounded base, broadly acute apex, flat margins; moderate olive green (137A), matte. Shrub 12 feet (3.6m) high x 10 feet (3m) wide in 40 years; intermediate habit, lvs held 2 years. Plant hardy to 0°F (-18°C), bud hardy to 5°F (-15°C). Flowering midseason (May on Cape Cod). Etymology: named for an ancestor of Hope Baker, a supporter of Heritage Museums & Gardens. Synonyms: 'Shaker Red', under which name there has been limited propagation; also known as 'JG-2', 'S93-603' and 'Heritage 78-98'.

ARS SEED EXCHANGE

A 2015 seedlist and ordering form will be available in early January at (www.rhododendron.org/seedexchange.htm) or alternately at the Danish web page www.rhododendron.dk/ARS_seed.html. Seed sales will be open to ARS members and seed donors at this time and to non-members after March 15th. A printed copy will be mailed to anyone without internet service. Send your request to the seed exchange address below.

The price of domestic or donated seed is $3.00 per packet. Special seed collections $4.00 per package. A $3. (US) and $4. (outside US) shipping and handling fee will be added to each order. Seed Exchange users from outside the US are encouraged to pay by PayPal.

Norman Beaudry, Chairman
ARS Seed Exchange

(r) 'Elegant Candy'

'Elegant Candy'. Photo by Jack Looye.

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Emily Elizabeth' (s) X 'Brio'. H (1996): Jane Cunic, Pittsburgh, PA; G (c. 1999), N (2010), REG (2014): Jack & Jackie Looye, Niagara on the Lake, Ontario; I (2012): Rhodoland Nurseries, Niagara on the Lake, Ontario. Flrs 12/ball truss, broad funnel, 1-1.5 inches (25-38mm) long x 2 inches (51mm) wide with 5 wavy lobes. Bud: pink. Inside and outside of corolla: almost pure white with large vivid purplish red (66A) blotch filling 80 percent of upper inside lobe. Truss 5.5 x 5.5 inches (140 x 140mm). Lvs 6 x 2 inches (152 x 51mm), oblong, rounded base, broadly acute apex, flat margins; moderate olive green (137A), matte. Shrub 3.5 feet (1.1m) high x 5.5 feet (1.7m) wide in 16 years; dense habit, lvs held 3 years; consistently floriferous and budding at a young age. Plant hardy to -16°F (-27°C), bud hardy to -15°F (-26°C). Flowering midseason (May in the vicinity of Niagara Falls).

(r) 'Invitation's Gift'

'Invitation's Gift'. Photo by Jim Barlup.

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Invitation' (s) X ([*R. degronianum* ssp. *yakushimanum* x *R. lacteum*] x 'Powder Snow'). H (2000), G (2006), N (2009), REG (2013): Jim Barlup, Bellevue, WA. Flrs 18/dome truss, funnel campanulate, 1.5 inches (38mm) long x 2 inches (51mm) wide with 5 wavy lobes. Buds: light greenish yellow (4B). Inside of corolla: pale greenish yellow (2D) with upper lobes light yellow green (2C); strong red (46A) semicircle at upper half of base, extending 0.38 inch (10mm) from base. Exterior of corolla: pale greenish yellow (2D) with upper lobes light yellow green (2C). Truss 3.5 inches (89mm) high x 4.88 inches (124) wide. Lvs 4 x 1.75 inches (102 x 44mm), elliptic, rounded base, broadly acute apex, downcurved margins, moderate olive green (147A), matte. Shrub 2.5 feet (0.8m) high x 4 feet (1.2m) wide in 11 years; dense habit, lvs held 2 years. Plant hardy to 0°F (-18°C). Flowering midseason. Etymology of name: derived from the name of the hybrid's seed parent.

(r) 'Lance Romance'

Elepidote rhododendron: unknown parentage. H (1920s), G (1920s): Charles O. Dexter, Sandwich, MA; N (2013): Tracy Isham, Boca Raton, FL; REG (2014): Heritage Museums & Gardens, Sandwich, MA. Flrs 11/ball truss, open funnel, 2.5

inches (64mm) long x 3.5 inches (90mm) wide with 5 wavy lobes. Bud, inside and outside of corolla: white (N999D); strong yellow green (141D) flare beginning at base of inside upper lobe, filling bottom third of lobe and spreading into adjoining lobes. Truss 4 inches (102mm) high x 5.5 inches (140mm) wide. Lvs 6 x 2 inches (152 x 51mm), elliptic, rounded base, broadly acute apex, flat margins; moderate olive green (137A), matte. Shrub 10 feet (3m) high x 12 feet (3.5m) wide in 40 years; open habit, lvs held 2 years. Plant hardy to 0°F (-18°C), bud hardy to 5°F (-15°C). Flowering midseason (May on Cape Cod). Etymology: named for Lance Isham, husband of Tracy Isham, trustee and supporter of Heritage Museums & Gardens. Synonyms: 'Concert Tent White' (Sandwich Club designation); 'Heritage 21-2006'.

'Lance Romance'. Photo by D & J Delano.

(r) 'Lily Lynn'

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Apricot Nectar' (s) X 'Lem's Cameo'. H (1998), G (2001), N (2010), REG (2014): Catherine Weeks, Eureka, CA; I (2013): Westgate Garden Nursery, Eureka, CA. Flrs 16/dome truss, open funnel, 2.75 inches (70mm) long x 3.75 inches (95mm) wide with 7 wavy lobes. Bud: vivid reddish orange (44C). Inside

of corolla: light yellow (17D) with deep yellowish pink (39B) margins and vivid reddish orange (44C) blotch in center of flower. Outside: light yellow (17D) with deep yellowish pink (39B) margins. Calyx: 0.75 inch (19mm), green. Truss 6 inches (152mm) high x 9 inches (229mm) wide. Lvs 7.25 x 2.25 inches (184 x 57mm), ovate, cuneate base, broadly acute apex, slightly downcurved margins; moderate yellow green (147B), semiglossy. Shrub 3 feet (0.9m) high x 4 feet (1.2m) wide in 14 years; intermediate habit, lvs held 1 year. Plant and bud hardy to 20°F (-7°C). Flowering midseason (early May in coastal northern California). Etymology: named for the hybridizer's great-granddaughter.

(r) 'Naselle's Baby'

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Naselle' (s) X (*R. insigne* x 'Brittania'). H (2007), G (2010), N (2014), REG (2014): Catherine Weeks, Eureka, CA; I (2014): Westgate Garden Nursery, Eureka, CA. Flrs 10/dome truss, open funnel, 2.5 inches (64mm) long x 4.5 inches (114mm) wide with 7 wavy lobes. Bud: strong red (46A). Inside: opening deep yellowish pink (47C), fading to light yellow (11B), with strong red (46A) markings on upper three lobes. Outside: strong pink (48C). Calyx: 1.75 inches (44mm), strong pink (48C). Truss 6 x 6 inches (152 x 152mm). Lvs 5.5 x 2.25 inches (140 x 57mm), elliptic, cuneate base, broadly acute apex, flat margins; moderate yellow green (148A) above, matte; strong yellow green (144B) below. Shrub 3.5 feet (1.1m) high x 4 feet (1.2m) wide in 7 years; intermediate habit, lvs held 2 years. Plant and bud hardy to 24°F (-4°C). Flowering early (April in coastal northern California).

(r) 'Patty's Peppermint Twist'
Elepidote rhododendron: 'Exotic' (s) X 'Lem's Cameo'. H (1997), G (2008), N (2008), REG (2014): Catherine Weeks, Eureka, CA; I (2010): Westgate Garden Nursery, Eureka, CA. Flrs 12/ball truss, open funnel, 2.5 inches (64mm) long x 4 inches (102mm) wide with 7 wavy lobes. Bud: vivid red (52A). Inside of corolla: strong red (50A) with moderate purplish red (59C) spots on upper three lobes. Outside: strong red (50A). Truss 4.5 inches (115mm) high x 6 inches (152mm) wide. Lvs 5.5 x 2.5 inches (140 x 64mm), elliptic, cuneate base, broadly acute apex, wavy margins; moderate yellow green (148B), matte. Shrub 2 feet (0.6m) high x 3 feet (0.9m) wide in 10 years; intermediate habit. Plant and bud hardy to 20°F (-7°C). Flowering midseason (late April-early May in coastal northern California). Etymology: named after the hybridizer's daughter-in-law, Pat Isaac.

(r) 'Persuasion'
Elepidote rhododendron: 'Royal Purple' (s) X 'Lem's Cameo'. H (2001), G (2008), N (2011), REG (2014): Don S. Wallace, McKinleyville, CA; I (2014): Singing Tree Gardens, McKinleyville, CA. Flrs 25/ball truss, broad funnel, 2 inches (51mm) long x 3.5 inches (89mm) wide with 6 wavy lobes. Bud: vivid reddish purple (74B). Inside: yellowish white (158D) with streaks of moderate yellowish pink (37C), shading at margins to vivid reddish purple (74B) picotee; spots on upper lobe. Outside: vivid reddish purple (74B). Truss 6 x 6 inches (152 x 152mm). Lvs 5 x 2 inches (127 x 51mm), obovate, cuneate base, acute apex, flat margins; brilliant green (128A), matte.

Shrub 6 feet (1.8m) high x 8 feet (2.4m) wide in 10 years; intermediate habit, lvs held 2 years. Plant hardy to 0°F (-18°C), bud hardy to 10°F (-12°C). Flowering midseason (April in northern California).

'Persuasion'. Photo by Don Wallace.

(r) 'Watermelon Fizz'

'Watermelon Fizz'. Photo by Frank Fujioka.

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Seaview Sunset' (s) X (*R. degronianum* ssp. *yakushimanum* 'Koichiro Wada' x ['Crest' x *R. macabeanum*]). H (1998), G (2003), N (2014), REG (2014): Frank Fujioka, Freeland, Whidbey Island, WA. Flrs 14/dome truss, funnel campanulate, 2.5 inches (64mm) long x 3 inches (76mm) wide with 5 wavy lobes. Bud: strong red (47B). Inside: light pink (49C) with 0.25-inch (7mm) strong red (50A) marginal band and a small vivid reddish orange (43A) blotch on upper lobe. Outside: deep yellowish pink (47C). Calyx: 0.1 inch (3mm), pale pink (49D). Truss 5.5 inches (140mm) high x 6 inches (152mm) wide. Lvs 5 x 1.5 inches (127 x 38mm), elliptic, rounded base, acute apex, downcurved margins; dark green (136A), glossy. Indumentum: hairs on underside, emerging pale yellow (161D), aging to moderate orange yellow (164C). Shrub 3 feet (0.9m) high x 2 feet (0.6m) wide in 15 years; intermediate habit, lvs held 2 years. Plant and bud hardy to 10°F (-12°C). Flowering midseason (late April in Puget Sound).

(r) 'Wild Red Cherry'

Elepidote rhododendron: 'Noyo Brave' (s) X 'Rubicon'. H (1996), G (2007), N (2014), REG (2014): Don S. Wallace, McKinleyville, CA.; I (2014): Singing Tree Gardens, McKinleyville, CA. Flrs 25/dome truss, funnel, 1.25 inches (32mm) long

x 2 inches (51mm) wide with 5 wavy lobes. Bud: strong red (53C). Inside and outside: deep purplish pink (54B) with a light scattering of black spots on inside of upper lobe. Truss 2.5 inches (64mm) high x 3.5 inches (89mm) wide. Lvs 3.5 x 1.5 inches (89 x 38mm), elliptic, rounded base, broadly acute apex, downcurved margins, moderate olive green (137B), semiglossy. Shrub 2 feet (0.6m) high x 3 feet (0.9m) wide in 16 years; dense habit, leaves held 2 years. Plant hardy to 0°F (-18°C), bud hardy to 10°F (-12°C). Flowering early season (February in northern coastal California).

'Wild Red Cherry'. Photo by Don Wallace.

References

Names conform to the rules and recommendations of the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants, Eighth Edition* (2009). Color names are from *A Contribution Toward Standardization of Color Names in Horticulture*, R.D. Huse and K. L. Kelly; D. H. Voss, editor (ARS, 1984).

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Errata:

In *JARS* 68(3), it was incorrectly stated on P 114 and 147 that John Golab was Director of District 9. He is Director of District 11.

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